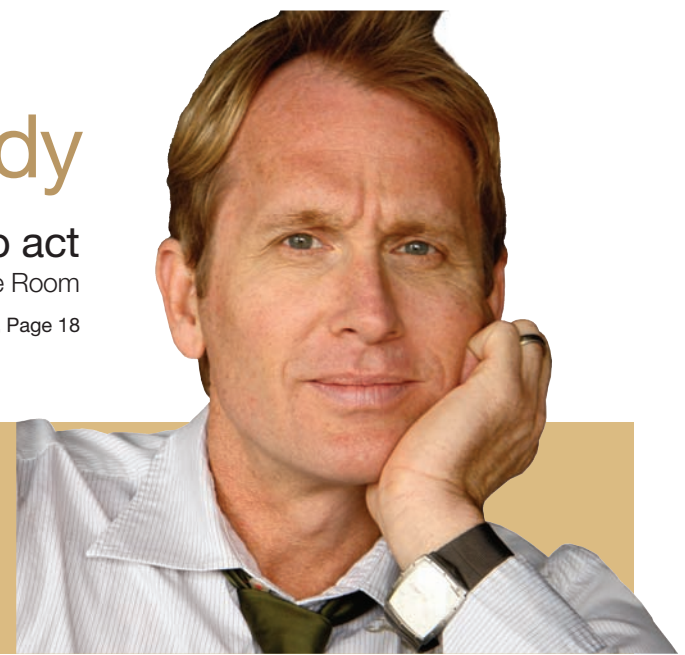


Turning tragedy into comedy

Del Shores roars back from 'Sordid' TV show with new standup act
Texas-born playwright performs at Rose Room

■ COMEDY, Page 18



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Anti-bullying bills top Equality Texas' 2011 agenda

Despite the Republican super majority in the Texas House, advocates hope lawmakers will be too busy with redistricting, budget to push anti-gay measures

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

November elections gave Republicans a 19-12 majority in the Texas Senate, while the elections plus defections by two Democrats gave the GOP a 101-49 majority in the Texas House.

In a state where the GOP platform calls for homosexuality to be recriminalized — among other anti-gay planks — such an overwhelming Republican majority would normally be really bad news for LGBT Texans.

But maybe not this year.

"We haven't seen any anti-gay bills filed so far, and obviously, we hope we don't see any during this session," Chuck Smith, deputy director for Equality Texas, said during a December interview.

"If you look at an analysis of the [November election results], only four of the new Republicans taking office campaigned on social conservative issues. And none of them made those issues a top priority," Smith said. "Most of the new people coming into the Legislature were elected based on issues of fiscal responsibility."

Lawmakers were sworn in earlier this week and will convene the 82nd Legislature next Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Smith predicted that Texas lawmakers would spend the lion's share of the session on two issues: passing a budget and redistricting.

The Texas Constitution requires that lawmakers, when they meet every other year, pass a

■ LEGISLATURE, Page 11

WAITING FOR THEIR BUSY SEASON | Equality Texas Executive Director Dennis Coleman, left, and Deputy Executive Director Chuck Smith will be spending a lot of time at the Texas Capitol once the 82nd Legislature convenes on Jan 11.
(Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)



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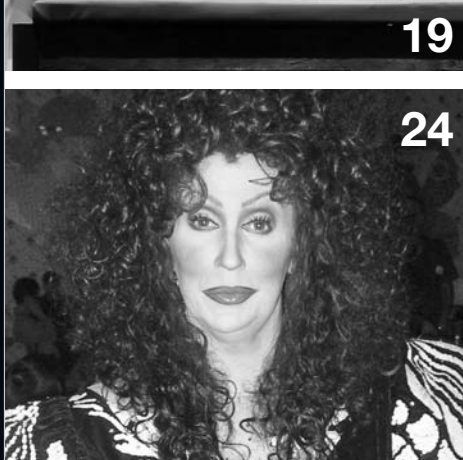
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Man injured in dispute over \$4 hot dog

Hudson says officers threw him to the ground during New Year's Eve incident on Cedar Springs

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Will Hudson never expected the simple purchase of a hot dog from a pushcart vendor on Cedar Springs to result in facial injuries and a night in jail.

On New Year's Eve, Hudson and two friends did what they thought was the responsible thing to do. They rented a room at the nearby Holiday Inn on Harry Hines Boulevard and walked to the bars. After partying on the strip, they planned to take a quick cab ride back to their hotel.

The 23-year-old Drury College senior was in town visiting his parents during the winter break.

At about 10 p.m., before going into any of the bars, Hudson and his friend, Robert Fuggity of Houston, ordered a hotdog from Smoky Joe's, a pushcart vendor that often sets up in front of S4 on Cedar Springs Road. The vendor prepared a hotdog and Hudson handed him a credit card.

Hudson said that the vendor immediately became agitated and said that he did not accept credit cards. So Fuggity said he would go to the ATM to get cash. The closest one is directly across the street outside the Round-Up Saloon.



LASTING IMPRESSION | Will Hudson suffered abrasions and bruises to his face when an unknown officer threw him to the ground in Oak Lawn on New Year's Eve. (Photo courtesy Will Hudson)

Instead, Hudson said, the vendor called over nearby police. Hudson, who is 5-foot, 3-inches and weighs 130 pounds, said he was thrown to the ground, resulting in bruising to his face, in-

cluding his cheek, ear and forehead. He and Fuggity were taken into custody for public drunkenness. They were transported to the City Detention Center downtown, a facility better known as "detox."

Police may take someone into custody for public drunkenness if that person is suspected of being a danger to himself or others and can then hold that individual for six to 12 hours.

Hudson said that police did not do a sobriety test or take blood, nor did they offer to do either.

Hudson said he and his friend were held for 10 hours and released.

Both Hudson and Fuggity were given citations to appear in magistrate court. If they paid the \$394 fine, the public drunkenness charge would remain on their record.

Dallas police LGBT liaison Officer Laura Martin said it was unlikely, but not impossible, that Dallas police would have been on foot on Cedar Springs at that hour. She suggested that instead, security guards employed by the bars answered the street vendor's call and, after pushing Hudson to the ground, called police. Patrol cars were in the area all evening, Martin said.

According to the city of Dallas office for restaurant inspections, Smoky Joes does have a permit and permission to sell hot dogs on Cedar Springs.

Cedar Springs Merchants Association President Scott Whittall, who owns Buli, said that

■ **HOT DOG**, Page 10



NEWLYWEDS AGAIN | Mark Reed-Walkup, right, and his husband, Dante Walkup, were married a second time in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 10. (Photo courtesy Mark Reed-Walkup)

It's finally official

Reed, Walkup travel to D.C. for 2nd wedding after officials invalidate October Skype ceremony

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

A gay Dallas couple who made headlines last year with a Skype wedding — only to have it later declared invalid — have since remarried and re-filed a discrimination complaint against The Dallas Morning News for refusing to publish their wedding announcement.

Mark Reed-Walkup said Thursday, Jan. 6, that he and his partner, Dante Walkup, traveled to Washington, D.C., and were married in a ceremony inside the Jefferson Memorial on Dec. 10. (Watch video from the ceremony at DallasVoice.com).

The couple had been married Oct. 10 at the W Dallas hotel, in a ceremony officiated via Skype from the nation's capital, where same-sex marriage is legal. However, after their "e-marriage" made international news, D.C. court officials notified the couple that the marriage was invalid

■ **WEDDING**, Page 9

instantTEA

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Who's DFW's Ultimate Diva?

Everyone knows Dallas has more than its fair share of divas. So when we decided to hold the Ultimate Diva! contest — which comes with a photo spread in the Readers Voice Awards Ultimate Diva! edition on March 18, a \$1,000 donation to the winner's charity-of-choice and best of all, bragging rights — we knew we'd get some fabulous entrants from which to cull our top 10. And we did.

Not surprising (considering the charitable contribution) was that many of those who



put themselves in the running as the Ultimate Diva! were locals with proven track records as fundraisers

for gay nonprof-

its: Edna Jean Robinson (aka Richard Curtin); Victoria Weston (aka Mike Fulk); Jenna Skyy (aka Joe Hoselton); Linze Serell (aka Bill Lindsey); Ima Lush (aka Jerry McDonald); and SheGotta Moustache (aka Greg Smith). Perhaps also not surprisingly, these Ultimate Diva! wannabes are all members of that sub-classification of divaliciousness: The drag queen.

But this was not, per se, a drag competition — far from it. It's about style, balls, attitude. It's about being proud of who you are without apology and bringing the force of your personality into any discussion. So we happily added M-to-F trainer Chris Tina Foxx Bruce to the lineup, representing the trans community.

It's also not just about those born as biological males who dress (or identify) as women — we had some biological girls enter the Ultimate Diva! contest, too. Stacy McKinney's photo surrounded her feminine self with hot gay guys — always a plus. And Brandi Amara Skyy (real last name: Garcia) has the name of a drag queen, perhaps even the soul of one, but the plumbing of a girl. (She calls herself a "biologically challenged drag queen").

Individual divas are all well and good, of course, but a group diva? Totally. So we were excited to see Dallas Pride Cheer, the prideful group of sissy-boom-bah athletes, wade into the fray: If anyone qualifies as an Ultimate Diva!, it's someone who forms a human pyramid to make their point.

Of course, this is just the start of these contestants' claim to diva glory — you play a part, too. Go to dfwReadersVoice.com and read up on each of the contestants who believe they deserve to be named Ultimate Diva! Review their photos and their charity of choice; and tell your friends to come out and support their favorite diva, whether drag queen, trans role model, woman or group. And once you vote, enter yourself in the drawing for a round-trip ticket for two on American Airlines. What a diva thing that would be to win!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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- trained all 700+ employees of the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission on GLBT diversity issues.
- educated more than 8,600 people about HIV prevention and administered more than 3,100 HIV tests.
- fed more than 21,500 people a hot lunch and distributed 350 tons of food from our food pantry.
- hosted an inclusive prom for hundreds of GLBT youth.
- collaborated with others in successfully persuading the DISD to adopt a first-in-Texas anti-bullying policy specifically protecting GLBT youth.

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■ texasnews

RCD, SMU set workshops with Bradshaw

Resource Center Dallas and the SMU Simmons School of Education and Human Development will host two workshops with New York Times bestselling author and world-renown educator John Bradshaw. Proceeds from both events will benefit the programs and services of the center.

The first workshop, scheduled for Feb. 10, is titled "Reclaiming Your Inner Child," and the second workshop, set for March 2, is on "Healing the

Shame that Binds Us." Both run from 9 a.m. to noon, and will be conducted at the Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Road.

Bradshaw is the pioneer of the concept of the "inner child" and brought the term "dysfunctional family" into mainstream language.

Workshops are \$65 each individually or \$100 for both; students pay \$25 per workshop. Continuing education units are available for mental health professionals. ■

Deaths

Pastor Linda Harris, 66, died Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Baylor All Saints Hospital in Fort Worth following a lengthy illness.

Born May 10, 1944, Harris worked for Frontier Airlines and for Kay Day Real Estate before be-



coming a minister. She was a nonbeliever and a motorcycle-riding "tough woman" who worked as a union rep at American Airlines, friends said this week. But when her daughter was diagnosed with a terminal kidney disease, her life changed.

Friends said Harris sent her daughter to church alone several times before finally going with her. During the service that day, the preacher told those in the congregation to write down 10 things they wanted; Harris wrote that she wanted a healing for her daughter.

Shortly afterward, Harris' daughter began to get well, and Harris herself had what friends say was an intense, personal experience that led to her conversion to Christianity. "God spoke to her and healed her daughter," friends said.

That's when Harris began her ministry, concentrating on reaching out to share God's love with those who were most often forced to the fringes and left out by mainstream society.

Friends said Harris began by ministering to the

homeless in Houston. She later co-founded Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus, an LGBT church that held its early meetings in Oak Lawn but later moved to facilities on Westmoreland in Oak Cliff.

