

King of the cocker spaniels

Beckham aims for best in show at Westminster

Dallas breeder Linda Moore and her partner Laurie Foley live a dog's life

■ PETS, Page 24



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Cedar Springs street party proceeds as scheduled

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Weather and other factors have affected a number of Super Bowl-related events originally set for this week. But despite the area's winter weather woes, crowds are still expected to turn out for the Cedar Springs Merchants Association's Super Street Party Saturday night on Cedar Springs.

Forecasts predict that the week's record-setting low temperatures should give way to a more moderate seasonal chill by then, and organizers predict that the excitement of the event will be enough to keep party-goers warm — not to mention the chance for some prime celebrity-spotting.

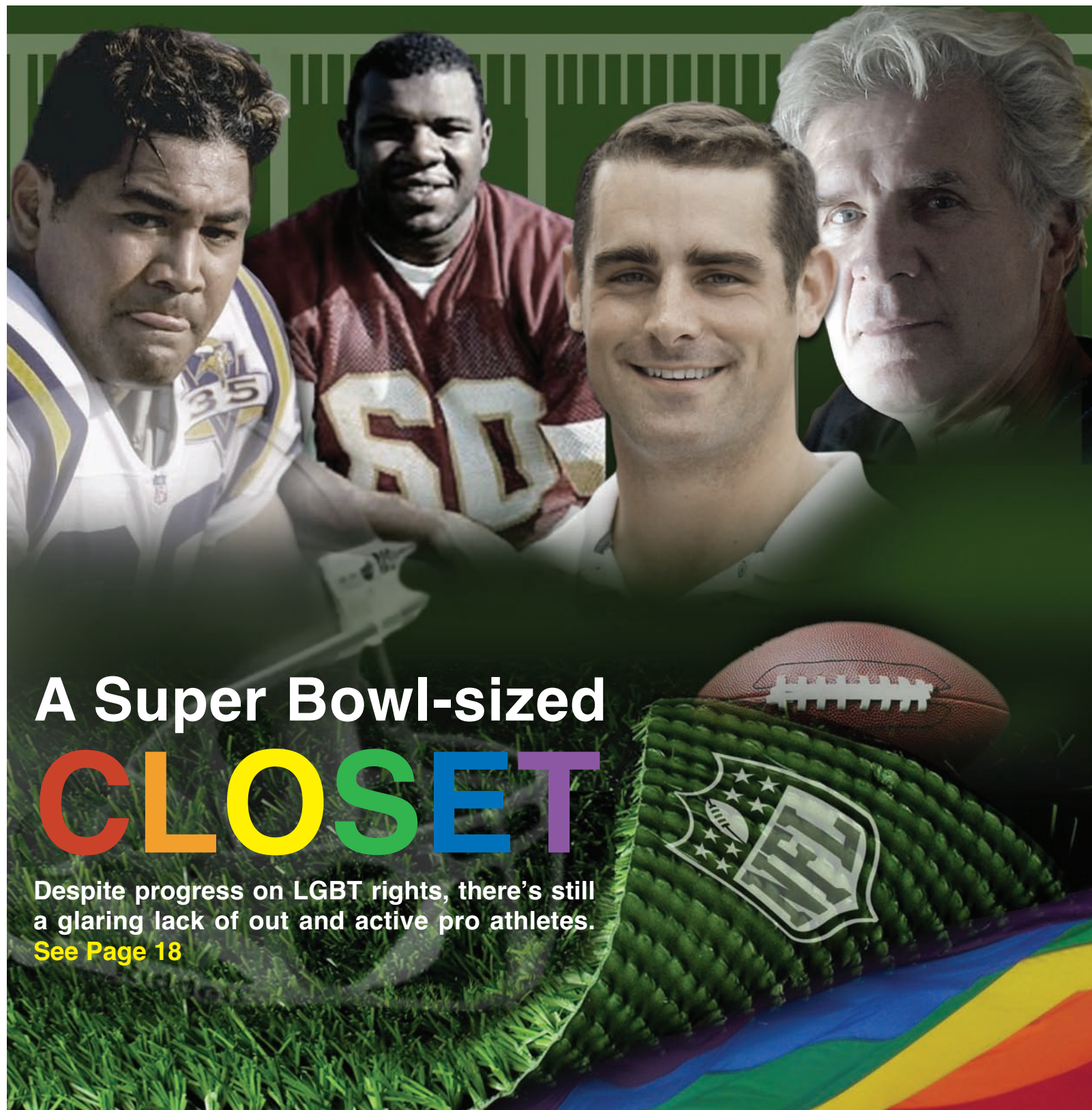
The merchants association has received calls from a number of celebrities and athletes — gay and straight — who will be in town for the big event, all asking for details on the Super Street Party. Why? Because the straight celebs assume that in a straight-laced town like Dallas, it's the gays who know how to party.

Those requests for information have come from celebrities said to be staying at The Melrose and other hotels in the Oak Lawn area.

Cedar Springs Road will close at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon, and the party begins at 7 p.m. In case it gets cold, the bars will all be open with most offering specials.

Buli promises hot chocolate and will stay open until at least 1 a.m. Hunky's and Subway

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A Super Bowl-sized

CLOSET

Despite progress on LGBT rights, there's still a glaring lack of out and active pro athletes.

See Page 18



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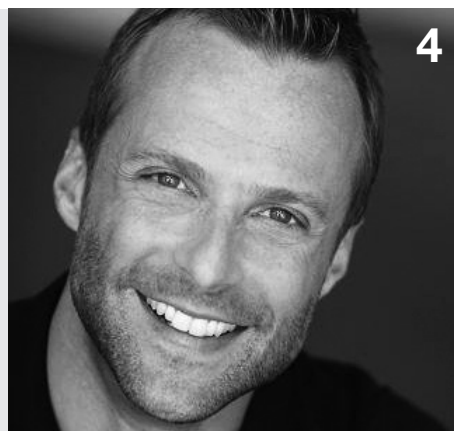
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Lone Star Ride hires new event manager

Calumn returns to Dallas to raise money for three ASOs including one he once worked for

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Officials with Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS announced this week that Jerry Calumn has been hired as the new LSR event manager. He replaces Dave Minehart, event manager since 2007, who resigned to move closer to family in Iowa.

Calumn worked for the Resource Center Dallas from 1990 to 1998. He was hired as one of the first employees at the center's current location on Reagan Street where he headed the education department and served as clinic manager.

Since then, he has lived in Los Angeles and New York where he had a varied career.

He helped create the American Academy of HIV Medicine in Los Angeles, which turned that area of medicine into a recognized specialty. The organization has since moved to Washington, D.C.

Calumn has also worked in marketing and



Jerry Calumn

communications and done consultation work for both private and non-profit industry.

In addition, he began a comedy career in L.A.

"I built a show around a word-of-mouth campaign," he said, adding that he performed in a coffee shop. His show combined improv and stand-up. He said one day Margaret Cho showed

up and they developed the first gay and lesbian comedy festival, which was filmed for Logo.

He left comedy for several reasons.

"The entertainment industry is the hardest, meanest industry," he said. "Touring is hard. It's a difficult lifestyle."

Before leaving the Resource Center, Calumn rode in the first Tanqueray Texas AIDS Ride in 1998 that lasted seven days. That ride began in Austin and traveled through Houston before ending in Dallas.

"It made me an avid rider," he said.

Calumn was living in New York doing consulting work and saw an ad for the event manager position with Lone Star Ride. He said he knew then it was time to come home.

"I was looking for an interesting opportunity," Calumn said, adding that he knew he wanted to return to non-profit work.

"I love the energy and the focus of people who work in non-profit," he said. "It's about the connection and altruism."

When he was in Dallas to interview for the position, Calumn had an opportunity to connect with a number of people he had worked with in

■ LONE STAR, Page 9

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New Club Dallas case filed

Charges have now been dismissed against seven of the 11 men arrested in the Dallas Police Department's raid of The Club Dallas in October, according to Dallas County court records. In addition, as of this week, there was no record of charges ever being filed by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office against three of the 11 men. Oddly, though, a new case was filed against one of the 11 men on Jan. 28.

We say oddly because all of the other cases — the original seven — were filed in November or early December. And most of them were dismissed in early January, with the last one dismissed on Jan. 27 — just one day before the new case was filed. So, why has the DA's Office now chosen to file a new case against one of the remaining four men arrested in the raid? We're trying to get an explanation from the DA's Office, but here's our best guess:

District Attorney Craig Watkins has declined to comment on his office's decision to dismiss the cases. Watkins' stated reason for not commenting was that at least one case was still pending. He said commenting on the dismissed cases could affect prosecution of the pending case. But that's BS. Watkins' real reason for not commenting was that he simply didn't want to comment on this sensitive topic. And he still doesn't, so in order to keep his excuse valid, his office has to ensure that at least one case is pending. So, after the lone case that was previously pending was dismissed, his office had to file a new one.

— John Wright

Gays on Super Bowl committee

The North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee, made up of 282 leaders from Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties, includes at least four openly gay members. Wendy Lopez, vice president of URS Corp., is a member of the Host Committee's Board of Directors, which is chaired by Roger Staubach and includes the likes of Tom Hicks, Ross Perot Jr. and T. Boone Pickens. Lopez declined our request for an interview about her role on the Board of Directors. The other openly gay members of the Host Committee — who have honorary roles and haven't been actively involved in preparations for the Super Bowl — are Tony Vedda, president and CEO of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce; Jonathan Palant, artistic director for the Turtle Creek Chorale; and Kevin Moriarty, artistic director for the Dallas Theater Center. Vedda said he, Palant and Moriarty were named to the Host Committee a few years ago by the city of Dallas.

"To the best of our knowledge, there's not been a GLBT Chamber ever invited to be on a Super Bowl Host Committee," Vedda said. "We are a gay and lesbian organization, and I am certainly openly gay, and so to be included and attend the events and interact with folks has just been a terrific experience. I think they made a real effort to connect within communities, by inviting people like me to be part of the Host Committee. I viewed this not as a one-time deal. I really viewed this as, I want to understand what it is to be on this committee so that, when it happens again, and I expect it will, we're knowledgeable enough to position our community better."

— John Wright

Black Tie Dinner co-chairs announce sponsor, raffle car

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Nan Arnold and Chris Couvelis, co-chairs for the 30th annual Black Tie Dinner in November, this week announced that GameStop has once again signed on as presenting sponsor for the annual fundraising event, and that Park Place Motorcars Dallas has agreed to donate a new Mercedes C300 S coupe to be raffled off at the dinner.

"This is really good news," said Arnold, this year's senior co-chair, adding that both deals were finalized earlier than usual this year.

"Chris and I and Maggie McQuown, our director of development, met with the people from GameStop back in mid-January, and they confirmed right then that they wanted to come back as our presenting sponsor," Arnold said, explaining that being presenting sponsor means giving the Black Tie board \$100,000 in cash to use to pay expenses in staging the dinner.

"That's really good news for our beneficiaries, too. Because that means that's \$100,000 more that will be returned to the beneficiaries," Arnold said.

GameStop has been presenting sponsor for Black Tie for three consecutive years, and has donated to the event longer than that.

Officials with Park Place also committed to providing a car for the annual raffle earlier than usual

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power to the players™

this year, too, Couvelis said.

"It's not just a brand new car, it's a brand new Mercedes model," he said. "It will be the 2012 model, and it is so new we haven't even seen any photos of it yet. It's all still under wraps. It won't even be available to buy until October."

Black Tie board members, volunteers and beneficiaries sell a limited number of tickets, for \$100 each, for the car raffle each year to help boost the dinner's income. Arnold said that tickets for this year's raffle for the new Mercedes model are already available.

Each year, proceeds from Black Tie dinner are divided between the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and as many as 20 local LGBT or HIV/AIDS organizations and agencies. Beneficiary applications for the 2011 dinner are available on the Black Tie Dinner website (BlackTie.org), and the application deadline is Feb. 25. The list of

this year's designated beneficiaries will be announced March 30.

But Arnold said the board will likely be making another announcement — the theme for the annual fundraiser — even sooner than that.

"This will be our 30th year, and we are working hard to make it really special," said Arnold, as first-year co-chair Couvelis added he is "thrilled" to have the chance to head up the board that organizes the dinner, giving credit to Arnold for her hard work and leadership as the board's second-year co-chair.

But Arnold was quick to spread the credit around: "It's a team effort. Chris is doing a great job, and we have a wonderful board that is already working hard to make this year's dinner a success."

The 2011 Black Tie Dinner will be held Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Sheraton Dallas hotel. ■

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localbriefs

Razzle Dazzle Dallas announces launch of new event website

Organizers of the newly-revived Razzle Dazzle Dallas have announced the launch of a new RDD website, where interested individuals can keep up with the latest news on the event, set for June 1-5, and register to become RDD volunteers or corporate sponsors.

