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■ FASHION, Page 22

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Mixed reaction from docs, activists on Truvada study

Report that drug could protect HIV-negative men from infection is good news, but concerns remain over long-term effects, some say

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

An extensive study released this week indicates that use of the anti-retroviral drug Truvada by HIV-negative men can prevent infection. Use of the drug for prevention is called Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP.

Dr. Nick Bellos, a local infectious disease specialist, called the results of the study a step in the right direction. But Bellos also warned that the study only showed 75 percent effectiveness in preventing infection among people who were most compliant. And he said he had concerns about patients developing resistance to the drug and not using other risk-reduction techniques.

Local AIDS activist Bret Camp, associate executive director for health and medical services at Resource Center Dallas, also warned that the side effects and long-term effects of using Truvada can be severe.

Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise executive director Dr. Alan Bernstein, referring to another recent study using a topical microbicide that appears to prevent HIV infection in women and another study that included the first demonstration of efficacy by an HIV vaccine regimen, said, "The announcement [about Truvada] ... is a very important addition to what is the most promising

■ TRUVADA, Page 20



REMEMBERING THEIR NAMES | Two unidentified visitors console each other at the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt display in October 1989 in Washington, D.C. Panels from the Quilt will be on display in the International Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope on World AIDS Day 2010, Wednesday, Dec. 1. More coverage of World AIDS Day events in North Texas begins on Page 14. (Doug Mills/Associated Press)

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headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 4 FWISD will change bullying policy
- 4 Couple files complaint against DMN
- 6 Lambda Legal hires Poindexter
- 8 Frye becomes Texas' 1st trans judge
- 10 Rainbow Lounge charges dropped

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 26 Cher's big comeback
- 27 CDs from Indigo Girls and more
- 32 Pyramid room gets a makeover
- 37 Gay Berlin: Europe's best-kept secret

departments

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 4 | Texas News | 41 | Calendar |
| 6 | Pet of the Week | 46 | Starvoice |
| 22 | Viewpoints | 48 | Scene |
| 32 | Life+Style | 50 | Classifieds |

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FWISD will update bullying policy

Director of counseling says officials did not realize sexual orientation didn't include gender identity, expression, and applauds new bullying awareness campaign

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Report
nash@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — When the Dallas Independent School District was lauded recently for becoming the first school district in the state to approve an LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying policy, officials in the Fort Worth Independent School

District reacted with consternation.

The Fort Worth District, officials said, had passed such a policy month before, in March 2010.

But the problem, Kathryn Everest, director of guidance and counseling for the Fort Worth district, said this week, was that "We didn't know what we didn't know."

And what school officials didn't know was that the term "sexual orientation" does not include issues of gender identity and gender expression, Everest said.

"Our policy protects all students," Everest said, adding that she initially believed simply saying "all students" would be adequate. But she said she understands the need for more specific wording after discussion with those in the com-

munity advocating for changes in the policy.

Everest said that she met Monday afternoon, Nov. 22, with gay Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns and Jon Nelson of Fairness Fort Worth. Both men, she said, have pledged to help the district fine-tune the wording of its policies.

"We want to make it plain that everyone is included. Now that we have found out what we didn't know — that sexual orientation doesn't include gender identity and gender expression — we will make those changes. We're not fighting it, and we're not intimidated by it. We just didn't know," Everest said.

She added that the policy in question relates specifically to students. The district also has a mirror policy protecting faculty and staff

■ **FWISD**, Page 10

Couple files complaint over DMN's refusal to publish wedding announcement

Newspaper says paid same-sex announcements must go under 'Commitments' heading since state doesn't recognize gay marriages

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

A gay couple has filed a discrimination complaint against The Dallas Morning News for refusing to publish their same-sex wedding announcement.

Mark Reed-Walkup and Dante Walkup, who were legally married in Washington, D.C., in October, filed the complaint on Friday, Nov. 19. The couple's wedding has made international news in recent weeks because it was held in Dallas but officiated from D.C. via teleconference.

Reed-Walkup, a board member for the national LGBT direct action group GetEQUAL, said he's been trying for several weeks to get The Morning News to publish their paid announcement in its "Weddings" section.

But the newspaper has refused because of a policy that says same-sex wedding announcements



FIGHTING BACK | Mark Reed-Walkup and Dante Walkup were married, via Skype, by an officiant in Washington, D.C., where same-sex marriages are legally recognized. They filed a complaint under the Dallas city ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation after the Dallas Morning News refused to publish their paid announcement in the newspaper's wedding section.

can only be published in a separate section called "Commitments." The policy is based on the fact that same-sex marriage isn't legally recognized by the state of Texas.

The couple filed the complaint under a 2002 city ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on

sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. Reed-Walkup says he believes wedding announcements, which are paid advertisements, are a public accommodation.

"Our ultimate goal is for the newspaper to

■ **ANNOUNCEMENT**, Page 11

instantTEA

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Hermilo Moralez

Pearland police say teen murder victim wasn't gay

Pearland police say they have no reason to believe 18-year-old murder victim Joshua Wilkerson was gay — despite suspect Hermilo Moralez's claim that Wilkerson made a sexual advance toward him.

Moralez, 19, is charged with murder in the death of Wilkerson, whose partially burned body was found Thursday, Nov. 18 in an overgrown field near the fast-growing suburb south of Houston.

According to court records, Moralez told Pearland police the pair began fighting after Wilkerson "began to come on to him in a sexual manner."

Moralez allegedly beat Wilkerson to death with a wooden closet rod.

Lt. Oneismo Lopez, a spokesman for the Pearland Police Department, told Instant Tea on Monday that detectives have found no evidence to support Moralez's claim that Wilkerson made a sexual advance toward him.

"There's no indication that he was anything but straight right now," Lopez said of Wilkerson, adding that detectives have interviewed Wilkerson's family, friends and some former girlfriends. Last week, Wilkerson's uncle also told a TV station his nephew wasn't gay.

"What it comes down to, they [detectives] talked to a couple of girls that he was intimate with," Lopez said. "They did not get any indication that he was gay at all. He [Moralez] probably made it up to minimize his own responsibility, to try to put it off on Joshua."

If anything, Lopez said, it's possible that Moralez made a sexual advance toward Wilkerson, although detectives haven't been able to confirm this.

"We're looking at all possibilities, and that's one of them," Lopez said, adding that the motive for the murder is still unknown.

Services for Wilkerson were held Monday morning in Houston.

Moralez remained in the Brazoria County jail, charged with murder, failure to identify himself by giving false information to an officer, attempting to take a weapon from an officer and tampering with evidence.

Federal immigration officials have also placed a hold on Moralez, a native of Belize who was in the country illegally.

— John Wright



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■ texasnews

Lambda Legal names Poindexter to head up regional office in Dallas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

editor@dallasvoice.com

Officials with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced this week that former national board member Roger Poindexter has been hired as director of the organization's eight-state South Central Regional Office, located in Dallas.

Poindexter took over from interim Regional Director Charles MarLett on Nov. 1. He replaces Dennis Coleman, who left Lambda Legal in July to become executive director of Equality Texas, headquartered in Austin.

Poindexter comes to Lambda Legal after nearly three decades working in the information technology field. He served in various management roles within Hewlett Packard (formerly EDS) and co-chaired HP's North Texas PRIDE Employee Resource Group.

Poindexter's volunteer work for Lambda Legal began in 2002 when he joined the Dallas Leadership Committee. In 2004, he joined its National Board of Directors, where he served as co-chair of the Administration & Finance Committee and on the Executive Committee, before his term ended in February 2010.

In addition to his volunteer work for Lambda Legal, Poindexter has served on the boards of Dallas' Cathedral of Hope and the Turtle Creek Chorale. He is also a former member of the Collin County Gay Lesbian Alliance Victory Committee.

"I originally became a Lambda Legal donor because I believe in the mission and the lasting impact the organization has made on the lives of



Roger Poindexter

LGBT people," Poindexter said. "It's the same reason I made the decision to take the next logical step of joining the staff. I'm looking forward to doing my part to expand the organization's reach in the South Central Region."

Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said the organization is "delighted to welcome" Poindexter to the organization's staff.

"But the truth is, he's already been an integral part of the work we do," Cathcart added. "We're happy he's decided to take over as head of our Dallas office." ■

■ pet of the week / millie

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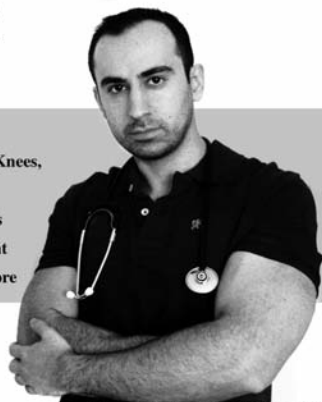
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■ texasnews

Parker appoints Frye as Texas' 1st transgender judge

Houston pastors criticize lesbian mayor's choice for judge; GLBT Caucus calls Frye 'a true icon'

BRIAN ROGERS | Houston Chronicle
 via The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Thirty years ago, Phyllis Frye, a longtime activist for LGBT causes, could have been arrested for wearing women's clothing in the Houston City Council chamber.

Frye, a transgender Houston attorney born as Phillip Frye, fought back tears last week as the mayor appointed her to a municipal bench in the same room where she helped repeal Houston's "cross-dressing ordinance" in 1980.

"I almost started crying, because I remembered 31 years ago, in that very same chamber, I was subject to arrest," Frye said.

The 63-year-old will hear traffic ticket cases and other low-level misdemeanor trials. Municipal judges are not elected, she noted.

Frye said she would be the first transgender judge in Texas. She knows of at least two transgender judges in other parts of the country.

Frye applied for the position several months ago and was vetted before being appointed by Mayor Annise Parker on Wednesday, Nov. 17, with seven other new associate judges.

"I think she's a great addition to our judiciary," the mayor said. "I'm very proud I was able to nominate her, and she agreed to serve."

Frye joins 43 other associate municipal judges and 22 full-time municipal judges.

"I don't want to underplay this, because I understand it is very significant," Frye said. "But I don't want to overplay it either. I don't want people to think I am anything other than an associate municipal court judge."

Three decades ago Frye volunteered at City Hall where she worked to repeal an ordinance that allowed police to arrest men in women's clothes and lesbians wearing fly-front jeans.

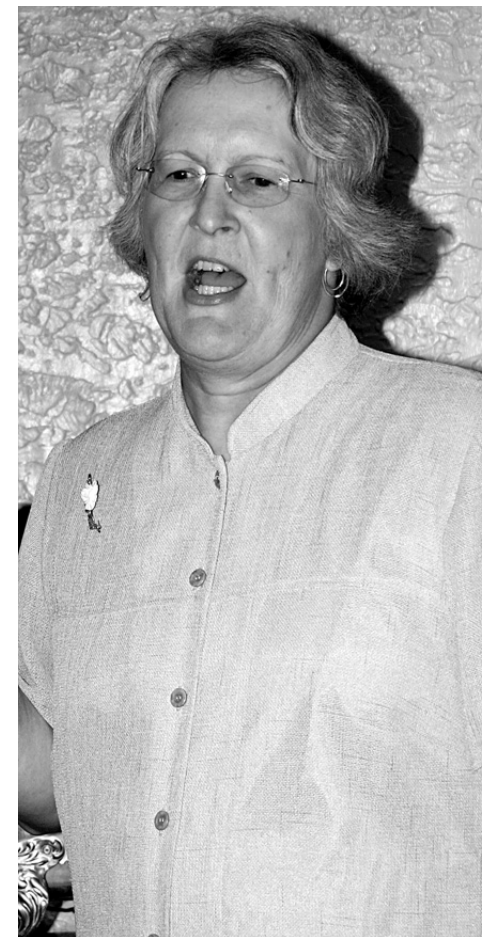
"Things have changed, and it's pretty wonderful," Frye said.

A graduate of Texas A&M, Frye was an Eagle Scout and an Aggie cadet. She also was a husband and a father.

Frye has practiced criminal defense law in Houston since 1986.

She now heads a six-lawyer firm and has parlayed her expertise in LGBT legal issues into a storied legal career — the latest chapter of which is her representation of Nikki Araguz, the transgender Wharton widow embroiled in a legal battle to receive part of her firefighter husband's death benefits.

Parker's critics seized on Frye's appointment to



Phyllis Frye

say the mayor, who is a lesbian, is promoting a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender agenda.

"Phyllis Frye is a very well-known radical transgender activist," said Dave Welch, executive director of the Houston Area Pastor Council, which represents about 300 churches.

"We don't think it is consistent with the values of the vast majority of the people," Welch said. "We think it is an anti-family lifestyle and agenda."

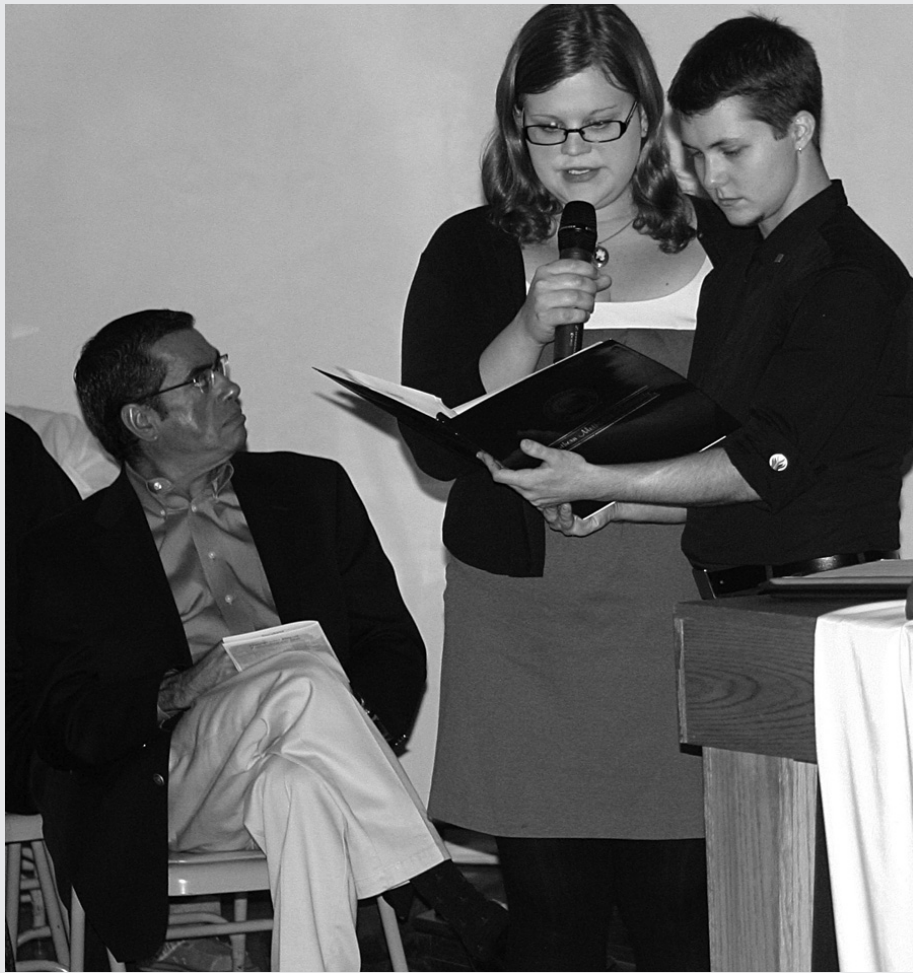
Her appointment, however, was applauded by Houston's GLBT Political Caucus.