Harris also founded and was longtime pastor for Sanctuary of Love Church where, church members said, she created "a ministry for those no one else accepted, where love was unconditional. Because of that, people who wouldn't be accepted anywhere else could go to Linda and feel love, and then they knew how to give love to other people."

Harris also played a role in founding or helping develop other LGBT-affirming congregations in the area, and once spent six months ministering as an evangelist in South Africa as part of the Joan Wakeford Ministries.

Her final ministry was with Rainbow Ministries International, which she founded after leaving Sanctuary of Love. That church is now led by her successor, Pastor Alex Voss, and meets each Saturday at noon in the back building at 3917 Hall St. Voss said this week that the church has also developed a Web page, RainbowChurchTV.com, where videos of several of Harris' sermons are now available.

Friends said this week that Dallas' annual gay Pride parade was always one of Harris' greatest pleasures, and that every year she built a float for the parade she won a trophy. They described her as an "extremely loving and caring and totally genuine person" who was known and loved by people from all over the world.

Her sister, Kay Day, said this week that whenever anyone asked Harris how she was feeling, she always responded, "I am blessed and highly

■ DEATHS, Page 8

■ pet of the week / marty

Marty is a magnificent German shepherd with a great grin and personality to match. He's 1 year old and has typical shepherd coloring and those awesome ears. Marty is friendly, loves people and is always ready to go for a walk or run.

Marty and many other dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are available for adoption from the Dallas Animal Services & Adoption Center, at 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30, just minutes west of Downtown Dallas. The shelter is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The cost to adopt is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats and includes spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, microchip and more. All dogs are negative for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FeLV and FIV. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or call 214-671-0249.



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■ texasnews

DEATHS

From Page 6

avored." Day also said that two days before she died, a man came to visit Harris and told her that he had been homeless, but because the pastor allowed him to sleep in her church, he was able to turn his life around. As the man left, Day said, Harris told him, "If you need me, just call me."

Day said her sister "helped so many people who had AIDS and were disowned by their parents. She stayed with them, and she conducted their funerals."

Harris is survived by her partner, Janice LaCount; her daughter and son-in-law, Monica Harris and Kevin Coble; her granddaughter, Sara Grace Coble; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Betty and Jon Barnett and Kay Day and James Peebles, all of Fort Worth; and by her dog, Blossom.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 8, at 11:30 a.m. at Greenwood Chapel, 3100 White Settlement Road (at University Drive) in Fort Worth. A viewing will be held Friday, Jan. 7, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Greenwood Chapel.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations in Harris' name be made to Janice LaCount Ministries, 3917 Hamilton Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76107. Personal remembrances can be shared on Pastor Harris' Facebook page.

John Foster Barry, 44, of Dallas died suddenly on Friday, Dec. 30.

Barry earned a B.S. in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.S. in clinical psychology from the University of North Texas, and was a licensed professional counselor. He



worked for many years as a psychotherapist at Oaklawn Community Services before joining a private practice, Turtle Creek Mental Health. He was active in a number of local organizations, and was well known in the psychotherapy community. He was also known by his friends and family for his wit, kindness and warmth, as well as his fondness for movies, music and theater.

Barry was preceded in death by his parents, Captain George and Britt Barry of Arlington.

He is survived by his sisters, Linda Bennett and husband, Rob, and Carolyn Lytle and husband, Dave; three nephews, one niece, many loving friends and by the clients whose lives he touched as their therapist.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Arlington Funeral Home Chapel. Donations in his name may be made to the Point Foundation or Love Out Loud Scholarship Funds.

William Bloom, 70, died unexpectedly on Dec. 18 in Lewistown, Penn., while visiting relatives before a planned move to Panama in January.

He was born in Lewistown and raised in Bradenton, Fla., and had been a Dallas resident for 33 years.



After graduating from Florida State, Bloom entered Union Seminary in Charlottesville, Va., and was chosen to spend a year at Presbyterian Seminary in Montpelier, France.

He became the chaplain of Presbyterian students at Vanderbilt University and then became chaplain of Presbyterian students at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

After three years, Bloom went to work for the education wing of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, and traveled all over the world giving seminars on literacy programs. Three years later, he began working for the United Nations and was assigned to the French Committee for Refugees in Paris where he worked with refugees from the wars in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

He returned to the World Council of Churches and was assigned to Madrid for several years.

In 1977, Bloom returned to Dallas and worked at The Bronx on Cedar Springs until he and a partner started Frontroom Gallery in 1981. In 1999, he began working part-time at Nuvo until he started full retirement in 2007.

■ DEATHS, Page 9

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DEATHS

From Page 8

Bloom was an accomplished weaver, photographer and writer.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Joe and Marie Bloom of Etowah, N.C.; cousins Linda Smalley of Atlanta, Ga., and Frances Ware of Mechanicsburg, Penn.; and many friends.

There will be a reception for his friends at The Bronx, 3835 Cedar Springs Road, on Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Anthony W. "Tony" DeCock, 46, died peacefully at home on Dec. 20. A memorial and remem-

WEDDING

From Page 4

because they hadn't been physically present in the district for the ceremony.

"We're officially, legally married in D.C. and recognized in five states and several countries," Reed-Walkup said Thursday, adding the couple chose not to challenge D.C. officials' decision to declare the Skype marriage invalid.

"We had sought legal counsel, and they felt like we didn't have a real strong case because the intent of the law was physical presence," Reed-Walkup said. "Unless we felt like we had a strong case, we weren't going to waste any time or resources on it."

"We think one of the objects of the Skype wedding was to help educate and hopefully change minds and hearts across the country, as they saw the effort that two men would go through to try to have a legal wedding in their hometown in front of friends and family," Reed-Walkup said. "In our hearts and minds, we believe that we were legally married during our [Oct. 10] ceremony, and it was a beautiful wedding. Having to go back and have the vows on D.C. soil was pretty much taking care of a technicality."

After the Skype wedding, the couple also filed a discrimination complaint with the city of Dallas against The Dallas Morning News for refusing to publish their wedding announcement, but they withdrew the complaint after the marriage was declared invalid.

They've since re-filed the discrimination complaint and are waiting to hear back from the city.

A representative from the city's Fair Housing Office, which handles discrimination complaints, couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

A Dallas ordinance passed in 2002 prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. The couple maintains that wedding announcements are a public accommodation.

The Dallas Morning News publishes same-sex announcements under "Commitments" instead of "Weddings."

James M. Moroney III, publisher and CEO of The Dallas Morning News, has said the newspaper's policy is based on Texas law banning same-sex marriage and the recognition of same-sex marriages from other states. ■

brance service will be held at the home at a future date.

Born in Conroe, Texas, DeCock graduated Conroe High School in 1982. He then joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. In the Army, he began training and started a rewarding and successful career in computer engineering, eventually working for Texas Instruments, Microsoft Corporation and, most recently, Paladin and Northrup Grumman.



DeCock had a passion for family, friends and the latest computer and software technology and the home he shared with his husband was filled with laughter, late-night dinner parties and many electronic gadgets.

DeCock was preceded in death by his parents, Harry Hypoliet DeCock and Peggy Darlene Hilton DeCock.

He is survived by his husband, Richard Lindley; their dear friend and neighbor, Helen P. Fielden, and their dog, Jack Everett. He is also survived by a brother and two half brothers from the Houston area.

In lieu of flowers, donations in DeCock's honor should be made to Resource Center Dallas' AIDS programs or the SPCA of Texas. ■

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Former Dallasite helps form Brownsville PFLAG chapter

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Brownsville became the 17th city in Texas with a Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays chapter on Monday, Jan. 3 when about 35 people attended the new group's first meeting.

Brownsville City Commissioner Melissa Zamora was among those attending. She said she was there as an ally, invited by the group's president, Yolanda Speece.

"The communication was amazing. There was lots of talk about our culture and the stigma gays and lesbians face," Zamora said. "There was a high school girl who was there to support her two lesbian mothers. A mom was there to support her transgender child."

She said the meeting was well organized, providing good reciprocal support, and was attended by people from around the county — and even from South Padre Island.

Zamora said she recently became more aware of LGBT issues when she read a story by a high school student describing his struggle.

"This is a very Hispanic community," Zamora said, "and it's something you don't talk about in the Hispanic community."

Zamora said she hopes to find a co-sponsor to put an item on the city agenda introducing the group to the community.

Speece said she decided to found the group because she always had gay friends. She found that along the border and the coast, the closest groups were in El Paso and Corpus Christi and she knew there was a need locally.

"I would hear people say things," Speece said.

"I'd take it in and I didn't know how to respond. But there's something wrong with using God to justify their hate."

Speece said that over the past two years there have been four murders of gay men in Cameron County. One, Barry Horn, was executive director of the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art.

The trial of the 19-year-old accused of Horn's murder is set to begin in February. And Speece said she is sure defense attorneys are planning a "blame the victim" strategy.

"This needs to stop, Speece said. "We need to start educating the community, so I decided it's time."

Bobby Wightman-Cervantes, who helped the Dallas and Fort Worth chapters incorporate in the early 1990s, is involved in the new group's formation. He said he was concerned that clashing personalities could kill the effort to organize and remembered similar concerns when P-FLAG formed in Dallas.

Wightman-Cervantes credited Dan and Pat Stone, two of the organizers of the Dallas group, with focusing on communication between parents with gay and lesbian children and a variety of allies when the group started.

Speece was also concerned about that, she said, and was very nervous as she began the meeting. But as people began talking to each other, she knew the new group was already working well. They were all there for one reason.

"Parents are supposed to protect their children," she said. ■

P-FLAG Brownsville meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. All Souls UU Church, 124 Paredes Line Road, Brownsville. 956-433-3524.

HOT DOG

From Page 4

Smoky Joe's is not a member of the retail group.

Rick Espailat at Caven Enterprises, which operates S4 and several other bars in the area, said his company is not affiliated with the hot dog vendor, who operates on city-owned sidewalks, not on Caven property.

No contact information was available for Smoky Joe's to get a comment for this story.

Adam Seidel, a Dallas attorney who represents Chad Gibson, the man injured in the 2009 Rainbow Lounge Raid in Fort Worth, said, "The events described by Mr. Hudson would make this level of force totally unjustifiable and excessive."

He said that he looked forward to comparing Hudson's version with that of the officers.

"How much of a danger am I for a \$4 hot dog?" Hudson asked. He wondered why that level of force was used, especially since his friend had offered to run across the street and get the cash.

"Sometimes these cases are dismissed, but usu-

ally only after the officer fails to appear to testify at trial," Seidel said. "Either way, public intoxication is a criminal offense, which, if not handled correctly, can result in a lifetime conviction on a person's record."

Hudson tried to get a copy of his arrest record. On Wednesday, Jan. 5, he went to Dallas police headquarters in The Cedars, but no records could be provided. Martin said there isn't normally written documentation for a simple public intoxication arrest.

On Thursday, Jan. 6, Hudson went to court to answer the citation. He was given a sentence of time served and had to pay no court costs.

The arrest remains on his record, however. His request for deferred adjudication was denied.

Because of the facial abrasions, Martin said her lieutenant was trying to contact Hudson. Assistant Chief Vincent Golbeck referred the case to Internal Affairs. They're interested in speaking to anyone else who witnessed the incident.

Hudson is considering pursuing legal action as a result of his injuries. ■



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LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

balanced budget. And with a looming deficit of between \$8 billion and \$25 billion this year, that will be a difficult task indeed.

And, thanks to the ever-growing population of the state as recorded in the 2010 Census, Texas will be getting four new seats in Congress. That means lawmakers will also face a redistricting battle to make room for those new seats, and that's never an easy fight.

"I believe the legislative session will be mostly consumed by the budget deficit and redistricting," Smith said. "And there are several other contentious issues — things like immigration and reproductive rights — where numerous bills have already been prefiled. So I am not sure how much time for [lawmakers to consider] anything other than these hot-button issues."

And that's good for the LGBT community if it keeps at bay the kind of anti-gay measures that have been introduced in the past, like measures to prevent same-sex couples from becoming adoptive or foster parents.