The 2011 Razzle Dazzle Dallas will benefit eight local LGBT or HIV/AIDS organizations: Youth First Texas, Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Interfaith Network, Cedar Springs Merchants Association Beautification Fund, Legacy Counseling/Founders Cottage, Lone Star Ride and Dallas Legal Hospice.

The new website is at RazzleDazzleDallas.org. For more information, e-mail info@razzledazzledallas.org or call 214-450-8238.

Oak Cliff UU Church holding special 'It Gets Better' service, video filming

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff will present a special service Sunday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. in honor of the "It Gets Better" Project, started in response to the suicides of LGBT teens who had been bullied and harassed, and all those who stand against hatred and intolerance.

After the services on both Feb. 13 and Feb. 20, the church invites the community to share "It Gets Better" stories which will be recorded, edited and

posted online.

Go online to ItGetsBetter.org for information on the It Gets Better Project, and to OakCliffUU.org for information on and directions to the church. Interested individuals can also call Jan Brubaker at 214-907-9812 for information.

Bloomin' Ball Launch Party set for Feb. 16 in private home

The 2011 Bloomin' Ball Launch Party will be held Wednesday, Feb. 16 at a private home. The \$10 suggested donation at the door includes complimentary light hors d'oeuvres, wine and valet parking.

The annual Bloomin' Ball benefits AIDS Interfaith Network. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gretchen G. Kelly at 214-943-4444.

Researcher at UNT looking for participants for relationship study

The Center for Psychosocial Health Research from the University of North Texas is conducting a study of health and conflict within the LGBT population and is looking for LGBT individuals over 18 and fluent in English who have experienced conflict in a same-sex relationship.

Those who complete the survey will receive \$20. For information on participating, email cphprojectheart@gmail.com or call 940-891-6844.

pet of the week / Sponsored by Petropolitan

Almidon

Almidon was surrendered to a local shelter by his owners who could no longer care for him. Almidon is still a little uncertain about this new place; however, he really enjoys his playtime and is learning about new people. He is already neutered and is available for adoption.



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

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■ texasnews

Franko running in District 14

4 candidates have started campaigns in Oak Lawn district; still no definite word from Hunt on possible mayoral candidacy

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
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Vernon C. Franko is one of four candidates who have already appointed campaign treasurers to run this year for the District 14 seat on the Dallas City Council, according to information posted online by the Dallas city secretary.

And that doesn't count incumbent Councilwoman Angela Hunt, who may — or may not — choose to run for mayor instead of for re-election to the council.

Franko said in a recent interview that he has been planning to run for the council for about two years because "I just didn't think we were getting the representation we deserve in this district."

Franko said that he is "upset that property taxes didn't go back down after the adjustments for the [housing bubble]. We have seen some decrease, but not enough.

"I think we need to bring back integrity and fairness to the council," Franko continued. "There have been some closed-door meetings held that I really didn't like. Everything should be out in the open. We just aren't getting the kind of representation we had in this district back in the 1980s and '90s."

Franko also said that he is unhappy with the way "education issues" are being handled in Dallas, and that public school teachers have been "underpaid for way too long" and property taxes levied by the school districts are too high.

Although the city council has no authority over public schools in the city, Franko said he believes the council "should be working with the school districts around here to make these issues better known. The council is prominent enough to help bring attention to these issues in a way that the school board can't."

And, he said, the council should also work with other entities that assess property taxes in Dallas, like the hospital districts.

"Homeowners are being discouraged from buying and maintaining homes because the way the tax situation is handled just isn't equitable," Franko said. "Property owners — and even renters who have to pay higher rents so that property owners can pay taxes — they are all carrying a disproportionate share of the tax burden."

Franko, who lives on Cedar Springs Road, said he has been an insurance agent and small business for 15 years. Although he did not say if he is gay, he did describe himself as "a part of the Oak Lawn community," and pledged to treat all his constituents fairly and equally if he is elected.

"I think the LGBT people should be represented just as fairly and equally as any other com-

munity," Franko said. "I believe in fairness in representation for all groups, whether it's about race or gender or orientation or what have you.

"I am a part of the Oak Lawn community, but I wouldn't want to give Oak Lawn residents better treatment than someone from another community. All communities deserve equal treatment," he said.

Council election overview

Dallas City Council and mayoral elections will be held May 14.

Although candidates have already started filing paperwork designating campaign treasurers, the candidates cannot actually file to run for the council until Monday, Feb. 14. The deadline to file is March 14. The drawing for placement on the ballot will be March 18, and March 21 is the last day that candidates can withdraw from the races.

April 1 is the deadline to register to vote in the May elections. Early voting runs from May 2-10.

Four candidates for District 14 — considered the district with the largest LGBT population — have registered information on their campaign treasurers with the city secretary's office so far: James Nowlin, Jim Rogers, Erin C. Lasseter and Franko.

District 14 incumbent Angela Hunt has said publicly she is considering a run for mayor to replace first-term incumbent Mayor Tom Leppert, who has said he will not run for re-election. However Hunt has not yet registered a campaign treasurer with the city secretary's office for either a District 14 re-election bid — incumbents running for re-election are not required to file a new campaign treasurer form — or as a mayoral candidate.

Nowlin, who is openly gay and was the first to register a campaign treasurer, said he has been discussing the possibility of running for the District 14 seat with Hunt for more than a year, and he is confident she will run for mayor.

Rogers, however, said that if Hunt decides instead to run for re-election to the council, he would drop out of the race.

Two other incumbents in districts with significant LGBT populations — Delia Jasso in District 1 and Pauline Medrano in District 2 — so far face no declared opposition in their re-election bids.

But in District 3, neighborhood activist Scott Griggs has appointed a treasurer and is running to replace incumbent Dave Neumann. The District 3 seat was long held by Ed Oakley, the openly gay man who made national headlines with his 2007 campaign for Dallas mayor against Leppert, a race Leppert won in runoff balloting.

Other candidates who have registered campaign treasurers with the city secretary are Monica R. Alonzo and John M. Lozano, running for the District 6 seat held by incumbent Steve Salazar; Edward D. Turner, running for the District 7 seat held by incumbent Carolyn R. Davis, and Richard P. Sheriden, running for the District

■ **FRANKO**, Next Page



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ANNIVERSARY



BROWN-MONREAL | Kevin Brown and Leo Monreal will celebrate their 20th anniversary Monday, Feb. 7. The two met while students at the University of Texas at Arlington when both pledged the same fraternity and were also both members of a dance performance company. It was an immediate case of "opposites attract" that has continued to this day. Brown's interests range from "Sex and the City" to jazzercise while Monreal's interests range from bad "B" action and horror films to boxing. They share a love for animals and especially dogs and cats, as well as for movies, game nights, traveling and live theater. They also love spoiling their eight nieces and nephews and their five "fur children" — four dogs and one cat. Brown is an interior designer and Monreal is a police officer. (Photo by Tim Scheer)

■ FRANKO, From Page 8

13 seat held by incumbent Ann Margolin.

Other council incumbents facing no declared opposition yet are Dwaine R. Caraway in District 4, Vonciel Jones Hill in District 5, Tennell Atkins in District 8, Sheffie Kadane in District 9, Jerry R. Allen in District 10 and Linda Koop in District 11.

District 12 incumbent Ron Natinsky is a declared candidate for mayor.

Mayoral election overview

Natinsky is one of three candidates who have registered campaign treasurers with the city secretary, and is considered — at least so far — the frontrunner for the seat. Oakley, who lost the

mayor's race in Leppert four years ago, has already endorsed Natinsky's mayoral bid, as have several other well-known leaders in the LGBT community.

Jim Moore, an attorney with offices in Oak Lawn, was the first mayoral candidate to register a campaign treasurer. He recently joined Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and he, too, said he counts LGBT leaders as friends and supporters.

The third declared candidate to replace Leppert is former Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle who, during his years leading the Dallas Police Department, earned a reputation for treating the LGBT community fairly, and who was the first Dallas Police chief to participate each year in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. ■

LONE STAR

From Page 4

the past. He said that under the leadership of Cece Cox, he saw vitality at the Resource Center that he hadn't seen since John Thomas led the organization.

For his first year as event manager, Calumn said he plans to concentrate on the riders. He would like to give riders the tools they need to raise money and to enlist more people to participate in the ride.

"There's lots of room for growth," he said.

To accomplish that goal, he has already spoken to more than a dozen riders.

Last year, much of the fundraising was done using tools associated with new media.

"Having worked in so many different kinds of media," Calumn said, "I bring that skill set to the table."

Not only has Calumn been a vocal advocate for people with HIV for more than 20 years, he has lived with the disease himself for the past 17 years. It is that background and personal experience that LSR board members believe make him especially well-suited for the job.

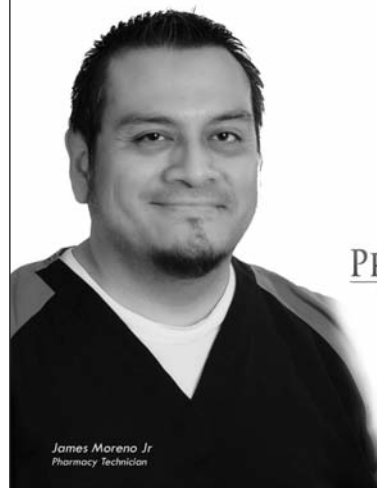
"We're sure Jerry will bring a renewed passion and focus to fighting the stigma HIV-positive men and women face in all communities," Ride Co-Chair John Tripp said.

Tripp said that Positive Peddlers, a contingent of HIV-positive riders, had grown over the past two years and that he expects the group to have an even stronger presence under Calumn's leadership.

Tripp complimented Minehart and everyone who worked on the 2010 ride. He said that non-profit agencies considered it a successful year if their fundraising broke even with the year before. Lone Star Ride had a 50 percent increase in the amount distributed last year. ■

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DADT could stay in effect through May, despite repeal

Active duty servicemember, vets say few among the rank and file care whether someone is gay, but repeal will lift the burden of secrecy

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Even though the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy was repealed in December, the ban remains in place until military leaders are able to decide how best to implement repeal and what benefits will be offered to spouses of gay and lesbian military personnel.

Defense Undersecretary Clifford Stanley and Gen. James Cartwright held a press conference Friday, Jan. 28 at the Pentagon to give the first report on progress toward implementation, offering only a hint of an actual schedule. They said then that training is set to begin in February and should take three months.

Under those conditions, DADT will remain in effect at least until May, and gay and lesbian servicemembers can still be discharged under the policy.

In January, the U.S. Government Accountability Office issued the report *Military Personnel: Personnel and Cost Data Associated with Implementing DOD's Homosexual Conduct Policy* evaluating the cost DADT has had on the military.

Over the past five years 3,664 people have been discharged under DADT at an average cost of \$52,800 per dismissal.

Jeffrey S., an airman first class based at Beale Air Force Base in northern California, said that from his experience, recent discharges under DADT involved people the armed forces were trying to get rid of for other reasons as well.

(Because DADT is still in effect and, according to Stanley, new cases continue to be processed under the law, the airman's name and the names



of over gay servicemembers interviewed for this article have been disguised to the extent requested.)

Jeffrey said that since graduating from basic training, he has lived fairly openly in the Air Force. The GAO report shows, however, that almost three-quarters of all DADT discharges were from the Army and Navy.

Jeffrey also said that he was trained for specific technical duties and would be hard to replace. But that hasn't stopped discharges from other branches where servicemembers were pursued despite their language specialties and other skills. The report indicates that of the total number of people dismissed under DADT over the past five years, 39 percent had critical occupations.

The statistics do indicate that many who were separated from the service had additional issues.

Only 57 percent of those released during that period received an honorable discharge. The other 1,580 servicemembers were given a general discharge or worse, indicating additional situations, whether real or trumped up.

Sean T. was recently honorably discharged from the Army after serving five years, including two tours of duty in Iraq. He had been based at Fort Hood in Texas during part of his enlistment. But after not finding a civilian job, Sean is trying to re-enlist and is currently in the Army Reserves.

He said his sexual orientation is more of an issue in the Reserves than in his Army unit. He knew a number of other gay soldiers while serving and no one he knew personally was discharged under DADT.

"There were usually other reasons," he said of those he had heard were discharged under

DADT. "Patterns of misconduct."

In his Jan. 25 State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama said, "Starting this year, no American will be forbidden from serving the country they love because of who they love."

At the press conference Cartwright said that they learned from the experience of other military organizations that began allowing gays and lesbians to serve, faster integration is better.

Jeffrey said he has seen little opposition among enlisted personnel. But, he said, one person in his unit did not re-enlist because of the DADT repeal. Others, though, simply didn't care, Jeffrey said.