"Phyllis Frye is a true icon in our civil rights movement," said Kris Banks, Caucus president. "She is an internationally recognized pioneer, and the mayor is to be congratulated for her choice."

Banks noted that Charles Spain, an openly gay attorney and chair of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues of the State Bar, also was appointed as an associate municipal court judge. Josh Brockman, an openly gay attorney, was appointed as a hearings officer to resolve contested parking tickets.

New judges go through hours of state-mandated training. Frye said she expects to begin substituting for sitting judges in the spring. ■

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



READING THE NAMES | As Aaron Barnes and Dorian Mooneyham, above, read the names of the victims of violence against the transgender community, others line up, below, to lay red roses on a table in memory of the victims during the Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony held Sunday, Nov. 21, at the Interfaith Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas. For a full story and video of the event, go online to DallasVoice.com. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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■ **texasnews**

City drops charges stemming from Rainbow Lounge raid in July 2009

Man who suffered brain injury in raid had been facing public intoxication, misdemeanor assault charges

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — The Fort Worth City Attorney's office announced last week that it had dropped all charges against Chad Gibson and other individuals arrested in the June 28, 2009 raid on the Rainbow Lounge.

Gibson was hospitalized for a head injury he incurred during the raid, although questions remain about whether Gibson was injured when an agent with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission slammed him against a wall in the club and then threw him to the floor, or when Gibson fell on the sidewalk outside while he was handcuffed.

Gibson was charged with misdemeanor public intoxication and misdemeanor assault on a law enforcement officer after TABC Agent Chris Aller said Gibson groped him while he was attempting to arrest Gibson.

However, Aller and the second TABC agent involved in the raid, as well as their supervising sergeant, were fired after TABC officials conducted an internal investigation and determined that the agents should not have raided the bar in the first place.

An internal investigation conducted by the Fort Worth Police Department also indicated that FWPDP officers involved in the raid had violated procedures, and three officers were suspended for a total of five days as a result.

A second Rainbow Lounge patron, George Armstrong, said he suffered severe bruising and a muscle strain when police arrested him. He was charged with misdemeanor public intoxication.

Adam Seidel, attorney for both Gibson and Armstrong, said he had received a notice from the court in the first part of last week that Gibson's case had been set for jury trial on Dec. 7. Shortly afterward, however, he was notified by the court clerk that the charges had been dismissed.

"I am glad they did the right thing and dropped their charges against these two victims.

It shows a commitment to move forward," Seidel said.

City officials issued a statement Friday afternoon, Nov. 19, saying that Class C misdemeanor charges stemming from the Rainbow Lounge raid against Dylan Brown and Jose Macias, as well as Gibson and Armstrong, had been dropped, but declined to comment further.

According to the statement, the charges that have been dismissed were public intoxication charges against Jose A. Macias, Dylan T. Brown,

“ I am glad they did the right thing. It shows a commitment to move forward.

—Adam Seidel
Attorney for Chad Gibson

Armstrong and Gibson. A charge of assault by contact against Gibson was also dropped.

Gibson suffered bleeding in his brain and is still receiving treatment for his injuries, according to Tom Anable, president of Fairness Fort Worth.

FFW was formed in the wake of the raid initially to help witnesses give testimony for both FWPDP's and TABC's internal investigations. The organization has since become more formally organized and has been directly involved in negotiations with city officials that played a role in the vote to add protections for transgenders to the city's nondiscrimination policy and in the recent vote to offer partner benefits to the city's LGBT employees.

Anable said Thursday, Nov. 18, that Fairness Fort Worth is pleased with the city's decision to drop the charges against Gibson and Armstrong.

"I think they finally just realized that the facts of the case didn't support the charges," Anable said. "I think this is a real positive step forward. It's a show of good faith as we continue to resolve the issues related to the incident at the Rainbow Lounge."

FWISD

From Page 4

members, and it, too, will be updated, Everest said.

"We want our policies to align with the city of Fort Worth's policy," she said. The Fort Worth City Council voted last year to amend its nondiscrimination ordinance, which already included protections based on sexual orientation, to include specific protections based on gender identity and gender expression.

Another point of confusion centered on the wording of Fort Worth's anti-bullying policy itself. The policy defines bullying, gives examples and outlines the procedure for reporting incidences of bullying and for investigating those reports. But it does not enumerate specific groups protected under the policy, as the Dallas ISD policy does.

Everest explained this week that the Fort Worth ISD's "Freedom from Bullying" policy is an extension of the district's "Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy, which reads:

■ FWISD, Page 11

FWISD

From Page 10

"The District prohibits discrimination including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or on any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the student."

Everest said FWISD officials now recognize that, technicalities aside, the bullying policy should also include that wording — with the addition of gender identity and gender expression — so that it is clear.

Although gender identity and gender expression were not among the protected categories listed, evidence of the district's intention to provide protections based on those categories exists in the discrimination policy, under the category of examples:

"Examples of prohibited harassment may include offensive or derogatory language directed at another person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, gender identity or need for accommodation . . ."

'It's not okay'

While the Fort Worth school district may be lagging behind the Dallas ISD in perfecting the wording of its nondiscrimination and anti-bullying policies, Fort Worth is several steps ahead of Dallas when it comes to its anti-bullying campaign, Everest said.

The district implemented the "It's not okay" campaign at the beginning of the current school year, focusing each month on a different aspect of

harassment. Topics are "bullying, cyberbullying, sexting, teen dating violence, suicidal thinking, sexual harassment, use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and gangs.

The campaign includes efforts to explain each topic and to promote the district's procedures for reporting and investigating offenses. A primary component, Everest said, is the "Friends 4 Life" hotline that anyone can call to report specific incidents or concerns. Students discovered to be targets of bullying or harassment are paired with counselors who work with them and help them find other resources if necessary, Everest said.

She said students had input in designing the

campaign, helping choose the topics and suggesting ways to address each one. The district also has designed posters on each topic to be displayed in schools, as well as billboards that are going up each month around the city.

"By the end of the school year, we will have billboards across the city addressing each one of these topics," Everest said. "There is a kind of entrenched generational acceptance of certain kinds of harassment and bullying — the idea that it's just what kids do, and you need to get over it and move on. That's what we have to change. We have to say to the whole world that it's not OK.

"And this [campaign] is not just a flash in the

pan, not just a one-time thing," Everest continued. Our goal is to make it an ongoing program, something that is deep and broad and addresses all the angles. That's how you change the social norms. That's how you stop the bullying."

She added, "This is all a learning process for us. We are making corrections and improvements as we go along. We thought we were covering everything, and now that we know we didn't, we will make the changes we need to make.

"Our goal is to make our entire educational community as safe as possible — our students, our faculty and our staff. And we will do what we need to do to make that happen." ■

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ANNOUNCEMENT

From Page 4

realize that this is discrimination and change their policy," Reed-Walkup said. "They [the city] may agree with the newspaper that because of the ban on same-sex marriage in Texas, they have every justification to not publish it in the 'Weddings' section. At least we can say that we tried, and take it from there."

Jim Moroney, publisher and CEO of The Morning News, said he didn't want to discuss the complaint because he had not seen a copy of it.

Moroney said The DMN's policy was enacted several years ago as a way to allow same-sex couples to announce things like civil unions. As more states have legalized same-sex marriage, the newspaper has begun to receive requests to publish them as weddings.

"We've just so far said that we're thinking about it," Moroney said. "Certainly if the state of Texas recognized the marriage of same-sex couples, we would put it in the paper. ... This is the community and state we represent and live in, and we're dealing with that."

Moroney added that it's not "a closed subject" and stressed that he believes the Morning News does a good job of reporting on LGBT issues.

"What troubles me a little bit is that some folks jump to this next level and say the newspaper is

■ ANNOUNCEMENT, Page 12

ANNOUNCEMENT

From Page 11

homophobic," he said. "That really is an unfair accusation if they would only take the time to read the paper every day."

Beverly Davis, director of the city's Fair Housing Office, confirmed this week that her office received the couple's complaint and is reviewing it. The Fair Housing Office investigates complaints under the ordinance before turning them over to the City Attorney's Office for possible prosecution. Each violation of the ordinance is punishable

by a \$500 fine.

"We're having to consult with our attorney's office on whether or not we have jurisdiction in this particular case," Davis said. "Whenever we get a complaint, we go the extra mile to examine it. I imagine it will probably be next week sometime before I have a decision."

In addition to the question of whether wedding announcements are a public accommodation, Davis noted that the ordinance doesn't prohibit discrimination based on "marital status."

The city once dismissed a complaint against a landlord who refused to allow a lesbian couple to

live together in his apartment complex. The city determined that the landlord had not violated the ordinance because the policy was based on "marital status" and not sexual orientation.

But Ken Upton, a senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal in Dallas, said that because Texas doesn't recognize same-sex marriage, sexual orientation and marital status are effectively the same.

"That's really an old dodge to try to avoid the real issue," Upton said.

Upton said he believes wedding announcements are public accommodations, because

they're paid commercial advertisements offered as a service. He also said it's ironic that someone's wedding announcement wouldn't be published based on marital status.

Texas' ban on same-sex marriage in no way prohibits the newspaper from publishing the announcement, Upton said. And he questioned whether the Morning News investigates announcements of heterosexual marriages performed outside the state to confirm that they're legally recognized in Texas.

"Just because the state of Texas doesn't recognize it doesn't mean they're not married," Upton said. ■



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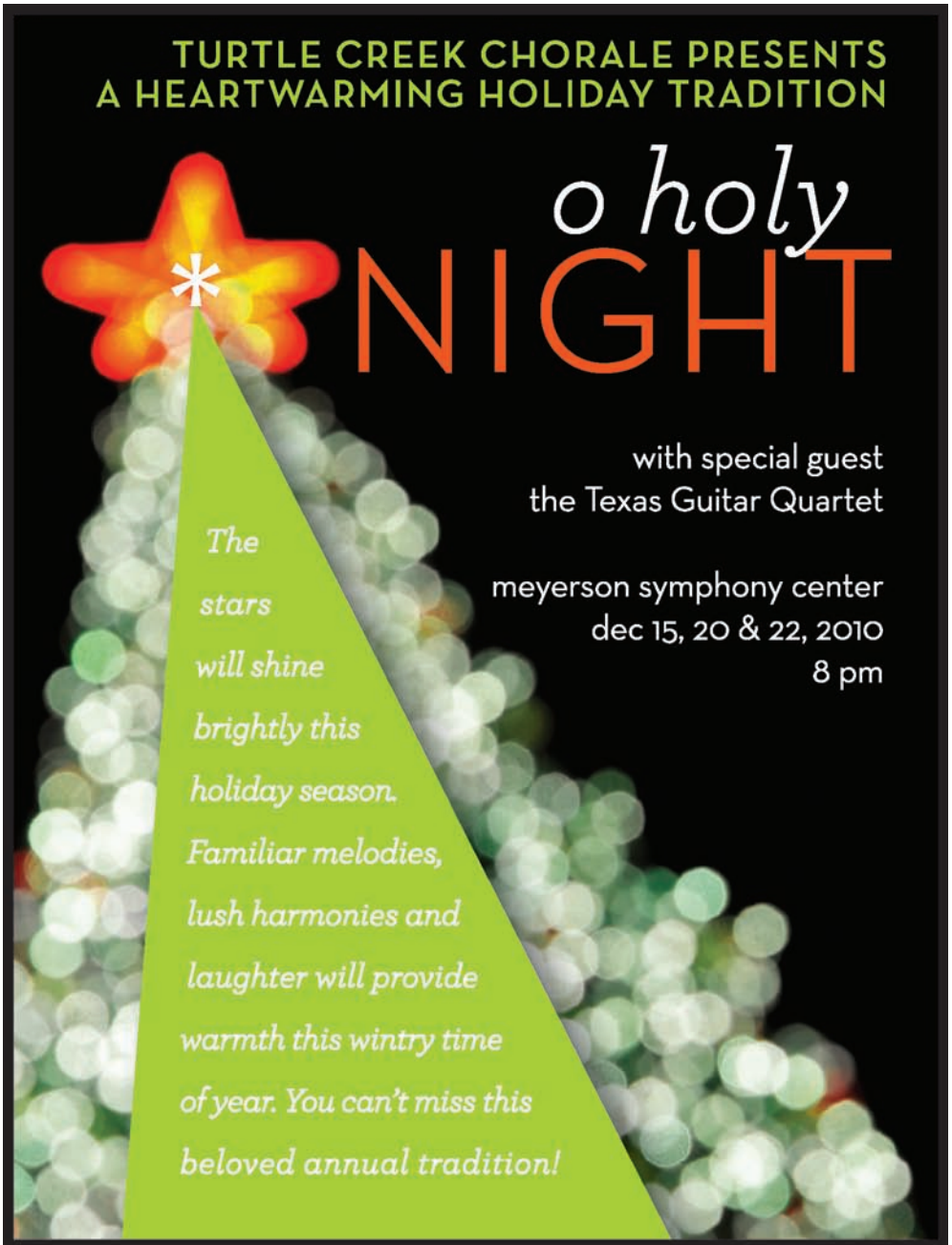
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Realtors adopt non-discrimination policy

All members of North America's largest trade organization must comply with amended code of ethics that now includes protection based on sexual orientation

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A suburban Dallas homeowner once posted this sign: "For Sale by Owner. No Queers."

Within the city of Dallas, housing discrimination has been illegal since 2002, and if the ordinance had been in effect at the time, the homeowner could have been fined \$500 for violating the city's nondiscrimination housing ordinance.

But while some found the sign offensive, nothing was done.

The sign is now in the archives at Resource Center Dallas.

And since the National Association of Realtors voted to amend its code of ethics to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation at its November meeting, that homeowner could no longer receive help from any of NAR's more than 1 million members. Any Realtor showing that house would be violating NAR's code of ethics.

NAR is the largest trade organization in North America.

When the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Real Estate Professionals organized in 2007, passing this amendment to NAR's code of ethics was an original goal.

A NAGLREP board member brought the amendment to the Wisconsin state association. That organization then officially introduced it to the national organization.