But it could also keep the several pro-LGBT bills that have already been prefiled from getting consideration, too.

"I don't think we will be as fortunate as we were in 2009 and get as many hearings [on pro-LGBT bills] as we did in 2009, when we had hearings on seven bills," Smith said.

"I think we will have more good bills filed in 2011, but I think we will see a lot more of them get left pending," he continued. "What bills get hearings and which ones get sent to the floor for a vote is all a function of the committee chairs and the make-up of the committees."

Still, Smith said, he hopes that at least the issue tagged as Equality Texas' top priority will get attention from lawmakers this year.

Former state Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, a Dallas Democrat, introduced the first anti-bullying legislation has been on Equality Texas' LGBT-inclusive legislation — the Dignity for All Students Act — addressing bullying in Texas' public schools back in 1997, and Houston Democrat Garnet Coleman has introduced the measure in every session since 2003. That bill was sent to the Public Education Committee in 2009, but never got a hearing.

But Smith said he hopes this year's new crop of anti-bullying measures may have a better chance, given the attention focused on a recent string of highly-publicized incidents in which LGBT teens — or teens perceived as LGBT — committed suicide after being bullied persistently.

Legislation on bullying

Nine bills addressing bullying, including anti-LGBT bullying, have been prefiled, including, for the first time, nearly identical comprehensive measures in both legislative chambers.

"It would be accurate to say that the current Texas Education Code does not have a modern-day definition of bullying and doesn't include adequate information on what it is and what to do when it happens," Smith said.

Fort Worth's Democratic senator, Wendy Davis,

has filed two bills — SB 242 and SB 245 — addressing bullying. The bills define bullying as "engaging in written or verbal expression or physical conduct, including an action motivated by a perceived imbalance of power based on another student's actual or perceived personal characteristics, behavior or beliefs" that harms a student or a student's property, or places that student in "reasonable fear of harm" to themselves or their property.

The definition also says that bullying is behavior that is "sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive enough" to create an "intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student," to interfere with a student's edu-

cation opportunities or disrupt the orderly operation of the school.

The bill also specifically includes cyberbullying, defining it as "bullying that is done using electronic communication, including electronic media," and specifically covers bullying that occurs not only at school or during school-sponsored trips or events, but also behavior occurring away from school and school-sponsored events.

SB 242 also requires school districts to adopt policies prohibiting bullying and to prohibit retaliation against anyone reporting a bullying incident, as well as requiring school districts to develop strategies and training for faculty and

staff on dealing with bullying.

SB 245 would amend Section 21.451(d) of the Texas Education Code to include requirements for training of educators in "preventing, identifying, responding to and reporting" incidents of bullying. It also would amend Section 39.306(a) to require an annual "statement of the number, rate and type of incidents of bullying, including cyberbullying, harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination against any student on the basis of the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, national origin or disability of the

■ LEGISLATURE, Page 12

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LEGISLATURE

From Page 11

alleged perpetrator or victim that occurred on each district campus.”

Both Davis’ and Strama’s bills would “do a number of things,” Smith said, aimed at correcting current shortcomings in the Texas Education Code in addressing bullying.

Rep. Mark Strama, an Austin Democrat, has filed HB 224 which is “nearly identical” to Davis’ Senate bills, but which does not include “gender identity and expression” in the section requiring collection of data of bullying incidents that occur.

“Our preferred bill is Wendy Davis’ bill in the Senate,” Smith said. “We want as much data collected as possible, and we want legislation that provides clear guidance into the future on what the school districts need to do to be the most effective in addressing bullying.

“We’d like to see [both bills] read the same way, both have those four words in there — ‘gender identity and expression,’” he added.

Six other bills addressing bullying have also already been filed, but Smith said none are as comprehensive as either Davis’ or Strama’s bills.

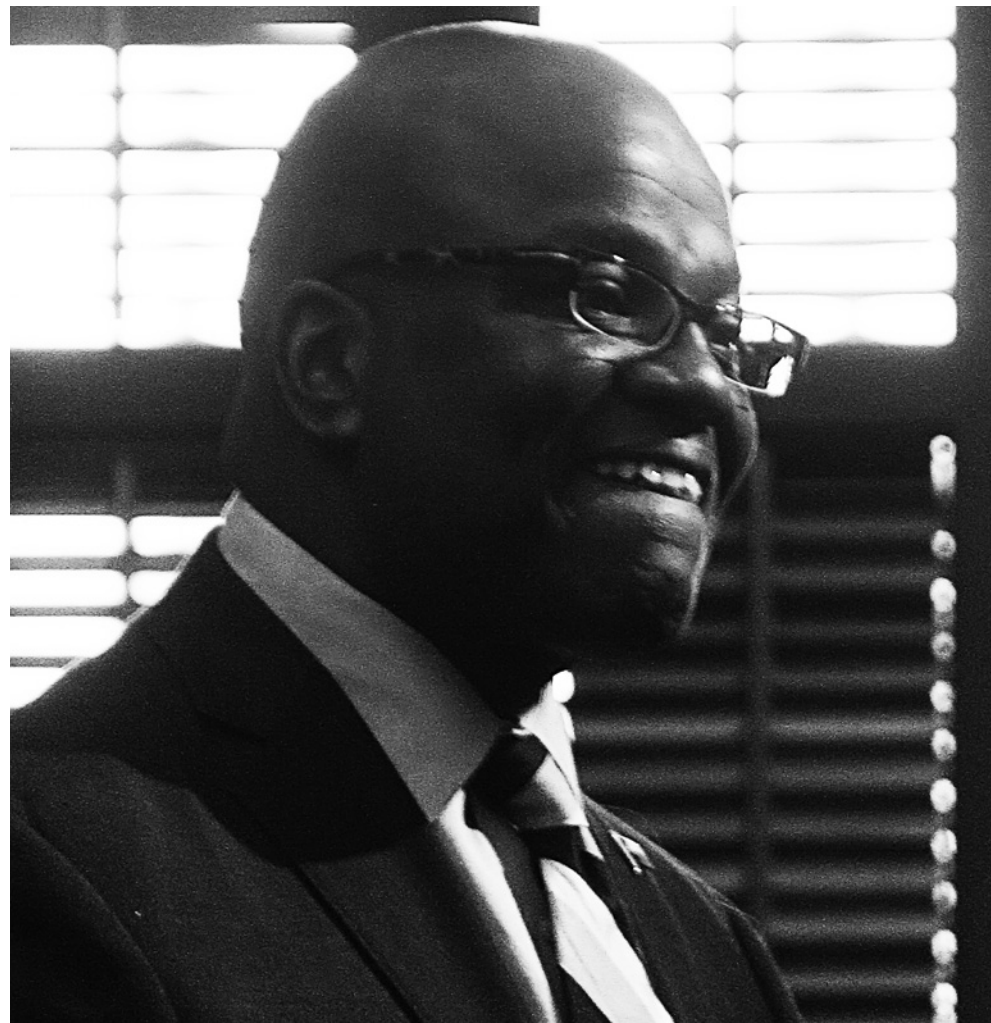
Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City, filed HB 24, Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo, introduced HB 170, both of which would also remove bullies from the general classroom and put them in a “disciplinary alternative education program.”

Smith said, however, that Equality Texas is not “just looking to make the bullies the bad guys,” and would prefer legislation that provides counseling or some other help for bullies as well as those who are bullied.

Also in the House, Rep. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston, introduced HB 130, which would create a bullying hotline.

In the Legislature’s other house, Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, has introduced two bills addressing bullying: SB 42 adds the word cyberbullying to existing Texas Education Code sections addressing bullying, and SB 49 would require that parents of students transferred to a disciplinary alternative education program be notified of the incidents prompting the move.

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, has introduced SB 205, which would add certain requirements to the Texas Education Code’s Code of Conduct.



BACK TO THE FUTURE | Since the weak economy forced Equality Texas to make staffing cuts, new Executive Director Dennis Coleman said the organization is going back to its original model, in which the executive director focuses on lobbying as well as fundraising. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

“All these other bills deal with just bits and pieces of the problem,” Smith noted. “None are as comprehensive as Davis’ and Strama’s bills.”

Other bills Equality Texas supports

Smith said lawmakers have again filed three bills that were “part of Equality Texas’ agenda in the 2009 session,” Smith said. But he again added that he doesn’t expect to see any positive action on them this year, either, given the partisan makeup of the Legislature and the likely focus on

the budget and redistricting.

The three bills are each authored by lawmakers long considered staunch allies of the LGBT community.

Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, has filed HB 172 that would create a study on the effectiveness of the Texas hate crime law. Dallas Democratic Rep. Roberto Alonso has filed HB 208, which would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in insurance, and Rep. Rafael Anchia, another Dallas Democrat, has filed HB 415, which would allow birth certificates to be corrected so that same-sex

couples who adopt could have both their names on their child’s birth certificate.

Changes within Equality Texas

Despite Smith’s prediction that budget woes and redistricting worries will keep lawmakers away from any anti-gay bills, the conservative majority in the Legislature this year could be a frightening specter for an advocacy organization that has recently undergone major changes.

The 82nd will be the first legislative session for new Executive Director Dennis Coleman, who left his position as South Central regional director of Lambda Legal last summer to replace Paul Scott as head of Equality Texas. In addition, the recession and the continuing weak economy has forced the organization to cut back on staff.

The former political director, Randall Terrell, is gone, and the staff is down to just three: Coleman, Smith and Operations Manager Allison Jones. Coleman said there are also two interns already working with the organization, “and a third will be coming on.”

Scott, during his tenure, tended to focus on fundraising and maintaining the structure and operations of Equality Texas, while Smith and Terrell put most of their efforts into lobbying and working with lawmakers. Interns and other employees were there to pick up the slack.

But Coleman said recently he firmly believes that, with the help of an active and determined board of directors, the organization can be efficient and effective.

“Up until they hired Randall Terrell, this organization had always functioned without a political director, and they did a very effective job. Plus, Randall was only here for one [legislative] session,” Coleman said. “This organization has a history of the executive director being the chief face of the lobbying effort, and I think we can go back to that and be just fine.”

Board Co-Chair Anne Wynne has experience as a lobbyist, and North Texans Jeanne Rubin and Paul Tran, on the board’s “strong and diverse” legislative committee, have the experience and dedication to “make sure we stay connected at the Capitol and when [lawmakers] go back to their home districts,” Coleman said.

“I definitely have a strong enough board,

■ **LEGISLATURE**, Page 14

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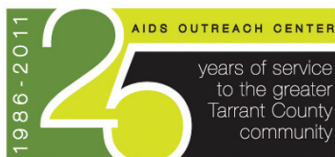
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LEGISLATURE

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especially on the legislative side, for us not to miss a beat," he added. "We will be able to move forward with the structure we have and feel confident in getting bills passed."

The groundwork for passing anti-bullying bills has already been laid, Coleman said. But in the event that the organization "gets to the point on introducing new, we will consider hiring a contract lobbyist. But since the Legislature only meets every two years, the question is, do we really need a fulltime lobbyist?"

Despite the financial straits of the past two years, Coleman said that monthly donations have begun to increase again, and Equality Texas also recently received a challenge grant from The Gill Foundation "challenging us to raise \$25,000 in monthly donations."

"The board has really stepped up to the plate when it comes to fundraising, which allows the staff to focus on doing what needs to be done at the Capitol," he said.

Coleman said Equality Texas' leaders will, in the coming months, be looking at new ways to "beef up our field work and to bring in the cash to, say, deploy someone to work on a ballot initiative in El Paso, or something like that. Our job is to find out how we can make the largest impact with the resources we have."

