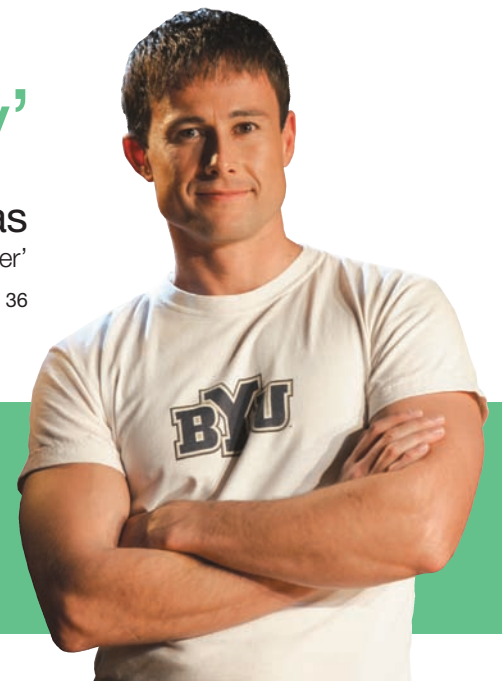


'Confessions of a Mormon Boy'

Steven Fales brings one-man show to Dallas

For refugees from religion, message is 'It gets better'

■ STAGE, Page 36



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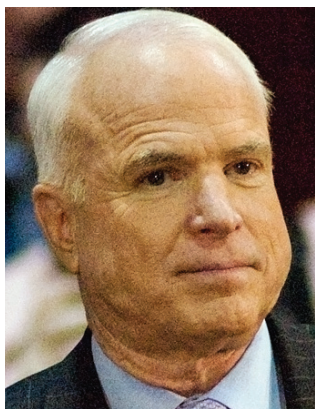
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FREE | Friday, December 3, 2010

Military leaders urge Senate committee to pass DADT repeal

Most Republicans on Armed Services Committee appear resistant to passing DOD authorization that includes repeal of anti-gay ban in place since 1993

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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Sen. John McClain

The Pentagon's top four leaders stood their ground Thursday, Dec. 2, during the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department's report concerning repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the 1993 law that keeps lesbians and gays from serving openly in the U.S. military.

But there was considerable pushback from Republicans on the committee — and not just John McCain.

A lot of important ground was covered, both technically, concerning certification and benefits, and personally, with top military officials making clear that they believe repeal is the right thing to do and that now is the right time to do it.

Important, too, were questions by Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Republicans who, until recently, were considered potential votes to at least allow the Senate to debate the repeal measure.

Collins spent her time for questions laying out arguments to rebut criticisms made of the Pentagon's report by McCain and others; and Graham seemed to have backed off his complaint last week that the study failed to investigate "whether" DADT should be repealed.



Sen. Susan Collins

■ DADT, Page 14

Holiday kick-off

LIGHTING THE WAY | The DFW Sisters perform a ceremonial lighting of the Christmas Tree on the patio of TMC during the Cedar Springs Merchants Association's First Wednesday celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 1. The event marked the third year in which businesses in the gayborhood have welcomed the holidays with a First Wednesday party. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)





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Delaney Hillan

Bullying from a different source?

Student at arts magnet school says she was bullied by a teacher; advocates say policy dealing with faculty behavior needs changes

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Delaney Hillan kissed her girlfriend in the hall at school, and that's when the trouble started.

Hillan, who came out during her junior year in high school, is now a senior at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She said she didn't expect to have problems being gay at the magnet school, but she added, at least one teacher had problems with it.

"A teacher yelled at us [when I kissed my girl-

friend] and said she didn't want to see any of this again," Hillan said, adding that the teacher threatened to report the incident.

Hillan said she understood that official school policy was no public displays of affection in school. But she said the kiss was more a "bye, see you later" kiss than making out in the hall. It was much less than what goes on regularly between heterosexual couples in school, she said.

And she wasn't the only student to ever kiss her girlfriend in the school.

"It's Booker T!" she said, the school many LGBT students choose to attend because it's considered a safe place to go to school.

But the teacher persisted.

A few days later, Hillan said she was walking down the hall and the same teacher was standing outside her classroom. She stopped Hillan as she was passing to again admonish her.

■ HILLAN, Page 13

instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Instant-Tea

Sen. John Cornyn comes up with a new excuse on DADT

With the Pentagon study on repealing "don't ask don't tell" released Tuesday, we inquired of Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn's office whether he believes it would now be prudent to move forward on this issue during the lame duck session of Congress. After all, Cornyn told us in June he didn't believe Congress should act on DADT repeal until the study was complete.



Sen. John Cornyn

Here's the response we received Tuesday, Nov. 30 from Cornyn spokesman Kevin McClaughlin:

"There are a handful of time sensitive issues that must be addressed during lame duck. A continuing resolution to fund the government, the medicare reimbursement rate also known as the 'doc fix,' and preventing every American from incurring a massive tax increase on the first of the year just to name a few. Sen. Cornyn believes these things should be the focus of the lame duck session."

So, there you have it. Now that a Pentagon study has determined that there's "low risk" to repealing DADT, and shown that most servicemembers wouldn't have any problem with it, Cornyn has come up with a new excuse for his bigotry. Maybe the Log Cabin Republicans should give him another award.

— John Wright

Another two-timin' evangelist

Marcus and Joni Lamb, co-founders of North Texas-based Daystar, America's second-largest Christian TV network, announced Tuesday on the air that Marcus Lamb cheated on his wife a few years ago. In admitting Marcus Lamb's marital infidelity, the Lambs also alleged an extortion attempt, saying someone has demanded \$7.5 million of "God's money" to keep the scandal out of the media.

None of this is terribly shocking, and you may be wondering why we're bothering to mention it on this LGBT blog. Well, for one thing it's yet another example of religious hypocrisy, and for another some leading anti-gay figures, including Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church of Dallas, appear on the Daystar network. But what really caught our attention was the following quote from one of the couple's marriage counselors, Fred Kendall, who reportedly provided some of the few details about the affair: "He had one inappropriate period of misbehavior with one person, and it wasn't a man. It wasn't a transvestite. It was with a woman," Kendall said.

We have absolutely no idea why Kendall felt compelled to clarify that the affair wasn't with a man or a transvestite — as if this somehow makes it any better — but we'd like to point out that his statement leaves open the possibility that the affair was with a *transsexual* woman.

— John Wright

DART Green Line coming to Oak Lawn

24-mile extension of DART train route will include 4 stops in, around Oak Lawn, making travel easier for YFT and food pantry clients

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

On Dec. 6, DART opens a 24-mile extension of the Green Line with four stations in and around Oak Lawn.

The four new Oak Lawn-area stations are Market Center Station, Southwestern Medical District/Parkland Station, Inwood/Love Field Station and Burbank Station.

Market Center Station is the first stop north of Victory Station. The American Airlines Arena was the northern terminus of the original four miles of the Green Line that opened in 2009 in time to connect riders from the Red and Blue Lines to the State Fair.

Located on Harry Hines Boulevard, Market Center Station should have greatest impact on the youngest members of LGBT community. Located across the street from Youth First Texas, the rail link will make services to the center available to hundreds more young people.

Youth First Texas Director of Development and Administration Sam Wilkes said the organization chose their new location partially because of the proximity to DART.

"Being at a DART hub, we're excited to see how many will access Youth First Texas now that the line has come to fruition," Wilkes said.

Bus service has been available, but waiting for a train at a well-lit station at night is safer and the

■ GREEN LINE, Page 12



ALL ABOARD | DART's Green Line already includes a stop in Deep Ellum, pictured, and Victory Plaza. Beginning Monday, the train will also make stops near Youth First Texas' location, the Resource Center Dallas Food Pantry and Parkland Hospital. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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localbriefs

National Stonewall leader to attend Dallas group's holiday party

Michael Mitchell, the new executive director of National Stonewall Democrats, will be the special guest at the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas' annual holiday party Monday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. The program begins at 7 p.m., and the event is free and open to everyone.

The event will include a holiday basket auction, and proceeds will be divided between Stonewall Democrats and Youth First Texas' anti-bullying and suicide prevention efforts.

There will also be an auction where participants can bid on a lunch with their favorite elected official from among the list of elected officials who have signed up to participate. And Stonewall Democrats will be collecting donations of toiletry items for clients at Legacy Founders Cottage, a hospice for people with HIV/AIDS. Legacy clients need paper towels, laundry detergent, latex and nitrile gloves, men's socks, new men's underwear, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, disposable razors and shaving cream, tissues, body lotion and baby powder.

Stonewall Democrats will also present its annual awards to members, allies and elected officials. Nominees for the "Distinguished Democrat" award are Judge-Elect Tonya Parker, Dallas County District Attorney Gary Fitzsimmons, Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia and Judge Carl Ginsberg.

Nominees for the Buck Massey Member of the Year Award are Pamela Curry, Michael Wetter, Laurie McClurg and Tony McMullen. Nominees for Ally Organization of the Year are the Dallas County Democratic Party, Equality Texas, Preston Hollow Democrats and the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance. And nominees for the Pink Pump Award are Dallas City Councilwoman Delia Jassa, Judge Elizabeth Crowder, Judge-elect Tina Yoo and George Freeman.

Bill Fry and Darryl Sanchez will be presented with the P.L. Moore Philanthropist Award, and Stonewall Democrats President Erin Moore will present the Board Member of the Year Award. Stonewall Democrats of Dallas elected new officers at the organization's Nov. 16 meeting. They are Omar Narvaez, president; Michael Wetter, vice president; Phyllis Guest, secretary and Mike

McCue, treasurer. Outgoing officers are President Erin Moore, Vice President Jay Narey and Secretary Kenneth Denson.

Round-Up holding benefit for Resource Center food pantry

Demand is up and donations are down at Resource Center Dallas' food pantry for people with HIV/AIDS. So to help bring donations up to the level of demand, the Round-Up Saloon will host a raffle during Retro Sunday, beginning at 7 p.m. Anyone who brings at least three non-perishable food items to donate to the pantry will get a free raffle ticket for a drawing for a new DVD player. Movie tickets and other prizes will also be raffled off during the evening.

Tarrant Area Food Bank offers to send holiday cards for donors

Sending holiday greeting cards can be such a chore. But now there's a way to let somebody else do the tedious part, while at the same time donating to a worthy cause.

Just send a donation and a list of up to 20 recipients to the Tarrant Area Food Bank, and the food bank will mail out special cards — hand-addressed and stamped — to those on the list.

The 5-inch-by-7-inch cards say "Season's Greetings" on the front and have a special holiday recipe from Chef Blaine Staniford with Grace Restaurant in Fort Worth inside the front cover. The message inside reads: "Thanks for making eating a part of everyone's holiday season. A gift has been made in your honor to Tarrant Area Food Bank by _____."

Deadline to participate is Friday, Dec. 10. There is no minimum donation required.

TAFB officials said all information and mailing lists remain strictly confidential. Capital One has helped underwrite the cost of the project so that all donations go directly to helping feed North Texans in need.

Tarrant Area Food Bank has 300 partner agencies, including the food pantry at AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County, which provides food for people with HIV/AIDS.

TAFB officials said those agencies have seen the need for food assistance grow by 40 percent over the previous two years. ■

pet of the week / barbara

Barbara is a blue and white adult domestic shorthair mix. Barbara thinks she is queen of our cat room, but we know she'd be happier "ruling" in a home of her own.

Many other great dogs and cats are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, located at 3201 Earhart Drive, 1 street south of Keller Springs and 2 blocks west of Midway Road, in Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open 6 days a week: Monday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The adoption cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount. For more information, call 972-418-PAWS, or visit www.operationkindness.org.