In May, NAR's board of directors approved the amendment, which sent it for final approval by a vote by the general membership.

The amendment passed easily on a voice vote

at the national meeting in New Orleans earlier this month. By NAR rules, since the proposal did not pass unanimously, opposition could call for a paper ballot, and an Arkansas Realtor who opposed the measure did just that.

But even with the secret vote, the measure passed with 93 percent of the 25,000 convention attendees voting in favor.

According to Jeff Berger, founder of NAGLREP, the only opposition that was voiced concerned federal fair housing laws that do not include sexual orientation.

"But there wasn't much resistance," he said.

Still, opposition was expressed on the group's blog, Berger said, citing the usual biblical and religious excuses to discriminate. He pointed out that those Realtors writing anti-gay comments on the blog would now be considered to be in violation of the organization's code of ethics and could be sanctioned.

Berger called the code the industry's own mini-ENDA.

"Clients can't be discriminated against," he said. "Realtors can't discriminate against each other."

And everyone who works in an office with a Realtor designation now is bound by non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation.

Should someone violate the code, Berger said they could be brought before NAR's grievances committee. If found in violation, they risk anything from a warning to losing their membership and the Realtor designation.

Jeff Updike of RE/MAX Urban in Downtown Dallas serves on the board of NAR.

"I don't know that it's going to have a huge impact," Updike said, but he wasn't downplaying the significance of the new rule.

Updike believes that any sort of discrimination is just bad business and that any agent that does discriminate will probably not survive in the competitive industry.

Berger said that in the last six months, 10 cases



FAIR HOUSING | From left, Texas Pride Realty's Bob McCranie and Leslie Wilson, Oregon Realtor Steve Strode, NAGLREP founder and Executive Director Jeff Berger, NAGLREP Director and Legislative Liaison Eric Kodner at the National Association of Realtors national meeting in New Orleans earlier this month after an amendment to the trade association's code of ethics to include sexual orientation passed. (Courtesy Bob McCranie)

of housing discrimination against gays and lesbians have been documented. An older case in Dallas involving an agent refusing to sell property in Oak Lawn because of the area's connection to the LGBT community ended with that agent leaving the business. Her license status is "suspended."

NAGLREP has also been asked to prepare a "best practices" chart for Realtors when doing business with the LGBT community.

"We will be presenting it to NAR at the midyear meeting in Washington, D.C. in May

2011," Berger said.

The last time the NAR code of ethics was changed, Berger said, was in 1988 to include families with children and people with handicaps. That change was made in conjunction with a change to federal law.

"Our next goal is to see the federal Fair Housing law amended," Berger said.

Updike would also like federal housing regulations to match the new industry standard. He said he expects NAR to support without lobbying for that change. ■



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F.A.C.E. offers HIV-positive a shoulder to lean on



Todd Faulk

HIV/AIDS support group at Cathedral of Hope celebrates its 1st anniversary with a World AIDS Day event that includes Quilt panels

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A year ago, Todd Faulk created an HIV/AIDS support group as part of the Cathedral of Hope outreach ministries. But it's not a Bible study, and it's not a religious group.

Faulk notes that he's not a licensed counselor, and he's not a pastor. The group is there to help people living with HIV feel better about themselves.

Still, Faulk said, he felt — and he had heard others say — that as the largest LGBT church in the area, Cathedral of Hope should offer an HIV support group.

Such groups were more common in the early 1990s, before drugs that helped control the virus became available. But Faulk saw a need. He said people had questions, especially young people.

When Faulk volunteered to become the face of the group, he turned that word into an acronym for Faith, Acceptance, Caring, Educate.

He said that the goal was support and information, not fellowship, so before calling the first meeting, he looked for some curriculum. He couldn't find any, so he turned to area professionals.

Faulk knew Legacy Counseling Center Executive Director Melissa Grove because he turned to Legacy when he was first diagnosed a dozen years ago. So he approached her, and Grove provided him with a number of topics for meetings and referred a number of people to the group.

"They've done a fantastic job," said Grove said of F.A.C.E. "Any person going to the group would be welcomed with open arms."

She said that while Legacy provides individual counseling and therapeutic groups, and other AIDS service organizations offer other services, F.A.C.E. fills a void.

"A support group doesn't need to be led by a licensed professional," she said.

Grove raved about the job Faulk has done. Before the group began, she worked with him on facilitating skills and how to create a safe environment.

"If a leader can't do that, people won't talk," she said.

She said it was important for Faulk to recognize when someone might need something more than a support group, and over the past year they have referred people back and forth from her therapy to his support.

Dr. Nick Bellos and his nurse practitioner, Stephanie Shoemaker, usually attend two sessions a month to answer medical questions.

"We're there in case people have questions about their drugs," said Bellos.

He said they especially discuss side effects.

"We tell folks what's out there and available," he said.

Bellos also provides information about clinical trials in the area. Recently he gave the group information on life expectancies and co-morbidities, discussing HIV-related diabetes and hypertension.

His job isn't diagnosing at the group, but if Bellos hears something that sounds like it needs to be examined, he sends the group member to his doctor.

Bellos complimented Faulk on the way he runs the group.

"He does a great job keeping the group on track," Bellos said. "He makes sure everyone has an opportunity to speak."

Faulk said some people attend a few meetings, get what they need from the group and move on. Others have become regulars. And while the goal is to help people with HIV live better lives, the death of one member soon after F.A.C.E. formed reminded everyone of how serious HIV can be.

"He developed spinal meningitis and died in less than a week," Faulk said. "His family didn't even know he was positive."

That left the man's partner with the job of explaining the illness to the family.

Since then, that member's mother has attended, first for support after her son's death and then to help others come out to their families as HIV-positive and, when necessary, as gay.

Other parents have participated to get information and to support their HIV-positive sons. Parents from out of town have attended and left with confidence that their child was getting the support needed, Faulk said.

In addition to coming out and medical issues, Faulk said group members have dealt with a variety of other related topics, like "eating habits, how the food you're eating affects your medication."

Faulk said someone might mention that he has a reaction when he eats a particular food. And

■ F.A.C.E., Page 21

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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.

I am outgoing. I am on the go. I am a newlywed. I am HIV positive.

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- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
 - The most common side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
 - 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)
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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

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Lambda Legal releases study on HIV-related stigma, discrimination

In advance of World AIDS Day next Wednesday, Dec. 1, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has released "HIV Stigma and Discrimination in the U.S.: An Evidence-Based Report," which focuses on the continuing stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV to policy makers and advocates.

Scott Schoettes, HIV Project staff attorney with Lambda Legal, said over the next year, Lambda Legal continue to press the legislators and policy-makers at all levels to address these issues as they implement the strategy.

Findings in the report include:

- Nearly 63 percent of the respondents who had HIV reported experiencing discrimination in

healthcare.

- A Kaiser Family Foundation report shows that the percentage of people who incorrectly believe that HIV can be transmitted by sharing a drinking glass is actually higher now than in 1987, and the percentage of people who incorrectly believe that transmission can occur by touching a toilet seat actually rose between 2006 and 2009.

- People with HIV are subject to prosecution and/or harsher sentencing for conduct that is not criminal. For example, in 2009, Daniel Allen was charged with violating a Michigan bioterrorism statute outlawing the use of harmful biological substances, based on allegations Allen has HIV and bit his neighbor during a fight. That charge

was dismissed.

- Discrimination against people living with HIV as they seek to access elder care occurs throughout the country. Robert Franke, a 75-year-old retired university provost and former minister, was abruptly ejected from an assisted living facility in Little Rock, Ark., in 2009 because he has HIV. Representing Franke and his daughter, Lambda Legal sued the company operating the facility, alleging violations of the ADA and the federal Fair Housing Act, as well as similar state antidiscrimination laws.

This case recently settled. ■

To see the complete report, go online to LambdaLegal.org.

CURE hosting Quilt panels

The Collin County group Community Unity Respect Education will present about a dozen panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Plano Nov. 29 – Dec. 1. The quilt panels will be displayed at Event1013, 1013 E. 15th St. in Plano on Monday and Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The venue is in downtown Plano and valet parking will be available. Volunteers will discuss the quilt project and tell the stories of some of the people whose panels are displayed. Among the panels is one honoring Resource Center Dallas' original executive director, John Thomas.

At the event, CURE President Rosemary Odom will announce plans for a large display of panels next year at the Dallas Convention Center to mark the 30th anniversary of when the disease was named AIDS.

World AIDS Day events at AOC

AIDS Outreach Center will participate in two World AIDS Day events.

At Tarrant County College SE Campus in Arlington, free HIV testing will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition, the school will present panels, speakers and information.

AOC will also participate in the Minority Leadership Citizens Council meeting at noon at Community Christian Church Annex, 1800 E. Vickery

Blvd. in Fort Worth. Outreach Center staff member John Reed will lead a discussion and offer facts figures and trends. A panel of HIV positive people will tell their stories and explain what it is like living with HIV.

That meeting will be recorded and broadcast on the city of Fort Worth cable channel. It will be repeated throughout the week.

Sprinkles honors World AIDS Day

Sprinkles Cupcakes will do its first World AIDS Day promotion from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 1, with 100 percent of the proceeds from the red ribbon red velvet cupcakes sold in all seven stores across the country donated to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. The Dallas store is in Preston Center.

AIN plans World AIDS Day event

Clients and staff of AIDS Interfaith Network will offer a program of remembrance, music, and celebration in the Daire Center at 11 a.m. Staff and volunteers will serve the clients lunch. After lunch, AIN will hold a candlelight memorial in their lobby.

World AIDS Day in Denton

In Denton, a World AIDS Day commemoration

will be held on the square from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event includes a candlelight vigil, tree dedication, poetry reading, speakers, information tables and free hot chocolate.

P.R.I.S.M. marks World AIDS Day

To commemorate World AIDS Day on Wednesday, Dec. 1, P.R.I.S.M. (Promoting Respect In Sexual Minorities), the gay-straight alliance for Navarro College in Corsicana, will hold activities intended to help build awareness of HIV/AIDS in the community. Dana Kennedy Hartney, case manager for Ellis and Navarro counties with Dallas-based AIDS Arms Inc., will be the guest speaker for the event set for 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Hartney will speak on the topic, "Why everyone is affected by HIV/AIDS."

The program will be held in the Gooch Student Center, Arrowhead Room, Navarro College, 3200 W. 7th Ave. in Corsicana. Refreshments will be provided. AIDS Arms will also provide free HIV testing Thursday, Dec. 2, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Gooch Student Center. The testing is open to the public and will include an information table and people to answer questions.

RCD dedicating dental chair

On World AIDS Day, Resource Center Dallas will dedicate its new dental chair at Nelson

■ FREE HIV TESTING

Free AIDS testing will be available at the following locations on World AIDS Day:

- AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 817-335-1994
- Tarrant County Public Health Department, 1101 S. Main St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 817-321-4700.
- Nelson Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, 214-528-2336. Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments requested but can see some walk-ins. Dec. 3 all day. No appointments necessary. Free syphilis testing also.

Tebedo Clinic at 4 p.m.

RCD spokesman Rafael McDonnell said the chair was purchased with Ryan White funds and replaces a chair that has been at the clinic since 1992. Dental care has become one of the major programs of the Nelson Tebedo Clinic. The clinic serves 65 patients every week. ■

More World AIDS Day events

On Dec. 1, from 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Parkland hospital presents an education and a consumer fair for World AIDS Day at the Dallas Marriott City Center, 650 N. Pearl St. All of the Ryan White agencies in Dallas will have booths.

Dr. Kevin Murphy is the keynote speaker and will be available to answer questions. He is responsible for formulating the curriculum in AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases at the Dallas County Health Department and organized the early surveillance of AIDS in Dallas.

The event is free and open to the public. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Parking in the Plaza of the Americas parking lot will be free. The entrance is on San Jacinto Street. The Marriott is adjacent to the Pearl Street DART station.

In Fort Worth, AIDS service providers are participating in a carnival and health fair at the Public Health Department, 1101 S. Main St., from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All of the Ryan White service providers will be present. Food, games, gift card raffles and free HIV testing will be offered.

A memorial services will be conducted by The Revs. Carol West and Curtis Smith at 5 p.m. ■

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■ worldAIDSday

TRUVADA

From Page 1

15 months in the field of HIV prevention research since the epidemic began 27 years ago."

The Centers for Disease Control said the findings in the Truvada study are a major advance in prevention research and a new tool to reduce the risk of infection among gay men and bisexuals.

Dr. Brady Allen, a Dallas internist, was optimistic, but also had some concerns.

"I think we have a lot of issues to consider with PrEP," he said. "We will certainly need recommendations from the CDC. In addition, I think it is promising work."

AIDS Arms Executive Director Raeline Nobles was also optimistic.

"This study shows hope and a new way to battle the HIV epidemic," Nobles said. "Usually we are a little apprehensive when there is a press release about new drugs or vaccines being tested, as we know there will be years of further study and validation — and often failure over time to come to fruition."

But, she added, the Truvada study has her excited about the future.

Camp stressed that "The anti-retroviral prophylaxis approach is promising but only a piece of the solution."

He said that the new drug therapy cannot replace traditional prevention methods, and he pointed out that new infections did occur among men who took the medication.

Among the 2,500 enrolled participants, 36 new infections occurred among individuals who received the drug. Among placebo recipients, there were 64 new infections. Researchers estimated that the use of the preventive medication cut new HIV infections by an estimated 44 percent overall when compared to placebo.

"Adherence to taking the pills is key to success," Camp said.

The study did show that those who took Truvada daily had a much higher rate of protection than those who took the pills only half of the time.

Camp said that "two participants who seroconverted had resistance after" that would have been built by irregular use of the drug, causing it to be at a lower-than-therapeutic level in the blood at the time of infection.

Bellos said that those patients also may have contracted a strain of the virus that is resistant to Truvada.

But Bellos still called the results promising and said that prophylaxis is a good idea.

"In a perfect world, if we could get everyone treated, we could plateau the epidemic," he said.

While the CDC called "developing guidance on the safe and effective use of PrEP and determining how to most effectively use PrEP in combination with other prevention strategies to reduce new infections in the U.S." its most urgent priority, Camp warned of the risks.

While he said that compared to some of the other anti-retrovirals on the market, Truvada is fairly well tolerated, it can still cause headaches, nausea and diarrhea.

"It's known to cause decreases in renal function," he said. "We could be setting people up for

MORE ON TRUVADA

Truvada is a combination drug therapy known as a nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor. Two anti-HIV medications, Emtriva® and Viread®, are combined into one pill that is taken once a day with or without food.

In the United States, the cost of the treatment is more than \$1,000 per month.

Manufacturer Gilead has given away the patent for generic manufacturers to produce and sell it in third world countries. There, the cost of the drug averages 45 cents a day or about \$15 per month.