Sean said that he felt the least amount of pressure from DADT while in Iraq.

"It wasn't an issue because you deploy with people you've known for a long time," he said. "It's more like family."

Before the repeal is implemented, Cartwright said, most troops will have to complete a training session.

Jeffrey said his understanding was that the training would be a sort of sensitivity class. While attitudes can't be changed during a short session, Jeffrey said he expects the sessions to enumerate forms of inappropriate speech.

Service members are written up for using racial epithets, for example, and Jeffrey said he assumes the same would happen after the repeal is in effect.

But while attitudes might not change, respect between servicemembers can be expected and required.

The vote on the repeal was delayed more than six months in the Senate while the military studied a variety of related issues, including spousal benefits. Studies delayed implementation again after the repeal was signed.

But Stanley announced that no partner benefits would be offered, citing the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex couples.

Sean, who has a partner, wants to re-enlist

■ REPEAL, Next Page

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■ **REPEAL**, From Previous Page

despite the lack of benefits and recognition of his partner.

"They'll come eventually," he said.

Among military personnel, the most vocal opposition to repeal of DADT was among the chaplain corps. Cartwright said no changes in rules would apply to chaplains.

Jeffrey said that he believed most military chaplains would be professional enough to refer someone that they couldn't help to someone else. He said it was unthinkable, however, for a chaplain to turn someone away because of that person's race or religion, and he believes a chaplain who couldn't be professional with gay and lesbian servicemembers might not belong in the military.

"They should be required to serve everybody," Jeffrey said.

In an odd twist of the regulations, the decision to not change any rules for the chaplains might require them to do just that.

As bad as DADT has been for some, several retired military personnel said the previous policy was worse.

"I was paranoid about a dishonorable discharge," said Jim from Phoenix, a gay veteran who was stationed at Fort Bragg. He was honorably discharged in Jan. 1990, three years before DADT was adopted.

MILITARY CONNECTIONS

John McKinnon said he launched OutMilitary.com on Dec. 28 — right after the Senate voted to repeal "don't ask, don't tell."

OutMilitary.com is a social networking site for active military and their supporters including gay and lesbian military retirees. McKinnon calls the site a Facebook clone as far as usability.

After Reuters and ABC News picked up a story about the site, OutMilitary began adding several hundred new members a day. Today, about 2,000 members belong to the network.

McKinnon said they are setting up groups for every military base and creating events. Members have told him the site is "quite liberating." Many active duty personnel have joined under



John McKinnon

their own names and listed their current location. Others have disguised their names and locations because "don't ask, don't tell" is still in effect and new service members may still be processed under the law.

Membership cuts across all branches and ranks.

— David Taffet

While serving, he said he had one member of his unit that was quite flamboyant.

"Everybody liked the guy," he said. "It's more of a problem with politicians and with the higher ups."

But those who weren't liked were referred for dishonorable discharge for lying on their service applications.

Bill Royal, another veteran, said, "Most people on active duty don't care."

He said he believes the military brass disliked

the change because it was one less way they could control those under them.

But even Jeffrey, who said he has had little problem with people around him knowing his sexual orientation, said the repeal would be a big relief.

"The threat of losing my job will be gone," he said. "If somebody asks, I can say I'm gay. I can be myself. I don't have to worry about keeping things secret. Integrity is a core value and I don't like having to lie." ■

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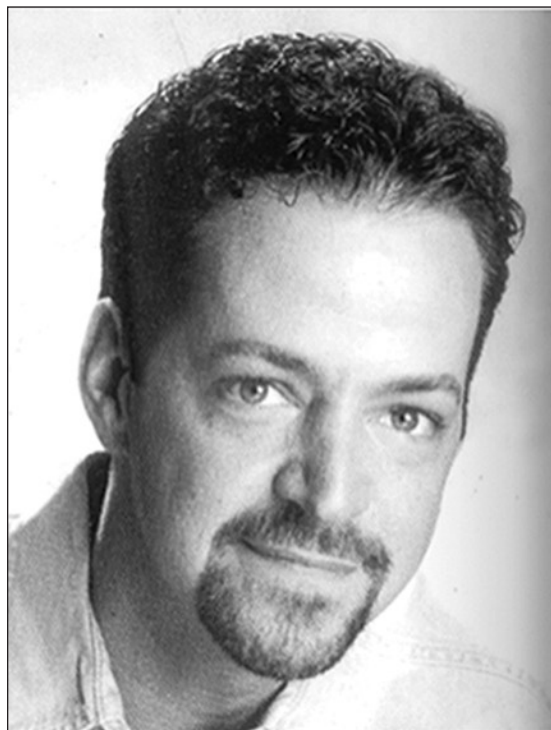
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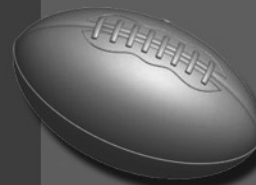
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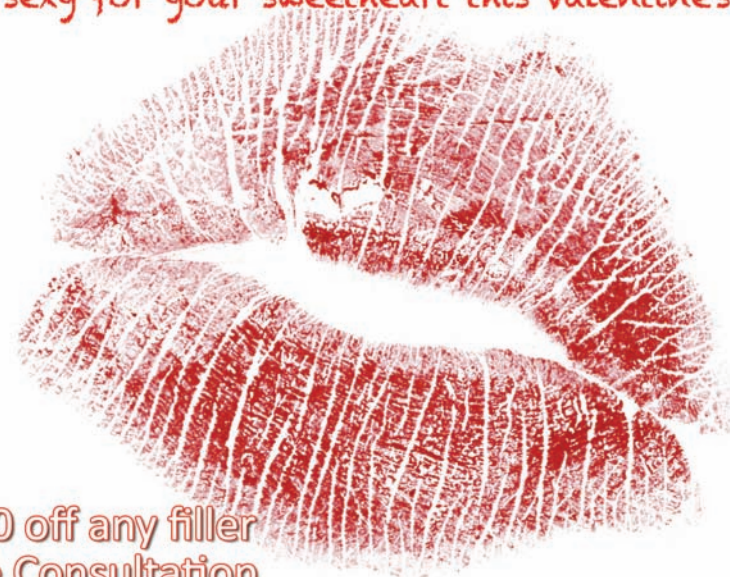
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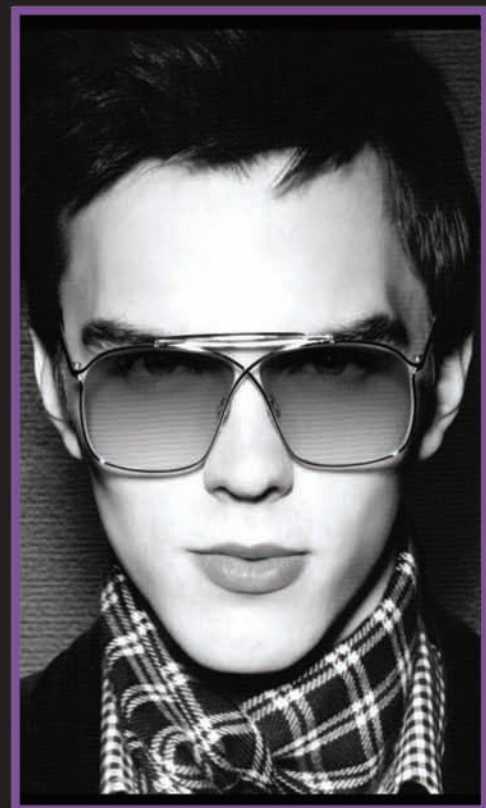
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Transgender ban remains in place in U.S. military

Seeing the ban on open lesbians and gays in the military lifted is a bittersweet victory for transgenders, who still can't serve openly

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

As lesbian and gay servicemembers and military veterans are celebrating the repeal of the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy — despite delays in implementing the repeal — transgender servicemembers and veterans once again find themselves left behind in the battle for equality.

Because repealing DADT did not end the ban on service by trans people.

"The military still puts trans people in the same medical category as pedophilia. They consider it [transgenderism] to be a medical disorder," said Monica Helms, president and co-founder of Transgender American Veterans Association.

"Trans people still have to be deep in the closet. They can't talk to anyone about their lives, or they risk being discharged and getting something other than an honorable discharge," Helms added. "And the kind of discharge you get can make a huge difference in what kind of benefits you can get."

Helms said that there is one way in which DADT repeal will affect trans servicemembers: Now the military will have to find a different reason for discharging trans people.

"A lot of times, trans people were discharged under DADT because the military isn't smart enough to know the difference between gender identity/gender expression and sexual orientation. They think if a man wears a dress, he must be gay."

Other trans servicemembers were discharged for "medical reasons," and others were discharged as "undesirables," Helms said. "I guess



WILL IT HAPPEN? | Trans veteran Maeve O'Connor of Dallas, left, thinks that lifting the ban on open military service by transgender people will be tricky, but it is doable. But Mickie Garrison, right, another local trans veteran, says she doesn't believe it will happen "for another 50 to 100 years."



they will go back to doing those things when they can't use DADT anymore."

Even those people who transition after leaving the military still face discrimination from the Veterans Administration, Helms said.

Helms, who served as a submariner in the Navy for eight years in the 1970s, said conservative estimates put the number of transgender veterans at roughly 300,000 people.

"We figure trans people are about 1 percent of the population. That's counting everyone under the transgender umbrella, and it's a rough esti-

mate," Helms said. "And the percentage of trans people in the military population is about the same."

So, with about 26 million veterans and another 1.5 million active-duty servicemembers, more or less, do the math and you come up with about 280,000 transgender veterans. Helms said TAVA rounds that up to about 300,000, based on statistics from the VA and personal experience.

"If we are at an event for trans people, when we ask the veterans to stand up, there are a whole lot of people that stand up, so we figure that

rounding up the numbers is accurate," she said.

When a trans veteran tries to access the benefits they earned with their service, particularly medical benefits, the results are mixed, Helms said.

"Some places, they are treated fairly well; some places they are treated very badly," she said. "The benefits don't cover any of the [transitional] surgeries at all. But we have heard stories of trans vets being turned down for even the most basic medical services that they are entitled to."

"The doctors misgender them on purpose, they

■ **TRANS BAN**, Page 14



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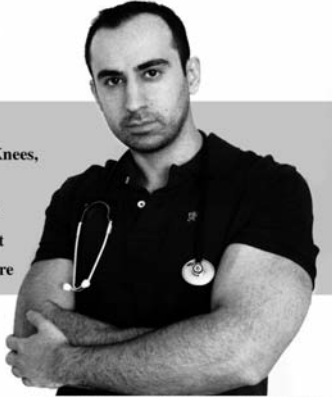
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TRANS BAN

From Page 13

refuse to change names in the database, they call them names," Helms continued. "Doctors, nurses, other patients — we have heard stories about trans veterans being mistreated by all of them."

Helms said she has never encountered such problems because she has never had to use any of the VA's medical services.

"I used the education benefits, and I got a VA loan to buy my house. But I always had decent jobs and had private insurance through my employers, so I've never had to use the medical benefits. So my trans status was never an issue," she said.

Maeve O'Connor, a trans veteran from Dallas, spent 4 ½ years on active duty in the Army, and another 4 ½ years in the Army Reserves. Like Helms, O'Connor didn't begin to transition until after she had left the military, and like Helms, she has never had to access VA medical benefits.

But O'Connor recently reached the point of having her name and gender markers officially changed on legal documents, like her birth certificate, and she said she is unsure what will happen when she contacts the VA to have her name and gender markers corrected on her military records.

"Now that it's official, I do need to go in and get those records changed. I don't know what will happen when I do. I've not had any experience with the VA as a transgender person, so I don't know how difficult it will be to deal with them," O'Connor said.

For Micki Garrison, another local transgender veteran, the specter of wrangling with a hostile VA bureaucracy made it not worth the effort of even trying to access VA benefits.

Garrison said she had graduated high school and finished a semester of college when the expense of a college education became too big a burden. So she joined the Army and finished a three-year enlistment so she could get the educational benefits offered to veterans.

But like Helms and O'Connor, that military service happened long before she began her transition, although she — also like Helms and O'Connor — was already beginning to struggle with her gender identity when she enlisted.

"I just ran out of patience with the bureaucracy. I just can't deal with it anymore. I have other bat-

ties to fight, so I will leave that battle for other people to fight," Garrison said. "If it was just, 'Yeah, you are trans, but you are also a veteran, so we will help you out,' that would be one thing. But all that frustration with the bureaucracy makes it just not worth it to bother."

Besides, Garrison said, "many of the benefits they offer didn't turn out to be that big of a benefit anyway."

Ending the trans ban

Garrison said that while she and other transgender veterans she knows are happy on behalf of lesbian and gay veterans and servicemembers to see DADT repealed, for transgenders, it was a bittersweet victory at best.