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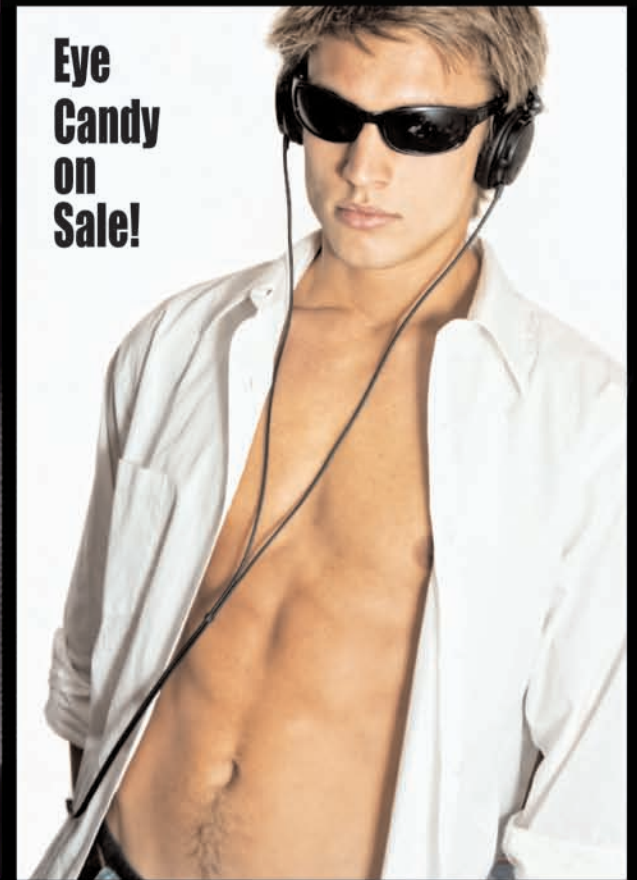
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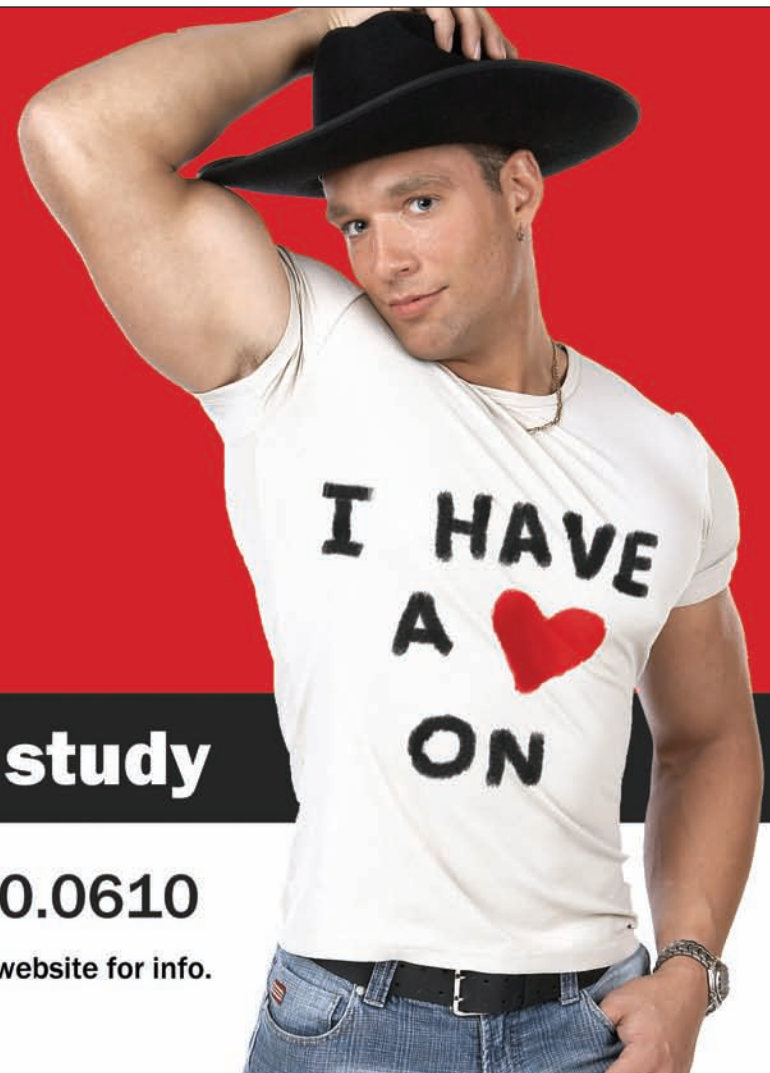
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■ texasnews

C.U.R.E. announces huge AIDS Quilt display for 2011



TIME TO REMEMBER | Visitors walk through a display of panels from the NAMES Project Quilt exhibited Wednesday, Dec. 1, at the Interfaith Peace Chapel as part of a World AIDS Day event. Next September, C.U.R.E. will bring more than 500 Quilt panels to Plano for the largest display in a decade. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Display in Plano will be largest in more than a decade, with at least 500 panels included, organizers say

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

PLANO—C.U.R.E. will bring at least 500 panels of the Names Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt to the Dallas Convention Center next September for the largest display since the entire Quilt was shown on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1996, according to C.U.R.E. leaders.

The Plano-based group made the announcement at their World AIDS Day event at Event1013 in Plano, where they displayed 13 blocks of the Quilt. They placed other panels at several other corporate headquarters located in Plano.

C.U.R.E. President and founder Rosemarie

Odom said that one of those companies, Pepsico, has signed to be the lead sponsor of the Quilt display next year.

She said they are tentatively set to display the panels in Exhibit Hall F of the Convention Center from Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

Tyler Sweatman is the event director. He said that the dates were chosen to correspond with LifeWalk. He's hoping Lone Star Ride, which will take place the weekend before the event, will also participate.

"We'd love LifeWalk to walk right through the Convention Center," said Odom.

Sweatman said that they will be requesting specific panels and will be taking requests from the community. He said it would be easier to get more of the requested panels in September than around next year's World AIDS Day.

Sweatman said he was living in San Francisco in 1987 when Cleve Jones started the project. He

■ QUILT, Page 10



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QUILT

From Page 8

watched the sewing going on in a little shop on Castro Street to memorialize friends who had died of AIDS.

Sweatman said he is amazed at how much the Quilt grew in just a few years.

The Quilt now has 91,000 names representing 17.5 percent of those who have died of AIDS in the United States. The Quilt was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and, at 1,293,300 square feet, is the largest piece of folk art ever produced.

It weighs 54 tons.

Each panel is three feet by six feet, the size of a coffin. Eight panels are sewn together to form a block. Several years ago, the Quilt moved from its original home in San Francisco to Atlanta. Sweatman said he expects the Quilt eventually to be housed in the Smithsonian.

The first day of the 2011 Quilt display is a Friday, and Sweatman said he hopes school groups from around North Texas as well as Oklahoma and Arkansas will come to see the display.

"Our goal is AIDS education," he said.

To encourage the most people to see the Quilt,

admission will be free. But staging the event will be costly. The group, which has non-profit status, is looking for additional sponsors and donations.

In addition to the cost of shipping the Quilt back and forth from Atlanta, there is the rental of the Convention Center, advertising, lighting and sound equipment.

During large displays, the names of persons who have died of AIDS are continuously read.

Volunteers are needed as Quilt monitors. Sweatman said he would especially like people who made any of the quilt panels or those who knew the people represented on the panels to talk

about who they were.

Bono's group ONE will coordinate volunteers. Sweatman said details are being worked out and will have more information about that and about volunteer opportunities soon.

Odom was excited about the opportunity to present such a large piece of the Quilt in Dallas. She became emotional standing in front of one of the 13 blocks hanging in Plano on World AIDS Day and warned about what an emotional experience the large display in September would be.

"I don't want anyone to walk away from one of our events feeling good," she said. ■

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Officials in Washington, D.C. declare e-marriage invalid

Reed-Walkup says he and his husband are exploring legal options, will withdraw complaint against DMN over announcement for now

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com



Mark Reed-Walkup and Dante Walkup

A gay Dallas couple's highly publicized Skype wedding has been declared invalid by a court in Washington, D.C.

Mark Reed-Walkup said he and his partner of 10 years, Dante Walkup, were "extremely disappointed" to receive a letter Friday, Nov. 26 from the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. The letter stated that the couple's marriage couldn't be certified or registered because all parties weren't physically present for the ceremony.

Reed-Walkup said the letter came as a surprise because a supervisor in the clerk's office told the couple prior to the wedding that nothing in D.C. law would prohibit what is known as an e-marriage.

The couple held the ceremony at the W-Dallas Victory hotel, and it was officiated via Skype from the nation's capital, where same-sex marriage is legal.

"It was extremely disappointing. We were very depressed on Friday," Reed-Walkup said Monday. "We felt like we had covered our bases, and all of the media out there was agreeing. No one was saying what we did wasn't legal, so we felt very confident that we had succeeded, and so it really was a kick in the stomach and it hurt. Having that piece of paper that says you're legally married really means a lot to a couple, at least it did to us. It made a stronger emotional bond that we didn't expect. That same emotional bond that we felt strengthened our relationship was taken away on Friday."

Reed-Walkup said he believes someone must have complained about the marriage to D.C. officials

after reading media reports about the Skype wedding, which has made international news in recent weeks. But Reed-Walkup said he thinks it's unfair that the couple wasn't notified the court was reviewing the matter until they received a copy of the letter.

"I can only speculate that there was somebody out there motivated by homophobia or politics or both that wanted to see this marriage annulled and prevent other couples from pursuing it," Reed-Walkup said.

"We're going to be talking to legal counsel to see what our options are," he added. "If we feel like we have a strong case based on the information that we received when we applied for our license, we'll pursue it legally. But if it's not a strong case, we're not going to waste time and resources. We'll just take a quick trip to D.C., have her [the officiant] marry us in the airport, and go back to Dallas. We will get eventually married one way or the other through Washington, D.C."

Reed-Walkup said the couple has also withdrawn a discrimination complaint it filed last week against The Dallas Morning News for refusing to publish its wedding announcement.

"Right now legally we don't have a legal marriage, so we felt we could no longer pursue the case with The Dallas Morning News until we get this resolved," he said. "Once we do, we will be back at trying to change the policy with regard to the publication of same-sex weddings." ■

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NEW AGAPE PRESIDENT



CHAIREZ ELECTED | Board members of Agape Broadcasting elected Jesus Chairez president at their recent November meeting. The station, 89.3 KNON-FM, has hosted LGBT programming since its inception in August 1983. For 12 years, Chairez hosted 'Sin Fronteras' on the station and after leaving that show, he joined the board of directors.

GREEN LINE

From Page 4

service easier to access, he said.

Parkland Station, the second new Oak Lawn area stop, is located between Maple Avenue and Harry Hines Boulevard near Hudnall Street. Once the new Parkland Hospital is built, the stop will be at the facility's entrance.

For now, DART will be a short one-block walk away from the main hospital, AIDS clinic Amelia Court, Zale-Lipshy and Children's Hospital. St. Paul Hospital and the rest of UT Southwestern are a longer walk and connected by shuttle bus service.

Inwood Station on Inwood Road at Denton Drive Cutoff is across the street from the Resource Center Dallas Nutrition Center/Food Pantry. The Dallas Eagle is a block south and Cathedral of Hope is two blocks north. Resource Center Dallas' proposed new building is also a block from this stop.

"It will make it quicker and easier for clients who access the pantry, especially those who travel great distances," said Resource Center Dallas spokesman Rafael McDonnell.

The pantry is bracing for new clients who will now be able to access the agency's services more easily. But McDonnell wasn't worried about shortages of food due to additional clients.

"We'll let folks know and we hope they'll step up as usual," McDonnell said.

Cathedral of Hope spokesman Coy James said, "We have lots of people who commute from all over the place. We have people who currently use the bus to get to services."

He said that a number of church staff members were looking at ways to use the train to commute to work.

"We're looking forward to it," he said. To travel by DART to Love Field, bus 39 will connect Inwood Station with the airport terminal. That bus line will operate daily.

Large parking areas will open for commuters from Oak Lawn at Market Center, Inwood and Parkland Stations. Parking in DART lots is free.

The final new Oak Lawn area station is Burbank Station at the north end of Love Field adjacent to Southwest Airlines corporate headquarters. Southwest employees can get to work and Love Field West neighborhood commuters may take advantage of this stop, although no parking is available.

North of Love Field is Bachman Station, located just south of Northwest Highway at Denton Drive. Two more stations in Dallas are located at Walnut Hill Road and Royal Lane along Denton Drive before the Green Line heads into Farmers Branch and Carrollton.

Next summer, Green Line commuters will be able to travel all the way to Denton when the A Train opens. That line will connect Downtown Denton to Trinity Mills Station with four other stops along the 21-mile route.

From the southern end of the Green Line at Fair Park, four new stations in Pleasant Grove and South Dallas extend the line to the southeast corner of Loop 12.

Also opening Monday is the first phase of the



Rafael McDonnell

Orange Line. Eventually, that route will connect the system with DFW Airport. Originally the Orange Line will duplicate service from other lines on a limited schedule.

The Orange Line will follow the Red Line route from Plano through Downtown Dallas. Rather than continue to Oak Cliff, the Orange Line will head north along the Green Line route from West End Station to Bachman Station.

When the Orange Line is completed, it will head west from Bachman Lake through Irving and Las Colinas to the airport. The first Irving phase should open in 2012.

Also opening on Monday is the new Lake Highlands Station on Walnut Hill Road at White Rock Trail. This infill stop is between the White Rock Station and LBJ/Skillman Station on the Blue Line. That station will provide an extra stop for White Rock Lake skateboarders, joggers or bike riders taking their bicycles on the train to the trail.

The Blue Line that now terminates in Garland will continue to Rowlett by 2012.

Also planned but without construction dates are a second Downtown alignment. During rush hours, three lines heading through Downtown on one set of tracks gets congested. Now the Orange Line and the expanded service on the Green Line will add extra rail traffic.

The Blue Line will expand south from Ledbetter Station to the new UNT Dallas campus in South Dallas. No date for that expansion is set.

The opening of 15 stations along 24 miles of new track is the largest single-day expansion of a light rail system in the country since 1990. The \$1.8 billion Green Line opens on time and within budget. ■

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HILLAN

From Page 4

Hillan said the teacher told her, "I want you to know I'm very disappointed in your behavior this year. I don't appreciate your being so flagrant about it. Do you understand what I'm saying to you?"

Hillan's mother picked her up from school that day, and when she got in the car, she said, she began to cry.

"I never felt so dehumanized," Hillan said.

With her mother's support, Hillan spoke to the principal who said she would talk to the teacher.

"Ever since then, she's been nice to me," Hillan said.

She spoke sympathetically of the teacher and said she understood the source of the bullying was the teacher's religious background. But she doesn't want another student to feel dehumanized in school again.

"Booker T. Washington's a place where you are accepted," she said. "The rules and policies at the school are accepting of all."

Hillan said school is a place of trust and not somewhere a student should ever feel attacked.

This year, Hillan is president of her school's Gay-Straight Alliance. She has demonstrated with QueerLiberation and she wanted to speak up for other students, especially those in less-safe environments.

"Students are pushed, yelled at and spit on," she said. "Even if they're not openly gay, but others think they are, they're isolated. It's hard to make friends when you have that label put on you."