Those generic medications are not available in the United States.

Dr. Nick Bellos said that patients of his who have access to the generic medication have family members in those countries that are filling the prescription and sending them the drug.

Truvada has been one of the more successful HIV medications. Fewer people seem to experience side effects on this drug than on some of the others.

Studies show that more people became and stayed undetectable over a three-year period on Truvada than on Combivir or Sustiva, two other popular HIV medications.

Those on Truvada showed a greater increase in the number of CD4 cells than on other medications.

Side effects include nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain and/or weakness.

Longterm use could lead to liver damage, renal failure, increased risk of diabetes and metabolic bone disease.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking Truvada.

—David Taffet

renal issues and the long-term effects are just now coming to our attention. Cardio-vascular disease, diabetes — we don't know what the next 10 to 20 years on those drugs will be."

Bellos noted that metabolic bone disease could also be an issue.

He said that anyone taking the drug as a prophylactic measure would need to be medically monitored on a regular basis, just as someone who is HIV-positive.

Despite his concerns, Camp did say he believes the results are a breakthrough that proved a non-intended use or expected finding. Previous studies have shown a benefit of drugs for medical personnel accidentally exposed to the virus but this was the first time prevention was proven through sexual exposure.

"The value is more in post-exposure, when traditional HIV prevention mechanisms fail," he said.

Camp said he is more excited about the research into anti-microbial topical gels that have recently also proven effective in preventing infection after exposure.

Bellos agreed.

"My preference is for a vaccine," Bellos said.

■ TRUVADA, Page 21

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Dr. Nick Bellos

TRUVADA

From Page 20

"Then we don't have to worry about it."

He said that a study has been done in South Africa among couples where one is HIV-positive and the other is negative, showing that when the positive partner's viral load is undetectable, the risk to the negative partner is about 6 percent.

"On therapy, 94 percent of the negative partners stayed negative," he said.

Bellos also warned that the Truvada study showed that even for the most compliant participants in the study showed only 75 percent effectiveness in preventing infection.

He said he is concerned that people will ignore traditional prevention methods that have proven effective and instead rely on the less-effective prophylaxis.

Nobles said it has long been known that strict adherence to anti-retroviral treatment among HIV-positive people leads to less transmission of the virus to others.

But she wondered about some of the ethical implications that need to be studied, including the cost and availability of Truvada.

"If we can't afford to treat all HIV positive people living with the disease today — which we cannot — how will we ever be able to afford paying for preventive medications, too?" Nobles said.

The drug costs about \$45 per pill in the United

States. Because the manufacturer gave away the patent for production by generic drug makers in other countries, it is available in some countries for under \$1.

"One wonders if insurance companies are going to be willing to pay for this," Allen said.

Bellos said that he has some patients with family members in places like Pakistan and Thailand and they are able to get the drug from overseas.

"We should have two other large PrEP trials reported on in 2011 in other high-risk groups, which will help confirm or refute these results," said

F.A.C.E.

From Page 14

another group member will say he has noticed a similar reaction.

"I call that the 'me, too' factor," said Grove. "It's very important in decreasing isolation."

Faulk said those sort of things are important because living with HIV requires a lifestyle change. He said he learned in the group that regular antacids block the body from properly absorbing HIV medications. He said his doctor gave him something to use instead.

"We talked about a recent study that showed that cocaine actually increases the amount of HIV in the body by lowering the immune system," Faulk said.

Other topics have included acceptance, setting

Allen.

President Barack Obama also weighed in on the importance of the study.

"I am encouraged by this announcement of groundbreaking research on HIV prevention," the president said in a statement released Tuesday, Nov. 23.

"While more work is needed, these kinds of studies could mark the beginning of a new era in HIV prevention," the president said.

"As this research continues, the importance of using proven HIV prevention methods cannot be overstated." ■

goals, the importance of physical activity, positive thinking and getting away from a "woe is me" feeling.

World AIDS Day marks the one-year anniversary of F.A.C.E., as well as the 10th anniversary of the John Thomas Bell Tower. F.A.C.E. helped coordinate the World AIDS Day event at the Cathedral.

The Rev. Paul Tucker, who was the Cathedral's first AIDS chaplain, will lead the service. He is now a pastor at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis.

The Turtle Creek Chorale will perform.

Panels from the quilt will be on display in the International Peace Chapel and HIV testing coordinated with Resource Center Dallas will be available throughout the day.

Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Dec. 1 at 7:15 p.m. ■

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viewpoints

Not-so-secure security with new TSA procedures

Backscatter scanners, aggressive pat-downs give us a false sense of security when the terrorists have already won by making us afraid

As a gay man, I have been groped before. In fact, it used to be hard to get a drink in a gay bar without getting a few “friendly contacts.”

Was it welcome? Not always. Did I feel violated? Not really; it came with the territory.

So that said, how would I feel about being groped by a blue-gloved Transportation Security agent? Violated!

First and foremost, the new security procedures being added to current screenings are ineffective. Recently, a German TV show demonstrated clearly how the exact chemicals used in the infamous “underwear bomb” could be walked through the full-body scanners without detection.

Additionally, the whole “three bottles with no more than three ounces in a plastic bag” ruse does nothing to prevent high-powered explosive components from being brought through screening. That same TV segment showed how these passed right through the scanner and X-ray with no notice.

Three bottles of three ounces of chemicals were plenty to create a roaring incendiary bomb with sufficient heat to burn through the metal fry pan holding it.



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

The whole security screening is more for us than for security. It makes us feel like the TSA and the government are doing something to protect us. It is more theater than security — and now it’s getting really personal.

The companies that make the scanners have sold the TSA and the government the bill of goods that these invasive X-ray machines are foolproof. They aren’t.

They also have tried to convince us that they are not an invasion of privacy. Well, they are, Blanche; they are.

We have been told the image of your naked body is being viewed by some anonymous person upstairs at the airport who supposedly will not share the image with anyone. Gizmodo, a high-tech online site, already obtained more than 100 images stored improperly by U.S. marshals in Orlando. Perhaps they would make nice greeting cards?

We have been told the scanners pose no health threat. However, if you travel frequently or are part of an airline crew, you get exposed to the radiation from these scanners over and over — and the jury is out on that.

Back in April, faculty members at the University of California, San Francisco, sent a letter expressing their concerns about possible health risks related to the backscatter X-ray scanners to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

So if you opt for a “pat down” from a TSA agent, which is your right if you decide you don’t want to go through the scanner, you get a not-so-delicate, full-body grope, sans happy ending. That’s where I get back to the whole violated thing.

Standard procedure is male agents pat down men and female agents pat down women. What about gay men and lesbians? Do we get a choice?

And even more to the point, what about someone who is transgender? It really gets difficult and becomes a clear invasion of privacy when you have to explain that the agent might not find the same anatomy they are expecting to find.

Again it’s an indignity, and just plain unnecessary.

I know we all want to be safe when flying, but if our line of defense is a group of poorly trained and underpaid folks wearing plastic gloves, we are already on shaky ground. According to many security experts, if the terrorists get to the airport, it’s too late anyway.

So speaking of terrorists, I feel pretty sure I will get a lot of flack from people asking me if I “want the terrorists to win?” Well, here is the stark truth: They already have won.

Their intent is not so much killing and destruc-



tion but terror. Look at our laws and how a small group of radicals managed to scare us into passing the Patriot Act and dozens of other measures that supposedly provide security at the expense of freedom.

Even the dastardly crime of 9/11, though it was spectacular, was far less deadly than the yearly total of deaths of innocent Americans through automobile accidents. Yet we have no “war on driving,” or even common sense safety reform for cars and roadways.

Why? Because that doesn’t terrify us. We falsely believe that we are safe in our cars and on our roadways, but get cold sweats every time we board a plane.

If that isn’t a triumph for the terrorists I don’t know what is.

Do I believe we should have no security at all? No, absolutely we should. But it should be balanced with our fundamental right to not be photographed in the nude or groped in the airport.

It’s time we stopped letting equipment manufacturers guide our security precautions and start actually weighing the risks and evaluating the practical measures that can reduce them.

If you actually believe these invasive searches are needed, why not just go the “full monty” and issue bathrobes to all passengers? Then we and we can all fly naked.

Oh yes, and then there is that whole cavity search thing. Now that might actually make flying fun again!

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

Do you plan to attend a World AIDS Day event?

CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

speake out poll

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Have you ever needed to use a food pantry?

- Yes: 30 percent
- No: 70 percent

64 Votes cast

Feedback

On 'The face of anti-trans violence'

Thank you for allowing me to share my story. I hope that people come to realize that we can heal and that life can STILL be beautiful. While we remember those we have lost, we cannot let the fear consume us. I spent SO many years messed up and fearful and I hope that sharing my story helps people move forward.

And to those we have lost — rest in peace, knowing that you have the love and respect of many. I wish you could still be here.

Winter Mullinex (via DallasVoice.com)

On 'Senate to take up DADT repeal in December'

This is a joke! Had they taken care of this before the election it wouldn't be an issue. Then again, the Democrats never planned on actually doing anything about DADT. But now that they have had their ass handed to them in the last election, they can "attempt" to move forward with gay rights legislation and when they don't get anywhere they can blame the mean ole Republicans. It is all a farce. Obama and friends had two years to make something happen and they FAILED.

Bryan (via DallasVoice.com)

On, 'Pearland teen beaten to death, body burned in possible hate crime'

For now, I choose to believe that it was not a "hate crime" but that a teenage boy got a ride from another teenage boy and the driver made an unwanted pass at the passenger. To a 19 year old "straight" male at the top of his sexual peak, an unsolicited pass from a homosexual male, could result in an over-the-top reaction especially if it involved touching! The early death of Joshua is a horrendous tragedy and my sympathy goes out to the parents and family. The tragedy and initial fight could be a complete over-reaction by Hermillo followed up by an even greater reaction with his attempted burning of the body. It is doubtful that the Hermillo "lured" Joshua into a situation for Hermillo to have killed him or it would have been better planned. The crime scene (at his father's house) indicates the crime was not pre-meditated. It sounds more like manslaughter than a premeditated murder. My prayers are with



Joshua Wilkerson

both families and even Hermillo. I don't think he woke up and said he would go kill Joshua and burn his body on Tuesday.

Ann Smith (via DallasVoice.com)

To Ann Smith: Clearly (and hopefully) you are not a parent. A parent could NEVER find any justification for the de-humanizing, brutal murder of any child. Whether anyone was at their "sexual peak," straight, gay or otherwise will ever be a justification to respond to an unwanted advance with murder.

Hermilio may not have begun his day with the intent to slay another human, but Hermilio did CHOOSE to brutally murder Josh when the unwanted advance occurred. It was a choice. We are

suppose to teach our children how to make good choices in life lest we suffer the consequences. Clearly Ann Smith is not a parent since she never had to teach this lesson to a child or she would have known Hermilio had a choice and it was not manslaughter. Every action Hermilio committed was intentional a choice.

However, if we assume Ann Smith has children, we all should be VERY frightened as she will have taught her child that if someone makes an unwanted advance to them, it will be completely justifiable to respond with the most heinous, de-humanizing, brutal murder possible. Her children should have to wear a sign "Free to murder – My Mom says so!"

God help Hermilio and his family. Something went tragically wrong in him and his family. God help Ann Smith and all the "Ann Smith's" of the world. She is tragically flawed. God is helping Josh and his family.

I will continue to pray for all involved.
Patrise Shuttlesworth (via DallasVoice.com)

On 'Fox not a credible news source'

As a follow up, the Washington Post states that only 3 percent of exit polling voters self-identified as GLBT to begin with — which if true and 31% of them said they voted Republican — would amount to 1 percent of all voters.

Demographers will tell you that the GLBT "electorate" comprises at least 10 percent of the overall vote. So that means that exit pollers

missed the majority or other 7 percent of voters who DID NOT self-identify as GLBT in this election. Thirty-one percent of 3 percent of the 2010 electorate does NOT represent any big or lasting shift in GLBT voter loyalty. Perhaps these voters were sending a "protest" vote over the economy like most of the other voters in 2010??? Once the electorate, both straight and gay, realize what the Republican priorities really are, and the legisla-

tive agenda that they are trying to advance is — they'll be back to the Democrats in no time !!! While the GOP would like people TO THINK that the GLBT community is flocking over to the GOP — it's just not true. Did they get a "bump" in this election? Certainly. Does it portend a lasting demographic and electoral advantage for the Republicans? NO.

Cerebral 1 (via DallasVoice.com)

query 11.26.10 BY DAVID TAFFET

Do you feel more comfortable spending money on the holidays this year?

John Landry IV — "I wouldn't say I feel uncomfortable, but I'm certainly spending less than previous years."

Wendy North — "No I am not comfortable. The economy is still iffy and therefore my purse strings are tighter. More baking this year and less buying."

Cristina Cabigting — "I don't feel comfortable spending this year since money has been tight all year. It would be a stupid choice to spend money I don't have."

Roger Wetzel — "What money? Who has money to spend?"

Andrez Lozano — "Economy hasn't affected me, knock on my wood."

Dina Dutton — "I don't have the money. So I would rather volunteer at a nursing home or help the homeless. That is what the holidays are about."



Project one-gay

Dallas hairstylist and fashionista **Gregg Asher** has an unforgettable look. But he's turning his eye on the rest of Dallas with a new fashion blog

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

There are people who, when they walk into a crowded room, turn heads.

And then there's Gregg Asher, who's probably responsible for more cases of socialite whiplash than anyone else in Dallas.

Along with partner David Martin, Asher infuses the see-and-be-party-scenes with a heavy dose of high glamour through attention-grabbing personal style. Laden with designer brands from toe to head (he builds his outfits from the shoes up), it's not just *who* he's wearing, but *what* he's wearing. If there are two signature items in a Gregg Asher ensemble, it's gorgeous high-heel shoes and amazing handbags.

But, he stresses, he's not doing drag. Or cross-dressing. His is a style that transcends traditional labels — while piling on plenty of couture ones.

Perhaps surprisingly, his fashion fierceness partly stemmed from pure necessity. He wears a size 5½ men's shoe and weighs less than most female supermodels. Shopping off-the-rack in the men's department was not an option. The boys' section, maybe. But Asher in Garanimals? Just. Not. Right.

"My waist size — they don't even *make* pants my size. So I need to either go to Asia to go shopping — and I don't have time for that — or it's easier for me to go buy something for women at Barneys or Neiman's or J. Crew. Whatever it is that suits me."

It all comes down to what he thinks is beautiful, no matter where it's found in-store.

"I don't wear dresses. I don't want to be a woman. I have more of a beard than straight burly men in the sticks could ever grow," he says. "But when you find something that you enjoy wearing, or doing, it makes you feel better about yourself. It doesn't have to be a dollar-and-cents thing; it just has to make you happy."