Coleman also noted that Equality Texas' Lobby Day is set for March 7, and that this month he and his staff and board "will start reaching out the community to come to Austin to lobby that day. Stonewall Democrats will be [in Austin] for their annual retreat at the same time. We are reaching out to LULAC, to Log Cabin Republicans —

■ Equality Texas Extras

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Helpful Links

Equality Texas: EqualityTexas.org
Texas Legislature: Capitol.state.tx.us
Frequently Asked Questions (How to find your state representative or senator; how to contact a legislator; how to find out when public hearings are scheduled; how to follow a bill; more):
Capitol.state.tx.us/resources/FAQ.aspx

To read the full text of anti-bullying bills filed in the 82nd Texas Legislature, go to DallasVoice.com.

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"This is an exciting time for us," Coleman continued. "There is legislation already introduced that we really have a chance of passing this year. And the more diverse we can be in our efforts to lobby our legislators, the better chance we have." ■



Equality Texas Deputy Director Chuck Smith (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

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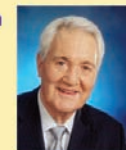
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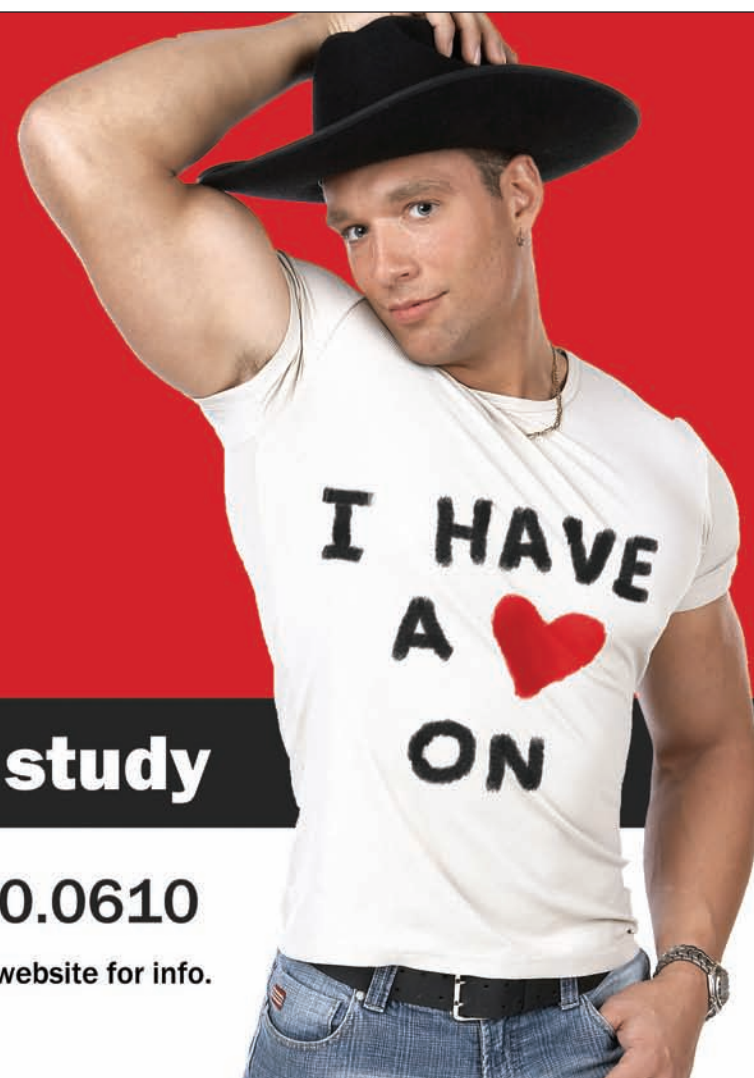


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viewpoints

Learning lessons from a tragedy

As a family mourns the loss of a daughter distraught over the outcome of a custody battle, one attorney explains the legal questions over who is — or isn't — a parent

The death of Debie Hackett was a tragically shocking end to a family drama that has, to some extent, played out in the local Dallas media. Through her experience and even through her tragic death, Ms. Hackett has provided an opportunity to educate many who are in similar situations.

There seems to be quite a bit of misinformation about her family law case and the litigation that recently ended.

Many people live in families with children that they emotionally consider as “their children.” Knowledge of how the law applies to their relationship with the children in their lives gives power, so even in the midst of this tragedy there is something to be learned.

Texas law has a very specific definition of a “parent.” Texas Family Code defines a parent as:

- the mother (biological);
- a man presumed to be the father (because he was married to the mother when the child was born or at the time of conception);
- a man legally determined to be the father;
- a man who has been adjudicated to be the father by a court of competent jurisdiction;
- a man who has acknowledged his paternity under applicable law; or,
- an adoptive mother or father.

No matter how much love, caring or emotional bonding exists, if someone does not fall into one of these categories, then they are not a “parent” in the eyes of the Texas courts or Legislature.



Michelle May O'Neil
Special Contributor

While a person may feel emotionally connected to a child, the law provides no status for a person who “feels like a parent.” Even if a person is treated like a parent, or even considered a parent by the child, that person cannot be elevated to the legal status of a parent if she does not meet one of the statutory definitions.

So, you either are a “parent” under the law, entitled to the legal privileges and obligations of a parent, or you are not.

Parents have certain rights that are guaranteed under the U. S. Constitution as well as the laws of each state. The most fundamental of these rights is the right to make parenting decisions without questioning or interference from those outside the parenting relationship.

In other words, as long as the parent makes decisions that are not harmful to the child, the parent has the sanctity to make decisions for the child. Only when a decision can bring harm to a child does the law provide a method of reviewing parental decision-making.

The right to make parenting decisions includes the right to decide who the child can be around, spend the night with and visit.

This right is fundamental, like the freedom of speech or freedom of religion, and as a result is heavily protected by federal as well as state law, and highly regarded by most of our courts.

So, in Ms. Hackett's situation, her former partner was the legal parent of the child and had the right to decide whether the child would associate with Ms. Hackett after their break-up. Only by proving that the former partner's parenting decisions are harmful to the child in a court-at-law would Ms. Hackett have been able to have a court overrule the parent's decision to exclude Ms. Hackett from the child's life.

The jury trial that Ms. Hackett and her former partner went through in December involved the question of the parent's fitness in her decision-making. The trial was not about whether the parent versus Ms. Hackett should have custody, what time the child should spend with either of them, who should decide what school the child attends, or even an allocation of child support.

The jury decided that the parent was a fit parent. That decision precluded Ms. Hackett from seeking any other orders regarding the child, such as the right to visitation over the parent's objection.

Some believe that the law discriminated against Ms. Hackett because of the nature of their same-sex relationship. However, Ms. Hackett stood in the same position as a heterosexual person that does not meet the legal definition of a parent.

The law applies equally to any person that is not a parent seeking to intervene in the parenting relationship.

For example, consider a heterosexual married couple where one member of the couple has a child from a prior relationship. When that couple breaks up, the partner who is not a parent would be in the same situation as Ms. Hackett, left to the parental decision-making of the parent to con-



tinue the relationship with the child.

Barring proof that the parent is unfit — that her decisions as a parent are harmful to the child — the non-parent would have no right to interfere.

Grandparents often face this problem as well. Many grandparents assist in parenting their grandchildren yet cannot seek court ordered access to the grandchild absent proof of parental unfitness.

As a Dallas custody lawyer, I counsel many non-parents in situations like Ms. Hackett's. The most important piece of advice I give them is to adopt their partner's child while the relationship is good and everyone is on the same page.

Adoption grants them legal status as a parent and gives them the legal rights and constitutional protections that come with it.

This then allows — mandates — a relationship between the adoptive parent and the child after the romantic relationship with the other parent ends. Without adoption, the law provides no relief from the high hurdle of the parental presumption over which a nonparent must cross to even have the chance of gaining court-ordered conservatorship, possession with and/or access to the child over the legal parent's objection.

The current state of Texas law draws no line regarding the gender of the parent or parents a child has. So a child, by adoption, can have two moms or two dads, provided a judge finds such adoption to be in the child's best interest. ■

Michelle May O'Neil specializes in Texas family law cases and works specifically with gay parents regarding relationship and custody issues. She is the author of two books, All About Texas Law and Kids, published in 2010, and The Basics of Texas Divorce Law, published in 2011. Ms. O'Neil practices law with her firm O'Neil Attorneys in Dallas.

2011 was (will be?) one heck of a year!

On New Year's Eve, I sent out a "tweet" wishing everyone a Happy New Year and a "none too fond goodbye to 2011." It only took a few moments before I was reminded that 2011 had not even started.

So, in the spirit of the strange time warp I somehow fell into, here is my "look back" on 2011.

It was quite a year, especially in LGBT politics. Even though the U.S. House of Representatives was dominated by Republicans, Congress still managed to move a modified version of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) through. And after a few changes in the Senate, it was signed into law by the president.

The main provisions concerned religious organizations, and they were allowed to continue to be as bigoted as they want without government interference.

Meanwhile on the local scene, at least three openly gay candidates announced plans to run

for judicial and city council positions. Most notable was activist and radio personality Jesse Garcia, who announced his run for mayor.



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

Wasilla."

Her daughter, Bristol, will headline her own dance review in Las Vegas next year at the new trailer park-themed hotel opening on the famous strip.

No word yet as to whether Levi Johnston will

co-star.

Additionally this year, in a bold move, the LGBT conservative group GOProud changed their name to GOAway following yet another rejection by the Republican Party national convention as well as the Conservative Political Action Conference, which barred the group from attending its functions. A spokesperson for the group called the move, "a more rational way of stating the real agenda of the Republican Party while maintaining our group's identity as supporting conservative values."

In other LGBT news, another dozen homophobic evangelical pastors have been added to the growing list of "outed clergy." It has been a bad year for closeted clergy since the escort web site "RightWingRentBoys.com" had their records released through WikiLeaks.

On the West Coast, since Prop 8 was overturned by the high court, LGBT couples are flocking to romantic wedding chapels in the Golden

State. The boom in business has started a whole new honeymoon destination travel trend, as gay-themed resorts are cashing in on the influx of business.

The "Beary Marry Honeymoon" package from one Russian River resort offers a woodland wedding with party-sized "Bear Soup" hot tubs.

Though our state naturally lags behind, the Texas Legislature did manage to pass a civil union law awarding same-sex couples most of the rights of married couples.

Though the governor's office denies any influence in the matter, most people assume the passage was a result of behind-the-scenes bargaining and perhaps downright blackmail in a matter of a male escort who has yet to be named.

In tech news, the announcement late in the year of a public offering for Grindr has the stock market salivating. Many experts expect the smart phone app will exceed Facebook in revenues in the coming IPO.

The company got an extra boost after the heterosexual version was released last fall.

The publishing industry was rocked this year by the closure of the Dallas Morning News. Most media experts believe the publication's ultra-conservative editorial policy and resistance to change was instrumental in the venerable institution's demise.