Kristine Vowels has worked on LGBT issues from within Dallas Independent School District for several years. She told Hillan that the DISD board was holding an open hearing about a new, inclusive anti-bullying policy and that she could tell her story to the public.

Hillan said speaking to the board in front of the packed room at the DISD meeting didn't bother her.

"Maybe because I'm a theater major," she said, "but I wanted to get across what was important."

"Why would you go to a place you were scared of?" Hillan said.

Resource Center Dallas spokesman Rafael McDonnell said that the recently approved anti-bullying policy goes a long way to protect students

throughout the school district.

But, he noted, the policy adopted addresses students, not faculty and staff. He said that the employee manual needs to reflect new policies in the student handbook.

McDonnell also said that training must be implemented to make sure faculty and staff understand what constitutes bullying against LGBT students and what they must do to stop it.



Andy Moreno

The anti-bullying policy includes gender identity and expression. The harassment policy already included sexual orientation and now must be updated similarly, McDonnell said.

That policy was written in the mid-1990s with the assistance of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance. However, protected groups should be consistent across different areas of conduct, McDonnell said.

He said that there must be a safe way for students to report bullying. "It's harder to report your teacher," McDonnell said.

Hillan had a receptive principal who didn't hesitate to take action. But in the case of transgender student Andy Moreno at North Dallas High School, the bullying allegedly came from her principal.

Moreno wanted to run for homecoming queen but was stopped by the school's new principal. But rather than just stopping her bid, Moreno thought the principal's words crossed over into bullying.

The principal allegedly called Moreno an "it, or whatever you are" and threatened to close the school's GSA in retaliation for Moreno speaking to Dallas Voice.

DISD trustee Lew Blackburn has said that the district needs a district-wide policy on homecoming elections.

Moreno believed that if a teacher were speaking to her inappropriately, she could have turned to the principal, but in her case there was nowhere to turn other than the press.

Hillan thinks the solution is simpler than that. Any bullying by faculty and staff needs to stop.

"Students shouldn't be afraid to go to school," Hillan said. "And I shouldn't be afraid of my teachers." ■

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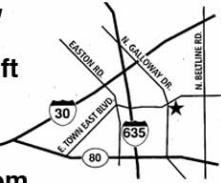
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nationalnews

DADT

From Page 1

One of the chief criticisms hurled at the report by McCain and several other Republicans was that the Pentagon did not ask a direct question of the 400,000 troops surveyed to determine whether they would like Congress to repeal DADT.

Collins noted that the Pentagon does not ask troops whether they want to go to Iraq either and that, while troops were not asked about DADT repeal directly, their thinking was certainly conveyed by their responses to less direct questions.

The insistence, by McCain and others, that troops should have been polled on whether to keep DADT elicited the strongest rebuke from the military leaders themselves. Both Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen repeatedly rejected the idea as "dangerous."

Gates said that conducting a "referendum" on a matter of military policy "is a very dangerous path." Mullen agreed, saying it would be an "incredibly bad precedent to essentially vote on a policy."

McCain persisted, saying it was "not voting" on a policy, it was "asking their views."

He was not alone. Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., said he, too, felt the Pentagon should have asked a direct question.

Both McCain and Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., seemed to flirt with the use of some inflammatory tactics during the hearing.

McCain twice raised the issue of who was responsible for the current public release of classified documents by a website called Wikileaks — an act that is considered to be one of the most damaging breaches in intelligence confidentiality in American history. It has been widely reported that the 22-year-old Army private first-class who has been arrested for enabling the leaks, Bradley Manning, has identified himself as gay.

Chambliss noted that Mullen, in his opening statement both Thursday and at a previous hearing in February, indicated he had served alongside gay people and had gay people under his command. Chambliss asked questions to suggest that Mullen had failed to seek the discharge of these gay service-members as required by existing military policy at the time.

(Mullen, however, noted that military law and policy has changed during the course of his career

in the service and that, in fact, "every single one" of the gays he knew of were discharged. "I did this, and I saw this," said Mullen.)

What is the difference?

There was considerable discussion of how the repeal of DADT might mirror the changes that took place in the late 1940s and 1950s after then-President Harry Truman signed an executive order requiring integration, and again in the 1960s when Congress repealed a 2 percent cap on the number of women who could serve.

"Social changes in the military have not been particularly easy," said Gates.

He said that "serious racial problems" plagued the military "at least through" the Vietnam War years, and that women in the military still face the very real problem of sexual assaults.

McCain pointed out that, in 1993, Gen. Colin Powell had opposed gays in the military and rebuffed attempts to compare discrimination based on race and that based on sexual orientation.

Jeh Johnson, the co-chair of the Pentagon study group, said he would agree that "issues of race and sexual orientation are fundamentally different." But he said that, in his study of integration issues for the DADT report, he found that some of the nation's greatest heroes in World War II "predicted negative consequences for unit cohesion if there was racial integration" of the troops.

Johnson, who is African-American, also noted that surveys of 3,000 to 4,000 troops in the 1940s found that opposition to racial integration ran as high as 80 percent — and that was at a time when there were only about 700,000 black soldiers in a force of 8 million troops.

It was also a time, said Johnson, when integration was not accepted by society at large.

"But we did it. It took some time. It was not without incident," said Johnson. "But we did it and, I think the chairman said, the military was stronger as a result."



In fact, Johnson said the opposition to racial integration then was "much more intense than the opposition to gays serving openly today in the military."

What are the bottom lines?

Thursday's hearing came across as a vigorous

■ DADT, Next Page

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■ DADT, From Previous Page

debate between Republicans on the committee, most of whom seem to oppose repeal, and Democrats and the Defense Department's top brass, who appear to support it.

But it took place against the backdrop of a political gaming of the Senate's parliamentary procedures.

All 42 Republicans in the Senate signed onto a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Tuesday, Nov. 30, saying they would not agree to vote on "any legislative item until the Senate has acted to fund the government and we have prevented the tax increase ..."

Although the language of "fund the government" might provide some wiggle room for the defense authorization bill (because it authorizes the expenditure of funds for the government), the letter is being widely characterized as an obstacle to consideration of DADT repeal, which is contained inside the defense authorization bill.

Maine Republican Collins' questions Thursday suggested she is still for repealing DADT — a position she took in the committee's original vote on the defense authorization bill in September.

Unless she and a few other Republicans agree to provide the Democrats with the votes they need to reach 60 — to allow the defense authorization bill to the floor — Thursday's debate and debate that will take place during Day Two of the hearing, Friday, Dec. 3, are moot.

The hope of convincing some Republicans to wiggle themselves around the Republican drop dead letter could well have been behind Secretary Gates' repeated assurances Thursday that he would not sign the necessary document to "certify" the troops are ready to implement repeal until "everything has been done" to ensure the troops are ready and that the chiefs of each of the service branches "are comfortable" that any risks to combat readiness had been "mitigated if not eliminated."

Neither Gates nor Mullen suggested how long it might take to certify such readiness after Congress votes to repeal the law. But both also sought to impress upon the committee another issue with regard to timing: The courts.

"Whatever risk there may be to repeal of this law, it is greatly mitigated by the thorough implementation plan included in this study, the time to carry out that plan and effective, inspirational leadership," said Mullen in his opening statement.

"Now, let me tell you what I believe," continued Mullen. "I believe our troops and their families are ready for this. Most of them believe they serve, or have served, alongside gays and lesbians, and knowing matters a lot ..."


"I believe now is the time to act. I worry that unpredictable actions in the court could strike down the law at any time, precluding the orderly implementation plan we believe is necessary to mitigate risk," Mullen said.

"I also have no expectation that challenges to our national security are going to diminish in the near future, such that a more convenient time will appear."

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A viewer's guide to the Proposition 8 arguments

3-judge panel from 9th Circuit appeals court takes up case challenging voter-approved amendment banning same-sex marriage in California; C-SPAN will televise proceedings

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@me.com

A federal appeals panel in San Francisco will hear oral arguments Monday, Dec. 6, in the landmark challenge to Proposition 8 — California's voter-passed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Broadcast of the district court trial last January was disallowed due to objections by some witnesses who said they feared harassment. But only attorneys will appear before the court Monday, and the 9th Circuit has agreed to allow the proceedings to be broadcast on C-SPAN and in other venues around the country.

A three-judge panel will hear arguments re-

garding the appeal of a lower court decision that held Proposition 8 violates the federal Constitution's guarantees to equal protection and due process of law.

The Aug. 4 decision from Judge Vaughn Walker was the first time a federal court had struck down a statewide same-sex marriage ban, and similar bans exist in the constitutions or statutes of 38 other states.

Another six states have interpreted existing law as excluding same-sex couples from marriage licensing. Only five states and the District of Columbia have marriage equality laws.

If the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upholds the lower court decision, the ruling would make the bans in California and eight other western states unenforceable. But the decision of the 9th Circuit — whatever it is — will almost certainly be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and a decision there could affect bans in all states.

But there are also numerous potential variations to this simple scenario.

The most prominent potential variation at the moment concerns whether the group that has been defending Proposition 8 in court has legal

■ PROP 8, Page 21



THE NEXT STEP | Kristin Perry, from left, and Sandra Stier, listen as attorney Theodore Olson speaks at a news conference at the Federal Building in San Francisco in July 2009. A three-judge panel from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in the case on Monday, Dec. 6. (Jeff Chiu/Associated Press)

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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
ISENTRISS® (eye sen tris)
(raltegravir) Tablets



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

What is ISENTRESS?

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

ISENTRISS 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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standing to bring its appeal to the 9th Circuit.

It is a dull question compared to the drama of the original three-week trial of witnesses who testified about how Proposition 8 had damaged their lives. But its resolution could have enormous consequences for the case and will consume one of two hours set aside for Monday's appeal.

Here is some key information most court watchers will need to know and will want to take notice of Monday:

Case name: Perry v. Schwarzenegger is the shorthand name for the case. The full name is Perry v. Schwarzenegger and Hollingsworth et al.

Time and Place: Monday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. PDT (noon, CST) at the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, in San Francisco.

Where to watch: Nationally, C-SPAN will be broadcasting the proceedings live. Court enthusiasts can also go to the federal courthouse in select cities around the country to watch a live feed — in Boston; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle, Wash.; Pasadena, Calif.; and two other courthouses in San Francisco.

The Parties: Perry is Kristin Perry, one of four plaintiffs who originally filed the lawsuit challenging Proposition 8. Perry seeks to marry her partner of 10 years, Sandra Stiers. They have four children. The other two plaintiffs — also a couple — are Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo, who have been together for nine years.

The city of San Francisco was also designated as a plaintiff-intervenor in the district court, meaning the city did not bring the lawsuit but established that it had a governmental interest in the outcome.

Schwarzenegger is, of course, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who represents the California government in the case. Neither Schwarzenegger nor California Attorney General Jerry Brown (now governor-elect) was willing to defend Proposition 8 in the appeal.

So the real appellants in the case are the original "proponents" of the ban, identified as the Yes on 8 campaign (aka ProtectMarriage.com), and include State Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth and others. In addition, the board of supervisors and clerk of Imperial County are seeking the right to serve as appellants as well.

The schedule: The first hour of the two-hour argument will be focused on the issue of whether the Yes on 8 appellants and/or Imperial County have legal standing to appeal the lower court's decision (see below). There will be a "brief" break, and then the second hour will be focused on the merits of the appeal (see below). The entire proceeding is likely to be concluded by around 12:15 p.m. Pacific Time.

The attorneys: At least six attorneys will be involved in Monday's argument — three on merits and three on standing.

On merits, famed conservative attorney Ted Olson will argue for the four plaintiffs, and Therese Stewart, the openly gay chief deputy city attorney for San Francisco, will present arguments

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nationalnews

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for the city, which would like to see the ban struck down. Conservative attorney Charles Cooper, who led the defense of Proposition 8 at the district court trial, is expected to argue the merits for proponents.

On standing, it has not yet been announced who will argue the standing issue for plaintiffs, the Yes on 8 Proponents, or Imperial County.

Legal standing issue: Not just anybody can initiate a lawsuit and appeal the decision, but courts err on the side of allowing a party to appeal. Nevertheless, a party or parties seeking to appeal must still show they are at least vulnerable to an "actual" injury because of the decision below. That injury can include an economic one, but it has to be an injury more "concrete" than the fact that appellants disagree with the lower court decision.

Proponents will argue that the fact they were allowed standing in the U.S. District Court should mean they should naturally have standing on appeal.

The merits: Two provisions of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment are at issue, both encompassed in this language: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of

law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Concerning due process, a state cannot deny citizens a fundamental right, including the right to marry, unless it can show a compelling reason to do so. U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker said proponents failed to establish "any historical purpose for excluding same-sex couples from marriage, as states have never required spouses to have an ability or willingness to procreate in order to marry."

With equal protection, the government may not treat one group of citizens with less favor than others unless it has a reason to do so. It may not treat oppressed minorities with less favor unless it has a compelling reason to do so.

Judge Walker ruled that gays and lesbians are an oppressed minority and that proponents failed to establish evidence of even a simple, rational reason to treat them differently, much less a compelling one.

The Judges: The 9th Circuit on Monday, Nov. 29, announced the three judges that will make up next Monday's panel — and it's a dramatic lineup.

The senior-most judge — in age and experience on the federal appeals bench — is Stephen Reinhardt, 79, a Carter nominee who has ruled favorably on gay-related cases before.

The least senior is N. Randy Smith, 69, a native of Utah, an appointee of President George W. Bush, and a graduate of Brigham Young Univer-

sity Law School, an entity of the Mormon Church which played an enormous role in promoting Proposition 8.

In the middle is Judge Michael Hawkins, 65, a Clinton appointee, based in Phoenix, Ariz.