Asher's soothing, soft voice is in stark contrast to his outward extravagance and sharp humor. When a man walks into a room wearing Burberry Prorsum platform buckle boots and a Jean-Paul Gaultier scoop-neck sweater, chances are most people would expect some obnoxious queen with an affected attitude matched with a horsey cackle. But nothing could be further from the truth for Asher. At any Dallas party, he's probably the kindest, most approachable person in the room. It's just his wardrobe that's intimidating.

When we meet at his swanky Turtle Creek high-rise, he answers the door in a green cashmere turtleneck and flared tan cor-



FASHION FORWARD | If you had Gregg Asher's closet, you might not come out of it either. Although as a man who wears gold Bottega Veneta high-heeled boots, it's hard to stay in. (Photo by Steven Lindsey)

duroys by Balenciaga, a green-blue-yellow tree-print jacket from Tuleh and burgundy suede Fendi platforms. You know: typical Sunday afternoon casual. At least in the Asher manse.

Italian couture is a far cry from Jonesboro, Ark., where Asher grew up. But he learned early on to embrace his individuality, ultimately turning it into a successful career as hairstylist to some of Dallas' highest profile citizen (among his clients: the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders), as well as a trendsetter and fashion icon in his

own right.

His enthusiasm for style led Asher into his latest venture, a blog called FashionBaggage.com. As a regular at New York Fashion Week and runway shows all over the world, the fashion part comes easy. It's the technology that was a little iffy for him.

"I didn't even have a computer until, like, two months," he says. "Even in high school when they offered computer class my senior year, I was like, 'Oh no, I'd rather take home ec.'" He

laughs, knowing that's even funnier since neither he nor Martin cook.

Asher posts entries at least every other day, offering up witty commentary on current trends, revealing his latest purchases, playing dress-up with Martin and snapping candid pictures of the fashion dos-and-don'ts he encounters around town; he says spotting an Hermes Kelly bag on someone at the State Fair of Texas restored his fashion faith in humanity.

"We can all read Vogue, and sometimes it's over your head. I always felt like I was a laughed-at personality in the community, so why not write all that down and let others be entertained by it," he says. Then he reveals his more strategic side: "Ultimately I'm working and branding myself into the TV market, so it's just one more step in the process and adding more variety to the things that I already can do."

Asher is currently working with three different production companies on a variety of ideas, though he admits his appeal is more niche, making it easier to work a story around him than fit him into some reality-show mold. Although that's not to say that he wouldn't consider a role on Logo's *The A-List: Dallas*.

"I'm not hunky enough and I definitely won't be taking off my shirt for any of that, but I have enough drama and excitement in my life to add something to that show," he says.

"I think there's a stereotypical version of what a gay man is and I don't fall under that. I almost embody what a lot of people find that they're embarrassed about the gay community or what they think the gay community gets a bad rap for," Asher says. "And I think I elevate the community just as much as anybody else does, I just do it in a different way." ■

ONLINE IN STYLE | Asher barely knew how to turn on a computer until he started the blog FashionBaggage.com



ASHER'S TRENDS: DOS AND DON'TS

You don't need to read up on back issues of Vogue to have insight into where style is headed — just listen to Gregg Asher's recommendations about what you can do to spruce up your wardrobe:

I love **heels** (obviously) and think women should definitely wear them — they elongate the silhouette and make anyone's legs look better. I love **Fendi** shoes because their heel heights are almost teetering on too high (though a heel can *never* be too high). One of my favorite shoes for guys for this fall/winter is the entire collection from **Rick Owens** who shows platform wedges. Yes, it's probably way too avant-garde for most men, but it's super sexy and totally masculine when worn with the right clothing. And there's nothing greater in fashion than someone who is totally confident — and these boots demand that!

Trends that I'm seeing for guys for spring are lots of **denim**. In fact, when I was at Fashion Week, it seems denim is everywhere (for guys and girls), but this is not your everyday, regular old pair of jeans — it's been treated and cut into modern silhouettes and shapes, and the denim is used for all pieces and has great details (even laser cut lace pieces of this fabric look new and fresh).

Another trend would be for men to definitely **retire the super skinny pants** that show off your stuff. For spring, show off a new change in trousers. What I'm seeing in high fashion that will eventually trickle down to more mainstream venues is **wider leg pants and pleats**. One of my favorite collections showing this for spring is **Raf Simons** who presented a beautiful super wide leg, extremely long pant in crisp white or black. It has so much drape and pleating, it almost looked gathered and wrapped around the body and waist. He even showed it with sleeveless shirts and vests to almost give a summer suit effect.

Overly styled hair is a don't for me. We're not living in a pageant, no one is perfect, and sometimes minor imperfections are your best strengths.

Buy clean underwear. Union Jack is a great place for a large selection in any cut and color. Women change their bras continuously, so men should change their underpants regularly in terms of styles — make sure the style goes with your outfit by not giving you panty lines. That means sometimes you have to change the style of the underwear to go with the style and cut of the pants you're wearing. There's nothing worse than a man in ill-fitting undies. My mother always told me, to make sure you always have on clean underwear before you go out just in case there was an accident and you have to go to the hospital. Words to live by!

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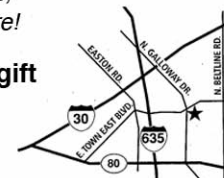
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Dance 10, smarts 3

If we could turn back time ... we'd still want to see Cher in this campy hoot



QUEER DELIGHT | Stanley Tucci as the gay BFF and Cher imbue 'Burlesque' with crazy camp appeal.

In *Burlesque*, pop diva Christina Aguilera plays a small-town girl with a big voice who leaves the heartland to chase a predictable dream in L.A. She lands a job as a cocktail waitress at the Burlesque Lounge, meets a couple of hot guys (Cam Gigandet and Eric Dane), builds a friendship with one dancer (Julianne Hough), makes enemies with another (Kristen Bell), and learns a few life lessons from Tess (Cher), a broke, weary, but totally hot burlesque goddess with a heart of gold.

Big surprise: It's not a great script. The mortgage is due and the moneylenders lurk and gosh, the lounge needs a miracle to survive! But who will go see it for the plot, the hokey dialogue or the not-so-great acting from Aguilera (her character is hardly full-bodied, with a backstory that is even slimmer than her hips).

But do go see it, because the movie is exactly

what its audience is looking for: A campy, sexy hoot. It struts. It's fun. It's funny. There's some serious eye candy with Gigandet and a box of cookies. There's Stanley Tucci, playing Sean, the surly gay manager of the lounge.

And of course, there's Cher. Cher still has the glam to pull the clichéd Tess off — and she still has that voice. The ups and downs of her life (both Tess and Cher) can be summed up in one show-stopping number: "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me."

Burlesque is not supposed to be Cher's movie, but she steals it anyway — along with Tucci, whose one-night stand with a potential life partner is heartwarming and real. Tucci may be playing a gay BFF to a burlesque queen, but Sean is not some kind of gay caricature. He's the heart of a film that has no brain.

— Angela Wilson

★★★★★
BURLESQUE
Cher, Christina Aguilera, Stanley Tucci, Cam Gigandet, Eric Dane.
Rated PG-13. 125 mins.
Now playing wide release.

Divalicious

It's unfortunate that Cher and Christina Aguilera don't get a duet on the *Burlesque* soundtrack. Wonder who was the bigger diva voting against that. But we digress. Fact is, yes, Aguilera has the voice and uses it with all its might on eight of the 10 tracks. Playing with soulful rock, jazz and '50s throwback *a la Back to Basics*, she's in fine form.

Opening with "Something's Got a Hold On Me," Aguilera sets the tone, belting out a strong intro and morphing into something from a Jerry Lee Lewis album. In "Tough Lover," she does her best Little Richard with the high-pitched "whoos," but still growls her own signature.

When the songs go more contemporary, they deliver some radio-ready tunes. "Express" and "The Beautiful People" are fun highlights and she delivers in the ballad "Bound to You." She's reliable that way.

Cher contributes only two tracks: "Welcome to Burlesque," a cliché opening weirdly recalling Aladdin's "Arabian Nights," and "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me." This one's a beautiful gem for her. Oscar nom? Hard to say. But maybe. While never earthshattering, there is a lot of fun to be had on the album. Just hearing Cher again has a queer appeal all its own.

Three stars

— Rich Lopez

Christmas jukebox

Indigo Girls, Fred Schneider queer up the holidays, but Annie Lennox transforms them with carolful CDs

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com



It took decades in the music business before the famed lesbian duo Indigo Girls got around to releasing their first holiday album. *Holly Happy Days*

puts Amy Ray and Emily Saliers in country mode with hoe-down ready songs and a star-studded roster. They could have very well created a lesbian music lover's wet dream in disc format.

They giddy-up quick with "I Feel the Christmas Spirit," a ramblin' tune that leaves out any

jingling bells. The fiddle and banjo are the stars in this happy song that doesn't sound anything like holiday fare — unless you're in *A Very Special Deliverance Christmas*.

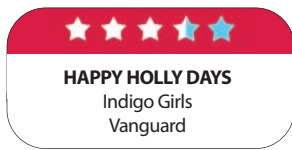
That same approach makes the traditional carols interesting at least. Neither sings that kind of vocal stretch you've come to expect hearing on "O Holy Night" ... and thank goodness. There's no vanity here — "Night" may come off underwhelming, but its Celtic undertones add welcome texture.

Because they respect the carols' original structures, there aren't many surprises. That's made forgivable with easy-to-sing-along numbers like "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Who doesn't want that? The organ backdrop, though, on "Angels We Have Heard On High" feels like you walked in on an old hillbilly church with a two-voice chorus. There's a charming majesty in the tune along with the layered instrumentation.

Not to discriminate, the Girls cover Woody Guthrie's "Happy Joyous Hanukah" which almost had me run out to buy a dreidel. The bluegrass influence here is adorable, and despite its

minority status, it fits right into the rest of the album. Mary Gaultier and Janis Ian even provide gorgeous background vocals.

They go pop with "It Really Is (A Wonderful Life)," a bouncy song penned by Chely Wright. You almost expect to hear it as a commercial jingle or sitcom theme, but it charms in a way you don't expect.



For die-hards, *Happy Holly Days* is Indigo Girls doing what they do best: Acoustic folk (although revved up) and lush harmonies. The non-fan might initially be put off by the woodsy flavor and lack of fuzzy feelings, but with time, their simple approach is refreshing and they prove that less can be more. Besides, the Indigo Girls offer three ornaments in the packaging. Score!



When Fred Schneider branches out from The B-52's with his side project The Superions to take on Christmas, well, you might as well throw any

possible idea you have about holiday music out the window. Schneider and company don't hold back from turning Christmas on its ear and into a hilarious party on *Destination...Christmas!* Just try singing these door-to-door without being chased by angry villagers carrying pitchforks.

They get the party started with "Santa's Disco," an over-synthesized dance ditty about all the revelry at the North Pole. *Christmas Carol cuts loose / Crazy as a goose / It's so insane / What she does with a candy cane.* This alone should paint all the picture you need to see the band's approach to the season. The "Santa's Disco" chant gets a little much, but seriously, this is fun stuff.

■ CAROLS, Page 30

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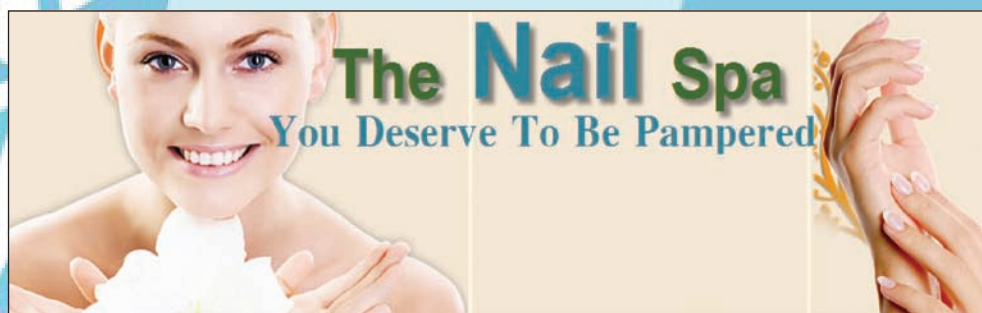
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■ CAROLS, From Page 27

When the first line is “*Whatchu makin? / Fruitcake*” in, um, “*Fruitcake*,” you expect hilarity to ensue. Instead, it’s basically the recipe set to music and as the second track, missteps already show on the album. The techno beat is engaging, but this song proves early on that this shtick could get old fast.

It does. The same mistakes happen on “*Chillin’ at Christmas*” and “*Teddy and Betty Yeti*.” Schneider opts to talk over great beats, but the stories are not even ridiculous, just, well, stupid. I’m not really sure what he’s trying to do here: Fun is one thing, funny is another, but either he’s trying too hard to be “out there” ... or maybe he just doesn’t know what he’s doing. Maybe I just don’t get it, but maybe there’s nothing to get.

There is some redemption in the “*Christmas Conga (Jungle Bells)*.” The *ju-ju-ju-jungle bells* lyrics and the conga beat are irresistible, with more of Schneider’s talk-singing. The goofiness here is what he should have been doing all over the album.

The production puts Schneider’s voice front and center, which isn’t a good thing. I don’t think I ever realized how bad a singer he is; perhaps neither does he. He’s much better doing the outlandish vocals as he perfected on “*Rock Lobster*”

and “*Love Shack*.” Side projects can allow for artists to change up their sound, but Schneider is so bad here, you start feeling sorry for the rest of the band having to endure it.

And yet somehow, it ends on a high note with “*Santa Je T’aime*.” An orgasmic fan moans for Santa Claus as he bellows *ho ho ho*. Think the holiday version of Lil Louis’ “*French Kiss*” with that climaxing groan.

Even for fans of quirky and out of the box, *Destination...Christmas!* remains an unworthy purchase. You’re better off selecting the songs you like and buying individually online.



On the opposite end of the spectrum from The Superions is Annie Lennox’s holiday release. Filled with sophistication and heart, *A Christmas Cornucopia* could be the holiday album this

season. With carols most everyone has heard to those she sang as a child, the CD is crisp and festive.

Where we seem to have gotten a softer, kinder Lennox in her solo career, her intensity here actually reminds of how powerful the Eurythmics were in the beginning. “*Angels We Have Heard On High*” is a beautiful choral piece that bursts with glorious force. Where the Indigo Girls are

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DESTINATION ... CHRISTMAS!
 The Superions
 Fanatic



TROUBLESOME TRIO | Fred Schneider, center, and his side project The Superions should expect a lot of coal for their ‘*Destination ... Christmas!*’ album

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intimate on this carol, Lennox pushes her voice with abundant strength. She continues that on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman;" both solidly open the album.