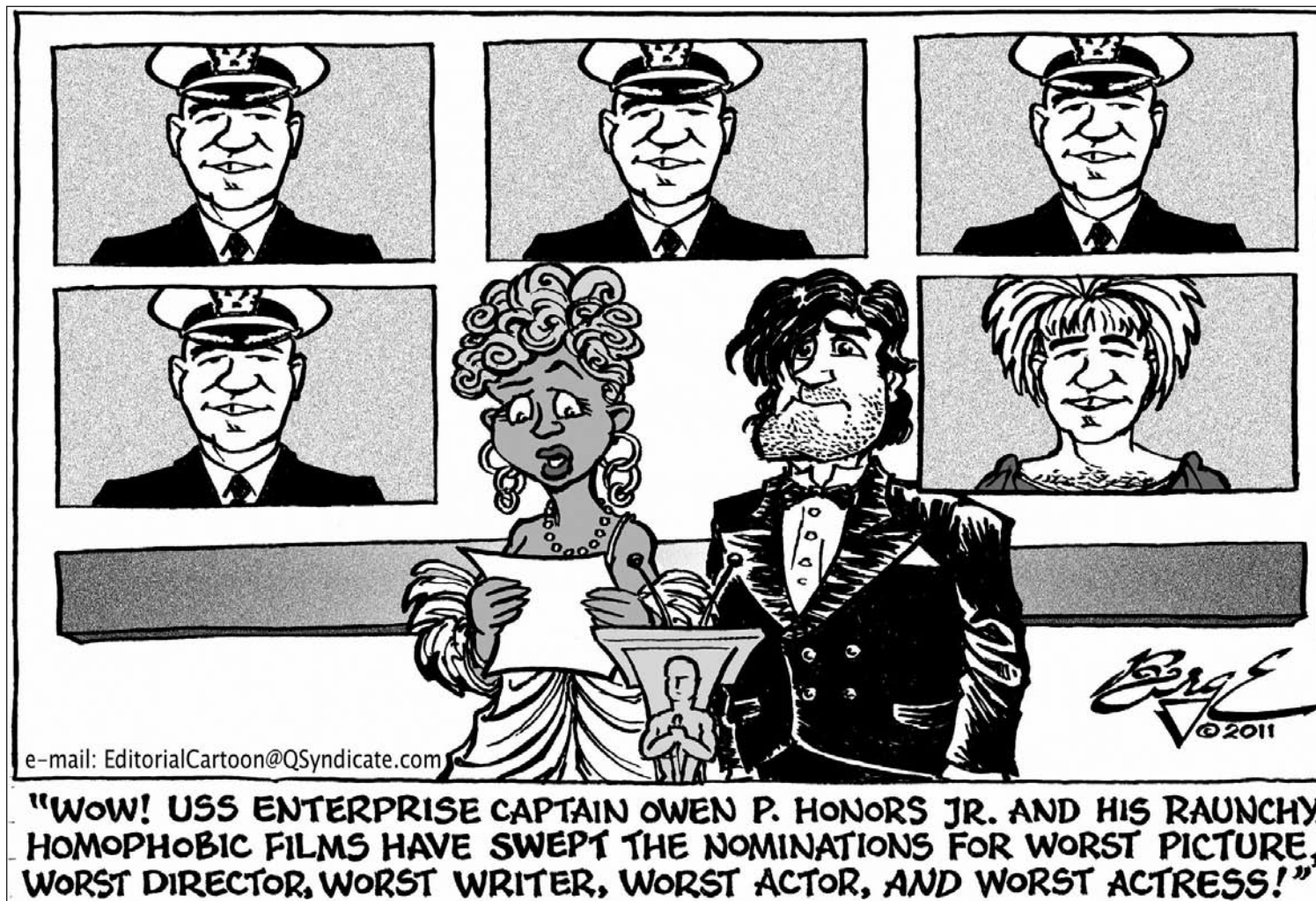
Though it leaves Dallas without a major newspaper, niche publications like the Dallas Voice and Dallas Observer have seen circulation grow in both their online and print editions.

So as I bid a fond farewell to 2011, I just want to thank everyone who has written in complimenting me on my insightful and enjoyable columns over the past year.

Ok, well so much for fantasy! Now, I wonder if anyone will save this and see how close I came with my predictions? ■

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

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Do you think the Texas Legislature will pass anti-gay bills this year?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

How would you rate 2010 for LGBT equality

- Excellent: 17 percent
- Good: 40 percent
- Fair: 32 percent
- Poor: 11 percent

81 Votes cast

A guy walks into a bar...

Del Shores, Texas' funniest chronicler of angry gay survivors of Christianity, begins a new chapter in his career: Standup

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

Stop me if you've heard this one: A guy walks into a gay bar. ...
Actually, that's not the beginning of a joke — it's the beginning of a new comedy career for Del Shores.

"I know, 52 years old and *starting* a standup career," Shores sighs. But like his entire professional life, what's happened now was never what he expected anyway.

The Baylor grad and (in)famous native of Winters, Texas, headed for L.A. in 1980 intent on becoming an actor (which he did, mostly through voice-overs and commercials but some daytime TV). It was only after his 1987 play *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?*, with its title of pointed Southern Gothic style, that he quickly established a reputation as a writer.

"I quickly started getting writing jobs, so I just put [acting] away and never went back to it, though everything I do is from an actor's point of view," Shores says. Plays (*Sordid Lives*, *Southern Baptist Sissies*, *Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*) led to episodic TV shows (*Ned & Stacey*, *Queer as Folk*) and eventually directing.

But as with most the major life-changing stages in his career, there was a tortured backstory that got him there.

Shores' works may be the foremost examples of laughter through tears. His outrageous, broadly drawn characters — one-legged cheaters, cross-dressing uncles, libidinous psychiatrists, sexually promiscuous grandmas ... and that's just 10 minutes from the pilot of *Sordid Lives*, the Logo TV series based on his hit play — mask (or perhaps reveal) genuine pain underneath but close to the surface of Shores' life.

Sordid Lives deals with the shameful way people (who have no business judging anyone) can behave toward gays (Shores was married to a woman and had children before he came out in his 30s); *Sissies* tracks how destructive religion can be under the guise of serving God; and his current standup routine, *Del Shores: Sordid Confessions* (which plays at the Rose Room on Jan. 14), arises from his exasperating struggle to gain control over *Sordid Lives: The Series* after being cheated by his producer.

"I don't regret any of it," he says of his decision to put his life on hold while pursuing legal action to recover the \$1.6 million in residual payments owed him and his cast from the series; the litigation put his career on hold for two years and cost him and his husband, Jason Dottley, their home. But it also opened the door on his current gig.



SORDID LAUGHS | Del Shores has transformed his one-man act about the fiasco following 'Sordid Lives: The Series' into the hilarious grist for his new standup routine. (Photo courtesy Brian Putnam)

SORDID CONFESSIONS

The Rose Room in Station 4,
3911 Cedar Springs Road.
Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. \$15.
Caven.com

"I love my life — I'm not on the streets and my husband is wonderful," he says. "I would not be coming to the Rose Room if [all that] hadn't happened. It's so healing [to know] that I continued to fight the good fight and not feel pitiful."

Originally, Shores wrote *My Sordid Life* (which premiered in Dallas) as a one-man show about his experiences.

"Jason said, 'You tell all these stories when you're sitting at the table drinking wine — do a show of that,'" he explains. "I said, 'How do I weave them together?' I did the first show and talked about the stories. I did a lot of my mother because she was a huge influence. And I was very influenced by [longtime friend Leslie Jordan]."

After several good reviews, his friend, comedian Caroline Rhea, suggested he convert it into a standup act, which keeps it both topical and fresh. But the best part is how freeing the experience has been.

"I just don't give a shit anymore," Shores says. "I say whatever I want." In his previous show, that meant stories about his racist up-

bringing, his real full name, how much he hates Judge Reinhold (and others) and his fondness for Rue McClanahan. The new routine follows down those rabbit holes.

"After I went after [*Queer as Folk* star Randy Harrison], I started getting hate mail from his fans — both of them," he says with a wink. "I'm the kind of celebrity who will write anybody back, so I read their letters onstage."

Despite all the hardship that has fueled his comedy, things are looking up now for Shores. He won the rights to do all-new webisodes of *Sordid Lives*, which he will fund through his fans ("It will be more like sketches, like the 'Mama's Family' segment on the old *Carol Burnett Show*, so 'Ty's World' will probably be just boys fucking," he says); *My Sordid Life* was filmed just this week as a direct-to-DVD comedy special; and he's days away from securing funding for the film adaptation of *Trailer Trash Housewife*.

But if things are going so well, will Shores run out of material? Not likely. He is a queer Texan, after all — there's always *something* to bitch about. ■

It's alive!!

'Young Frankenstein' musical improves on original B'way version with great cast, classic shtick



TRANSYLVANIA MANIA | A mad scientist (Christopher Ryan, center) creates a monster with the help of Inga (Synthia Link), Igor (Cory English) and Frau Blucher (Joanna Glushak) in a hilarious 'Frankenstein.'

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

The danger with stage-musical adaptations of revered comic movies is that they can seem like retreads a familiar material ... unless they go entirely in another direction, where they risk alienating the core fans who loved the original. Which is it: Rerun or square one?

The consensus over the last dozen or more years has been to play it safe: *Spamalot* kept most of the Monty Python shtick, *The Producers* recreates "Springtime for Hitler," *Hairspray* (probably the least well-known of the sources) tweaked the plot but retained the man in drag lead.

Young Frankenstein, which is settling in for a three-week stint at the Winspear Opera House, was adapted by Mel Brooks from his best film, and his signature Borscht Belt humor remains intact: The double entendres (lots of boob jokes and suggestive allusions to penis size), the one-liners, the well-worn gags (whenever the crone Frau Blucher's name is spoken, horses whinny). But somehow, these don't seem tired but timeless. It's almost as funny as watching the film, with new songs that give it a polished theatricality.

Frederick ("it's pronounced 'Fronk-en-shteen'") is the grandson of the notorious ghoulish Victor, who unleashed a monster nearly a century earlier on torch-wielding villages in Central Europe. Frederick is a respected surgeon in the U.S., but returns to claim his grandfather's estate. Instead, Frederick is seduced by Victor's genius, and starts the whole process over, with a green, tap-dancing creature who's very popular with the ladies.

As Frederick (or is it Froederick?), Christopher Ryan makes for a rubbery, bright-eyed

hero. A cross between Ben Stiller (before he sold out to Fockerdom) and *SNL*'s Bill Hader, he has more charisma and comic chops than Roger Bart, who created the role on Broadway. Limber physically and lyrically, on "The Brain" he doffs a litany of scientists' names more trippingly than a Gilbert & Sullivan specialist.

Ryan doesn't steal the show, though; no one does. The entire cast is tight, all with superb comic sensibilities. The most outrageous performance comes from Cory English as Igor, Frederick's stooge. Marty Feldman, who created the role in the film, was a singular talent, bug-eyed and fearless, so English's ability to make Igor his own while still honoring Feldman is surprising. (*Young Frankenstein* is less gay than Brooks' other "monster," the wildly successful *The Producers*, but English camps it up.)

Joanna Glushak's Frau Blucher — pulled tighter than Faye Dunaway at a Botox convention — captures Cloris Leachman's startled, repressed spinster with grand delight, especially on her solo "He Vas My Boyfriend." Janine Divita — playing the Madeline Kahn role originated by Megan Mullally in the Broadway version — brings her own energy to a part hand-crafted for two indelible stars.

Not all of the gimmicks played well with a slightly tame Winspear audience this week; the repeated lyric "tits, tits, tits" led to uncomfortable tittering, and a joke about a gay bar fell flat. But director/choreographer Susan Stroman has a light touch with the material, at once cheekily ironic and spot-on old-school flash: "Puttin' on the Ritz" becomes a production number worthy of Busby Berkeley. Now *that's* a show to see. ■

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Winspear Opera House,
2403 Flora St. Through Jan. 23.
ATTPAC.org.