Prop 8 proponents on Wednesday, Dec. 1, filed papers asking Reinhardt to recuse himself because his wife, Ramona Ripston, is executive director of the Southern California chapter of the ACLU, which has been actively involved in trying to invalidate Prop 8.

But Reinhardt on Thursday morning, Dec. 2, issued a statement refusing to step down from the trial, saying there is no legal reason to question his impartiality.

Timetable after argument: There is no deadline by which the three-judge panel must issue its opinion, however, a decision is likely to be forthcoming within a few months. The losing party then will almost certainly appeal that decision to the full 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which may or may not agree to hear an appeal.

The losing party at that point would then likely appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The earliest the Supreme Court would likely get such an appeal would be in the fall of 2011, and the earliest it would rule would be in the late spring of 2012.

Exceptional scenarios: If the proponents or Imperial County lose on the question of standing, the 9th Circuit could decide not to make a ruling on the merits. But proponents and/or Imperial

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Gay pilots group offers scholarships to aspiring professional pilots

FROM STAFF REPORTS
 editor@dallasvoice.com

Officials with the National Gay Pilots Association Education Fund have announced plans to award \$15,000 in scholarships in 2011 to aviators pursuing careers as professional pilots.

Applications can be submitted between Jan. 1 and March 21, with more information and applications available online at NGPA.org.

Scholarship awards, typically ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000, will be announced sometime in June.

Thomas Little, NGPA Education Fund chairman, said the scholarships are part of the organization's ongoing commitment to support the community and foster opportunities for aspiring aviators.

"Our mission takes on heightened importance during these challenging economic times, as students struggle with the rising costs of flight training and higher education," Little said.

The NGPA Education Fund has given out 41 awards totaling \$117,000 since the program began in 1998. The organization awarded four scholarships of \$3,750 each in 2010.

Factors considered in the award of scholarships include demonstrated academic ability, financial need and active participation in matters of social justice toward the betterment of the LGBT community. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or other group categories protected by non-discrimination laws.

Applicants must hold a private pilot license and be enrolled in an accredited flight school or in a university course of study with a flight program. Payments are made directly to the school and must be applied toward an advanced rating or tuition. ■

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County would almost certainly appeal the decision concerning standing to the Supreme Court.

Should the Supreme Court rule that either of those parties has standing, it would then send the question on the merits of the appeal back to the 9th Circuit for a decision.

That eventual decision on the merits from the 9th Circuit could then be appealed to the Supreme Court. Wild guess timetable for a decision from the Supreme Court on merits with this scenario? 2014. ■

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Does U.N. vote mean dark days ahead?

With a simple majority vote of 9 countries, LGBT people are removed from category of 'vulnerable populations,' left exposed to arbitrary execution

The United Nations recently took a vote and with a simple majority of just nine countries, they removed LGBT people from the special protections category of "vulnerable populations." That category specifically mentions special protection from extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution.

What does this mean? Well, according to the U.N., we are no longer considered worthy of protection against arbitrary execution. In other words, it's open season on LGBT people in a whole lot of countries.

It is important to note who voted against us: The Russian Federation, China, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi plus a host of Middle Eastern countries joined the majority to remove us from that list.

In the case of the African nations, I cannot fail to mention that the radical right, especially the far-right ministers in this country, have been a big influence. If you will remember, the draconian anti-gay laws in Uganda were in part encouraged by religious groups from the U.S.

Cary Alan Johnson, executive director of the International Gay And Lesbian Human Rights

Commission, said, "This vote is a dangerous and disturbing development. It essentially removes the important recognition of the particular vulnerability faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people — a recognition that is crucial at a time when 76 countries around the world criminalize homosexuality, five consider it a capital crime and countries like Uganda are considering adding the death penalty to their laws criminalizing homosexuality."

Essentially, the vote takes away any power the U.N. might have to protect the lives of LGBT people.

The vote has sent shock waves through the international LGBT community but seems to have had little traction herein the U.S. I suspect that is because much of what the U.N. does is considered unimportant by many Americans.

It's sad that this body, where crimes against LGBT people have routinely been condemned, has now decided to become silent.

It should be noted who voted to remove LGBT people from this protected group. The list may surprise you:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Dar-Sala, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Two nations that really disturb me are Iraq and Afghanistan. I have been an ardent opponent to the wars the Bush administration started there, and now I have even more reason to hope for a speedy end to our involvement.

Many of the names on this list are "most favored nations," as far as trade with the U.S., and one in particular is most disturbing since it already grants full rights to LGBT people: South Africa.

I can only hope they did not understand the gravity of what they were signing, but I suspect it may signal a new and more repressive future for the African nation that held the most prom-

ise.

My suspicion is that the nation of Benin, which brought the matter up on behalf of the African Nations Group, is planning something dark. I would not be surprised to see a whole new raft of severe laws against LGBT people in these African nations.

It looks like very dark times ahead for LGBT people in Africa and the Middle East. I pray I am wrong.

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

Trans people make great strides over this year

College basketball player comes out as trans; LGPA announces rules change, and 1 trans judge elected while another is appointed

Recently our community marked the 12th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, a somber day devoted to memorializing those murdered over their gender identity and expression.

Also recently, however, we've seen transgender breakthroughs that are, in a word, fabulous-great-wonderful.

College basketball season has begun, and many a media outlet has covered the story of Kye Allums, a junior guard at George Washington University. At 5-foot-11, Allums won't be shattering glass, but his story is.

"Yes, I am a male on a female team," Allums, 21, told USA Today. "And I want to be clear about this. I am a transgender male, which means feelings-wise, how it feels on the inside, I feel as if I should have been born male with male parts."

"But my biological sex is female, which makes

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Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

Has President Obama done enough to push for repeal of DADT?
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• Undecided: 20 percent cast

TRANS

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me a transgender male.”

This was a college student taking great pains to educate a sportswriter, who’s accustomed to Xs and Os, on Xs and Ys. The sportswriter can expect a midterm.

When Allums’ college playing career is over, he intends to transition. He planned to keep quiet until then, but “it just got too tough not to be me.”

His teammates, coach and university all appear to be supportive.

The NCAA probably thought not long ago that it would have to deal with this issue the day the Rhode Island School of Design won the Rose Bowl. But the NCAA has a policy, explained a spokesman: “A female who wants to be socially identified as a male but has not had hormone treatments or surgery may compete on a women’s team.”

So this college basketball season begins with an African-American, openly transgender person playing Division 1 hoops. This represents so many steps forward it’s practically traveling.

Turning to a different sport, the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) will soon have a different understanding of “lady.”

GolfChannel.com reported the LPGA will propose in a Nov. 30 player meeting to axe its “female at birth” requirement.

It’s not that association honchos experienced an epiphany. It’s that they have drivers aimed at their heads.

Lana Lawless, 57, who had gender-reassignment surgery five years ago, filed suit in San Francisco over the LPGA declining her application for tour membership. Her suit claims the organization discriminated due to her transgender status, a violation of California’s anti-discrimination statutes.

The LPGA has landed in the rough indeed. A change to the constitutional bylaws requires two-thirds of the LPGA membership to agree. The association has already told players the old gender rule was established “in a different time,” and defending it legally today would be harder than putting with your eyes closed.

Also, the International Olympic Committee, the U.S. Golf Association and other golf entities now allow transgender participation. The fairways are getting fairer.

Victoria Kolakowski, who had reassignment surgery in 1991, has scored big in a different arena. In a race so tight it couldn’t be called until two weeks after the election, voters in

California chose Kolakowski for Alameda County Superior Court.

An openly transgender woman wins a popular election. Thank you California for being, well, California.

Kolakowski, 49, told the San Francisco Chronicle that the election result “speaks well of our ability to look past differences and look to the things that matter: our ability and experience.”

Here’s hoping she has both, because she’ll be scrutinized like an *American Idol* finalist.

Two days after Kolakowski declared victory, transgender LGBT activist Phyllis Frye was appointed a municipal court judge in the Houston City Council chamber, the same room where 30 years ago Frye helped repeal Houston’s “cross-dressing ordinance.”

Frye, 63, said to the Houston Chronicle, “Things have changed, and it’s pretty wonderful.”

Two judges in two days. That’s the right kind of order in the court. ■

Leslie Robinson lives in Seattle. Read more of her columns at GeneralGayety.com. E-mail her at lesarobinson@gmail.com



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety



Phyllis Frye

TO SEND A LETTER | We welcome letters from readers. Shorter letters and those addressing a single issue are more likely to be printed. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, but we attempt to maintain the writer’s substance and tone. Include your home address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Send letters to the senior editor, preferably by e-mail (nash@dallasvoice.com). Letters also may be faxed (214-969-7271) or sent via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas TX 75204). All letters become the property of Dallas Voice.

Are you excited about the Super Bowl coming to DFW?

Bobby Natale — “No, not really — at least not about the game. But the clubs are going to be hopping, hooking the up the economy. Positive thing there.”

Daniela Gonzalez — “No! My job will be a pain.”

Cristov Russell — “Not in the slightest.”

Raun Savage — “Am I looking forward to it? The simple answer would be no. However, I am grateful for the boost it will bring to our local economy.”

Evilu Pridgeon — “Rent your house to people going to the game and be someone else making money besides Jerry Jones.”

Holly Smith — “No! I live literally across the street from that giant eyesore! I still haven’t figured out how I am going to leave my house! Anyone want to put me and my three doggies up for a few nights?”

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

NEWS ITEM: Pentagon study finds that resistance to allowing LGBT service in the military is highest in the Marine Corps.



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Fierro, en fuego

Born in El Salvador, Oscar Fierro hopped the border with the intent to become famous. Now the designer and TV fashionista is making his mark — and he's not shy about saying so

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Oscar Fierro admits that modesty is not a value he subscribes to. He's just not a humble person.

That might lead some to think he's cocky, but really, he's just confident ... and not just because he's a gay fashion designer with a sense of entitlement. It's because he's been through hell and doesn't plan on going back.

"My journey to United States was painful and basically a miracle," he says. "When people try to knock me down, I laugh about it. I crossed three borders [Guatemala, Mexico and Texas] and I have made a name for myself in a short time. It's gonna take a whole army to bring me down."

As a boy in El Salvador, he attended school barefoot and ate a meal only when he could. He emigrated to the U.S. illegally, but because El Salvador was in the middle of a civil war, he was granted asylum. He made his way to Dallas in 1990 to live with his "very straight brother and his family," but Fierro found stability in his work as a waiter at Mercado Juarez.

"When people leave their country they say they'll make their money [here] and go back," he says. "But why in hell would I ever go back? Once I experienced the wonderful sense of freedom and flushable toilets, I knew this was for me. Toilets to me were the best things ever. But I

also knew here, I could make my dreams come true and even help people in a way."

On Thursday he'll demonstrate that mission with the Damas de Blanco runway show, where he will debut his spring and summer collections. All proceeds will benefit the Legal Hospice of Texas, which provides legal services to low-income individuals with terminal illnesses or HIV.

"I think it's the perfect marriage between fashion and charity," he says. "When fashion can be attached to a great cause, I think it makes it better."

Charity is crucial to Fierro. The struggles of his family and those near to him inspired Fierro to start the Oscar Fierro Foundation. In 2004, he returned to El Salvador to find that people still needed help, mostly children. His foundation helps to rebuild schools and provide for kids where it can.

Fierro's dream has remained pretty basic: He wants to be famous. He knew from childhood that he wanted to be involved in entertainment. He began by helping make dresses for beauty pageants in El Salvador; that's when his path to fame and to

America was starting to reveal itself. But really, fashion wasn't a passion — it was a vehicle to get to where he wants.

"I have a clear mind for logistics and I knew, whether as fashion designer, singer or whatever, I'd have to embrace myself to not make money doing it," he says. "So I concentrated on working to pay bills and then ventured into fashion."

He started designing in 2000, mostly because he had to create his own clothes. At 4-foot-11, finding fashionable clothing that fit him was a challenge. Figuring he'd have

a niche market, he began designing for shorter bodies.

"It kept pulling me in and I loved it," he says. In 2008, he finally debuted his first collection — to him, a lightning-fast record. Fierro's dreams were coming true.

"It was like an explosion when it came out. I'm not ashamed to say it, but I believe I have great talent and personality and people can relate to me. That has been the combination for me to go as fast as I can in fashion. Other designers in Dallas have been at it that same amount of time but haven't been able to reach the level I have yet."

As much as he loves his adopted home, he says Dallas isn't as stylish as it pretends to be. Despite some success here, he has to work in New York to really put his designs out there. Dallas has some catching up to do.

"Dallas is not fashion-ready and you can put

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fashion



OSCAR GOWN | Designer Oscar Fierro, below, finds the perfect marriage between fashion and fundraising when his runway show also acts as a benefit for the Legal Hospice of Texas this weekend.



that in bold print," he says. "These ladies can tell you all day long how fashion forward they are and how they support local fashion, but fashion forward for them is big hair — that's it."

That acerbic wit is enough to get him on television. Gabriela Natale of Univision tapped into Fierro's sassy talk on fashion and celebrities as the fashion police on her Spanish-language show *SuperLatina*. "Oscar is a natural," says Natale. "He is an exquisite designer, an over-the-top diva and the fiercest fashion critic, all in one."

He was born for TV."

So: Television, in print and on the runway. All that's left is one thing and perhaps his American dream will be fully realized.