Lennox mixes Middle Eastern, European and African influences with ease. She may not sound completely genuine with the French carol "Il Est Ne Le Divin Enfant," but her earnestness comes across sweetly. Her Middle Eastern touch on "Gentleman" only kicks the carol into a higher gear without stripping away its originality.

Lennox worked with the African Children's Choir on "Lullay Lullay (Coventry Carol)," a song about the Nativity that is the album's darkest moment. She compares the song's message about King Herod's slaughter of the first-born son to the plight of children in Africa. The tone turns into a borderline buzzkill but she refrains from going too heavy. Still, it's a shift.

She includes one original song. "Universal Child" finishes the album off with a heartfelt ribbon that ties it up well, though is not especially Christmasy. The advocate work she's done with children and women in Africa comes out in song here and it's a gentle touch. (Proceeds from the



ELEGANT HOLIDAY | Annie Lennox makes Santa's nice list with her gorgeous CD 'A Christmas Cornucopia.'



song go to her foundation to help those communities.)

Lennox delivers wonderfully and producer Mike Stevens succeeds in showcasing both her voice and the different flavors of music and instrumentation. Like the present that's well wrapped and heavy when you pick it up, *A*

Christmas Cornucopia is a worthwhile one to open.

Born this way

Gay, Straight, and the Reason Why by Simon LeVay Oxford University Press, 2010; \$28; 412 pp.

We all have our quirky preferences: Some don't like it when food touches other food on their plate, or when socks don't match up. But are our selves shaped by outside influence, or did we enter the world this way? Was our behavior learned or innate? In *Gay, Straight, and the Reason Why*, you'll find answers to similar questions of a more intimate sort.

Nearly two decades ago, Simon LeVay published a scientific paper asserting that gay men differed from straight men in their brain structures — specifically, a cluster of nerve cells controlling sex drive in gay men were the same size observed in straight women's brains. Since publication of that paper, vast amounts of research have probed same-sex attraction and the nature/nurture debate. Here, LeVay takes a deeper look at some of the newer findings.

While some gays and lesbians are surprised later in life by feelings of same-sex attraction, LeVay says that sexual identity, while not always immediately apparent, is present at birth (although women, throughout life, appear to be more fluid). He points to several cases in which male infants were, for one reason or another, "assigned" to live as the opposite sex. In most cases, upon adulthood, the "assignment" turned out to be wrong.

Some theorize that childhood abuse has influenced gayness, but survivors deny it as a factor. Some theories claim that older siblings or domineering parents hold sway. And as for "choice," LeVay cites several quasi-claims of "conversions" in which therapy reportedly changed sexual preference.

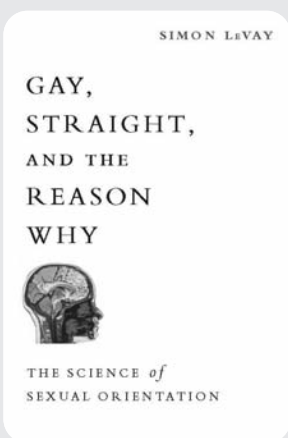
Overall, LeVay says, nothing is cut-and-dried, but the probable reason that someone is gay has to do with genetics, hormones and stress that individuals receive in utero. Studies show, for instance, that mice are influenced by chemicals secreted by their mothers and by littermates. Humans, likewise, are affected in similar ways, which could lay to rest many questions. And one of the hints may literally be at your fingertips.

While there's no doubt *Gay, Straight, and the Reason Why* is an intriguing book that makes sense on several levels, there's one big problem with it: you almost need a Ph.D. to follow much of what LeVay says. It's steeped in medical lingo, and while LeVay includes a glossary and substantial notes to explain the scientific terms and acronyms, this book is a challenge.

But if you're up for that challenge, you'll be rewarded with a thought-provoking examination of a private subject that has a very public focus. LeVay leaves no hypothesis unexamined, which leaves readers satisfied that every corner of this argument has been thoroughly dusted off.

Give yourself some time if you decide to tackle this book, because it's nowhere near light reading, but it is fascinating — and ultimately a plea for tolerance.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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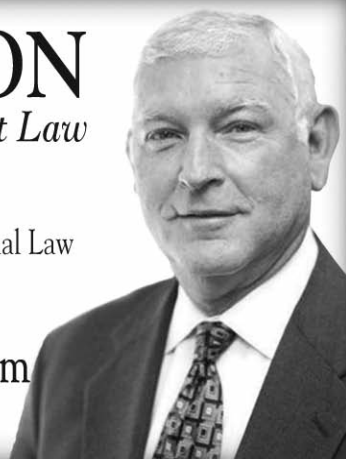
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jones@dallasvoice.com

The Egyptians perfected the pyramid more than 4,500 years ago, but over at the Fairmont Hotel, they're still tweaking it.

First was the name change: The Pyramid Room, for 40 years a revered institution for Dallas anniversaries, graduations and engagement parties, became just Pyramid in 2008. In a town overrun for a few decades by trendy, cutting edge and/or elegant fine dining restaurants (from Routh Street Café to Five Sixty), Pyramid had ceased to have the cache it once did. It had been upstaged, just as the Giza Plain has been by Dubai's skyscrapers.

The rebranding included a makeover (brighter, welcoming decor, a killer wine cellar overseen by sommelier Hunter Hammett, an



AMUSING | The pumpkin soup amuse at Pyramid is a triumph, and the scallop, despite a light caramelization, terrific. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

ace at pairings), an on-site garden for the ultimate in locavore ingredients (from roof to table!) and two new chefs in as many years; Andre Natera is the current exec. Pyramid wants to remind everyone it's still there — and teach new-

Top 'Top Chef' return to be savored

Bravo's reality cooking competition series **Top Chef** has managed a few spinoffs — *Masters* and *Just Desserts* — in its years on-air, but on Wednesday, the new season of the series attempts its first all-star arc, and for once, the formula works.

All-star shows usually suffer from the banality of seeing familiar personalities, some of them past winners anyway (or forgettable early-exiters), up to their old tricks. But none of the 18 contestants on *Top Chef* this time around won their seasons, though most came very close. And, appropriate for a cook-

ing series, they can almost taste victory.

Back are some gay faves, including Season 1 second-place finisher Tiffani Faison and Season 3 runner-up Dale Levitsky. Dallas' culinary scene is also well-represented (as it should be), with Tre Wilcox, Casey Thompson and last season's breakout fan favorite Tiffany Derry (pictured right, with Angelo) all back. Derry's appearance is slightly bittersweet, as she became recently unemployed with the sudden closing of her restaurant, Go Fish Ocean Club in Far North Dallas.



It doesn't ruin anything to say none of the local folks leave in the premiere episode, which is chock full of angst — after all, everyone *deserves* to be here, even pompous pills Stephen and Marcel. This is a talent show, ya know: It's not like *Big Brother* or *Survivor*, where personality, popularity and strategy play such a huge part.

It's a little surprising to realize how character — not just characters — emerges in the crucible of the kitchen. The annoying ones are *more* annoying as they strut among their equally talented adversaries. Other than that, it's business as usual. And after a long day preparing a Thanksgiving meal, it's nice to sit down and watch other people cook for awhile.

Airs on Bravo at 9 p.m. starting Dec. 1
— Arnold Wayne Jones

Grade: Three and a half stars



DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE EGG | The pan roasted duck breast at Pyramid is enormous and gorgeous, but tender? Not so much. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

comers that it's not daddy's haunt anymore.

The effort is paying off — or at least it's close to it. The menu is smart and vibrant (and well-priced, for a high-end hotel restaurant), fresh ingredients show off their muscularity on the plate. But sometimes, technique suffers.

Not on the amuse bouche, though — well, half of it. Chef Natera usually sends out two items to prime the palate, and the combination we tried showed thoughtfulness. A demitasse of pumpkin soup, spiced up with Spanish chorizo and some cayenne pepper (then topped with a light foam) turns the traditional autumnal flavorings of pumpkin on their head: It's spicy without cliché, and satisfying.

Served alongside the soup was a scallop salad (also available as an appetizer, \$10). The sear on mine — and everyone's at the table — was too faint, though: It needed more caramelization to fully evoke the scallop's flavor. But the bits of

crispy pancetta among the green apples, frisee and sherry dressing melded warmly.

The pork belly starter (\$9), on the other hand, was a triumph of technique: Braised *and* cooked *sous vide* (under vacuum), pressing it into a compact cube of layered pork. Maple glaze, apples and traces of cinnamon added a savory-sweetness, as did the celery root puree. If you can handle the unexpected heat from jalapeno, the tuna crudo (\$9) is a winner. Thin slices of raw tuna are accented by near-invisible slices of grape, imbuing a hidden sweet character that contrasts to the bite of radish and chile. Presentation is also excellent.

Terrine is a tricky menu item. It's a hearty preparation, and the venison version here (\$9) boasts a density that makes for an appetizer better shared than enjoyed alone. Aside from that, this rustic peasant food transports you to Provence, with authentic Dijon mustard and cornichons, and a cherry reduction that kicks all the flavors down the road. (Pickles and mustard? No easy task for Hammett to pair a wine with that.) So far, so good.

Then comes the duck (\$27). You're first struck by its imposing size. This isn't some delicate cut, but a slab of pan-seared bird of deeply crisped and pink flesh. I dove in.

Tough — almost too tough to cut, not to say eat. Another corner perhaps. Worse. None of it was great. Maybe there's a reason duck breast is often served in small portions. The yam puree underneath became a mess while I struggled to cut it. It would take Dr. House — or at least Dexter — to make this work.

Dessert kept this meal from ending badly. An indulgent tart tatin hit the spot. Sliced wings of fresh, spicy apple, doused in syrup, arrived on a wavy disc of pastry anchored by a dollop of ice cream. Seasonal aromas set my mood right, and the flaky pastry was the perfect medium for soothing the meal and my disappointment in the duck.

A number of other desserts piqued my interest (Mexican fondant? Petite cupcakes? Drool), but they can wait for next time. There'll be a next time; I wanna see where this goes. ■

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★



Pyramid Restaurant and Bar, inside the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 Akard St. 214-720-5249. Open daily from 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and lunch (Sunday brunch at 11:30 a.m.); dinnertime 6–10 p.m..

The pressed pork belly, above, and tuna crudo are delights of this locavore menu at the Dallas institution, which seeks to open itself to a new generation of diners.

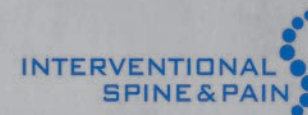
Food: ★★★★★

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Price: Moderate to expensive

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WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1, 2010

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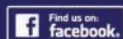


resource center
dallas

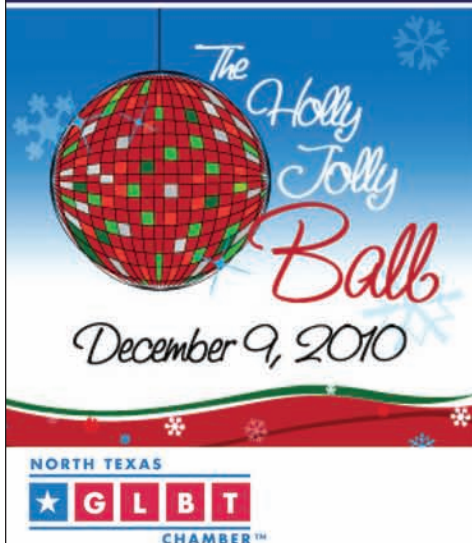
Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS exists to raise funds for North Texans living with HIV/AIDS while at the same time raising awareness of this disease. We mourn those that we have lost, and we will keep riding until there is a cure.

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Sat & Sun, Sept. 24-25, 2011

www.lonestarride.org



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L+S sketches

Drawing Dallas

Stacy Bailey is unconventional in her classroom and in her life

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Lessons learned



Name and age: Stacy Bailey

Spotted at: Lee Park

The art of living well: Stacy hails from south of San Antonio, and now she's now in her third year teaching elementary school art in the Metroplex. Her crazy-cool, unconventional teaching style has inspired an art curriculum book for teachers on how to teach art history to kids.

Next to teaching, health and fitness are her passions. Stacy works out at least six times a week, hitting up workouts such as turbo kickboxing and P90x. She's also a beach-body coach who schools people in reaching their fitness goals.

Getting better all the time: Traveling is a big priority in her life, and Stacy plans each of her summer breaks to find herself in an interesting locale; her fave city so far has been San Francisco. Her love of new experiences and random adventure has her exploring cities and small towns all over the country. With journal, sketchbook and camera in hand, she sets out to capture the beauty around her.

When she's not feeling the burn or taking a fantastic trip to a new location, Stacy enjoys watching movies, painting, sculpting, dancing, playing guitar and cooking. She says her life is lovely, and getting better with each day!



ANGELS IN AMERICA | David Henry is making his list and checking it twice. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Heavenbent for leather

Leather Knights bring back Angel Tree to benefit AIDS Services of Dallas

Santa Claus isn't always a fat old man in a fur suit. Sometimes he's a hot leather daddy in a harness.

That's the way the Leather Knights see it, at least. Once again, the group is sponsoring its Angel Tree for the holidays.

The idea is simple: Go to the Dallas Eagle and check out the tree, decorated with paper ornaments on which are written requests for some holiday cheer for clients of AIDS Services of Dallas and Hillcrest House. Some are middle-aged men in need of warm clothes. Some are children wanting their first iPod. All are deserving.