"We are really happy for the gay and lesbian servicemembers, sure. But at the same time, it's like getting up on Christmas morning and seeing presents under the tree for everybody but you," Garrison said. "I don't want to sound like sour grapes. But while other people now get the chance to live their lives openly and with dignity and respect, trans people are left empty-handed again."

But as much as she would like to see the ban on transgenders in the military ended, Garrison isn't at all optimistic about that actually happening.

"I'd say we are at least 50 to 100 years away from that," she said. "Opponents would be so very adamantly against it, I don't think there's even a snowball's chance in hell that it's even a battle worth fighting right now."

"That's very, very sad. But it's hard for me to come to a place where I could even believe that kind of change is possible. I mean, we are still trying to get procedures in place where we can get a driver's license or fly on a plane without hassles."

Garrison noted that most people enlisting in the military are young — just out of high school, or college-aged. Trans people at that age are many times just beginning to fight their own internal battles over their gender identity, she said.

"How could I have been openly trans at that point in my life? I wasn't able to deal with it [my gender identity], how can I expect the military to deal with it?" Garrison said.

She pointed out that there are different stages to transitioning, and said those stages would cause ongoing problems in the strict military environment. Things like housing and combat status

MAKE IT WORK | Monica Helms, president and co-founder of Transgender American Veterans Association, says lifting the ban on open military service by transgender people shouldn't be that difficult. After all, eight of the U.S.'s allies have already done it, including Canada. (Photo courtesy TAVA)



could prove uncomfortable, at least, for both the trans servicemember and their fellow soldiers.

"We bring a lot of hard questions to the table, especially during that time of transition — and that can be a long time," Garrison said. "It's very sad, I think. As much as I wish there would be inclusion, the complexity level of transitioning is such a personal thing. A lot of people have to pull out of mainstream life to get that worked out and then re-integrate. I think until we have an 'in-between' state in our culture, until it's not just either-genders, I don't think there will be good answers to the military situation."

O'Connor acknowledged that the situation is "tricky." But, she added, "It's not un-overcomable."

She said, "I think if you can do the job and live up to the goals and ideas of the military, then it shouldn't be an issue. But it is definitely a complicated situation. There's a lot involved. When you are a transsexual, you are transitioning in some way, and if you are transitioning, say, from male to female going into the military, then the military has to be willing to treat you like any other woman in the military."

But, O'Connor added, transgender people joining the military would have to be willing to make some concessions, too.

"Yes, everyone should be able to serve. But the military is all about discipline, and everything is

very cut and dried. And transgender people joining the military have to be willing to accept that discipline, just as a matter of security," O'Connor said. "When you join the military, you join knowing that you are giving up some of your constitutional freedoms to a certain extent. The Code of Military Justice is stricter than civilian law, and the reason for that is safety. You have to follow that chain of command."

But for Helms, the issue simply isn't that complicated at all.

"We are not inventing the wheel here," Helms said. "Eight of our ally countries already allow trans people to serve openly to different degrees, including our ally to the north, Canada, which has let trans people serve openly since 1998."

"I know a trans woman in Canada who has served for 28 years. She transitioned in the military, and they paid for everything. It's just not a big deal there," Helms continued. "The U.K., Israel, Australia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Spain — there are different levels of service and different policies dealing with it in different places, but come on. They all let trans people serve openly in the military."

"But our country is backward," Helms said. "In our country, they think everything is a problem. It shouldn't be that big of a deal. Just let the people who want to serve, serve openly and with integrity. That's all it takes." ■

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Marriage equality battles ramping up across U.S.

N.H. Republicans working to repeal marriage law; other states offer mixed bag in legislative actions

DANA RUDOLPH | Keen News Service
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Two New Hampshire legislators have recently introduced bills to repeal that state's marriage equality law, even though Republican leaders said Jan. 13 that such a repeal is not a party priority in 2011.

And several other states saw legislative moves toward or away from equality in recent weeks.

New Hampshire: State Rep. David Bates, R-Windham, and 11 cosponsors filed a bill that would repeal marriage equality and prevent New Hampshire from recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples contracted outside the state. New Hampshire same-sex couples that married in the state before the bill became effective would continue to be recognized as married. Same-sex couples that married in another state would no longer be recognized.

State Rep. Leo Pepino, R-Manchester, and five cosponsors filed a separate bill that would repeal marriage equality and prohibit civil unions or any other form of legal recognition for same-sex couples. The Associated Press reported Jan. 25, however, that Pepino will ask the committee hearing the bill "to retain it until next year when they have more time."

Democratic Gov. John Lynch, who signed the original marriage equality bill into law, has said he would veto a repeal bill. But Republicans hold a veto-proof majority in both houses.

Mo Baxley, executive director of New Hampshire Freedom to Marry, said in an interview that she thinks marriage equality supporters can sustain the governor's veto by finding supporters among older, more libertarian-leaning Republicans.

"The public is solidly on our side," Baxley asserted, but he cautioned, "We can't just presume that we've got the votes . . . We've got to be full throttle out there."

She said state Republicans also plan to introduce a bill next year for a ballot measure that would amend the state constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage. With a spotlight on New

Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary, she said, a ballot fight in 2012 could help motivate a stronger conservative turnout.

Maryland: Marriage equality bills were introduced into both the Senate and House in the past week. Democrats have a majority in both chambers. Gov. Martin O'Malley, also a Democrat, has said he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

Cosponsor Sen. Jamie Raskin, D-Montgomery, said in a press briefing Jan. 21 that he expects a fight on the Senate floor and will need 29 votes out of 47 to break a filibuster. An up-or-down vote on the bill, after the filibuster is broken, will require 24 votes. Democrats have a 35 to 12 majority in the Senate. A public hearing on the Senate bill is scheduled for Feb. 8.

Hawaii: The full Senate on Jan. 28 passed a bill to legalize civil unions for same- and opposite-sex couples. It now heads to the House, where it is expected to pass. Gov. Neil Abercrombie, a Democrat, has said he will sign it.

Illinois: Gov. Pat Quinn, a Democrat, signed a civil union bill Jan. 31 giving same- and opposite-sex couples many of the same rights as married ones.

Iowa: The House Judiciary Committee passed

a bill Jan. 24 that would allow voters to decide on a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex couples from marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships.

In the Senate, however, Sen. Kent Sorenson, R-Indianola, attempted to bypass Senate rules and bring to the floor a vote on the Senate version of the bill. Democrats, who hold a 26-24 majority, voted down the attempt.

New Mexico: Three bills were introduced in the House and one in the Senate that would variously put before voters a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and ban New Mexico from recognizing such marriages enacted outside the state.

Wyoming: The House passed a measure Jan. 25 to prevent the state from recognizing same-sex marriages contracted elsewhere. The next day, the state Senate passed a bill that would allow voters to decide whether to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. A civil union bill introduced by openly gay State Rep. Cathy Connolly, D-Laramie, failed by one vote to make it out of committee Jan. 28.

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■ Superbowl

Gridiron

3 out former players talk about living in the closet and when a gay pro still playing in the league will come out

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
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With a combined 106 players on the rosters of the Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers, it's all but certain that a few participants in Super Bowl XLV will be gay or bisexual.

Needless to say, though, when the two teams take the field at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington on Sunday, Feb. 6, we won't know who those players are.

In the 91-year history of the National Football

League, not a single active player has come out.

And only three former players have come out after retiring from the NFL — Dave Kopay in 1975, Roy Simmons in 1992, and Esera Tuaolo in 2002.

"What I find kind of disappointing is that sports seems to be the last bastion," said Howard Bragman, the famous gay publicist who specializes in helping athletes and celebrities come out. "We even have seemingly won the military."

"I think the fans' attitudes are changing," said Bragman, whose clients have included Tuaolo and John Amaechi, the former professional basketball player who came out in 2007. "I think it's all going to change, but we're not there. We've scratched the surface of progress. We have an awful long way to go."



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CEDAR SPRINGS

From Page 1

will remain open until 3 a.m., with Subway offering its Fabulous Foot-long as a Super Bowl special. Zini's plans to operate until at least 4 a.m. and Café Brazil is open 24 hours.

The Bud Light Main Stage will be set up in the middle of Cedar Springs, with Chaz Marie as the featured entertainer. Guest DJs will provide music on the street throughout the evening. Compete Magazine's Gay Athlete of the Year Michael Holtz will be the MC.

Woody's Sports and Video Bar will hold a meet-and-greet with Holtz on Friday, Feb. 4 at 9 p.m. and he will attend a brunch at Dish on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Beer booths will be set up on the street, staffed by some of the local gay sports groups raising money for their teams.

Other Super Bowl week events haven't fared as well.

A gay-themed concert originally planned for Thursday night was cancelled, even before bad weather hit, because of poor ticket sales. The tent in the Cotton Bowl that was to house that and other concert events collapsed under the weight of the ice and snow, and the concerts were moved to the Fair Park Coliseum.

Dallas had hoped to show off many of its venues to visitors through the week but the ice that arrived early on Tuesday morning delayed the arrival of many visitors when both airports closed. The storm also caused the closing of the downtown museums for two days, as well as a number of other facilities around the area. ■

Palm Springs vs. Las Vegas

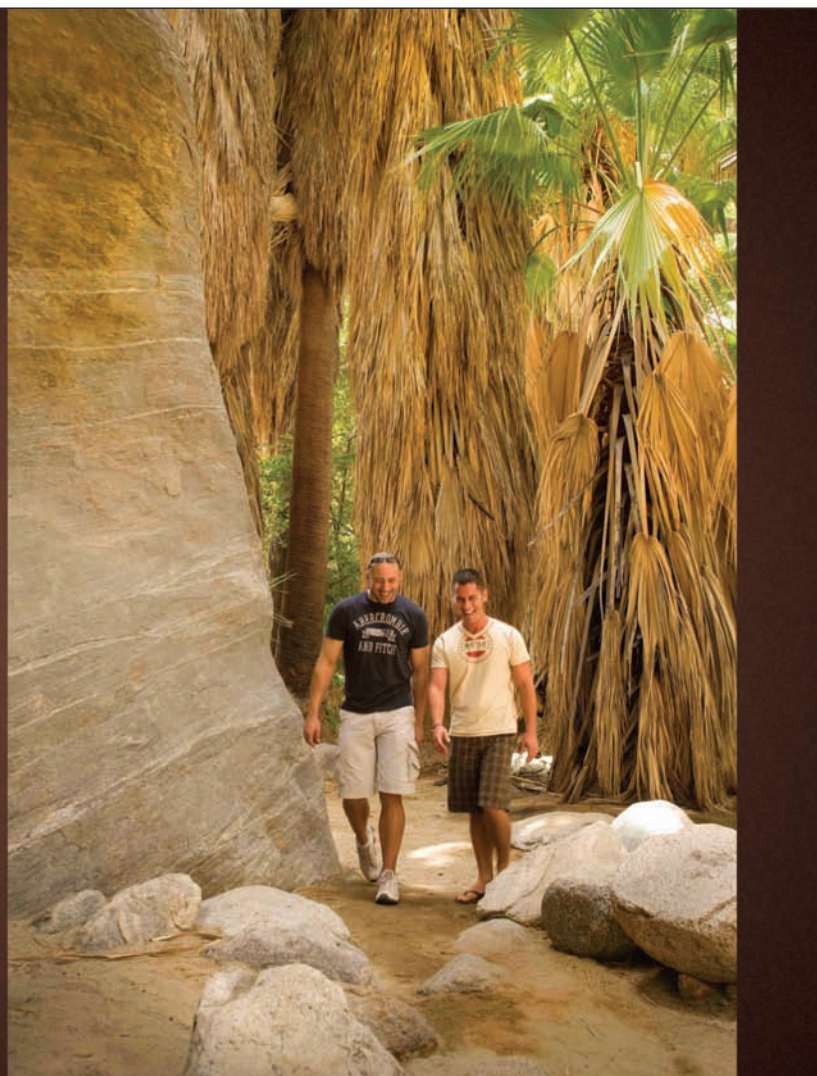
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Secrets

Bragman said he believes one reason why no NFL player has come out is that it would put the person in physical danger on the field.

"I pity the guy who's the first NFL player to come out," Bragman said. "I think there are some vindictive people in the league."