"We've sent gowns to stylists for the Oscars, but I'm not aware of any red carpet where my gowns have appeared," he says. "But one celebrity that I wouldn't like to dress is Paula Abdul. She's a crime for a fashion designer." ■

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The grand ol' après ski



You don't need to be a devout snowbunny to enjoy a mountain ski vacation, as a trip to Beaver Creek, Colo., proves

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

Almost everyone can enjoy a summer by the beach: Even if you can't swim, you can still look good in a Speedo by the pool or on the sand, thread your toes through the surf, sip cocktails and slather on the cocoa butter while working on your tan.

Yet those who can't ski (or can't ski well — and trust me, I'm in that category) tend to avoid the mountains during the winter. Add to that the proliferation of gay ski weeks out there, and the cold months can seem lonely, too.

But the winter deserves equal time for the talented athletes among us. A snow-topped crag isn't just for skiing down — it can be a social setting as easily as a pool party. So forget about ski-

ing — it's après skiing that we're looking forward to this season.

Colorado's Beaver Creek is an excellent location for doing *ski-ish* stuff without actual *ski-ing*. Just down the road from Vail (and accessible through a direct flight from DFW), this is a lesser-known Rocky Mountain resort, but it offers countless opportunities for a winter wonderland vacation. And leave those bulky boots at home.

Outdoors

Like most ski resort areas, Beaver Creek is centered around a base of lift chairs clogged with hotels, boutiques and restaurants. Just walking around the village requires you to bundle up and you can sweat up a storm, but you can plan your exercise, too. Have the hotel concierge set you up at the Beaver Creek Nordic Center, where you can book cross-country skiing adventures or better yet, a guided tour on snowshoes.

Don't be fooled: Snowshoeing is an exhaust-



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE | A snowshoe hike, left, is one way to get exercise in the mountains, but also consider a swim in the Westin Riverfront's outdoor heated pool, above. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

ing workout; going from an elevation of 9,800 to 10,000 feet on foot takes a lot out of you, but the exercise and scenery are both incomparable. Guide Alex Spaeth makes the trek fun and educational and will stop to allow photos and let you blaze your own trail. Halfway through the tour, you can take a breather at a yurt for a big lunch in totally unfancy digs but with awesome views of the Gore Range Mountains.

Tubing is less physically taxing than snowshoeing, but just as much fun. The staff here place you in an inner tube and hurl you down a bunny slope at surprising speeds. In Vail, about 45 minutes away, you can also rent a snowmobile for a few hours and tour the backwoods, which works out a lot of muscles as well.

Even if you don't want exercise, you can always buy a lift ticket just to enjoy a 10-minute ride to the top of the mountain (it's prosaically majestic) and there's a complimentary Riverfront Express lift for some bird's-eye viewing of the town. In fact, the Centennial Express Lift is accessible to non-skiers who just wanna go to lunch at the huge cafeteria Spruce Saddle, which you can follow with a performance at the Crystal Grotto.

This unique concert hall is remade every year, carved entirely out of ice: The seats, the ceiling, even the musical instruments. Talk about cool jazz.

You might not think to bring a bathing suit to the mountains, but you should: The Westin Riverfront Resort at the foot of the mountain is a fabulous, modern facility that offers an outdoor Olympic-size, heated swimming pool and hot tubs.

LIFE+STYLE

travel

Indoors

You can stay inside at the Westin, too, especially if you want to squeeze in a workout. The trainers at the Riverfront Club (a well-equipped co-ed gym) will tailor a regimen to suit your needs (and adjust it to the thinner atmosphere), then give you a written assessment to continue your exercise on your own. That can help you justify a therapeutic sports massage at the hotel's Spa Anjali, a soothing, full-service day spa that cocoons you in comfort away from the snow.

Of course, just walking up stairs can leave you short of breath and that altitude plays havoc with your sleep patterns and digestion — especially when you partake in alcohol and rich food. And you'll want to partake at the Westin's Avondale restaurant. It enjoyed a \$2 million renovation, with more than half spent on the spacious modern kitchen. The style of cooking is reminiscent of Craft — fresh, local/organic cuisine in a cozy setting. The foie gras torchon on gingerbread with blood orange was lovely, as was the falls-off-the-bone lamb shank and totally yummy apple croissant bread pudding.

There are other great places in town to eat, as well. Vin 48 is a buzzy restaurant and wine bar with tons of by-the-glass options. The antipasti platter, at only \$11, is a steal, with selections composed by the chef daily: cheese, dates, chutneys, raisins, salmon on potato galettes, chicken confit on a risotto cake and could this be the best carrot cake ever? Yeah, pretty much. The space is dark and romantic but bristling with conversation.

For more affordable mountainside accommodations, The Osprey is convenient, clean and cozy with a nightly happy hour and breakfast buffet but no in-house restaurant. That's a perfect excuse to combine your dining with some



MOUNTAIN FOOD | The cuisine throughout Beaver Creek, including the 1800 Mountainside Grill at the Park Hyatt, is exquisite.

adventure with a trip to Beano's Cabin. Open only during the winter, this spacious lodge at 9,500 feet is accessible only by a snowcat trip up the darkened mountain in 18-degree chill. For that kind of suffering, the food better be worth it. It is.

Kick off the meal with a copper pot filled with tomato-basil soup, followed by a bite-sized salad, before the chef lets loose with seared tuna, rabbit liver wrapped in pancetta with tomato coulis and an exquisite duck confit with huckleberry gastrique. The meats are fantastic and earthy: Elk, buffalo and of course Colorado lamb, but the New York strip kobe is heavenly (and very expensive).

8100 Mountainside Grill at the Park Hyatt is also just off a major redo. Its six-foot grill in the open-air kitchen looks out

on the slopes and serves surprisingly good Colorado wines paired with a roasted beet salad, scallops (wow!) and filet mignon and buffalo strip.

The Park Hyatt is a mammoth facility and positively gorgeous with luxe rooms and services. A treatment at the Allegría Spa is accompanied by a beverage and a relaxing tour of the baths and relaxation rooms. Try the foot relief massage — even for non-skiers, your dogs will thank you for it. Who knew sitting inside a lodge drinking alpines could be so exhausting? ■

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There will be blood

Darren Aronofsky's ballet movie 'Black Swan' luxuriates in weirdness. Wow



MIRROR, MIRROR | Nina (Natalie Portman) sees a lot of strange things looking back at her in mirrors, but none stranger than the movie itself.

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Based on my vast inside information about the behind-the-scenes world of professional ballet — which I have culled exclusively from watching *The Turning Point*, *The Company*, parts of *Fame* and now this film, *Black Swan* — not much about dance has changed over 35 years, at least in New York City. Dancers still live in cramped walk-ups and take the 3 train from Lincoln Center to TriBeCa (or worse, the NRW to Queens) and exit only at ill-lit and ominous stations. They still wear leg-warmers and wrap their gnarled feet in worn slippers. The corps is always led by a shriveled Russian crone, her silver hair pulled tight into a ponytail, her wattle buried behind chunky jewelry. There's also always a priggish, demanding European choreographer-*artiste*, possibly the only straight man in all of dance who belittles then sexually exploits every new ballerina.

But there's also always one tortured aspirant, whose drive and talent are her salvation and her undoing.

Yes, in the first half hour of *Black Swan*, director Darren Aronofsky and writers Andres Heinz, Mark Heyman and John J. McLaughlin, don't miss a single cliché either visually (uppity versions of *Flashdance*) or plot-wise. And then something remarkable happens: The film becomes Hitchcockian — or rather, early Polanski, who stole from Hitch better than anyone, and delves into areas of insanity and fantasy you don't ex-

pect. It doesn't erase all that came before it, but it leaves you with an unsettled feeling that's difficult to shake.

Natalie Portman has rarely impressed me on-screen. The *Star Wars* films didn't challenge her (and she didn't disappoint, never rising above the ho-hum scripts and stodgy dialogue), and her stripper in *Closer* struck me as entirely false.

But here, as Nina — the tic-filled prima donna desperate for success but too repressed to explore the part of her that will allow her to triumph — Portman seems to fit like a foot in a ballet shoe.

Nina craves center stage, and she's got talent, but she's also troubled. Her mother (Barbara Hershey), once a dance hopeful, smothers her with expectations; Tomas (Vincent Cassel), the company's leader, intimidates her; competition from the other girls is fierce, and Nina wants for confidence.

But there's something deeper holding her back, too: She's paranoid (or is it just overly sensitive?), sensing every overheard titter is cruel mockery aimed at her; she's obsessed with her body and a rash (or is she self-mutilating?); she sees dangers around every corner, including the fading diva (Winona Ryder), whom she's in line to replace. And what of Lily (Mila Kunis), the newcomer who acts like her friend and possible lover, but could be pulling an Eve Harrington on her?

It's difficult to tell what to believe in the world



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Aronofsky creates; maybe that's why he echoes so many dance-movie clichés, to get us relaxed in the familiar before he turns out the lights. (Surprisingly, there are some standout special effects.) Like Polanski's *Repulsion* and *The Tenant* — and more recently, *Jacob's Ladder* — what we know is filtered through Nina's mind. It's never clear what we should trust. Does her mother even exist? Minor things become ominous: He turns the acts of hand-washing and fingernail-clipping into moments of intense terror, with too many bloody digits for my taste.

But to what end? *Black Swan* is difficult to parse. It's creepy — a true thriller — that stays self-contained in the world of ballet.

Cassel delivers the film's most predictable performance (he's completely uninteresting), but Kunis reveals strength as an actress with a layered turn, and it's nice seeing Hershey given a juicy role. (If *Carrie* ever tried to dance, her mom might look like Hershey's, who elevates passive-aggression to high art.)

But, aside from Aronofsky, the film belongs to Portman. She's brilliantly unbalanced, portraying a descent into insanity that is horrifying and



IT ISN'T ROMANTIC | Vincent Cassel's predictable performance doesn't clip this 'Swan.'

unnerving but also rooted in humanity and frailty.

The disconnect between the predictability of the dance-driven aspects and the horror of what follows may cause *Black Swan* to struggle to find an audience. It's not really a chick flick, but its esoteric discussion of ballet won't exactly pull teen males into the multiplex. All the more reason to check it out during the crowded holidays — the gays can have the auditorium to ourselves. ■

'Salon,' fare well

Drama is conflict, goes the rule. But does all reality TV conflict have to be so dysfunctional? The aspiring chefs on *Hell's Kitchen* are incompetent boobs hectored by Gordon Ramsay; the denizens of *Jersey Shore* never met a slapfight they didn't wanna start, the gays on *The A-List: New York* bitch so much about others' relationships they never have to work on their own.

Among the most mewling of these shows is **Tabatha's Salon Takeover**, starting its third season this week. Tabatha Coffey, the snake-eyed British ice princess who rose to fame on another reality show, is robotic and bossy, like a Supernanny for failing barber-shops. She also makes *The Avengers'* Mrs. Peel look nurturing, insulting her clients, pushing them around and taking no guff.

She's also unexpectedly watchable.

Tabatha, pictured, gets low points for style, and zero for compassion, but she is effective — she knows what she's talking about. Of course, part of that is the structure of the show (the hard work in most reality TV is casting the idiot contestants who look even dumber next to the star), but Tabatha's decision not to suffer fools gladly is an admirable trait.

Like *Kitchen Nightmares*, every episode is more of the same: How disgusting is the hygiene? (It'll make you want to bring your own scissors with you next time you go to get a haircut.) How talentless and/or lazy is the staff? How willing are they to be torn down and built back up again like unwilling draftees at hair boot camp?

In the season opener, Tabatha spends more



time as family counselor than business maven. Four sisters bicker as the older one (the owner) coddles her useless siblings. Her solution is tough love. Real tough. (The second episode deals with a couple who opened a salon without any experience.)

Part of me hates that shows like this have their appeal — who needs to see people self-destruct in public to feel good about themselves? — but Tabatha makes it oddly compelling.

— A.W.J.

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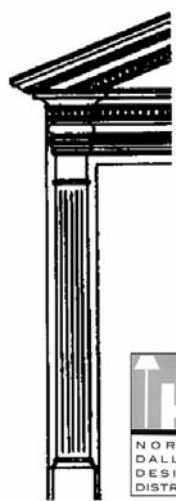
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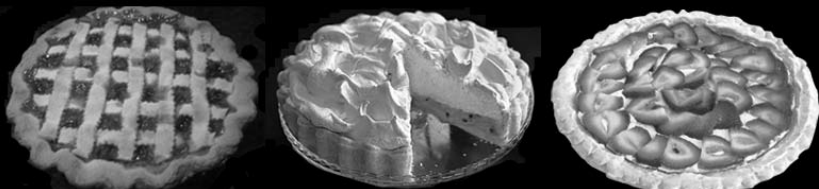
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AUTUMN'S HERE | ... and watching the new Leaf fall — with its all-electric plug-in, right — is as welcome as a pumpkin pie.



Fourteen years ago, my college roommate and I departed our fraternity in Flint, Mich., to review the GM EV1 electric car for our school newspaper. It was exciting to drive the car of the future. Despite all of the nonsense you've heard from actors and comedians, the EV1 was a decent car that GM put significant effort into producing. It was eerily quiet, nearly as fast as a Z28 Camaro, and looked as smooth as a gayby.

It also cost the price of a new Mercedes and had a 60-mile range. In the end, as my roommate calculated driving back to Flint in my Geo, the math didn't add up.

Times have changed. Now, a new generation of electrical engineers is re-working the formulas. And the math might be there.

In person, the car looks close in size to a Toyota Prius or Honda Insight, but unlike a hybrid, it runs solely on electrons. An ultra-aero exterior improves range and reduces wind noise. Headlamps are placed to direct air over the body and around the mirrors. An underbelly pan and rear spoiler help the air depart cleanly. LED headlamps, thin vertical taillights, chrome door handles and 16-in. alloy wheels are all glam.