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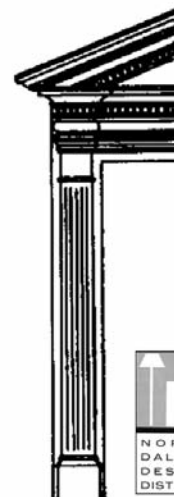


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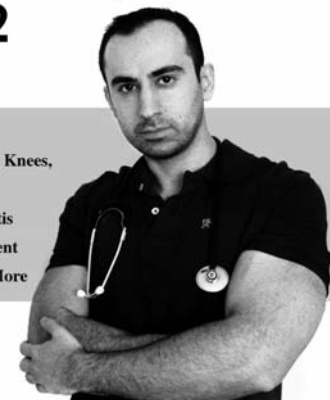
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Drawing Dallas

Music has always been the spice of life for late-blooming sexagenarian **Bill Prather**

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Bill Prather, 70

Profession: Accounting

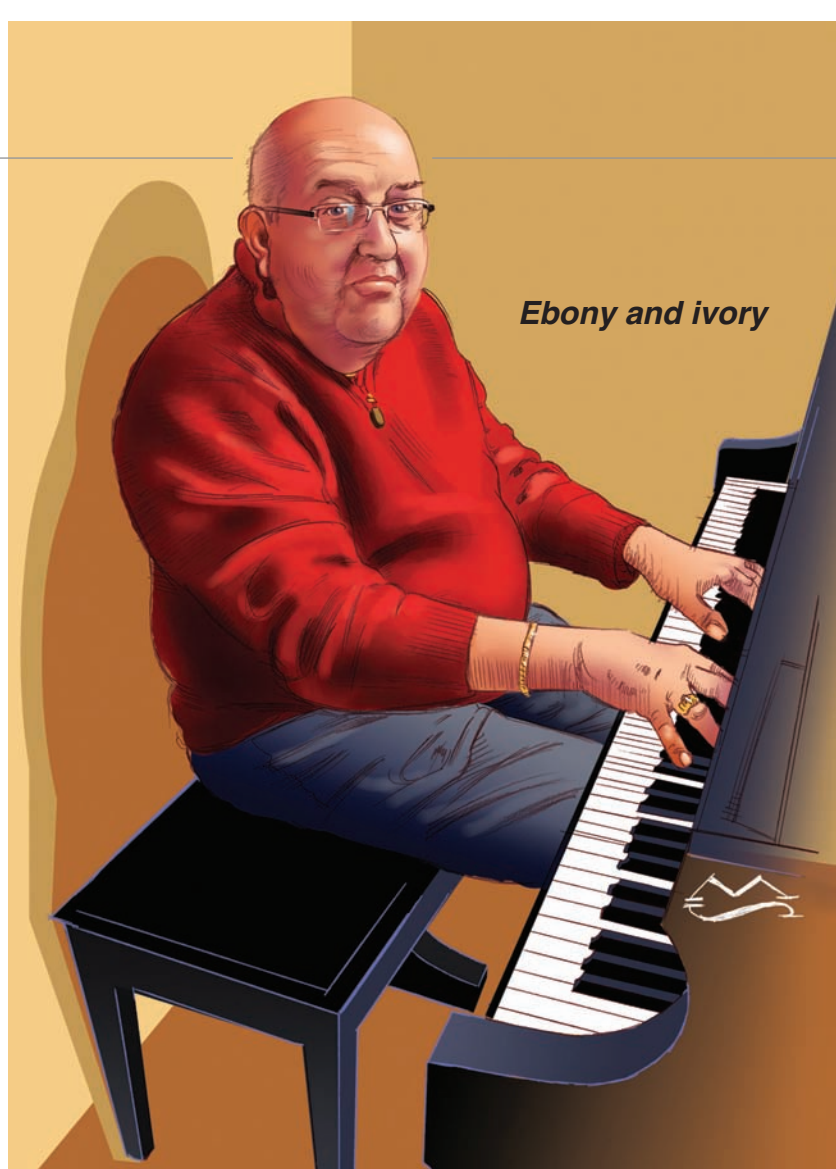
Spotted at: Lemmonwood Shopping Center

Mathematics to music: Bill Prather has had a unique life and career. Mathematics has always held a grip on this Aquarius, which led to a career in accounting as well as a life-long love of music. Born in Donna, Texas, near McAllen along the Mexican border, Bill worked at Amarillo College for 32 years, and was the organist at Paramount Terrace Christian Church for 30.

Formerly married for 26 years, Bill is the proud father of two grown daughters, and has four grandchildren. "I was so happy to come out, I came flying out of the closet!"

Activities and activism: Bill was always taught to count his blessings, and never to discriminate. Bill spent many years on the governing committee of the Federal Club, he served on the HRC steering committee, and was co-chair of Lambda Legal leadership team. He has been a Black Tie sponsor for the last 15 years, and he also volunteers for Supper Club, preparing meals for Hillcrest House.

Travel is another great love of this finely-tuned septuagenarian, and his adventures have lead him to visit 45 states and five continents (Asia and Africa are on his agenda; New York is his all-time favorite city). His latest trip was a 16-day cruise to Antarctica. "It was heck to pack for!" His voyage took him from the balmy breezes of Chile to the sub-zero temperature of Antarctica and back again, relaxing all the way.



TRAVEL DIARY

If you visit American Airlines website (AA.com), you'll immediately see their notice that sites Expedia and Orbitz are no long offering American Airlines fares. Tickets pur-



chased via those two sites are still valid, but according to American, a commercial dispute with Expedia and the inability to reach "a mutually beneficial agreement with Orbitz" led to their severing of ties.

They reassure their site is the key place to find the most current information and rates. Or to compare flights and fares, they recommend visiting Kayak.com and Priceline.com.

Neither Expedia or Orbitz mention the dissolution on either of their sites.

— Rich Lopez

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Daddy knows best

Sexy pianist Jim Brickman makes touring a family affair

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Switching out of holiday mode can be tough: putting away decorations and getting back to daily grind takes some adjusting.

The same can be said for celebrities — at least for Jim Brickman. The smooth-playing pianist (and sometime singer) has performed a holiday tour for 15 years which just wrapped up in the final week of 2010. Now he has to shift gears quickly for 2011 with his spring and winter tour *A Night of Romance*, which comes to the Meyerson this week.

Whichever show Brickman is on the road with though, he keeps it a family affair, with Brickman serving as the lovable patriarch.

"It took me, like, 15 years to get the right combo of talent and crew," he says. "We all work so hard so it's like a road family. When we're on the bus, the crew and talent are all together. There is lots of loyalty in this group for each other and I want them to take pride in their work and each other." But even with the warm fuzzies, Brickman is still the boss. Like any parent, he pushes his children to strive for the best and encourages the work of everyone involved, from the lights people to his band — even himself. "This tour has been going so well," he says. "I've been most proud because this show is extremely tight and the flow is perfect. I don't want audiences to want to wait for something to happen and they've been great."

His audience might be considered a *third* family. Where some aim for roaring crowds, Brickman likes a more personal impression; if a fan feels like it was a one-on-one experience, the musician calls that the bigger triumph.

"I'm very fond of that dynamic because that becomes very family-like," he says. "I've learned that the more you are who you really are and the less you perform to an audience, the more comfortable they feel. When you play a hall, especially like [the Meyerson], there's an energy about it and the audience creates that and takes it with them."

On his newest album, *Home*, he ventures into country music and collaborates with genre staples Lady Antebellum and Ty Herndon, among others. This might sound like a departure, but he



PAPA JIM | Jim Brickman strives to keep his road crew one big, happy family as they head to Dallas. (Arnold Wayne Jones | Dallas Voice)

sees it as more relevant than people might think.

"The thing about country music is it's extremely organic and by nature is more acoustic — more so than any genre," he says. "I wanted it to feel very comfortable. You put it on and have a sense of simplicity and make it like a soundtrack for chilling at home."

He gives high marks to country singers over most pop singers, too, which he attributes to being storytellers. On of all his duets, which include Martina McBride and Olivia

Newton-John, he says the one that came together the best was with a very green singer.

"You know, I'd have to say that Kermit the Frog was probably my favorite one. I always think that there has to be a chemistry between me and performer and it was there," he laughs.

Brickman is a veteran of the biz; He released his first album, *No Words*, in 1994 and his holiday CDs have been popular sellers since. But he still admits he's a little anxious about his upcoming shows with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

"Yeah, when I'm performing live, I'm solo, so if I decide the audience needs a pick me up, I can do something because I'm an improviser," he says. "You can't do that with the symphony. If you don't play what they are playing and you hit two wrong measures — yeah, that's not a good situation."

JIM BRICKMAN

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Rockin' bowl

Super Bowl weekend brings more than athletes to town — like, gay musicians

For those music fans who aren't quite sports fans, the Super Bowl may not seem like such a big deal (unless you want to find a parking space in Arlington that weekend). But don't worry — the biggest football weekend of the year has just as much for you.

A slew of big-name artists will be in town performing throughout the Metroplex that week; here's a quick breakdown of some of the bigger shows on the calendar.

The **XLV Party at the Cotton Bowl** spans three days and hits all the marks — even the gay ones. The lineup on Thursday, Feb. 3, is especially targeted to gay sports fans, with the **Village People**, **Lady Bunny** and **Cazwell**. Indie popsters **Passion Pit** perform a DJ set Friday, Feb. 4, and rockers **Sublime** headline the final party on Super Bowl Sunday. Visit XLVParty.com for more information.

DirectTV hosts its **Celebrity Beach Bowl V** on Feb. 6, turning Victory Park into a sandy oasis. After the celeb-game, pop rockers **Maroon 5** perform a free post-game show. Visit DirectTV.com for more information.

The **Pepsi Super Bowl Fan Jam** hosts a random lineup at Verizon Theatre on Feb. 3. **Duran Duran**, **Kid Rock** and **Jason Derulo** offer a schizophrenic roster of music. Visit Ticketmaster.com to purchase tickets.

Headlining the benefit show **theEvent**, **Prince** brings his purple reign back to the old Reunion Arena site where he performed in 1984 — only this time, it's in a big-ass tent complex. For \$1,500, you can see him live and support the Goss-Michael Foundation, which provides scholarships for students pursuing the arts. Visit Twitter.com/theEventDallas for more information. ■

— Rich Lopez



SPORT TUNES | Cazwell, above, and The Village People, top left, bring gay flair to Super Bowl concerts while Prince adds royalty to the weekend.



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If he could turn back time...

... Dallas drag legend **Wayne Smith** wouldn't change a thing. After all the stops and starts, he leaves town reflecting on a career of laughter, music ... and a nip slip

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

For nearly 20 years, Cher has performed almost nightly along the Cedar Springs strip.

"What's this?" you say. But oh, yes. With a voice and appearance so convincing, patrons react to her as if she's the real superstar, not Dallas native Wayne Smith performing what has become his signature role.

Known for being friendly and outgoing to everyone who crosses his path, it's Smith's singing prowess that has sets him apart from the many drag performers who lip-synch. He's a true impersonator and a remarkable performer who has helped define Dallas' gay scene for the past two decades.

But not so much the future of it. Smith will be missed by thousands as he packs up his bags next week to move with his husband Ben Wilson to Columbus, Ohio. It only takes a quick glance at his Facebook page to see how many lives he's touched here.

In true Cher fashion, Smith isn't going gently into his Texas retirement. He'll give multiple farewell performances, with the final curtains this week at the Round-Up Saloon, Hungdinger and the Drama Room.

But performing isn't the only major event of the week. Tomorrow,

he and Wilson celebrate their third wedding anniversary (they were legally married in Stowe, Vt.); a few days after he turns 50.

"I don't mind. AA-Freakin'-RP!" he jokes about his age. "It's wonderful to be this old because I've done so much with my life. I had a hit children's books; I sold 67,000 toys at Neiman Marcus, I had a fashion show at the Beverly Hills Hotel, I had my own salon one street over from Rodeo Drive and so much I can't even remember. I was even a question on *Hollywood Squares!*"

Smith left Dallas after high school because he thought Los Angeles would be a better place to live as a gay man.

"I went out there to be the next Bob Mackie. Instead, I ended up working for him, which was great because I got to shop with Cher and hang out with people like Marie Osmond, Betty White and Carol Burnett, which was really incredible."



DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER WAYNE? | You'll have to — next week the Cher impersonator and his handsome husband head to life in the Midwest. (Gregory Hayes/Dallas Voice)

One fateful Halloween, Mackie talked him into dressing up as Marilyn Monroe; he won a costume contest with his outfit. From



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such humble beginnings came the drag legend.

"Somebody approached me from La Cage, the original club in Los Angeles that started the show in Vegas. They were starting a new show at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Florida and they needed a Marilyn." He also had to come up with a second character; a friend convinced him to do Dolly Parton. But one little nip slip changed his attitude forever.

"It was a total disaster," he laughs. "I think I was the first person to have a wardrobe malfunction. I was doing Marilyn in the pink dress from 'Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend' and every time I raised my arms, my nipples showed. The producer was watching me with his hands over his eyes and I thought, 'Oh this is great.' I'd already done Marilyn in a couple of gay bars and I knew I was the best ever. I was a diva, girl. That is really the day when I learned humility."

Convinced he'd blown his chances, he was persuaded to give it another shot — with a twist.