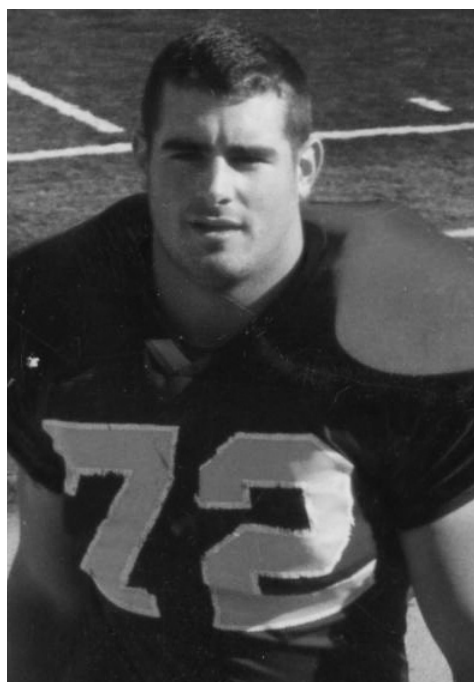
Although an out player's teammates might rally around him, especially if he's popular and has been around a while, he would run the risk of cheap shots from opposing teams, Bragman said.

"In the NFL you could shoot somebody and you're probably not going to be hated as much as if you came out," he said. "I think it's really one of the last places that we have to fight homophobia and we have to fight a lot of myths and a lot of stereotypes, when these Neanderthals say things like, 'Oh, I wouldn't want to shower with one.' It's like, have we ever heard a story of a gay man attacking a straight man in the shower? I don't think so. It's just crazy."

Still, Bragman and others say they see signs of progress.

Anti-gay comments from NFL players, once seemingly condoned, now draw discipline from NFL teams, and sometimes condemnation from others in the league.

A few straight NFL players, such as linebacker



COLLEGE MAN | Brian Sims came out while he was a team captain for the Division II football team at Bloomberg (Pa.) University in 2000.

SUPER BOWL PICKS

Esera Tuaolo:

Steelers, 24-17

Key to game: "I think the defense is going to make the difference."

Brian Sims:

Steelers, 14-10:

Key to game: "[Steelers safety] Troy Palamalu. He's one of my favorite players of all time. He's not just a badass player; he's also a good guy."

Dave Kopay:

Packers, 28-14

"[Packers QB Aaron] Rodgers will throw, throw and throw, and that will make the running game even more effective."

Scott Fujita of the Cleveland Browns (formerly of the New Orleans Saints), have spoken out publicly in support of LGBT equality.

But even so, Bragman said he believes the first NFL player to come out will do so involuntarily.

"I don't think the first person who comes out in the NFL is going to come out pretty," Bragman said. "I think the first person who comes out in the NFL is going to be outed, because we live in such a transparent world, and there's going to be a picture that comes out or something like that that happens, as opposed to someone goes, 'Hey, I'm gay.'"

Bragman noted there are no out players in pro basketball, hockey or baseball, either, but he said he expects that to change soon.

"Within five years we'll have two or three out men's players in one of the major sports," he predicted.

Others, meanwhile, believe the first openly gay NFL player will be someone who came out in high school or college.

Brian Sims, who came out while he was a team captain for the Division II football team at Bloomberg (Pa.) University in 2000, remains the only known active NCAA player to have done so.

"The first [NFL] player who comes out is going to be a Jackie Robinson," Sims said, referring to the first black major league baseball player. "I

■ GRIDIRON, Page 20

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GRIDIRON

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think they're going to be famous. I think they're going to be a millionaire. But it will probably be somebody in college that was out and is just too good to ignore, which means probably one of the skill positions.

"He'll be too good not to draft, and a team like Miami, a team like New York ... Somebody like that will pick him up proudly and say: 'Yeah, you know what? We've got a built-in fan base just for this player alone.'" Sims said. "And it will be overwhelming how supportive people in the league will be."

Sims, a defensive tackle who was universally accepted by his teammates when he came out, is now a Philadelphia-based attorney who specializes in LGBT civil rights.

Sims frequently speaks on the issue of homophobia in sports to athletes and students on college campuses.

He said he's encouraged by the fact that there are out athletes in some sports on every campus he's visited. And while none of them are football players, he says he knows gay football players at both the collegiate and pro levels.

"Some of them are living very closeted lives, very afraid of the repercussions," Sims said. "Some of them are able to live relatively out lives in big cities ..."

"There are [NFL] players I know who are out, who have partners, and they're able to be out with friends and with family. ... They don't sneak off once a month with their partner."

But Sims, who believes a gay NFL player would represent a huge milestone for LGBT equality, said he doesn't expect the players he knows to come out publicly anytime soon.

"I wish they would," he said. "I'm one of the people that if you're a closeted gay football player in this county, I'm one of the people that you shoot a message to. You would be amazed if you saw the amount of, 'Hey, do you mind if I share something with you?' kind of e-mails that I get."

Tuaolo, 42, who played with five different NFL teams in nine years, said he knows firsthand why gay players in the NFL don't come out.

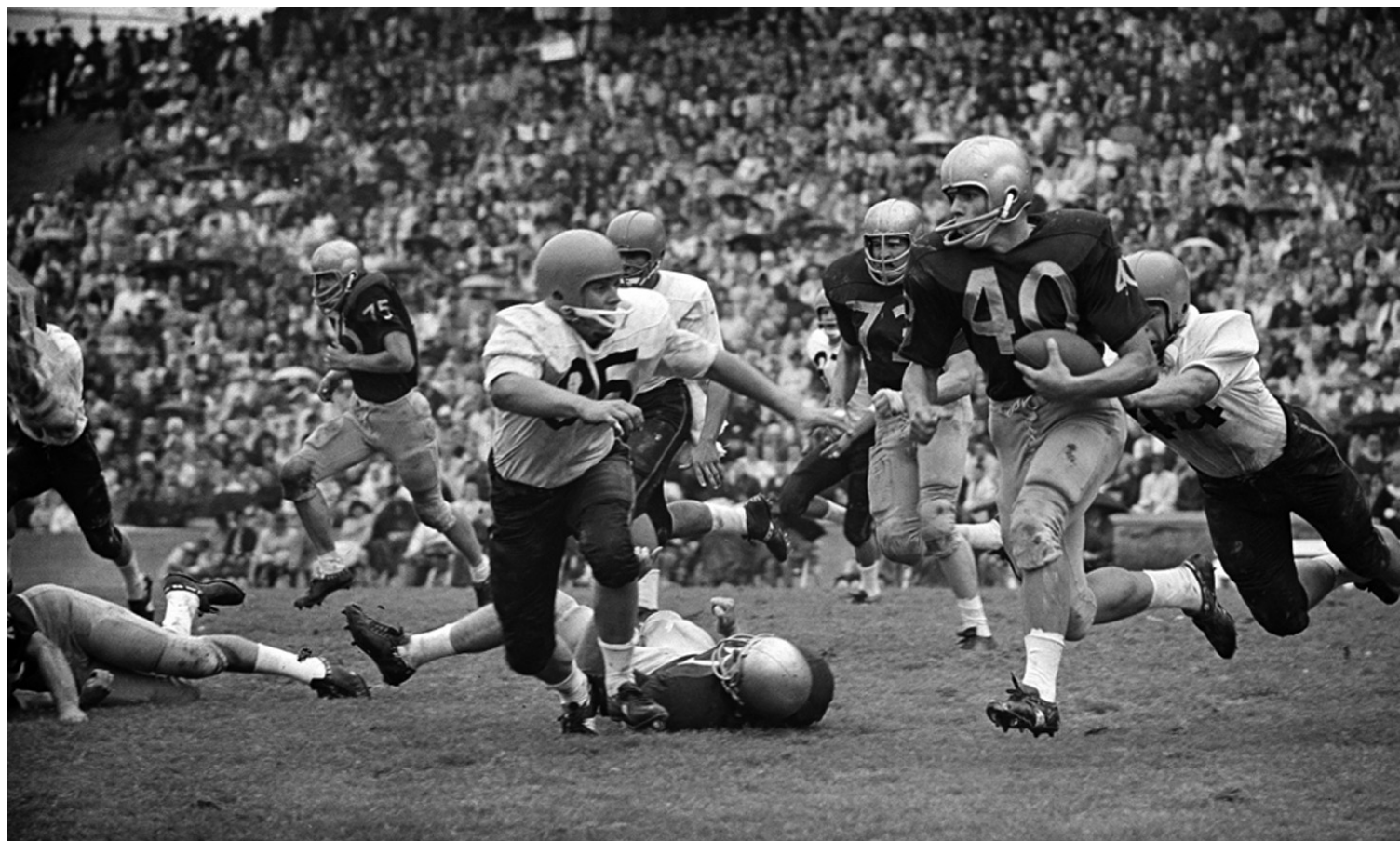
It's "the fear of working your ass off all your life to get where you're at, and then just to know you could lose it all," said Tuaolo, a defensive lineman who played in the Super Bowl for the Atlanta Falcons in 1999.

"I was afraid to type in the word 'gay' in college in a computer, because I thought it would come back to me," Tuaolo said. "It's the fear that you live in, it's the anxiety that you live in, it's the hurt that you live in when you're in the closet. I didn't know of all these organizations that are so supportive in the gay community. You kind of live on this island."

"When I was in the closet, all I saw was the people who didn't support us," Tuaolo added. "All I heard was the people who didn't support us."

Tuaolo, who now lives in Minneapolis, said he's been amazed by the support he's received since coming out.

He also said he believes coming out in the NFL would be much easier now than just 10 short years ago.



OUT AFTER THE FACT | Dave Kopay, above, played in the NFL from 1964-72, came out in 1975 and wrote a best-selling biography in 1977. Esera Tuaolo, below, played in the Super Bowl for the Atlanta Falcons in 1999, and came out in 2002 after retiring.

"The reason being, everybody knows a gay person," said Tuaolo, a frequent speaker at both colleges and Fortune 500 companies. "Ninety-nine percent of people raise their hands when I ask, 'Do you know a gay person?'"

"If a gay athlete comes out while he's still playing now, I think a lot of his teammates will have to answer to their families, because all of them know a gay person," he said.

Tuaolo, who hid his partner from teammates while in the NFL, is the father of adopted twins — a boy and a girl — who are now 10.

"It's great to take my son to the [Minnesota Vikings] game and everybody knows," he said. "It's an amazing feeling to get that support from people."

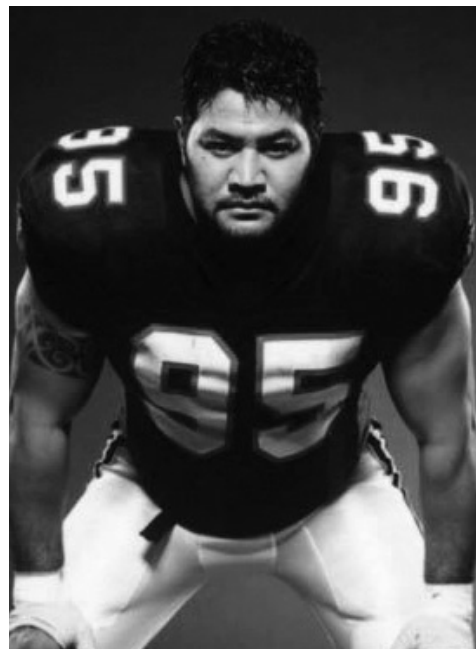
But in a sign that homophobia is still pervasive in sports, Tuaolo acknowledged that he's dating a semi-pro baseball player who isn't out to his team.

"We're out to our friends and our family, but not out to his teammates," he said. "I know how it is and stuff. When he's comfortable and he's ready to tell his teammates, perfect."

Kopay, 68, now retired from a post-NFL career in sales, said he's convinced there are gay players on every NFL team.

But Kopay, who played in the NFL from 1964-72, came out in 1975 and wrote a best-selling biography in 1977, isn't overly disappointed that no active NFL player has come out in the 36 years since he did so.

"How many hundreds of years did it take the black folks to get the civil rights law passed?" Kopay said. "Look at the progress we've made."



A one-time Army Reservist, Kopay said he "cried like a baby" when "don't ask don't tell" was repealed late last year.

Also last year, Kopay attended the Super Bowl as a guest of Indianapolis Colts assistant coach Howard Mudd, his former teammate.

Kopay said he got a warm welcome from players and coaches during the trip, but it was also bittersweet knowing that anti-gay bias likely prevented him from following the same path as Mudd.

"Certainly I would have loved to have been a

coach," Kopay said. "It was painful for me, because it reminded me of my lack of doing what I always really wanted to do, but never got a chance to do."

Kopay now lives in Seattle near his alma mater, the University of Washington, where he's been named one of the 100 most influential graduates in the school's first 100 years — largely because of his impact on gay rights (although he was also an All-American running back).

Kopay doesn't travel or speak publicly as often as he used to, and he recalled one occasion last fall when he was invited to Arizona State University. Kopay said the ongoing gay youth suicide crisis weighed so heavily on his mind that he had to cancel the trip.

"It was so painful to think about, how there's still been so little progress," Kopay said. "I just got feeling so blue and angry that I couldn't get my words out when I started reading and practicing delivering my speech. It brought me back to a place — it brought the anger in me."