Leaf's next-decade cabin takes inspiration from the Prius and Honda Civic, with the entirely different purpose of efficiently moving a car without a gasoline engine. There's no need for a tachometer, engine temperature gauge or oil pressure monitor.

More relevant, the NAV system shows a circumference of drivable range at any given time while a monitor shows power usage from the climate control, electric motor and other systems so drivers can intelligently manage their energy usage. Owners can schedule battery charging for non-peak hours (even from their iPhone), turn on A/C remotely, and talk on their Bluetooth-enabled hands-free phone.

Driving the Leaf confirms this is no ordinary auto. Pushing the starter button doesn't so much start the car as enable it to move. Engage "D" with the center-positioned "joy pod" by jerking down. Step on the "throttle" and the car whirs away without fuss. It is so quiet that electric motors for the windshield wipers and climate con-

trol were upgraded so passengers wouldn't hear them in the absence of engine noise.

Our route took us through city streets before jetting onto the freeway and up to an easy cruising speed of 80 MPH. The flat torque curve inherent to electric motors is like a turbine at take-off — there's no shifting gears, just smooth constant thrust. A low center of gravity, thanks to the battery placement, lets the car sashay through Tennessee farm country like an ice skating pixie.

Regenerative brakes capture energy during deceleration and direct it back to the batteries, increasing the car's range. Nissan promises a useful driving distance of 100 miles per charge and a top speed above 90 MPH. An eco mode conserves energy by making the throttle less sensitive and the regenerative brakes more aggressive.

According to Nissan, 90 percent of Americans average fewer than 100 miles a day driving, and nearly three-quarters drive less than 50 miles per day. Charging takes 20 hours on 110V home plugs, 8 hours on a 220V hard-wired outlet and less than 30 minutes on a commercial charging station, which utility companies are installing.

Safety was paramount in the Leaf's design. It comes with a full array of airbags and meets all federal crash standards. The battery pack is placed in the center of the car, under the floor, to protect it in an accident. The pack was also subjected to full water immersion, deep freezing, and extreme hot temperatures.

Compared to the EV1, the Leaf goes further, holds more people and costs significantly less. Accounting for a \$7,500 federal tax credit, prices start at \$25,280. States and municipalities offer up to \$6,000 each in tax breaks. (In some parts of California, the total credits reduce the Leaf's price to less than \$13,000!)

Many people will like the new math. I would not adopt the Leaf as my only car, but it would do everything I need 99 percent of the time. A decade and a half later, I'm charged up again for the future of electric cars. ■

When Big Freedia
sissy bounces,
everybody listens

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

MAN ENOUGH

Big Freedia brings a whole lotta shakin' to The Loft Saturday.

Bouncin' wit' it

Sissy bounce. The two words either say it all — or say it all wrong.

But Big Freedia says it's just a party to him. Relying on heavy samples and jagged dance beats, the sound is having a resurgence just as its home, New Orleans, is, too. And for Freedia, right now is the time for the world to get on-board. The gay performer plans to show Dallas on Saturday just how New Orleans gets down.

"At the end of the day it's all bounce music," he says. "That category just separates us from other rappers, but I'm totally fine with it."

"Bounce music" has its roots in Southern rap and is characterized by party beats, sexualized chants and call-outs. Add a queer slant to it and it becomes "sissy bounce." Outside its Deep South roots, sissy bounce takes on a more underground flavor.

And people are taking notice.

Articles have been appearing more in recent years featuring Freedia and his gay bounce contemporaries, Katey Red and Sissy Nobby. But the music and musicians may have gotten their most rewarding exposure when Jonathan Dee's impressive piece in the New York Times, "New Orleans' gender-bending rap," came out this summer.

When the Times takes notice, people follow. "It's not a new thing going on, just right now," Freedia says. "The music has been around for 20 years, but it's new for a lot of people all around. There's a boom and I'm just excited to be one of those artists."

Out musicians across genres are having a noticeable emergence in music. Beyond mainstream Ricky Martins and Melissa Etheridges, indie rock, neo-folk and pop are genres bursting with their share of LGBT musicians contributing to the musical fabric; gay rappers Drew Mason and Yo! Majesty take on hip-hop to tell their stories in a genre that's notoriously homophobic. But sissy bounce takes the gay perspective to different levels. The brash aggressiveness of it could be a declarative state-

ment of Pride, but could it also perpetuate stereotypes?

"Bounce music is up-tempo with a heavy bass. It's party music that's all about ass-shaking and pussy-popping," Freedia says.

Note that last part — sissy bounce is highly charged with lyrics on defiant sex and partying. Sometimes this is an image gay men can't escape. As the profile of sissy bounce grows, it's easy to ask if mainstream coverage will focus on the actual brilliance of the music as a whole or merely pinpoint lyrics that will be used as a tool against LGBT communities.

Sissy bounce might suffer from "parade syndrome," where all mainstream media shows are scantily clad dancers and high-heeled drag queens rather than paint a complete picture.

Freedia really doesn't care.

Surviving Katrina and rebuilding both his career and his home, Freedia is on the verge of bigger things and any publicity is good exposure. Besides, he's got a positive message under-

neath all that rapping about "Azz Everywhere" and "Gin in my System."

"My mission is to put bounce music all over the world and teach my culture about growing up with struggles. I firmly stand and believe on encouraging peers and my younger generation. If you believe in anything and move forward, good things can happen. That's my message — especially in the gay world."

Non-gay listeners can take heed as well. Freedia's music has resulted in mixed crowds at his shows. This excites him as a gay performer to break boundaries.

"It don't matter who it is. [Audiences are] loving what I'm singing and feeling it," he says. "When I perform, my intention is all about bringing it and making people have a good time. Some people don't know exactly how to accept it at first, but by the end, it's a real party."

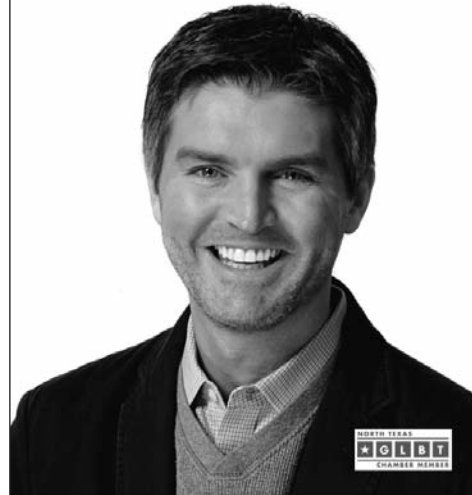
Which sounds like a reasonable approach to the music itself for the uninitiated. ■

BIG FREEDIA

with Rusty Lazer. **The Loft**,
1135 S. Lamar St., Dec. 4 at
7:30 p.m. \$12-\$14.
GilleysDallas.com.

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Latter gay saint

Steven Fales' one-man show 'Confessions of a Mormon Boy' skewers his religious upbringing, but his real mission is to show gay youth that it really does get better

Steven Fales knows something about growing up gay in the church. A sixth generation Mormon, he married and had two children before coming out. And along the way, got heavily into the sex trade and drugs.

But Fales also knows something about turning his life around — and turning his experiences into something original. He's in town for a one-night-only performance of his hit one-man show, *Confessions of a Mormon Boy*, presented in conjunction with Youth First Texas.

Before his return to Dallas, Fales talked to us about how his play has become a trilogy and why, excommunication aside, he's still on a spiritual quest.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: Obviously, you grew up Mormon and that influenced your show. What was the path from your experience to the stage? Steven Fales: I'm one of those Brokeback Mormon train wrecks where the children were the blessing. But I wouldn't even have children if it weren't for the Mormon machine — and I wouldn't have material for my show!

I have an MFA in acting [from Brigham Young University] and did a lot of Shakespeare and musicals and then my life fell apart. I just intuitively knew I needed to write about it. The first version was back in November of 2001, and it just grew and grew. *Confessions* had a nice run off Broadway so I spun off *Missionary Position* which is very well on its way to being complete and just did a benefit staged reading of *Who's Your Daddy?* All of a sudden, you have a trilogy. All three 90-minute plays will be done in repertory in Fort Lauderdale next spring. My "Mormon Conquests."

I read a recent study that said Salt Lake City is, as a percentage, one of the gayest cities in the nation.

What do you think accounts for that? Here are some theories. A lot of Mormons went out there and were an isolated gene pool for a while so you might have a genetic factor there. Mormonism is the extreme expression of patriarchy [which may attract gay people]. The amount of gays in that system reminds the system just how unbalanced it is. My excommunication, that's [an example of how] Mormons try to erase all evidence that they also created it.

Also, to live that good, perfect, Mormon life takes gay people. It takes gays to be charismatic preachers and sing in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. To go on your mission at 19, you had to be a virgin. Many straight guys had fooled around but the gays had suppressed it. My own adolescence was delayed. I can't tell you how many Mormon missionaries I served with in Portugal came out later.

It makes sense that a play like this would succeed in cosmopolitan cities, but what about smaller towns? Have you been surprised at how well it does in unexpected places? It finds its audience everywhere. I've been wildly successful in Salt Lake City and smaller places. I

think it's the Mormon thing, too.

Yeah, what is it about good Christian boys gone gay that we find so fascinating, especially Mormons? It's a curious piece of Americana. It's easy to make fun of them and they're hot! You wanna corrupt them because of it. The juxtaposition of virginity and sexuality is too delicious.

Do you think it's ex-churchgoing gays who come or ones who still feel connected to their religious roots? My queer spiritual community definitely finds me, but straight people burned by their religions or ostracized by the church of their birth

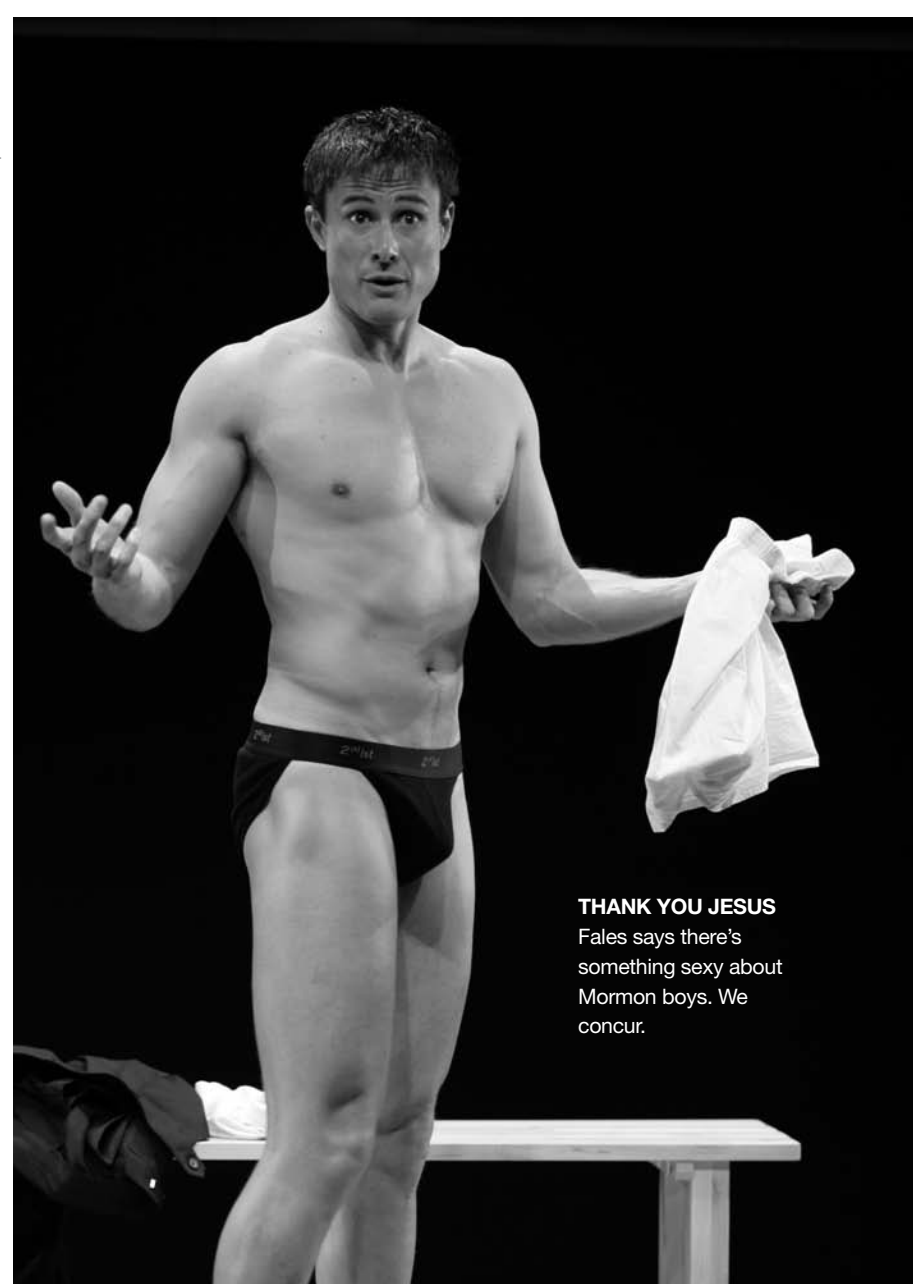
also find the show. This is my effort to find where we fit in as gays and lesbians. There's a lot of anger in the gay community toward religion and I want to reclaim our spirituality as gay men. It looks different than we were told, but it's there for us.