Take down the ornament, buy the gift, wrap it (with a tag) and return it to the Eagle no later than Dec. 18. The Knights and Eagle staff do the rest, delivering the gift to the person requesting it and making an angel out of you. And let's face it: Most of the year, you're more of a devil, so this is a perfect time to get into the holiday spirit.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

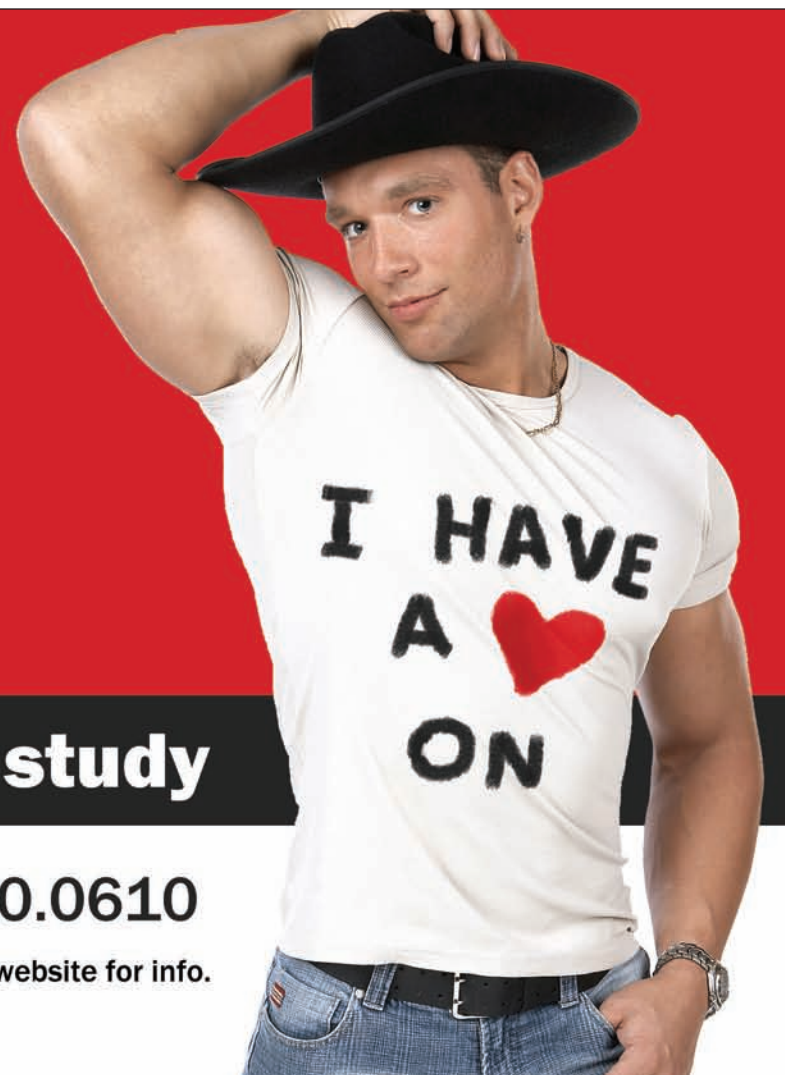
Visit the Angel Tree and return the gift between Nov. 27 and Dec. 18 at the Dallas Eagle, 2515 Inwood Road, suite 107. LeatherKnights.org.

DALLAS GET YOUR HEART ON

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www.ihaveahearton.org 214.590.0610

Volunteers must be men who have sex with men, 18-50, HIV-negative. Visit the website for info.



December 1, 2010 World AIDS Day

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Ich bin gay Berliner

Despite its history, the gay-friendly capital of Germany may be Western Europe's best kept secret

MARK LOWRY | Special Contributor
mark@marklowry.com

Of all the great cities in Europe, Berlin is probably not the first one that comes to mind when Americans make travel plans. Paris and Prague are more glamorous. Rome and Athens are more scenic. Amsterdam is more... well, everything.

But Berlin, with its troubled modern history, has been making a comeback on the world stage — even among the gay community, notable considering how gays were treated in Germany during the 1930s.

That's actually been the story for about a decade. Apparently, those who are helping it come back, including the nearly 15,000 Americans who have moved there since the Berlin Wall came down, don't want the secret out. The main selling point: It's the cheapest of the major cities of Western Europe for lodging, shopping, eating and sightseeing. That's good news for the budget traveler who doesn't want to sacrifice comfort or good grub.

There is rich history to take in (much of it a reminder of evil regimes from not so long ago) and brilliant museums to tour. For the gay traveler, there's a vibrant and large scene, eager to accommodate every fetish.

Like all of the other major European cities, it's extremely easy to get around Berlin, thanks to a proficient bus system and underground and aboveground rail systems (U-Bahn and S-Bahn, respectively). Oh, and beer, which is big in this part of the world, is allowed on mass transit. And the drinking age starts at 16 — good to know. (Don't worry about all the drinking, though, because the region's carb-heavy foods, including schnitzel, sausages and curry wurst, usually soak that up. Plan to gain weight on this trip.)

Here are a few tips and must-sees for your Berlin excursion.

East vs. West vs. the World

It's impossible to think of Berlin without images of Hitler, the Holocaust, the Soviet occupation and the Berlin Wall. That history is significant to this once-divided city, and while there are many reminders present to prevent such things from ever happening again (such as the bombed-out but still-standing Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche), it's still a sensitive topic among German residents. (It's best to take advice from *Fawlty Towers*: "Don't mention the war!")

Touring that history can easily take several days, and that's if you're just staying in the city and not taking charter buses out to some of the closest concentration camps. Start by visiting the only part of the Berlin Wall left standing, in the "Around Unter den Linden" section of the city. The wall is a powerful symbol (as are the cold, Stalin-esque buildings next to it, where the Nazis officed), but walk though the outdoor exhibit next to it, "Berlin: Between Propaganda and Terror," and visit the museum on its grounds.

A few blocks down, in the Kreuzberg section, is "Checkpoint Charlie," the entry point to the American sector of the formerly divided Berlin. The checkpoint stand and American military officials are there for photo ops. Also telling: Note the McDonald's a few feet away.

After taking a stroll on the nearby Unter den Linden and to the historic Brandenburg Gate, you can wander to another powerful reminder of the past, the Holocaust Memorial, with its concrete slabs in a grid pattern. The memorial opened in 2005, and underneath is a museum dedicated to Jews murdered in World War II. Not far away, in the Tiergarten section, is the famous neo-Renaissance home to German parliament, the Reichstag. In the 1990s, an elliptical globe, designed by Sir Norman Foster (who designed Dallas' Winspear Opera House) was added so visitors can walk up

WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE | The remnants of the Berlin Wall are a sobering reminder of the city's past, but the German metropolis is now a feast for travelers — literally, as street pretzel vendors prove. (Photos by Mark Lowry)

and around it. If you want to do that, arrive early — the line is long.

Museum Island

Museum Island is exactly what it sounds like, and you'd be remiss not to tour a few of its major museums, notably the Pergamon Museum, which houses a mammoth altar excavated from the ancient Asia Minor city of Pergamon. There's also a brilliant section dedicated to Islamic art. Also worth trips on Museum Island are the Old National Gallery and New Museum, all in historic 19th century buildings that mostly survived the bombings in World War II (much of the rest of the city didn't, although many historic buildings were purposefully not targeted by Allied forces).

You can get a good overview of that part of the city, as well as parts of Tiergarten, by taking a tourist boat on the Spree river, around the City Centre. On that ride, you'll take a tour of German architectural history, from Baroque (the Berliner Dom, a church that warrants an indoor visit) to Modern (the Bauhaus Archiv). Along the way, you'll see the home of the Berliner Ensemble, the theater company that Bertolt Brecht ran, which still does excellent productions of his (and others') works.

For the gay traveler

Like much of urban Western Europe, there's now a progressive, accepting attitude towards homosexuality in Berlin, and gay establishments proudly fly their rainbow flags throughout the city. Most of them are located in the Schöneberg section. There are several guides to gay Berlin, but we found the one produced by Queerline Media the most helpful.

Apparently, most of the dance clubs open late and let the pretty people in first, but if you're into rough trade or leather, there are plenty of options. Fetishes are proudly trumpeted (many of the guides list special events, such as "golden shower Thursday"). Leather stores display military, bondage and gas mask paraphernalia (gas masks, really — considering this city's history?) in their windows. There are many options for gay-specific lodging, but if you stay at Tom's Hotel you'll get passes for area cafes (such as the popular Sissi), saunas and other establishments.

Given Berlin's history with gays, who were rounded up and sent to concentration camps in the Nazi regime, it's fitting that there is a gay museum, the Schwules Museum in the Kreuzberg section. Housed in two multi-level residential buildings, it features a fascinating pictorial history of gay Germany, with occasional special exhibits. And you can always seek out Marlene Dietrich's grave. ■



Queering up the slopes

A new gay ski event joins winter wonderlands already catering to gay sportsmen (and chill partiers)

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

The landscape of gay ski weeks is changing faster than the view from a waxed Telemark swooshing down a double black diamond.

The African-American-centric Winter Explosion enjoyed its last slalom earlier this year, but there's a new gay ski week founded in conjunction with the Matthew Shepard Foundation — and it's closer by! And some of the big ones changed their dates in a big way.

Of course, there are many more reachable resorts that don't have gay ski weeks *per se* (read about some next week in the Voice), but here are the ones that plan entire weeks around getting queer skiers (and just people who like to cuddle up in the lodge with a furry fellow) to hit their slopes.

Utah Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, Park City, Utah. *Jan. 5–9*. The season kicks off, as always, in the home of the Sundance Film Festival. Gayskiing.org.

Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, Aspen, Colo. *Jan. 16–23*. The 34th annual granddaddy of gay ski weeks brands itself the Wild Wild West this year, and all we have to say is, yee-haw! Dallas-based comedian Paul J. Williams returns to host the Drag Downhill comedy night and performs with Emmy winner Leslie Jordan. GaySkiWeek.com.

Winter Rendezvous XXV, Stowe, Vt. *Jan. 19–23*. For those who prefer the powder of the Northeast, Winter Rendezvous returns to the home of U.S.-based gay marriage — Vermont — for its 27th outing. Comedienne Shawn Pelofsky, who recently stopped by the Rose Room, headlines. Winterrendezvous.com.

WinterPride, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. *Jan. 30–Feb. 6*. Earlier this year, WinterPride got bumped later in the season because of the Winter Olympics (a fair trade — one town can only handle so much gay at one time), but it's back to early in the season for the 19th annual party where Queernadians are joined by their Anglo-Gringo supports across the border for this skier *and* snowboarder party. DJs like hot bear Ted Eiel keep the fun going. GayWhistler.com.

Telluride Gay Ski Week, Telluride, Colo. *Feb. 26–March 6*. Named the U.S.A.'s top gay ski week by Gay.com, the Mountain Village event is back with T-11. Returning to the party are *The A-List's* Reichen Lehmkuhl, who will be hosting the pool



SHOOT THE BUTTE | Crested Butte, Colo., is home to two gay winter events next year: OutBoard and the inaugural Matthew Shepard Gay Ski Week.

party Wet, and dragcomedy legends the Kinsey Sicks. (Big news for the Dallas-based traveler: A new nonstop direct flight on American from DFW to Montrose/Telluride Airport.) TellurideGaySkiWeek.com.

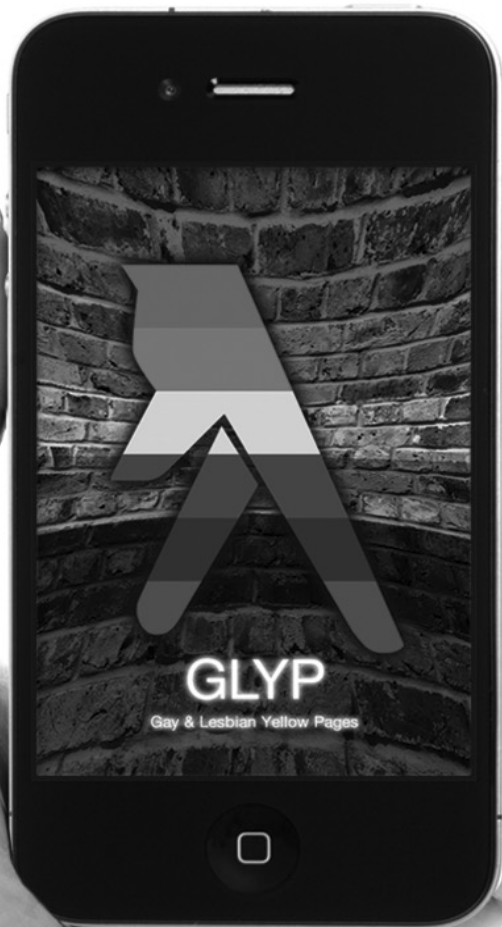
Lake Tahoe WinterFest Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, Lake Tahoe, Nev. *March 6–12*. Organizers insist WinterFest XVI is on the calendar for the first weekend in March, though no details have been released yet. LakeTahoeWinterfest.com.

Mammoth Gay Ski Week, Mammoth Lakes, Calif. *March 16–20*. Not that boarders aren't welcome everywhere, but for the biggest gay ski event in California, you just know they are gonna turn out in droves. The 9th annual event kicks off with DJ Josh Peace (who also hosts The Party @ 10,000 Feet) and yummy DJ Escape spinning at the Avalanche party. MammothGaySki.com.

Shoot the Butte (Matthew Shepard Gay Ski Week), Crested Butte, Colo. *March 19–26*. The newcomer to this year's ski family is both an ambitious party and a benefit for the murdered teen's foundation. Reichen pulls double duty (here and in Telluride) with an appearance, and there will be daily skier "hook ups" (meet-and-mixers), a pub crawl and several late dance parties. Be the first to check out this one. MatthewShepardGaySkiWeek.com.

OutBoard Gay and Lesbian Snowboard Week, Crested Butte, Colo. *March 29–April 3*. If you like Shoot the Butte, why not just hang around a few days — OutBoard begins just three days later. (In the last three years, it has moved from Crested Butte to Steamboat Springs to Breckenridge and back again to CB this year). You don't need to snowboard, either — there are ice-skating and wall climbing adventures to be had as well. OutBoard.org.

Vail Gay Ski Week, Vail, Colo. *March 30–April 3*. Vail, which this year had its event in late January, bumped it two months into the late winter, capping off the gay ski season. This version brings back the Vail Splash Club hot tub and pool party as well as the beer bust and daily après ski socials. VailGaySkiWeek.com. ■



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Saturday 11.28

Christmas trees get all fancified

Artreach Dallas hosts the inaugural Bough Wow event to tie in with the lighting of Lee Park. Forget popcorn garland and plastic ornaments here. Artists and designers put their talents to the test using trees and wreaths as blank canvases. While you pine over the greenery, DJ Lucy Wrubel will spin the tunes while the wine and appetizers are served.

DEETS: Arlington Hall at Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. 5 p.m. \$65. ArtReachDallas.org.

Tuesday 11.30

Everything is 'Illumination'

While we are recovering from food overload, superhumans gear up for *Cirque Dreams Illumination*. In what sounds like *Rent* meets Pink Floyd, the show depicts workers and pedestrians (aka urban acrobats) balancing on wires, chairs and other daring stunts against illuminated effects and eclectic score from rock to jazz to street beats.

DEETS: Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 5. 7:30 p.m. \$22-\$49. BassHall.com.

Thursday 12.02

Red ribbons should match that cosmo

Chef Blythe Beck serves up her designer nibbles while Micah B provides the tunes at Kimpton's Cocktails for a Cure red ribbon party. With auction items, cocktails and food, the only thing that makes it all better is that it benefits the Resource Center Dallas.

DEETS: Central 214, 5300 E. Mockingbird Lane. 6:30 p.m. \$20. HotelPalomar.com.