For Kopay, it's difficult to ignore the fact that if LGBT youth had a professional athlete to look up to, they'd be less likely to give up hope. But he also said he's comforted by the thousands of e-mails he's received from people he's inspired in other professions.

"It's almost like I gave them permission to be who they were," Kopay said. "It's daunting to think about that, but it happened, and I'm really pleased that it happened. It's incredible. That's what gives me a sense of purpose in life, and a sense of happiness." ■



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A cautionary tale for LGBT travelers

Murder of former Dallas resident in Mexican state of Jalisco should remind us never to get too comfortable, anywhere we live

No one knows what thoughts flashed through American expatriate Allan Turnipseed's mind during the last moments of his life in his Mexican retirement home on Lake Chapala last month.

But they surely must have been thoughts tinged with shock and disbelief.

It was a turn of events that likely came about because the former Dallas resident became too comfortable in a foreign country plagued by violence. He may have let down his guard and placed trust in young strangers whose minds harbored deadly thoughts.

Turnipseed's 40-year partner, Bob Tennison, reportedly discovered the 62-year-old lying face down in a hallway of their home. The victim's assailants tied his hand behind his back and shot him in the head, according to published Mexican reports.

Two homeless, teenage Hispanic brothers, who were known associates of a street gang, confessed they had forced their way into the home to rob it. They killed Turnipseed after he threatened to turn them into police, according to the reports. They allegedly took the equivalent of about \$1,000 and a Toyota pickup from the scene before going shopping to purchase tennis shoes and clothing, as well as marijuana and food.

The shocking crime cut short the life of a respected member of Dallas' LGBT community who had owned a local business and participated in the Stonewall Business and Professional Association. The prominent graphic designer — who was born in Canada, grew up in Dallas and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington — also left behind several grieving relatives and many close friends.

It appears that Turnipseed had become as so-

cially and charitably active during his seven-year residence in his Mexican community as he had been in Dallas. That probably led to a false sense of security that many tourists and expatriate residents tend to develop in Mexico.

I know that because of my frequent trips over the past two decades to Puerto Vallarta, which is 204 miles west of Guadalajara and Lake Chapala in the same state of Jalisco.

About four years ago, I was robbed on the street in Puerto Vallarta. I had become so comfortable visiting the city that I walked back to my hotel on the beach from a downtown nightclub one night, confident that no harm could come to me.

As I walked toward my hotel, two friendly young Mexican men joined me on the sidewalk. They walked beside me, asking me all of the questions to which I had become accustomed from the tribe of young hustlers that prowl the beach by day and the streets by night.

Suddenly, one of them was grabbing my wallet out of my pants pocket and the other one was sprinting down the street like a football player. He caught the pass of my wallet through the air, and both of them disappeared into the night.

I was lucky. The robbery consisted mostly of subterfuge. But it could just have easily gone very badly in different circumstances with the use of a knife or gun.

As it happened, I only lost a couple of hundred dollars, my credit cards and my peace of mind.

Some would say I was asking for trouble by walking alone at night, and I'm sure that's true. I would never do the same thing in Dallas, which goes to show how comfortable I used to feel in Puerto Vallarta.

I imagine Turnipseed felt the same level of comfort. After all, he was in his own home, opening the door to a knock from a couple of teenagers with whom he had come into contact through a friend, who reportedly had given the youths food and shelter. The pair of brothers, who reportedly were American citizens abandoned by their parents, were a familiar sight in the community.

What Turnipseed might not have known is that many residents knew the two youths had reputations as thieves.



Allan Turnipseed

What I have come to realize is that known criminals commonly circulate in the midst of tourists on the beach and at other public places without interference in Mexico. That information usually is gleaned only from bartenders and waiters, who either take a liking to a tourist or just don't want to see a good source of tips disabled or permanently eliminated.

Mexico is an enchanting country, and most of its inhabitants are good people. But it has always been a much more dangerous destination than some people realize, and Turnipseed's murder is not the first grisly attack on American residents on Lake Chapala.

While most of the recent Mexican violence can be attributed to the drug cartels' wars with each other and the government, it likely has also created an atmosphere where human life is considered by criminals to be less valuable.

Mexico is a favorite destination for many LGBT tourists from Texas, and many people have successfully retired or maintain vacation homes there. Publicity about Turnipseed's murder is unlikely to change that.

But hopefully it will be a strong reminder to all Americans that caution is more critical than ever when undertaking travel south of the border. ■

David Webb is a former staff writer for the Dallas Voice. E-mail him at davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com.



David Webb
Special Contributor

Out in Africa

U.S. evangelicals fanned the flame of homophobia that killed David Kato in Uganda, and the casualties will continue unless we help stop it

A few months ago when I wrote about the draconian anti-homosexual laws being passed in Uganda, I had an ominous feeling that it would be the beginning of a very real nightmare for LGBT people in that African country.

Unfortunately, that is coming to pass. LGBT activist David Kato was murdered, not



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

by a sniper from a distance, but by an individual who brutally beat him to death with a hammer.

A Ugandan publication had published his photo and that of other LGBT activists on the front page; above the picture were the words "Hang Them."

Already, the authorities in Uganda are trying to cloud the issue with talk of "thieves and gangs." But to call his death anything but the hate crime it was is ludicrous.

Beating someone to death with a hammer is up close and personal and comes from a hate-filled rage.

Much of that rage has been fueled by clergy in Uganda. One man in particular — Martin Ssempe, a man with the dubious title of "reverend."

If you don't think you know him, you most

likely do. Ssempe was the speaker in the YouTube video that went viral last year. In that clip he is describing how gay men "eat the pooh-pooh."

Though to us it might have seemed comical and worthy of ridicule, in Uganda, Ssempe's words are taken seriously.

Ssempe is a well-known preacher in Uganda, and he has a lot of well-funded U.S. ties. You see, anti-gay evangelists who can't find an audience for their hate here in this country have fanned out to proselytize in countries where their message might have more traction.

Rick Warren, the author of "A Purpose Driven Life," was one of Ssempe's supporters. Though he now distances himself from the Uganda situation, funds from Warren's church helped fuel this mess. U.S. evangelicals and the ex-gay movement are big players in Ssempe's push.

Ssempe has wrapped his hate in the banner of AIDS activism. But don't be fooled. His brand of activism led him to burn cases of condoms "in Jesus' name" and to sponsor gatherings with U.S. speakers like Scott Lively, who blames homosexuals for the Nazi Holocaust.

Other U.S. interlopers include Don Schmierer,



David Kato

who is on the board of Exodus International and who spoke at a conference in Kampala in March, 2009, where he endorsed the anti-homosexual laws that caused such an international stir.

Now as David Kato is being laid to rest the controversy continues.

A pastor speaking at his funeral lashed out at homosexuality, prompting a strong reaction from Kato's friends. Scuffles broke out before the event was over.

Things turned so ugly that villagers refused to bury his body, and it was up to his friends to carry the coffin to the grave and complete the burial themselves.

And all this just adds fuel to the fires in Uganda.

It is unfortunate that those fires have been stoked by citizens of the U.S. who traveled to Uganda to inflame passions there. Worse, this crime is going to fall from the front pages as events in Egypt take center stage in news from Africa. Besides, the story is somewhat old news, and falls well outside the attention span of U.S. news audiences.

That's why it is up to the LGBT media to keep this urgent human rights story alive. ■

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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BEST in show

Partners **Linda Moore** and **Laurie Foley** love their dogs like kids — really gifted kids who are national champions

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



IT'S SHOW TIME | Breeders Linda Moore, left, and Laurie Foley, along with champion bitch Miranda, are all the proud parents of Beckham, a cocker and favorite headed into the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show later this month. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

If you think that breeders of show dogs would be akin to the high-maintenance stage parents seen on *Toddlers & Tiaras*, well, that's just not Linda Moore and Laurie Foley. It all begins with a love of animals.

Moore's first dog as a child was a Dachshund; Foley's, a cocker mix — both, coincidentally, were named Princess. They both love pets, though 22 years ago, Moore went in a more serious direction, becoming a breeder of cocker spaniels and other purebred pooches.

She achieved some success on the dog show circuit. But nothing like what's happened in the last year with Beckham, her solid black American cocker spaniel.

"There are two ways you get into the Westminster Kennel Club Show: If you are a ranked dog, you are invited; otherwise, you have to apply. Last year, Beckham was so young he hadn't qualified so we made the entry," Moore explains.

Oh, the difference a year can make. In 2010, Beckham was the No. 1 cocker spaniel, the No. 2 sporting dog and the No. 5 overall dog. *In the world*. In 2011, Westminster asked *him* to show up for the most prestigious dog show on the planet. And on Valentine's

Day, that's just what he'll do.

"Westminster is so unique because of its long tradition," says Moore. (It's second only to the Kentucky Derby in history of its continuous operation; the show later this month will be its 135th.) "It's the only show where *only* champions are shown, so it's the one show where virtually every top dog will be there." Think of the Academy Awards with flea collars. Or the Nobel Prize for shiny coats.

Because it comes so early in the year, it can also catapult a relative unknown into the stratosphere. That's basically what happened with Beckham last year.

"Theoretically, a dog of any age can win," says Moore, a lawyer by day. "Generally, though, you need to be over a year old — some judges think you don't have the maturity before that. There is one judge in particular that at the first of last year would *not* put us as high in the sporting group because she didn't think Beckham had the maturity."

Now just over two-and-a-half, Beckham is still at the start of his career, and with 23 best in show finishes last year, the sky seems to

be the limit.

Moore admits, however, that she didn't always see the championship potential in the striking solid black American cocker spaniel that is probably the favorite this year for the winner's circle.

"Even as a puppy, there was a little bit of seriousness to him," Moore says, but she was betting on his sister to become the star of the litter.

"We knew her whole litter, just in looking at it, that it was very, very good." Moore says. "They just kinda had a look, even as babies, of being balanced: The front and the rear go together, they don't have the angle on their shoulders. This whole litter was very nice. But I thought the sister was standout."

Then at 10 weeks, a friend with show dog experience saw Beckham and declared, "He might really be great," Moore says. There was a lot of discussion about him being a bit different.

"He just took to it," says Foley. "It's like he was born to do this." Not everybody agreed, though. "There is a good friend of ours

■ **BEST**, Page 35

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We R Family

Gay vacation maven (and Rosie ex) Kelli Carpenter keeps hope afloat with new take on queer cruises

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com



R Family Vacations was born out of its co-founder's desire to give her children — and the children of other same-sex couples — at least that one week out of the year when their families were the “norm.”

When Kelli Carpenter and Gregg Kaminsky founded the company in 2003, their primary focus was to provide a place where LGBT couples and families could enjoy a vacation experience with other families like their own. Carpenter and her former partner, Rosie O'Donnell, have four children themselves.

“Ro and I were searching for a place where our own children wouldn't feel so alone,” says Carpenter, who was in Dallas recently to promote R Family's 2011 line-up of vacation events.

“It's hard to describe the feeling on one of our vacations,” she says. “I usually just leave it to the people who have been on one of our trips, and what they usually say: It is a sense of community, of, for once, being with other families like yours, that the children really look forward to. There is so much laughter and such a sense of joy and camaraderie that you can't find anywhere else.”

“A lot of the families that come on board an R Family cruise live in the middle of Idaho or somewhere like that where there are no other families like theirs anywhere around. And their tears and their joy are so intense because this is the one place where they can actually feel that sense of family, that sense of knowing there are other families like theirs out there.”

All-women cruises for lesbians and all-men cruises for gay men were already common when R Family came about. But Carpenter

and O'Donnell felt “That's not what [our] life looks like. Our community has changed. If you are a woman, and you have two sons and you want to go on vacation with your best friend who is a gay man, an all-woman cruise or an all-guy cruise isn't the place for that.”

And the community has changed even more since the first R Family cruise in 2004. Now R Family clients aren't just same-sex couples with their children. More and more often, couples are bringing their straight parents and siblings along, as well as their chosen families. Even same-sex couples without children are opting for R Family vacations to take advantage of the family-friendly atmosphere where their straight family members will feel comfortable and welcome, too, Carpenter says.

That change, coupled with the recession that curtailed many people's vacation plans, has prompted R Family to find ways to reach out to new clients.

“There were a lot of businesses that were really hard hit by the recession. Considering that we are a luxury product, I think we downsized at just the right time and in just the right way,” Carpenter says. “We had built up to two cruises a year, and then, as the economy started to go down, we went back to just one full ship a year. We were starting to run out of itineraries, and we were getting a lot of requests for something different.”