"I turned it into a comedy act," he says. "We had big neon poles around the stage and I pretended that my boobs got stuck and I had to pull one around the other side. Everyone was walking in, the performers and the staff, and they were all standing there laughing."

He was hired on the spot and for a year, he performed in the famed La Ronde Showroom, a stage once graced by Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra. When the Florida show closed, Smith was invited to join the cast in Hollywood — and finally got to play Marilyn.

"In Hollywood, if you're Marilyn, you're the star of the show. She's on everything. She's on toilet paper!" he laughs. "It was the best thing that could have ever happened because I really learned to perfect character makeup. I did Norma Desmond, Marilyn, Dolly — I even got to do Lucille Ball because she personally asked me to impersonate her when she was at a birthday party for Milton Berle at the club. If the room had blown up that night, we would've lost so much Hollywood royalty. The room was just packed full of people. It really was amazing."

Ball never got to see his impersonation of her because shortly after her request, she passed away. To this day, he has a picture of the star from a scene in *Mame*, which she autographed,

"To Wayne, Love Lucy." It's one of his most treasured pieces of career memorabilia. "I broke up with a boyfriend while I was performing in Aruba and had a friend break into my apartment in Los Angeles to make sure he got that picture back. And he did!"

In 1989 — shortly after *If I Could Turn Back Time* was released — Smith ventured into performing as Cher. After a year abroad where he performed Marilyn, Dolly and Cher, he landed back in Dallas and has been performing here ever since: First at Moby Dick, then at Woody's, Mickey's, and his latest home, the restaurant/cabaret Hungdinger. For much of his time in Dallas, Smith performed as Cher five to six nights per week up and down the Strip.

"I've had an incredible, incredible career here in Dallas. I really have never wanted for work. I'm giving up five nights a week to go to 'what if' in Ohio," he says.

He may not know what lies ahead, but he's sure of his mark on the world.

"I used to feel like I haven't done anything with my life. But my dad actually taught me a long time ago that I had. He asked me how many people I'd performed for over the years," Smith recalls. Between all the shows at La Cage and on TV,

they estimated that he'd entertained millions of people. "My dad asked me, 'Did you make those people forget their problems for a little bit and laugh? How many people can say that?'"

It dawned on him that what he does is much more than just sing a bit in clubs.

"Yeah, some people say I'm an attention whore, or just a drag queen, or just a female impersonator, but you know what? I've had people come up to me who are sick or had somebody die in their family to thank me for helping them forget their problems, even if just for a little while. I'm a court jester. I just wear different outfits," he says.

But though he's leaving town, this is definitely not the end of Smith — wherever he may end up.

"I'm not Cher, I've never claimed to be. But if I can mimic it enough that people still like it, I'll keep doing it if I'm in a wheelchair gummin' it to *I Got You Babe*."

And that's something plenty of people would gladly pay to see. ■

WAYNE SMITH FAREWELL

The Round-Up Saloon,
3912 Cedar Springs Road.
Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. Free.

Hungdinger, 4000 Cedar Springs
Road. Jan. 12 at 8:30 p.m.

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Saturday 01.08

We like our bears four-alarm style

The Dallas Bears know how to get a new year started. Bears, non-bears and groups are invited to participate in their Kick Off to 2011 Chili Cook-Off. The event benefits Dallas Bears' charities, but should likely leave a lot of people with a beary spicy taste in their mouth. Would you expect anything less? Pass the crackers.

DEETS: Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. 2 p.m. DallasBears.org.

Monday 01.10

Don't mess with this man's puss

The last thing you want to do is kill some guy's cat — especially when that guy's away on a mission of torture and terrorism. When Padraic finds out his feline friend is dead in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, he isn't happy and he's gonna make sure the rest of his Irish town isn't either in this dark comedic play by Martin McDonagh at WaterTower Theatre.

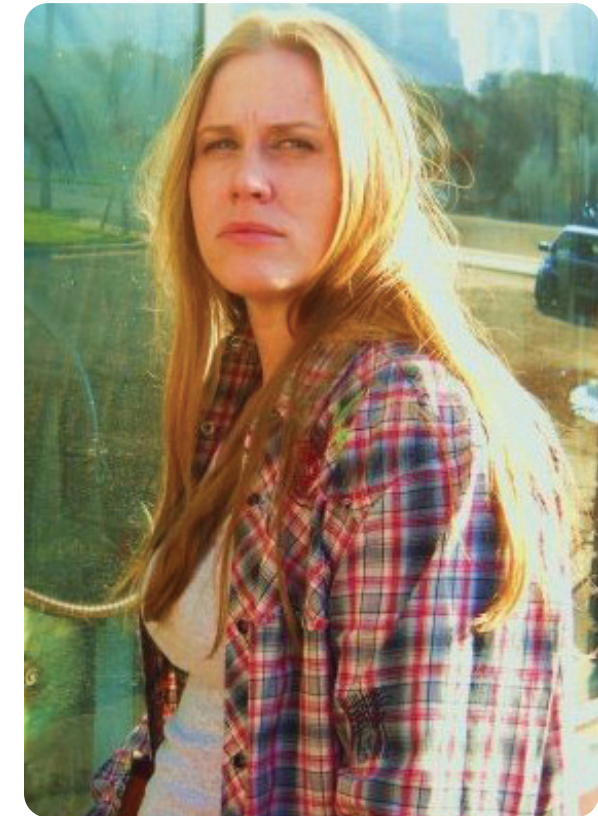
DEETS: WTT, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 6. \$22-\$40. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Wednesday 01.12

Going on down to the east side

Immigrant Punk comes from Denton to play her unique folk hip-hop for Lakewood Bar & Grill's *East Side Love Show*. But she's not the only out artist on the bill. SuZanne Kimbrell, pictured, brings her acoustic rock and blues to the show along with Abraham Mellish and Angela Carter.

DEETS: Lakewood Bar & Grill, 6340 Gaston Ave. 8 p.m. \$5. LBGDallas.com.



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FRIDAY 01.07

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. Also meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays–Fridays at 2 p.m. GetYourFuseOn.com.

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays–Saturdays and Tuesdays–Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org.

DFW Bi Net meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1761.

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

THEATER

Death is No Small Change! Pegasus Theatre brings its annual black and white play back with Harry Hunsacker on the case of a new murder mystery. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Dr. Richardson. Through Jan 23. 8 p.m. \$20–\$35. PegasusTheatre.com.

The Drowsy Chaperone by Lisa Lambert, Bob Martin and Don McKellar. Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St., Suite 168. Through Jan. 15. Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., weekend matinees at 2:30 p.m. \$10–\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

O Brother, Werewolf Art Thou? Another popcorn-tossing melodramas by Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 119. Through Feb. 19. Thursdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7 p.m. \$10–\$18. PocketSandwich.com.

COMEDY

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

SATURDAY 01.08

COMMUNITY

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

Fuse: Core Group for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3 p.m. GetYourFuseOn.com.

Choctaw Casino/Bingo trip leaves the second Saturday of every month from 709 Magnolia St., Arlington. \$7. 817-548-8110.

Once in a Blue Moon, women's dance. Dance-Masters Ballroom, 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. 7 p.m.–midnight. \$10. 972-479-0774.



MIDDLE AGES | Stage West premieres the comedy 'This' which takes on the funny traumas and dramas of getting older.

Prime Timers Prime Beefer. Pot luck dinner at member's residence. Call 972-504-8866 for more information and to attend.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 01.09

COMMUNITY

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

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

ONE Church Sunday services. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 6 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

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

DFW Prime Timers play Uno at member's residence. 2 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

BROADCAST

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

MONDAY 01.10

COMMUNITY

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

F.A.C.E.™, support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

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

Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County. Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

PFLAG Mesquite. St. Stephen UMC. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 01.11

COMMUNITY

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

Tuesday Night Fellowship with The ONE Church. Buffalo Wild Wings, 4140 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. OneChurchTX.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 Business Network monthly second Tuesday lunch. The Bronx Restaurant, 3835 Cedar Springs Road. 11:30 a.m. \$15. RSVP to cbn.info@cathedralofhope.com.

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

Lesbians and Cancer. A support group for lesbians with cancer or survivors, hosted by cancer survivors. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Gilda's Club Dallas, 2710 Oak Lawn Ave. 6–8 p.m.

Prime Timers Prime Diner at El Fenix, 6811 W. Northwest Highway. Call 972-504-8866 for information or to attend.

BROADCAST

Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys airs every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on Sundance Channel.

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

WEDNESDAY 01.12

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

x3 social group for women. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7–8:30 p.m.

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 meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m.

American Veterans for Equal Rights Lone Star Veterans Chapter. LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m.

Info at LSVCPres@aol.com.

THURSDAY 01.13

COMMUNITY

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.

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

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

BROADCAST

The Jesse Garcia Show. Latino news talk and entertainment by the prominent gay and Latino local activist. Airs on KNON 89.3 FM Thursdays at 7 a.m. JesseGarciaShow.com.

THEATER

This. Melissa James Gibson's comedy about the onset of middle age opens. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 13 Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. \$15–\$30. StageWest.org.

this week's solution



CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Naomi Judd turns 64 on Tuesday. The country singer has been on somewhat of a comeback lately. Reuniting with daughter Wynonna, The Judds hit the road for The Last Encore Tour. The two have also launched a reality show on the new Oprah Winfrey network OWN. But her inspiration for glitzy country drag and high-to-heaven hair has never gone away.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Your sign improves with age, but exercising is important for staying sharp. Advice from friends should be heard, but not followed. It opens your mind to better possibilities.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Self-criticism is helpful if you don't take it to extremes. There's room for improvement and an honest assessment of your virtues and flaws will make you clearer on what you have to offer.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

You have to be very careful not to give too much of yourself. Have a long talk with a friend you can count on to be ruthlessly honest about your limits and how you should set them.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

If you focus, you can achieve great things. Meditation helps tame that unruly, dreamy mind and draw inspiration. Friends who want your time are a distraction. Or enlist them to help.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Ideas brewing in your head need a release. Getting yourself heard helps or hurts you. Discussing those notions with a friend will improve them and see best where and how to air them.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Explore your fantasies and bring them into your real-life love-making. Some of those dreams may need safety checks and adaptations to be performed in the physical world.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your fancy notions shock or titillate your partner. A discussion of limits is in order. Even out of the sack, your sweetheart can help with reality checks to help figure which dreams can come true.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Every relationship takes work. Take up the tough issues now while it's a little easier. You'll be surprised at what problems can be resolved in the bedroom. It will at least help.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your intuition is clear now. With practice you learn to use it to better purpose in teamwork, practical or romantic. Trust those hunches in healing any kind of relationship — or finding one.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

As onerous as family or community duties may feel, you accomplish a lot and gain influence. You're creative enough to find a positive approach. Once you start there will be no stopping you.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

What you have to say is too important to be wasted. Polish those gems and share them where they are appreciated. A little imaginative probing reveals secrets or scandals.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Discuss your financial worries with a trusted person. You stumble on solutions or realize things aren't as bad as you think. Clear your head of worry to think clearly about resources at hand.

THIS WEEK

Mars is very happy in Capricorn where the planet of energy and action is focused productively. Aspecting Uranus and Jupiter in Pisces, and Neptune in Aquarius, he can lose focus, but if you can stay on track while examining your process you can find new purpose and methods to strengthen your efforts.