I take on Mormonism and the sex industry — how I descended into escorting and crystal meth and how I reclaimed myself after that. It's not just about religion — there's a secular part too. It's a gay everyman story.

For the performance this week, you've teamed up with Youth First Texas. What led you to do that? Chris-James Cogneetta contacted me and I've never played Dallas so this is the perfect opportunity. I'm hoping the show will give these youth an example of not playing victim even when you have every right to be one. I've had two cousins who committed suicide, and there was a slow, steady suicide track that I was on when I was selling myself and using meth. I want to help our youth not go down that path. With the suicides we've been having, we need to give kids the tools to deal with this. Your parents might say this and your church may do that, but you don't need to buy into that.

MORMON BOY

Eisemann Center, 2352
Performance Drive, Richardson.
Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$150.
EisemannCenter.com



THANK YOU JESUS
Fales says there's something sexy about Mormon boys. We concur.

Do you consider yourself still a Mormon or a Christian? Are you religious or just spiritual? They excommunicated me and I saw how false much of the doctrine was. I don't believe in golden plates or that Joseph Smith was more spiritual than you or me. I like to say I'm no longer a Latter-day Saint but something about me will always be Mormon. My people settled Utah and I celebrate the culture, but I do not endorse the doctrines, such as support Proposition 8. I did convert to become an Episcopalian about three years ago — I felt I needed a new church to bash.

How's that working out for you? Great! They'll take anyone. You can believe anything and I love coffee hour; I love the music; I love trying to listen to things that will help me. I think on a spiritual path, you do need a few guides, even if it's Deepak Chopra or reading a few books. I think science and religion are both a quest to uncover the mystery of what God is. We're all searching for truth. I think it shows a way to essentially love other people. We're all interconnected. We should act that way.

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'Tis the season

Christmastime gears up stage traditions

With Thanksgiving now behind us, theater companies are pullout out their Christmas fare — many with more-than-holiday appeal to the gay community. Check out these shows that might jingle your bells.

A Christmas Carol (Dallas Theater Center). The classic production returns to Oak Lawn, with a few tweaks. Back in the cast are local actors Chamblee Ferguson and Liz Mikel ... only this time in new roles. Ferguson has matured from Cratchit to his boss, playing Scrooge, and Mikel returns, now in the role of the ghost of Jacob Marley. *Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Opens Dec. 3, runs daily (except Mondays) through Dec. 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.*

The Santaland Diaries (Contemporary Theatre of Dallas). Another tradition is back, as actor Nye Cooper and director Coy Covington add some holiday jeer with David Sedaris' hilarious antidote to Christmas treacle, about a gay elf toiling away at Macy's during the holiday. Ho-ho-homo! *Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Opens Dec. 3; runs weekends through Dec. 23. ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com.*

Babes in the Wood (Theatre Britain). Dallas' resident Anglophile troupe has a new venue and a new show, its annual world premiere panto. A tra-



PANTO-MOM | Ivan Jones, right, plays Governess Amplebottom in 'Babes in the Wood,' a fairy tale take on Robin Hood that's suitable for kids but full of double entendres. (Photo by Mark Trew)

dition in England for 200 years, this fairy tale always features a cross-dressing comic dame (played this year by Ivan Jones) who tells lots of lascivious jokes that go over the kids' heads but keep the adults laughing. *Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 Avenue H, Plano. Opens Dec. 3, runs weekends through Dec. 23. Theatre-Britain.com.*

The Drowsy Chaperone (Theatre Three). It's not a Christmas show, but this buoyant musical — about a forgotten but goofily charming Depression Era musical that comes to life in a gay man's apartment — is loaded with good cheer and a smartness about the conventions of the form. *Theatre Three, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Currently in previews; opens Dec. 6, runs through Jan. 8 (no performances Christmas week). Theatre3Dallas.com.* ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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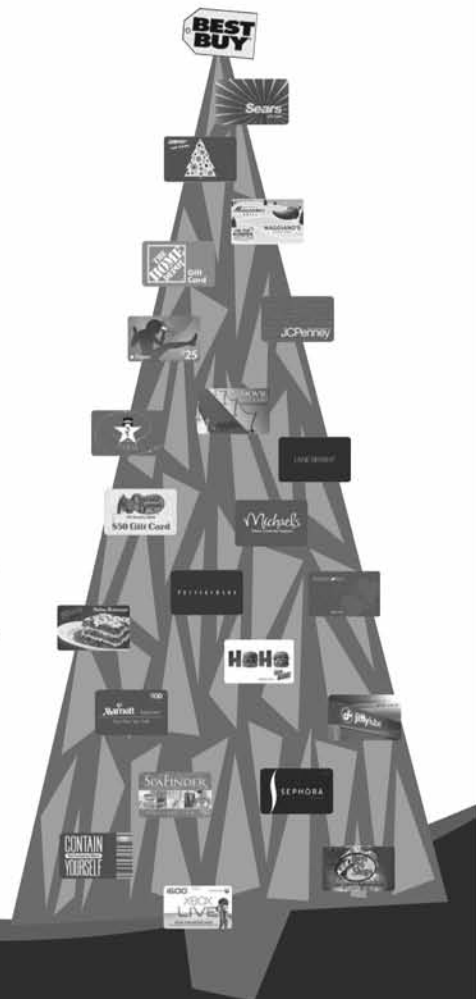
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Le mort d'artiste

There's a lot of death and sex in the new permanent collection at GMF

When the Goss-Michael Foundation opened four years ago on Cedar Springs, it mounted mostly solo shows of British artists pulled from the substantial collection of the gallery's co-owners, Kenny Goss and George Michael.

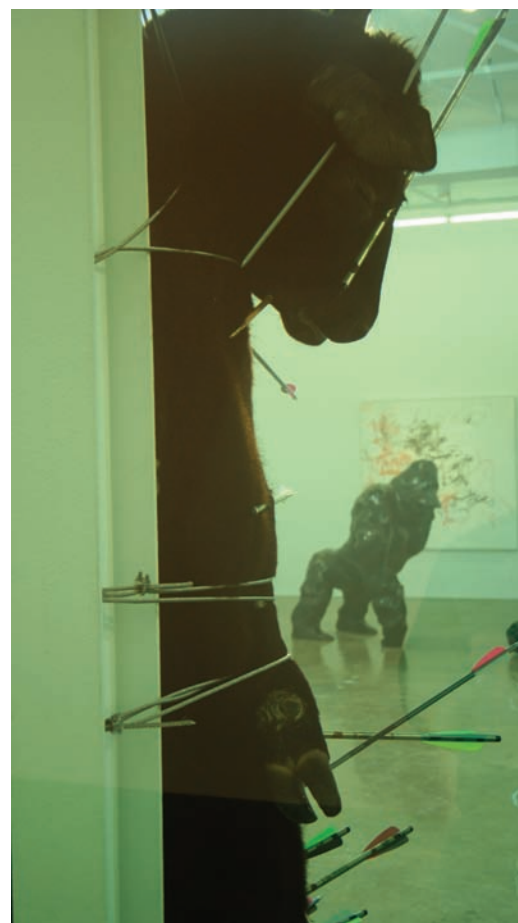
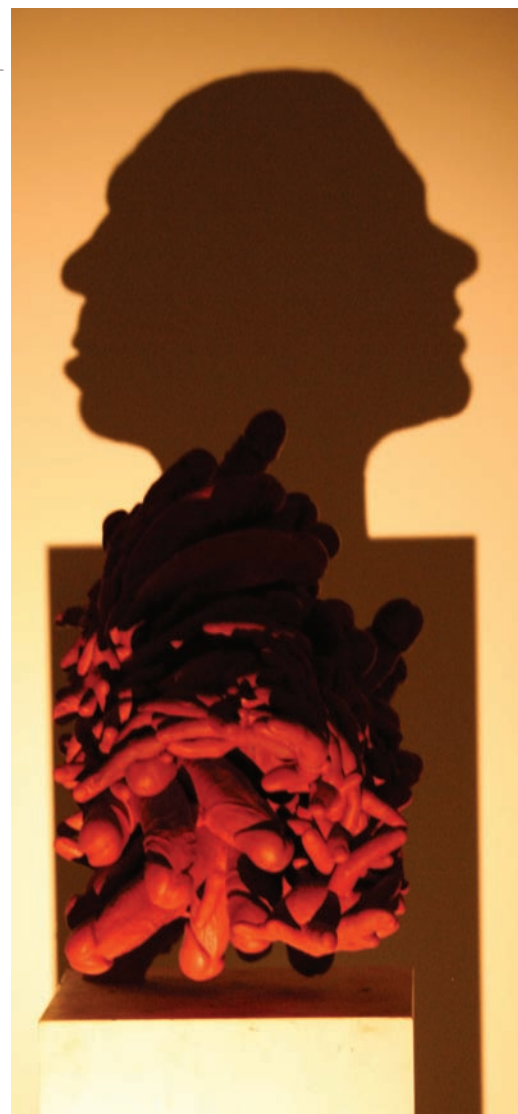
Now, the GMF has new, bigger digs (in the Design District), a renewed mission and the real estate to show a broader spectrum of art.

The current exhibit combines pieces from the prior exhibitions, including Damien Hirst's gruesome *St. Sebastian, Exquisite Pain* (a calf peppered with arrows trussed up in formaldehyde), Sarah Lucas' *Pepsi & Cocky* (intertwined legs of two female ballet dancer) and Adam McEwen's collection of fantasy obituaries, and in one place you realize: These are some twisted fucks.

Homosexual sexuality and mortality are recurrent themes across the panorama of pieces here, often in fascinating ways (as if the theme itself weren't fascinating enough). Chief among the intriguing works: A sculpture of penises and human hands which cast shadows of the artists and explicit drawings of sex that are creepily authentic. You won't see this stuff anywhere else. And that's enough reason to seek it out.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 11, 2011. Free.



SHADOW PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS | Shine a light on a sculpture of penises and hands and they become silhouettes of the artists, top; the color combo of the video portrait of co-owner George Michael will never be seen again, above left; Damien Hirst's gruesome take on *St. Sebastian* with a calf carcass contrasts with a one-armed gorilla in the background, above right. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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Friday 12.03

Weekend forecast: lotsa leather

Mr. Dallas Eagle Jack Duke has a busy weekend ahead. First he's hosting the Used Leather Silent Auction on Friday. Then he takes part in the Kickoff Party that same night, all gearing up for Saturday's Mr. Dallas Eagle contest. Hard to believe it's already been a year since Duke started his successful run at leather domination by going on to win Mr. Texas Leather and then placing third in Mr. IML. Now it's time to pass on the torch — or is it paddle?

DEETS: Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m. DallasEagle.com

Saturday 12.04

Get forked up with SONiA

Lesbian folk singer SONiA and Disappear Fear head back to North Texas in support of their latest album *Blood, Bones & Baltimore*. Just don't let the folk part scare you. She refreshes the granola vibe of '60s folk by fusing it with a reggae touch. Plus, her dreadlocks are killer up close.

DEETS: Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse, 9555 N. Central Expressway. 8 p.m. \$12–\$15. UncleCalvins.com

Saturday 12.04

Boogie woogie meets ballet – for real

Only the Contemporary Ballet of Dallas would we trust to mix ballet with disco, jazz and swing music. In *Boogie Woogie Christmas Carol*, the CBD offers a different take of the Dickens classic by throwing in some Tommy Dorsey, The Trammps and even Linkin Park. Ballet is starting to sound kinda cool, huh?

DEETS: McFarlin Auditorium, 6405 Boaz Lane. 7:30 p.m. \$27. ContemporaryBalletDallas.com

Tuesday 12.07

Good things can come from a trailer

The Sam Houston School Holiday Project will be offering thanks to a slew of drag queens this season. Edna Jean Robinson brings back her annual Trailer Park Christmas which benefits the project. Onyx and Chanel are among the drag fabulous who will lend a manicured hand to the night. Those kids will be so happy. It just warms the heart.

DEETS: JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road. 11 p.m. Caven.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.



FRIDAY 12.03

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Group of Narcotics

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

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets for those wishing to quit using meth. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

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

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

DFW Bi Net meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m.

Dallas Fresh Leather meets every first Friday, Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

Healing and Prayer service. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.com.

THEATER

Charm. Christopher Carlos directs the Kathleen Cahill play. MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through Dec. 11. \$20-425. KitchenDogTheater.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.

COMEDY

Dysfunctional Divas Don We Now Our Gay Apparel featuring Steven Jay Crabtree. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Friday and Saturday at 11:15 p.m. \$12 plus one food item. PocketSandwich.com.

SATURDAY 12.04

COMMUNITY

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

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

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling monthly program helps those who have lost an animal cope with their loss. Dealey Animal Care Center, 362 S. Industrial Blvd. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Gamers meet for role-playing games from sci-fi to fantasy. Half Price Books, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3-6 p.m.

Cathedral Couples potluck dinner and social. For location, call 972-252-7124.

DFW Bi Net Bisexual, Bi-Curious and Allies Support Group meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701



DREAM DESIGNS | Interior designer to the stars Mary McDonald signs her new book at Ceylon et Cie in the Design District.

Reagan St. 11 a.m. Brown bag lunch encouraged. Email SupportGroup@dfwbi.net for more details.

Andrew Harvey Workshop by the Global Peace Project. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.com.

Prime Timers Prime Brunch at The Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd. 11 a.m. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 12.05

COMMUNITY

Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living. LGBT-Friendly "meditation and more" event. All

■ CALENDAR, Page 44

this week's solution

S	L	A	T	S		D	O	I	N		I	N	A	W	E		
T	O	R	A	H		E	L	M	O		M	O	R	A	N		
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calendar

■ CALENDAR, From Page 43

faiths welcome. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson, TX 75080. 5 p.m. AwakeningHeart.org

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

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

Interweave meets for lunch. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano. Noon. 972-248-9343.