Last year, R Family offered something different: Instead of a cruise ship completely for R Family vacationers, the group started offering group trips on larger, mainstream cruises. Carpenter said while she had some reserva-

CHANGE IN PROGRAMMING | The gay travel company R Family Vacations, co-founded by Gregg Kaminsky and Kelli Carpenter, above, is changing things up with its travel options. They are now offering bigger, mainstream cruise options for LGBT families, a Club Med week and new adults-only packages.

tions at first about taking a group of LGBT families on a cruise with mainstream families, her fears were soon laid to rest.

“I went in emotionally prepared for some issue to crop up, and there was none. It was kind of nice for our families to have each other to rely on and at the same time, to be able to look at the other families and realize that underneath it all, we looked just like everyone else on the boat,” she says.

Also last year, for the first time, R Family offered something other than a cruise: A week for LGBT families at Club Med in Ixtapa.

“The Club Med week was a tremendous success, and not just for our regular cruisers who wanted something different for a change,” Carpenter says. “This year, we are offering a week at Club Med Sandpiper in Florida, and I think it will be even more successful.”

Despite brighter prospects for the economy, many families are still cutting back on luxury expenses like vacations. Even though last year's Club Med trip was less expensive than a cruise, it still required travel abroad, and airfare isn't cheap.

That's why Carpenter expects the “Summer Camp” Club Med Sandpiper week, July 9–16, to be even more popular. Families can make the trip by car rather than having to fly.

“The Club Med resorts always offer plenty of activities, but for the R Family weeks, we com-

pletely start over as far as entertainment and programming. We will have top-notch comedians and theatrical performances for the grown-ups. Every night there will be a different, unique performance. The company will also offer its first adult-only vacation this year, in response to the growing number of requests for something a little more adventurous from gay men and lesbians who want to vacation together.

The week-long adults-only package aboard the Norwegian Epic sails from Miami to the Western Caribbean March 5. Other packages include a family vacation aboard the Norwegian Jewel Feb. 20, and the R Family cruise returns with a trip aboard the Norwegian Jade from Venice to four Greek islands departing Aug. 6.

“We are glad that we are able to offer all these options, and to do it in a way that doesn't put the company at risk,” Carpenter says. “There are a lot of families with children that really count on these vacations every year. It's a chance for these kids to see that they are not alone, a chance to get to see their parents be together and express affection for each other in public, and to have a safe environment to do that in.

“I think our company and the growth of our company is reflective of what I wish the whole world looked like — someplace the entire family can be themselves and be comfortable being themselves. ■

For more information, visit FamilyVacations.com.

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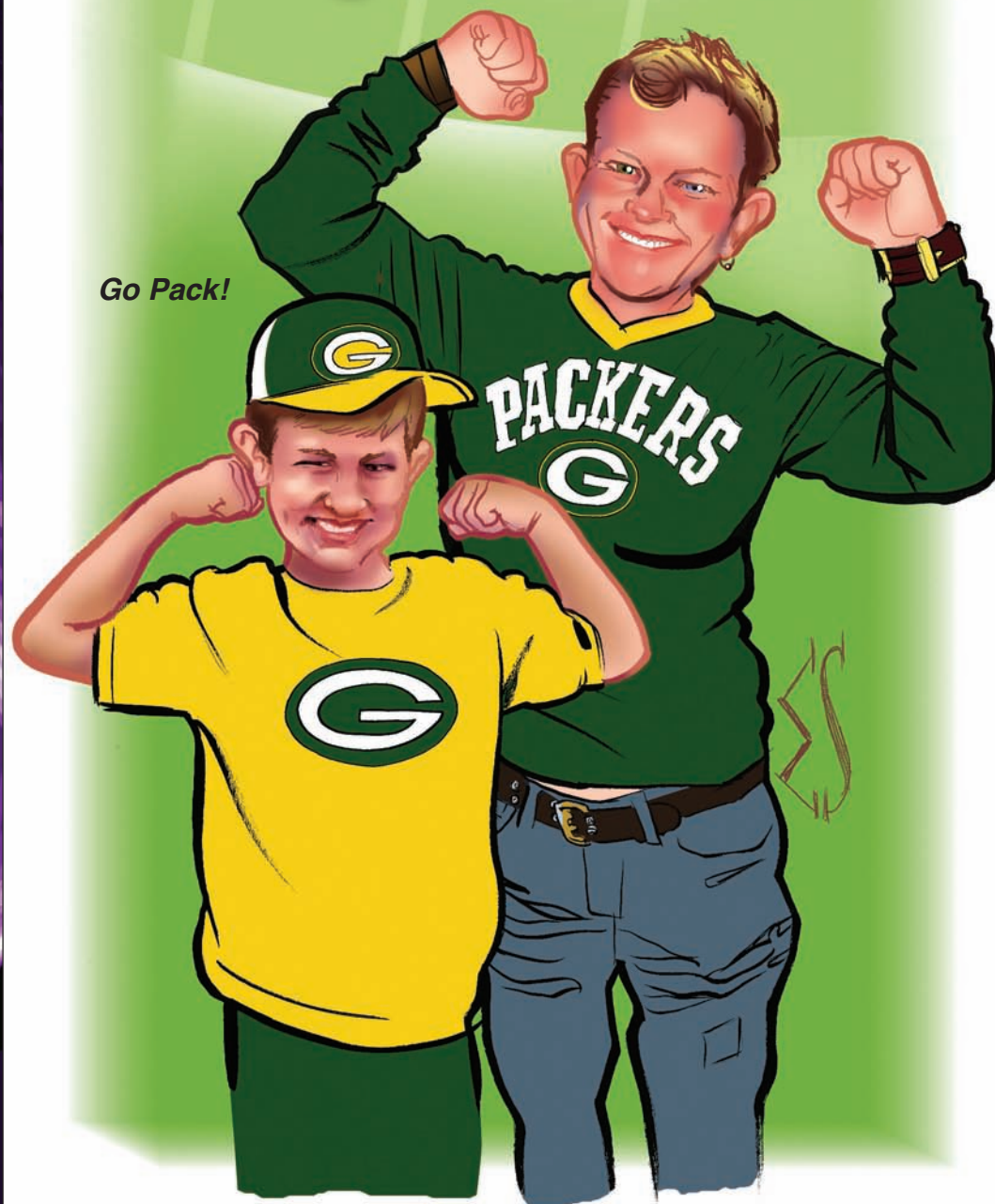
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L+S sketches

Drawing Dallas

Who's going to the Super Bowl in style? Packers fans Evan and Mavis May



MARK STOKES | Illustrator
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NORTH TEXAS 2011 SUPER BOWL COVERAGE

Name and age: Mavis May, 44

Occupation: Bartender, insurance agent and basketball coach

Spotted: Bartending at Sue Ellen's

Setting the bar: An 18 year veteran of Caven, this outgoing Pisces worked at Moby's for four years, but has spent the majority of her career behind the counter at Sue Ellen's. A Texas native, Mavis was born in St. Joe on St. Patrick's Day, and spent some of her years in Santa Fe, N.M., before migrating to Dallas.

The love you take is equal to the love you make: Mavis is active in the community with a long list of volunteer work including 10 years with Resource Center Dallas' Outreach Prevention/Education program, case management in the women's program and logistics manager for the Lone Star Ride. She has also been a table captain for the Black Tie Dinner. But her pride and joy is 8-year-old Evan, her son with ex-partner (and birth mother), Diana. His blended family includes a transgender aunt and numerous gay and lesbian aunts and uncles.

Bowl bound: Evan is all about sports, and Mavis coaches his basketball and soccer teams (the latter with his mom Diana's partner Jennifer). Evan was the proud captain of Sue Ellen's baseball team. If Evan thought that Mavis and his mother "knocked it out of the ballpark" by taking him to Cowboys Stadium for the Cowboys/Saints game last Thanksgiving, Mavis has even bigger plans in the works. A fortuitous turn of events dropped two 20th row seats in the end zone in her lap. You can guess who she's going to take

Her philosophy: "It doesn't matter whether you win or lose, it's about the experience."

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Fishing with Juan

As indie band Abe Vigoda tours the country, lone gay bandmember Juan Velasquez sometimes just wants to settle down with a boyfriend

GREGG SHAPIRO | Contributing Writer
gregg.shapiro@gmail.com

Juan Velasquez has been with Abe Vigoda since the beginning. No, he's not the lover of venerable *Fish* and *Godfather* star Abe Vigoda, but the indie band that co-opted the actor's name.

Velasquez is one of a growing number of out musicians who play in cool indie bands including Grizzly Bear, The Soft Pack and These Arms Are Snakes and Vampire Weekend. *Crush*, Abe Vigoda's new disc, might take some of their existing fan-base by surprise, considering the (welcome) use of synthesizers and dance beats. At the same time, the band has definitely increased its potential for a larger LGBT audience.

Velasquez spoke about being the only gay in the vill... er, tour bus, and whether the actor knows about his eponymous rockers.

Dallas Voice: Were you and the other members of Abe Vigoda listening to different music than you ordinarily would have prior to recording *Crush*? Juan Velasquez: No, not really. It had been two years since we wrote music together. Influence-wise there's different music that we like, stuff that we're interested in and enjoy. I think it was a natural thing that happened. There wasn't anything out of the ordinary. We don't all communally love one thing.

You said that it was a natural thing, so would you say that the sonic difference of *Crush* was a conscious decision or did it occur organically? Definitely organically, but it took a while. We write sporadically, usually when we're practicing. Our drummer [Dane Chadwick] really likes dance music, so he introduced electronic elements to the band. We toyed around with them as a thing that we would be able to use and then we realized how much we liked it. It's fun because

you're not restricted to guitars and drums. There are more things that you can use. I think we were finally more comfortable using synths.

How has the response to *Crush* been from longtime Abe Vigoda fans? It's very varied. Some people just don't get it. To me it sounds more "accessible" than other things we've done through the years. Some people are not so jazzed on it and some people like it. It's not what they expected and because of that they like it. Sometimes we'll play shows and mainly play songs from *Crush* and people will be like, "Why didn't you play anything older?" I think people are still getting used to it. Even more important, people that didn't like us before are maybe not getting into it because it's a whole new thing and they didn't know what we sounded like previous to this record. It's a mixed thing, which is kind of what we expected. It never enters our mind when we're writing what it's going to be like on the other side of it. We just want to produce something that we like and then after that, it's up to unknown forces whether people will be into it.

You run the risk of alienating some people, but you also stand the chance of reaching a whole new audience. Yes. For me it's more exciting than just doing the same thing that people are going to like. I'm excited when bands change and evolve. We've never been a band that sticks to the exact same thing. It's fun to try new things and push yourself.

The songwriting on *Crush* is credited to the band Abe Vigoda. How would you describe your role in the process of song creation in the group? It's different for different songs. Sometimes Michael [Vida] and I will have an idea or something we're fiddling around with on the guitar and bring that to practice. Then everyone does their own thing on it. We generally jam together as a band. Everyone is in charge of

ABE VIGODA

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'CRUSH' ON YOU | Abe Vigoda ventured into electronica territory with its new album 'Crush.' Gay member Velasquez, second from right, hopes this might increase fans for the band — especially gay ones.

their own instrument as far as what they contribute. Within the structure of the song, my main part is already there and we'll work on it together. Sometimes I'm just adding something to what Michael has already laid out. We all edit each other and edit ourselves. It's pretty democratic way of writing songs, I think.

What's the best part of being the lone gay member of a band?

[Laughs] What's funny is that some people think everyone [in the band] is. Or they think there is one, and it's Michael, the singer. When we're on tour, the other guys in the band aren't

looking for girls. They're really nice guys, which is awesome. If anyone, I'm probably the one who's more like on the prowl [laughs]. I get really excited when I find someone else in a band who is gay because there aren't that many of us in indie rock. Sometimes I'll venture out (while on tour in a city) and check out the gay bars or if I have a friend in town we'll go out and do our thing. In a way, I have a little freedom where I can go and do my own thing. I get some space away from the whole touring thing and being in close quarters with everybody.

Because they're not going to tag along. Sometimes they do. Sometimes we'll all go out to a gay bar. It's a non-issue, obviously. I don't think I could be in a band where it was an issue.

Are you aware of a contingent of LGBT fans among Abe Vigoda's fans?

I'm not aware of one if there is. Not to generalize, but we're usually playing for kind of a straight crowd. Sometimes, someone will mention that, come up to me and say, "I'm gay, too." But that's rare. But I'm sure there are [gay people in the audience]. I'm not even sure people know that there's a gay member of the band. It's also not the focus of our music. There are some bands for whom that is the focus of their

music, to be in a queer band to give voice to queer issues, even in a fun or punk way.

Like Scissor Sisters. Exactly. Or Hunx and His Punx.

They definitely have a gay following, whereas we have a more mainstream indie rock following.

Does being in a touring band make it difficult to maintain a relationship?