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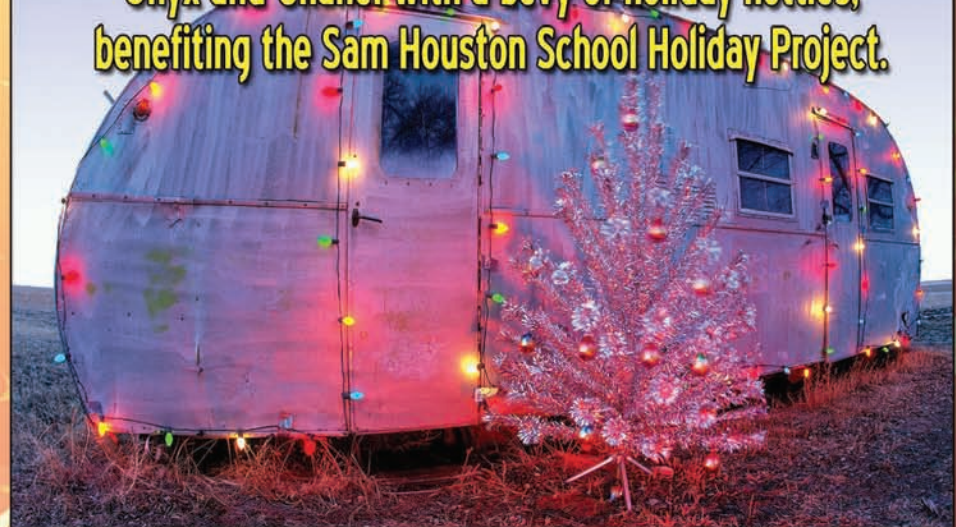


Edna Jean Robinson's 42nd Annual
Trailer Park Christmas



Tuesday, Dec. 7

Get in the spirit with Edna Jean and special guests
Onyx and Chanel with a bevy of holiday hotties,
benefiting the Sam Houston School Holiday Project.



Because of the holiday weekend, contact the organizations for any schedule changes.

FRIDAY 11.26

COMMUNITY

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

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. Free. Crystal-Meth.org.

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

Congregation Beth El Binah will meet for a study session and dinner at private residence. 7:30 p.m. Email Diane@BethElBinah.info.

THEATER

The Dog Problem. A dog comes between two friends and the mob in this comedy by David Rabe. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Saturday. 8:15 p.m. \$20-\$25. Undermain.org.

Santa vs. The Martians is based on the 1964 movie and adapted and directed by Andi Allen. KD Studios Theatre, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Dec. 18. \$20. LevelGroundArts.com.

SATURDAY 11.27

COMMUNITY

Fuse: Core Group for guys 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m.

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

Interfaith Peace Chapel self-guided tours. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Noon-4 p.m. Interfaith-PeaceChapel.org.

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

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 11.28

COMMUNITY

Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living. LGBT-Friendly "meditation and more" event. All faiths welcome. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Rd, Richardson, TX 75080. 5 p.m. AwakeningHeart.org

30/40Something social group meets weekly.



DOG DAYS | A four-legged friend is in the middle of some major drama in David Rabe's comedy, 'The Dog Problem' at the Undermain Theatre.

Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

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

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is lesbian singer-songwriter SONiA. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

MONDAY 11.29

COMMUNITY

Caffeine + Character. Cathedral of Hope youth meeting for ages 14-22 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.

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

this week's solution



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LADY DREAD | Lesbian singer SONIA talks to Lambda Weekly this week before her tour stops in town.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

BROADCAST

The A-List: New York. Logo channel's answer to the Real Housewives but with gay men. 9 p.m. on Logo. LogoTV.com.

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

TUESDAY 11.30

COMMUNITY

Sista to Sista support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center. Meets every first, second and third Tuesday. 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 Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

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

Q's-Day Potluck. Casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.

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

Metroplex University Night town hall discussion sponsored by Peacemakers Incorporated. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.org.

BROADCAST

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

WEDNESDAY 12.01

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.

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.

EI Sol, an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

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

AIDS Quilt Display. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.org.

THURSDAY 12.02

COMMUNITY

Standing on the Promises is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for membership; A.A. is self-supporting through contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

PFLAG Fort Worth (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) meets first Thursdays of each month. This meeting will be a Christmas Open House Potluck. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. PflagFortWorth.org.

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

First Thursday Gallery Walk where all showrooms and galleries along Dragon Street in the Design District will remain open until 8 p.m. each month.

The Tao and Animistic Paths lecture with Amy Martin. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.org.

In observance of World AIDS Day,
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010: 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Bette Midler turns 65 on Wednesday. The singer/actress is in the pantheon of gay diva icons. Where would drag queens be without her torch songs and bawdy tunes as stage arsenal? She's still in tune with her gay audience after all these years. She presented singer Pink with the Ally for Equality award at the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner in October.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Get out and have fun, but think ahead and be careful. Home is a danger zone, and not just for the preponderance of accidents that happen there. Not a good time to call the folks either.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Digging up family secrets proves explosive. How much are you ready to learn? Revealing those secrets could cause a lot of trouble. You need to talk, but select your confidante wisely.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Going out on a limb for political principle gains points for integrity, but leaves you in the lurch. Holding true to core values is important, but should evolve with the times.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Daring risks and changes get you ahead, but without taking a chance, you'll trip yourself up. Meditate on what's important. Instinct and intuition will serve better than apparent logic.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Explore new ideas and places. Especially in quiet meditation in a dark room, you can hardly help but make important discoveries. Staying true to yourself means accepting growth and change.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Finding sexual adventure is easy, but could complicate friendships. The erotic energy could be harnessed into a more political charisma. What to do? The answer is deep inside you.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

It's harder to stay out of arguments. Thinking ahead is good; intuiting ahead is better. Accept criticism from the boss, even if overly harsh, as a challenge to improve.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Talking with your boss about your goals lead toward resolution. Not talking about problems will make them worse. Complaining about lack of direction will undermine efforts and confidence.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Adventure may be irresistible, but it involves bigger risks than you can anticipate. Look ahead and be careful to cut down on dangers, but you will be surprised — maybe for the better.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Domestic squabbles make for great makeup sex. That won't eliminate the conflict, but could reframe it. That leads to a helpful breakthrough, but you still have lots of work ahead of you.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Worrying about accidents invites them as much as carelessness does. First-guessing yourself is no good either. Helpful efforts, whichever end you're on, are also likely to make things worse.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Hide the plastic. Unnecessary shopping ends badly. Budget for entertainment and have fun. You need to release some energy, but there's no need for it to be expensive.

THIS WEEK

Mars in Sagittarius provokes us to speak and act out in search of new perspectives. He's squared to Uranus, though, provoking accidents, rash statements and decisions we'll regret later. The greatest adventures are deep inside. Meditation and introspection can yield tremendous insights.

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

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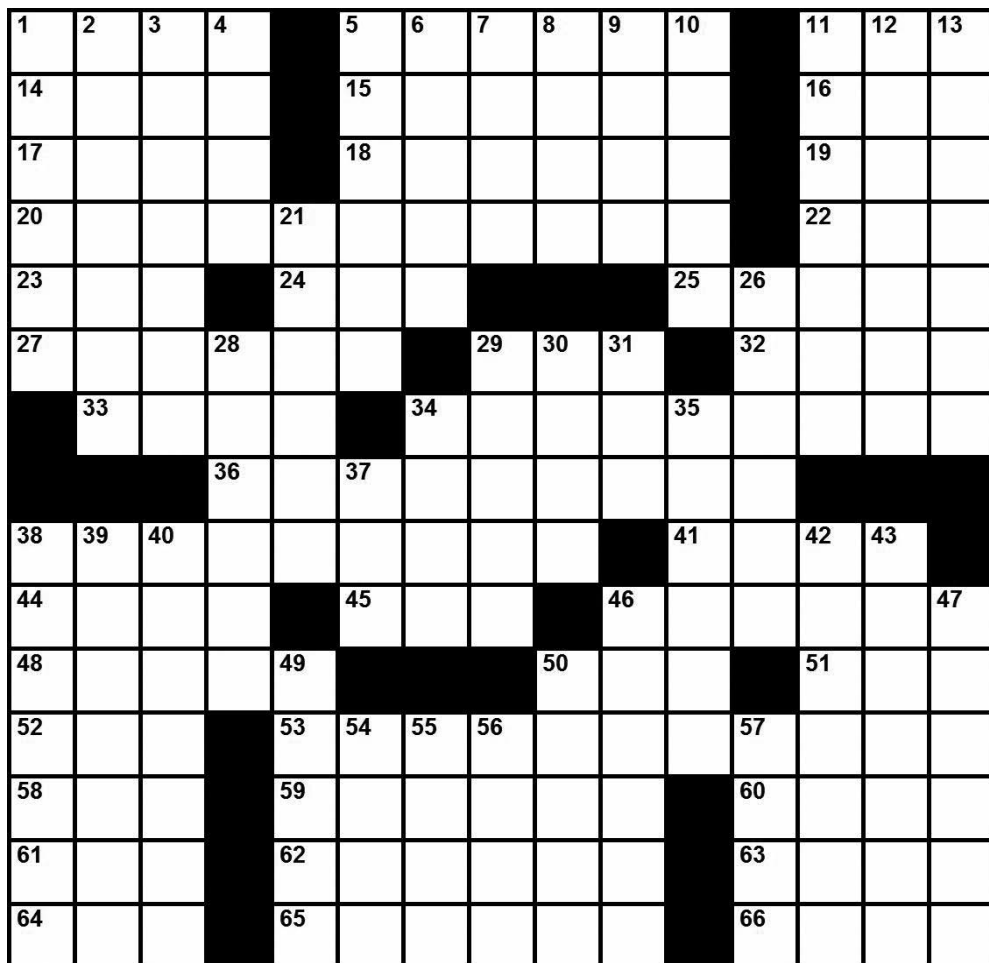
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Ticklish Situation

Solution on page 41

Across

- 1 Bi
- 5 Todd or Kevin
- 11 British sitcom *Ab* ____
- 14 Marathon, for one
- 15 Weatherspoon of the WNBA
- 16 Hosp. ward
- 17 Jane Spahr's last word, perhaps
- 18 *Desert* ____
- 19 Toothy swimmer
- 20 A danceuse with lots of ____ ...
- 22 QB successes
- 23 Math subj.
- 24 Caesar's arts
- 25 Downy wader
- 27 *Twilight of the Golds* writer Jonathan
- 29 Pink diamond, for one
- 32 Maria's "Do-____"
- 33 Take care of
- 34 ... at first refused to lend any to her friend the ____ ...
- 36 Incidental matter
- 38 ... but after a long discussion ____ (with 53-Across)
- 41 Charitable donations

- 44 "Uh-oh!" to Shelley
- 45 Mineo of movies
- 46 Nice buns, e.g.?
- 48 Lets out
- 50 Dam agcy.
- 51 R. Mapplethorpe supporter
- 52 Winery container
- 53 See 38-Across
- 58 Old Spanish queen
- 59 James Cameron film of 2009
- 60 State on the Seine
- 61 Signal that goes either way
- 62 Figure skater Doug
- 63 Razor handle?
- 64 Take a crack at
- 65 Tickle pink
- 66 They cover your public hair

Down

- 1 PLO VIP
- 2 Robert Goulet musical
- 3 Washington bar
- 4 Relief of Lincoln
- 5 Maupin's *Significant* ____
- 6 Looks at a hottie in a bar
- 7 Like Cammermeyer's fatigues
- 8 Decorated man, maybe
- 9 Nick was his master
- 10 Stroke with an upright stick
- 11 Fruit source
- 12 Campus scene
- 13 Catch your lover with another, perhaps
- 21 Submit to the teacher?
- 26 Meager bowlfuls in *Oliver!*
- 28 Be firm
- 29 Cook on the barbecue
- 30 Not hard to get in bed
- 31 Classic Brit cars
- 34 Oscar ____ Renta
- 35 Deep-space energy source
- 37 Article of Marlene Dietrich
- 38 Field gathering
- 39 She loved Franklin and Lorena
- 40 Marion Zimmer Bradley's genre
- 42 Barber's partner
- 43 Flight attendant
- 46 Strongly opposed
- 47 Guys with three ho's?
- 49 Home for alligators
- 50 Bangkok natives
- 54 Shape of George Frenn's track
- 55 Part of APR
- 56 Jazz singer James
- 57 Stud poker demand



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Dancers at BJ's NXS!



Joe and Russell at Pub Pegasus.

Now it's time to work off all that pecan pie you enjoyed so much. Us too! Maybe we'll see you out dancing it all off We'll get our swagger on at **the Brick** with **Ruby Scott** hosting **Hip-Hop Fridays**. The club celebrates its **one-year anniversary** Saturday with guest **DJ Joe Gauthreaux** Head to **the Rose Room** on Wednesday for a chance to win tickets to see **Fantasia** at **Verizon Theatre** **ManCandy Retro Dancing** continues every Sunday at **the Round-Up Saloon**. Try the free beginner **dance lessons with Juanita** on Tuesdays for a good cardio workout as well **Jack's Backyard** took a small music break for the holiday, but **Kathy and Bella** will still perform their weekly Sunday show **Kaliente** celebrates their **eighth anniversary** on Thursday **The Dallas Eagle** gets the party back on track with a busy Saturday night. **Jeffrey Payne** and **Randal Kinnear** MC the **Christmas Wreath Auction** benefiting the **SSC Fund**. That's followed by **Masquerade**, the dance and leather fetish party where masks, gear and costumes are encouraged. Then, on Sunday, the **T-Dance for Men** keeps the weekend going. Those are some busy guys **Anton Shaw and the Reason** play Friday night at **Sue Ellen's**. **The Bright** rocks it out on Saturday **Hungdinger** is the only place to enjoy your pasta with a side of drag. The **Imposter-Perfect Cast** performs every Friday through Sunday. But carbs after Thanksgiving? Maybe opt for a salad this time ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Bradley and Marvin at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



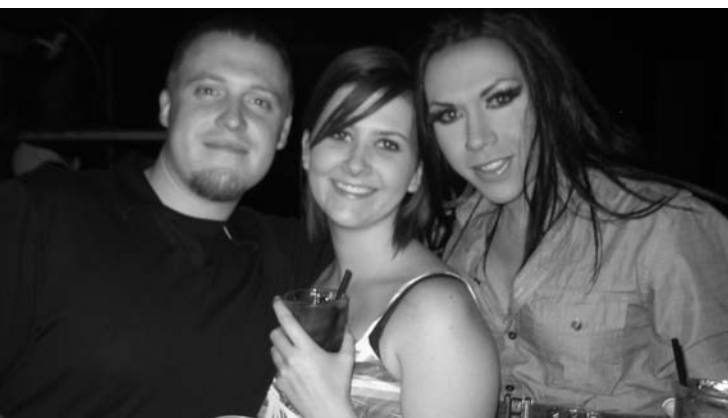
Gabe at TMC: The Mining Company.



Jessica at Sue Ellen's.



Sergio and Debbie at Zippers.



Justin, Heather and Jayden at Station 4.

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