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

Men's Medicine Wheel Gathering discussion and ceremony at a private residence in East Dallas. 3 p.m. 214-908-6261.

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

Beth El Binah Channukah party at private residence in Richardson. 6 p.m. Email diane@bethelbinah.info for location and additional information.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Turtle Creek Chorale artistic director Jonathan Palant 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

MONDAY 12.06

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.

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

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 12.07

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.



COME ALL YE MARTIANS | Not only does Saint Nick have to go to Mars, he has to go to the 'Santa vs. The Martians' presented by Level Ground Arts.

Miracle Workers meets in Fellowship Hall. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

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

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

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

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

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.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. ClassicChassis.com.

National Leather Association-Dallas meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org

Human Rights Day panel discussion. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.com.

BROADCAST

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



have to get the toys delivered, he has to battle aliens in s.

WEDNESDAY 12.08

COMMUNITY

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

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

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

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

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

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

JEWEL's Lesbian Fiction Book Club held the second Wednesday of each month. Urban Dog Coffee, 2720 Oak Lawn Ave. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 214-540-GIRL. Jewelbookclub.blogspot.com.

x3 social group for women. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. Free. 214-528-0144.

Youth First Texas Collin County. Open to ages 14 to 22. 1200 Commerce St., Suite 121, Plano. 6:30-8:45 p.m. 214-879-0400.

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m. RCDallas.org.

American Veterans for Equal Rights Lone Star Veterans Chapter. LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Contact LSVCpres@aol.com for more information.

Mary McDonald book signing. The interior designer for many Hollywood celebs such as Sarah Jessica Parker, Renee Zelwegger and Sharon Gless comes to Dallas to sign her new book, *The Allure of Style*. Ceylon et Cie, 1319 Dragon St. 6 p.m. MaryMcDonaldInc.com.

THURSDAY 12.09

COMMUNITY

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

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

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

PFLAG Dallas. Northaven UMC, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

911 Women's Worship Service with Rev. Shelley Hamilton. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.com.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Kara DioGuardi turns 40 on Thursday. Although primarily a singer, songwriter and producer, we got to know DioGuardi as the new fourth judge on *American Idol* in season 8. Then she called it quits before season 10. Now she's working on a memoir about her experiences with the show. Of course, we're hoping for some juicy details about Simon and Paula.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

If you must argue over money, keep it in your head. Problems with other people is a reflection of your own internal conflicts over values. Some introspection will save you embarrassment.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Daring outspokenness could be polarizing, but it will win friends. Sitting quietly on problems will only be worse, promoting resentments and continued tension. Have it out in the open at least.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Finding out what people are saying behind your back can help strengthen your reputation. Fighting some lies might make them seem truer. Be careful what rumors you fight – and how.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Explore dark or erotic art to challenge your imagination. Be willing to be shocked or scared. New images open new ideas. It's time to break from unconsciously held dogmas and prejudices.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Assertions of authority go overboard easily. No matter who's at fault, back off. Think ahead very carefully. Giving up a battle may be necessary to win your long-range struggle.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Once you accept that your partner is always right, life will be much easier. Reasonably nobody is always right, but being open to ideas and rethinking old ones help you in the long run.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

New sexual directions motivate you to exercise more or attend to health matters. Problems with colleagues explode. Focus on listening and laying the groundwork for future solutions.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

The bedroom is as good a place as any to resolve partnership trouble. Talk about what's frustrating you, starting with sex. Getting out and having fun together will get you back in sync.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Awareness of your physical limitations is important for knowing how best to shape up and stay healthy. Dig into the family history to see what strengths and problems you may have inherited.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Welcome criticism to help solve creative blocks. A good argument can open terrific new ideas. You're coming off a bit sexier and more challenging than usual. Be careful where you aim that.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Challenges will bring out inherited strengths that you have yet to acknowledge. It may be painful, but admitting your parents were right about something could save your ass.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Challenge your brain. It may take something as complex as archaeology or surgery to keep you out of trouble. If you can't get out of your obsessions, at least take a good hard look at them.

THIS WEEK

Mercury turning retrograde in Capricorn reveals systemic errors great and small. Look for flaws in hierarchies and collect info to solve problems next month. Mercury's conjunct Pluto and sextile Venus so challenges in relationships seem to be everywhere. Sexual tension is often, but not always the issue. Be careful.

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

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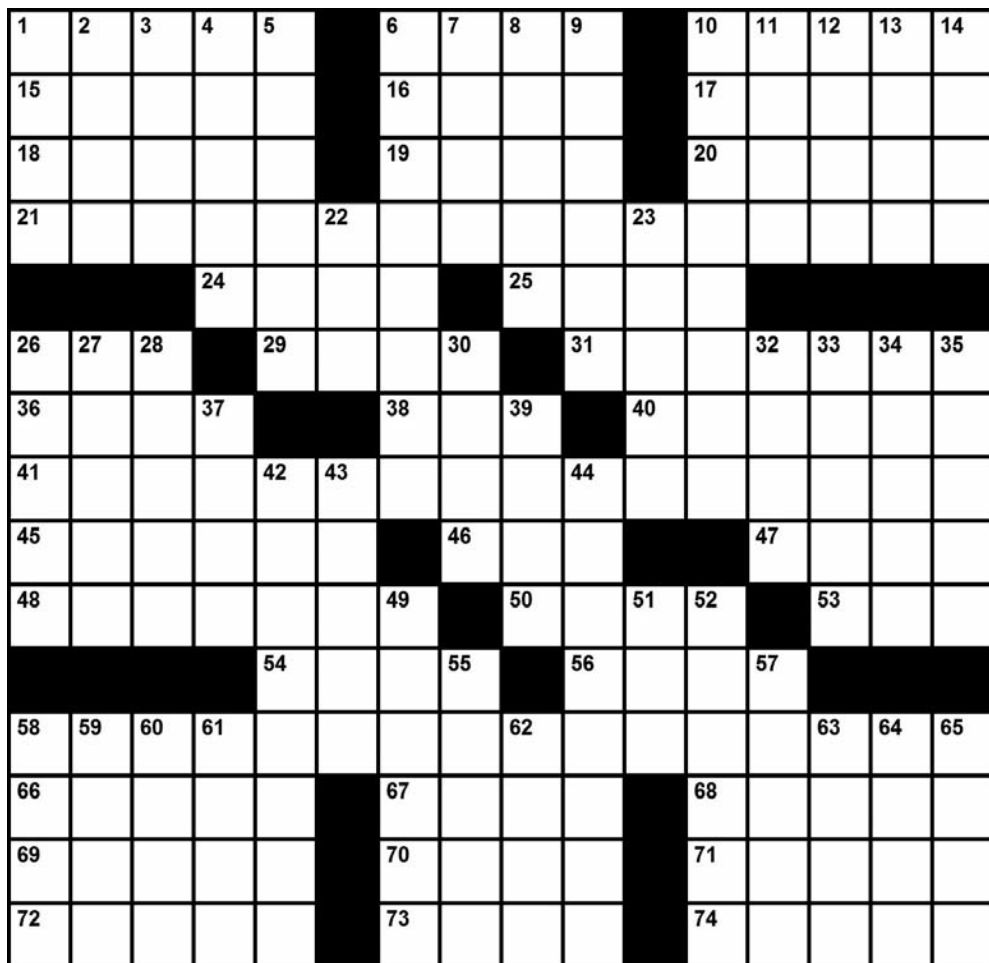
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Comeback for Coming Out

Solution on page 43

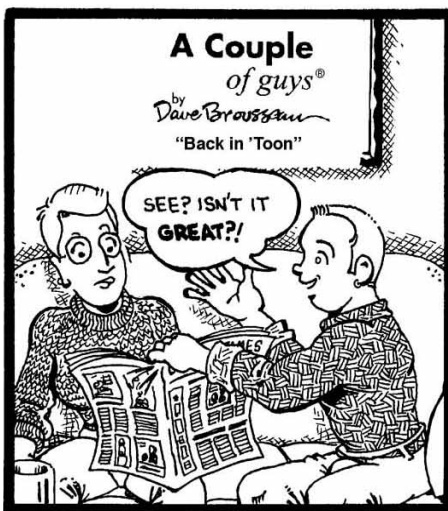
Across

- 1 Supporters in the bedroom
- 6 Bump off
- 10 Like someone blown away
- 15 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 16 Giggling Muppet
- 17 Capone rival
- 18 Capital of Ghana
- 19 Groups of games, to Mauresmo
- 20 Jodie Foster's "___ Room"
- 21 Common insult
- 24 Carol, for example
- 25 Boy who shoots off arrows
- 26 Sault ___ Marie
- 29 Granny
- 31 Diana, to the Greeks
- 36 Running into overtime
- 38 Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"
- 40 Rivera portrayer, in "Frida"
- 41 Start of a family response to the insult
- 45 Upright shaft
- 46 It'll float your boat
- 47 Teen outbreak
- 48 Grabs greedily
- 50 Stole at the Oscars, e.g.
- 53 Boating pronoun
- 54 Stadium level

- 56 You might get dates from it
- 58 End of the response
- 66 Last letter from Socrates
- 67 Pita sandwich
- 68 Gertrude's partner
- 69 Type of pole
- 70 Bus. school course
- 71 Cole Porter's "___ I Kissed My Baby Good-bye"
- 72 Broadway whisper
- 73 ___ ex machina
- 74 Hot to trot

Down

- 1 Deer, or without a dear
- 2 Nuts
- 3 Curve and others
- 4 Fruit desserts
- 5 Stone of "If These Walls Could Talk 2"
- 6 Edith Head, e.g.
- 7 He did Jackie's clothes
- 8 Cho's "___ One That I Want"
- 9 "Our" to Pasolini
- 10 Fake
- 11 He took on a pair of bears
- 12 Composer Thomas
- 13 Play a mean sax
- 14 Env. fattener
- 22 Latina writer Castillo
- 23 Singer with an accent?
- 26 You don't want to get pink ones
- 27 Bring to the auto repair
- 28 ___ Gay
- 30 "Uh-oh!" to Shelley
- 32 Lanchester of "Bride of Frankenstein"
- 33 David's "Baywatch" role
- 34 Nuts
- 35 Pop singer Leo
- 37 Chug-a-lug
- 39 One way to cook fruit
- 42 Some heteros change it at the altar
- 43 Ancient Celt
- 44 Moby Dick stickers
- 49 Classified, informally
- 51 "That was good, honey!"
- 52 Tickle pink
- 55 Auto pioneer Henry
- 57 Sasha Obama's big sister
- 58 "___ light?"
- 59 Tori who sang "I am not from your tribe"
- 60 Legendary Himalayan
- 61 Dated
- 62 Drop ___ (moon)
- 63 Rhames of "Holiday Heart"
- 64 Homo leader?
- 65 Not e'en once





Fallon and Marina at Sue Ellen's.



Michael and Alex at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Ryan and Brandon at the Round-Up Saloon.



Santiago, Chad and Joshua at BJ's NXS!

Not sure what to do for fun this week? We can help with that **Jack Duke** hosts the **Used Leather Silent Auction** at **the Dallas Eagle** this Friday. After the auction, it's the **Kick-Off Party** for Saturday's **Mr. Dallas Eagle** contest where Duke will turn over his title to a new leather stud **Cheer Dallas** will be hosting a **Christmas Toy Drive** on Friday at **JR.'s Bar & Grill**. Who ever thought you could help out the people at **Bryan's House** and have a drink while doing it? ... On Tuesday, catch **Edna Jean Robinson's 42nd Annual Trailer Park Christmas** benefiting the **Sam Houston School Holiday Project**. Stick around while the bar gives away **Burlesque** soundtrack CDs. Free **Cher** and **Xtina**? Yes, please You a gay Democrat? Hit up the **Stonewall Democrats Christmas Party** Monday at **the Round-Up Saloon**. Have more fun and **take a Republican** The loveable staff at **the Rainbow Lounge** gets their due this weekend and so does everybody else. **The Employee and Community Appreciation Ceremony** happens on Sunday with hosts **Whitney Paige** and **Christina Starr** adding to the festivities **Paul Kraft** djs the night away at Saturday's **Club Dallas Afterhours Party** **Anton Shaw** presents **Sunday Sounds** at **Sue Ellen's** starting this week.... The weekend starts on Thursdays at the newest gay club **Exklusive, The House of Strippers**. That's the kind of house party we like **DJ Roland Belmares** spins the tunes Saturday at **the Brick**. **DJ Puma** and **Mimi Casanova** highlight **Latino Nights** every Sunday. Try not to be too intimidated by the talents of **Liz Mikel** who hosts **Open Mic Night**. You know she'll belt out something fierce. **Paul Allen** and **Buddy Shanahan** accompany on the piano What did we tell you? We got you covered. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Taylor, Nicole, Mandie and CeCe at Rainbow Lounge.



John, Silvera and friend at Station 4.



Santie and Robb at Drama Room.

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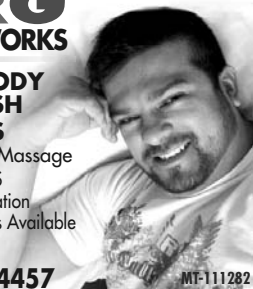
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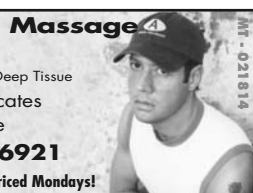
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