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

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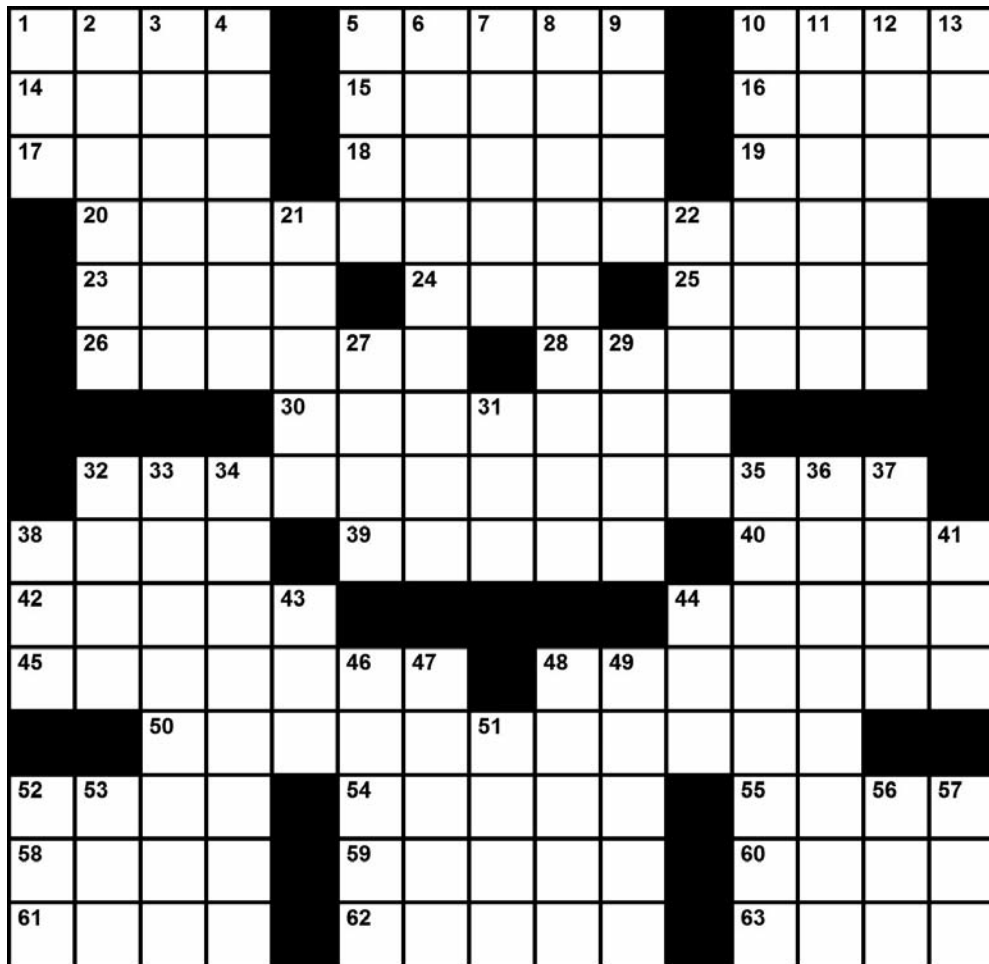
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The Kids Are All Right

Solution on page 29

Across

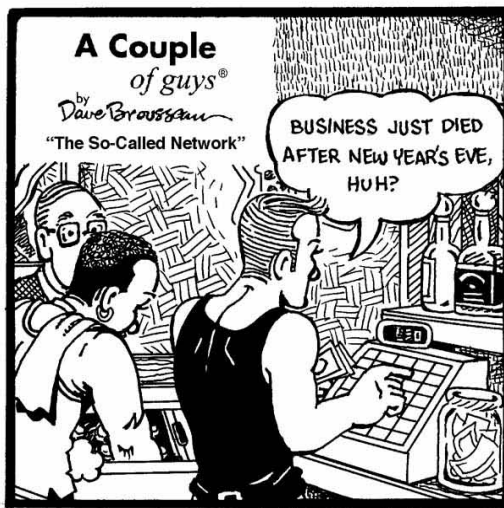
- 1 Ellen and Vance, e.g.
- 5 Cut, as wool
- 10 On ___ with
- 14 Cross inscription
- 15 Utensil for giving Oliver "more"
- 16 Tubbies' prefix
- 17 Plod through the mire
- 18 Phantom of the Opera's instrument
- 19 Chi paper
- 20 She played Nic in *The Kids Are All Right*
- 23 "___ do anything better than you"
- 24 Country of Ft. Sumter
- 25 Middle name of "Viva Las Vegas" singer
- 26 Susan B. Anthony coin
- 28 Reduces to confetti
- 30 Looked for
- 32 She played Jules in *The Kids Are All Right*
- 38 Cape Cod catch
- 39 Sentence units
- 40 Path on top of a dike
- 42 Where Dick Button performs
- 44 *Of Thee* ___
- 45 Box again

48 Water under the bridge

- 50 Why Nic and Jules' son said they should stay together
- 52 Parts of a min.
- 54 Wry twist
- 55 Phallic fishes
- 58 Start of a Shakespearean title
- 59 Reproduction without sex
- 60 Dark greenish blue
- 61 Where to see Chris Colfer as Kurt
- 62 Open positions?
- 63 And so

Down

- 1 Liza, to Lorna
- 2 Like mosaic stone
- 3 One well-hung and making big bucks
- 4 Traffic light
- 5 One-armed bandit's opening
- 6 "The Bridge" poet
- 7 Rims
- 8 Like some white people's skin?
- 9 Director Norman of *Longtime Companion*
- 10 Stuff in the closet
- 11 Licorice liqueur
- 12 Sets straight
- 13 Soldier under Stonewall Jackson
- 21 Big name in the land of Wan Yan Hai
- 22 Elaine ___ (*Taxi* role)
- 27 Out
- 29 They rise to show thighs
- 31 One-million link
- 32 Month of the Stonewall riots
- 33 One that isn't bi
- 34 Game in which Canadians wave their sticks
- 35 Dated, without a partner
- 36 Santa's horny team
- 37 Seabird
- 38 Mountain top
- 41 British sports cars
- 43 Bonheur bathed in it
- 44 Parting words, old style
- 46 Quick cuts
- 47 Causing goosebumps
- 48 Had sex with
- 49 Things with strings
- 51 Weighty volume
- 52 Org. for Jodie Foster
- 53 Flightless wing
- 56 Get behind
- 57 ___-mo sexual (decelerated porn)?



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Jean, Anton, Teri, Linda, Craig and Carrie at Alexandre's.



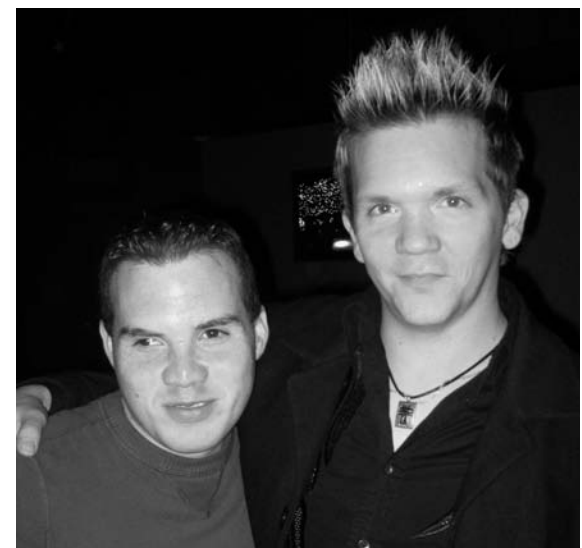
Randy and dancers at the Rainbow Lounge.

We're sure you're off to a good start on your resolutions. Don't let any of these good times derail you **Jack's Backyard** keeps a strong musical lineup throughout the week. **Ciao Bella** plays on Friday and **Kick-back** follows through Saturday night. They go all out with **C.C. Cross Band**, **Chris Miller** and **Noah Caveny** performing Wednesday. Live music continues Sundays and Thursdays with **Kathy & Bella** **Ginda** and **Tyler** host **Frisky Fridays** at **the Brick**. **Troy Sands** DJs the night for **Reboot**. The club turns into **Studio 27** Saturday night celebrating **Donna Dumae's** 27 years of performing in Dallas. And she still looks damn good. Afterward, **DJ Fabio Campos** will look good spinning the music the rest of the night Speaking of still looking good, **the Round-Up Saloon** hosts **Wayne Smith's Farewell Show** on Tuesday celebrating 18 years of performance. Say goodbye to Dallas' premier **Cher** impersonator **Voice of Pride** winners **Mi Diva Loca** perform at **Sue Ellen's** Friday night and club staple **Anton Shaw and the Reason** play Saturday night. **Little Chalupa** hosts **Karaoke Night** every Thursday **Gary Poe** continues **Gay Sing-Along** every Friday at **Peker's Bar**. Then you can sing on your own with **Totally Twisted Karaoke** every Wednesday and Saturday with host **Robert O** **Friday Night Live** features comedy and music every week at **Woody's**. And **Miss Wanda** brings the laughs every Wednesday night Enjoy! ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



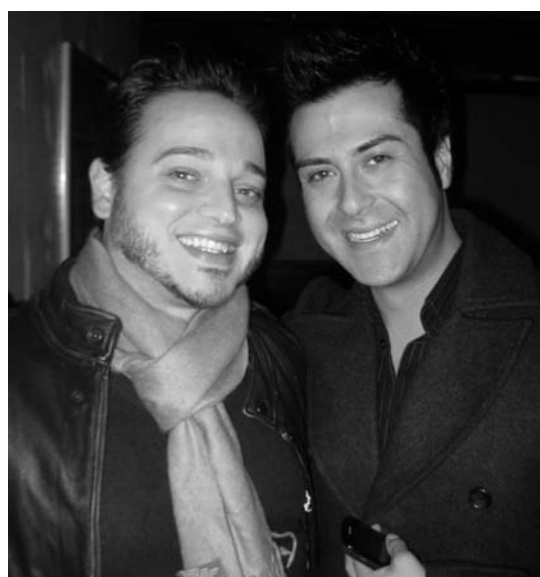
Curtis, Chris and Matt at The Brick.



James and Christen at Station 4.



Shannon, Christian and Sarah at Sue Ellen's.



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Chuck and Todd at BJ's NXS!

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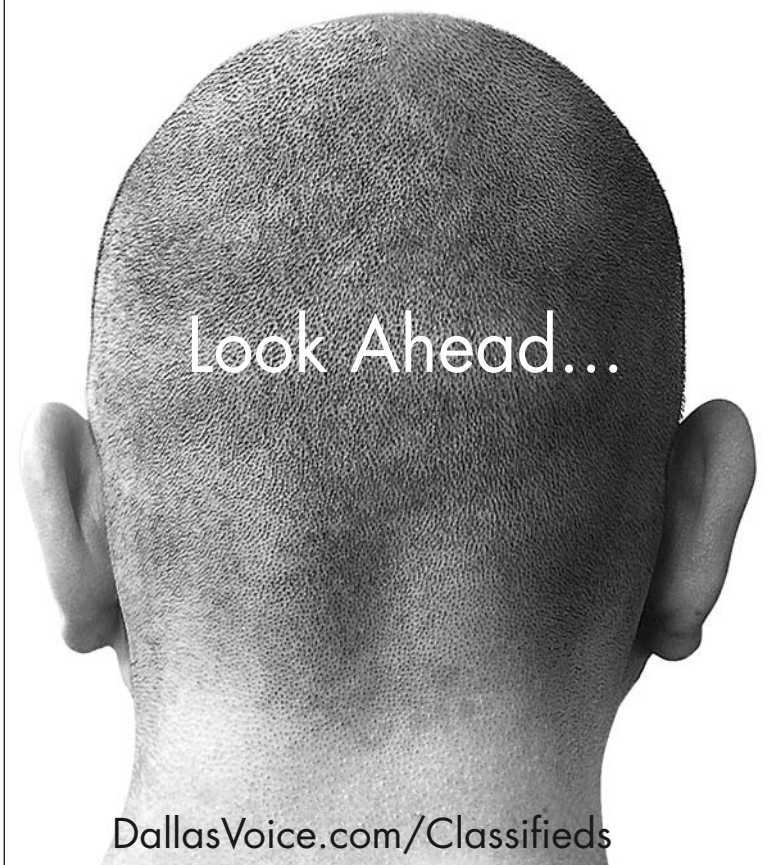
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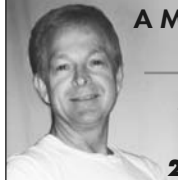
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