You betcha! If you would have asked me this at this time last year, I would have said, "No! I have an amazing boyfriend." I never really until last year had a relationship or somebody that I was really excited about. It was the first time that I legitimately fell in love with someone. Before that it had been more casual. In January of last year, I was in love. We went out on tour with Vampire Weekend and then recorded *Crush* around this time last year. I was gone and missed him and talked to him on the phone. It felt like a relationship. It was great and exciting. Then I got home and soon after I got dumped. He didn't enjoy that I was gone for so long. I never saw it that way. Being gone for a long time is rough on relationships, but I'd never really thought about it because I wasn't in one. You only have a certain amount of time when you're home to meet someone and once you get started then you have to leave again. Hopefully, I'll meet someone who doesn't mind that their significant other has to leave for a while. It's definitely stressful. I don't mean to sound like a cry-baby. I'm over it now. At the time, it was pretty shitty. Because it was something I couldn't control. It's my job. I'm not going to choose somebody over this.

Do you know if your namesake is aware you named your band after him?

I have a pretty strong feeling that he does. One time somebody who wanted to interview us, instead of contacting [the band's publicist], found his publicity person and messaged them. They got a response saying that it wasn't the band's publicist that they had reached, it was the actor's. If his publicist knows, he knows. And he doesn't seem to care, which is good.

XLV Party gets some gay in after all

We had mixed feelings about the cancellation of Thursday's queer-skewing XLV Party. With a lineup that included Cazwell, Lady Bunny and The Village People, organizers reached out to the LGBT community. But the headliners weren't a strong enough draw and the concert was pulled.

Organizers bounced back, though, and added a quick



hint of mint to the remaining shows, with DJ Samantha Ronson joining Friday's lineup. The lesbian DJ isn't just Lindsay Lohan's ex, she's a pretty big deal all on her own. Thanks for keeping us in mind, guys!

— Rich Lopez

Visit XLVParty.com for information.

Jac of all trades

Not wanting to be just some disco diva, Jacinta calls her own shots

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Let's face it: The gays like their dance music. That makes the industry ripe for countless Madonna-Britney-Gaga wannabes and one-hit wonders. (You should count the number of remix singles by "divas" that pass through the desk of music writers without actual albums attached to them.)

Jacinta Brondgeest may easily be categorized as just another girl on the dancefloor, but don't sell her short. She's brimming with substance.

"I try to be involved in so many aspects of the music-making process," she says. "I love getting into the production part of it and also, I think what set's me apart is I create and write my own music. Songwriting is precious to me. I'm always working on different facets."

Going by only her first name (or her nickname, Jac), Jacinta isn't just the product of DJs and producers. Instead of leaving her musical career in the hands of others and risking flash-in-the-pan status, Jacinta has been taking steps to fashion a career on her own terms. Part of that includes her live show, which she brings to Sue Ellen's Friday.

And after finding success in her adoptive homeland of Australia (she was born in Oregon, but her family moved Down Under when she was six weeks old), Jacinta returned to the U.S. in 2002 to give the music industry a try. She thrived in the hot music environment of Austin, but just weeks ago, relocated to Houston.

"Houston is such a bigger landscape for us and more conducive to the style of music we play," she says.

When Jacinta produced her first EP, *Dedicated to a Stranger*, in 1996, she decided that if her money was behind her own work, she should start her own label. Thus was born Chunky Music, named after her habit of sampling big chunks of music into her own. After attaining distribution in Australia, she put America in her sites.

"The label encapsulates everything I do, which essentially is pop-rock," she says. "We do piano, vocals, electronica and remixes, hence our huge dance catalog. And now we're tri-coastal and based out of Los Angeles, Houston and Australia."

JACINTA

Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.
Feb. 4 at 10 p.m. \$10.
PartyAtTheBlock.com



A STEP ABOVE | Jacinta plays a hand in all her dance music, from writing to production, which sets her apart from many fleeting singers releasing only singles and remixes.

When the beat goes down, Jacinta also creates and produces meditation music. She admits making 2009's *Past Life Meditation* was easy.

"The process of putting the music together was different, but it was an easier project because the creativity was all instrumental," she says. "I think meditation is a wonderful thing and it was very enjoyable putting that music together."

Naturally, she found a gay audience with her dance music. Jacinta booked high profile Pride gigs in Australia, Seattle, Austin and the Folsom Street Festival in San Francisco. Her song, "Keep it a Secret," became a gay anthem of sorts to the audiences who saw her perform it.

"I wrote that in 2007 and it just resonated with

the gay community when I performed it so those audiences are very important to me," she says. "The song reminds people to be uniquely yourself and finding the courage to be that person."

Sue Ellen's may not be the first place for live performances of dance music, but that doesn't worry Jacinta. She's had her share of lesbian audiences with her first band Maiden Voyage. She says that all-girl bands always get those venues. So how does she identify? Well, she responds in that coy pop star way.

"Well, it depends on whom I'm sleeping with," she laughs. Well played. ■



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Tasting notes: Valentine edition

Need ideas for how to spend a romantic dinner with your sweetie? We got 'em

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

Lots of restaurants are getting in the mood for romance, so you and your sweetie can choose from among these options — and many more:

La Duni — The Oak Lawn and McKinney avenue locations offer a four-course dinner for \$50/person that includes a champagne toast. Don't forget to pre-order a lovey-dovey cupcake. LaDuni.com.

The Mansion on Turtle Creek — A three-course meal, including dessert, runs you \$125 on Feb. 14. Make it more romantic by booking a room for the weekend rate. 214-443-4747.

Nana — The Hilton Anatole is doing the same as The Mansion, offering a \$99 four-course meal plus the option to book a guest room for as low as \$79. 214-761-7470.

The Landmark — The restaurant inside the Warwick Melrose is really keeping it romantic, with a set price per couple. For \$150, you can each put together the ideal four-course meal, served Feb. 12 and 14. Call 214-224-3152.

The Grape — The romantic bistro features a la carte choices Friday through Sunday, then a three-course tasting menu for \$65/person. 214-828-1981.

Bijoux — Full disclosure: I spent Valentine's Day here *last* year, and for good reason: The food is superb, and it really stands up as event dining. For \$85/person, chef Scott Gottlich will whip up an exquisite four-course meal that includes lobster bisque, duo of veal and a filet, among other delectables. 214-350-6100.

The Second Floor — Over at Gottlich's other restaurant, adorable chef J Chastain has something unusual in mind for a holiday dinner: You put it together. Rather than the traditional prix fixe menu, from Feb. 12-14 you can select from a range of popular and romantic items, from \$9 to \$34, for the ideal custom meal. Call 927-450-2978.

Salum — Chef Abraham Salum has a jazzy menu planned for Feb 14, that includes jazz music from singer Nadia Washington and a complimentary glass of champagne. The three-course meal costs \$65. SalumRestaurant.com.

Sprinkles — Those demons at Sprinkles have taunted me again with new flavors, available for Valentine's. You can choose from a red hot velvet (with spicy cinnamon aroma) or raspberry chocolate chip. Both are available through Feb. 14 in the Preston Center location.

On the heels of Valentine's is a food and wine showcase to warm the blood. **Bonne Sante** features chefs including **Scott Gottlich**,



Abraham Salum, Tony Bombaci (Nana), Dean Fearing (Fearing's), Bruno Davilion (The Mansion) and Blaine Staniford (Grace), as well as several wineries. Individual tickets run \$200 and benefit the National Kidney Foundation. It takes place at the Westin Galleria on Feb. 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. 214-3512-2393.

Central 214 is instituting a "pick your plate" option, starting Feb. 15. For a flat price of \$30, customers can choose one

SWEETS FOR THE SWEET | Sprinkles offers two new cupcake flavors for Valentine's, including this raspberry treat.

salad or soup, one entrée and one dessert from **Blythe Beck's** menu. 214-443-9339.

We blogged recently about **John Tesar's** new restaurant in the Cedars, **Cedars Social**, which officially opened this week. Well, he's got more on his plate, including **The Commissary**, which will open in April in the space last occupied by **Dali** in One Arts Plaza. It will feature burgers, wine on tap and late night meals.

Fin Sushi, from the people responsible for Sushi Axiom on Henderson, has officially opened in the ilume. **BEE, Monica Greene's** new enchiladaria, is open in Oak Cliff. ■

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BOTTOMANIA | Flouncy rockers The Britoons show the gay side of a Beatles-like band.

Slight, off-hand

Oscar-nominated 'Illusionist' aims for twee more than wow

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

The French filmmaker Jacques Tati was a latter-day Chaplin with Gallic sensibilities. In just a handful of nearly silent films in the 1950s — 30 years before the Griswolds — his guileless M. Hulot got embroiled in a cascade of fiascos that delighted audiences at the time, and some film enthusiasts since.

That was half a century and a full continent ago, and closer in time to when he wrote *The Illusionist* than when animator Sylvain Chomet adapted it to the current feature-length cartoon, just nominated for an Oscar. You can see why it was nominated: The faded, painterly images evoke the best of 1960s Disney animation, like *101 Dalmatians*: Hand-drawn art, not computer-generated commerce.

But just being old school doesn't quite get you there, entertainment-wise. *The Illusionist* is sentimental and twee, with a melancholy tone that feels less earned than foisted upon audiences.

It's the Cold War era, and the title character is a remnant of the age of Vaudeville: A magician

whose once-impressive sleight-of-hand tricks seem out of place when groups like The Britoons — Beatles-inspired rockers who make girls swoon but behind the curtain are as queer as three-dollar bills — can pack in teeny-boppers to bigger venues than he can.

While performing his act in Scotland, the Illusionist meets Alice, a lass anxious to brush the cold dust of her provincial town off and see the world — and he's as sophisticated as anything she's ever come across. What follows is kind of road movie tracking the growth of their platonic relationship and its inevitable conclusion as his unrequited feelings leave him lonely.

The artwork is fine if not magnificent (the Illusionist's hands seems weirdly disproportionate to his body) and the story has its charms, but what's it all about? The plot, if you can call it that, unfolds slowly even for a shortish film, and you don't need to be a magician to see where it's all headed. This is more leisurely, "adult" animation that you might get from Pixar, but that doesn't make it better: I'll take *The Incredibles go Up making Ratatouille with Wall-E* any day. *The Illusionist*? You need to be in the mood for that. ■



THE ILLUSIONIST

Rated PG. 80 mins.

Now playing at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station.

Let's make one thing Lear

Last month, Britain's National Theatre broadcast the (sort of) live production of its stage version of *Fela!*, a musical about the African musician and activist who eventually died of AIDS. The same service now presents a very different show, but one that should be just as fascinating: *King Lear*.

Arguably Shakespeare's masterpiece, *Lear* has long been a showcase for actors in the twilight of their careers, though the casting of gay acting icon Derek Jacobi, fresh off his ensemble cast SAG Award as the wily Archbishop in *The King's Speech*, has enjoyed widespread popularity and acclaim almost continuously for four decades. Already a prime interpreter of the Bard (his Richard II remains a defining characterization), the chance to see him as Lear is a treat.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Screens at the Angelika Dallas Feb. 9 and 10 and Angelika Plano Feb. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. NTLive.com.





BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM | The top cocker in competition, Beckham trots to victory with his handler at a recent dog show.

■ **BEST**, from page 24

who is a judge who saw him when he was four months old and didn't like him; she has since given him a best in show," Moore beams.

Beckham lives most of the time with his trainer-handlers in Tennessee. But the household for the rest of their brood is much like any other pet-friendly place.

"We have 14 dogs," Moore says without batting an eyelash. "We have kennels, of course, but there aren't too many rules."

"Well, there is *some* furniture they can't get on," chimes in Foley, who, until she met Moore 10 years ago, was more of the mutt-loving, dog-rescuing variety pet owner.

While Moore breeds and shows cockers (American and English) and pugs, she also has a standard poodle as part of the household — and, of course, Beckham's mom, Miranda. And they have a sense of humor about their four-legged children: All the pups in that championship litter were named after sex symbols: Harrison (Ford), Patrick (Swayze) and of course Beckham, who ended up astonishing everyone.

"The goal is to breed the perfect dog — which of course is not possible," Moore concedes.

"Each breed club develops written standards for what the perfect dog would be, everything from the coat texture to their head to their eyes, teeth, shoulders, movement. Miranda was reserve winner's bitch and she was second-best black bitch in more than 100," so Beckham had the genes to be a champion.

Even if he hadn't been the best, he'd still be their sweet cocker. But on Feb. 15, they hope he might be something else, too: Best in show at Westminster. That would be something to bark about. ■

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Egg-cellent

Ovo, Cirque du Soleil's new insect-themed cavalcade of jaw-dropping wonders, is reason to drive to Frisco

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

GRAVITY BE DAMNED | The slack-wire act, left, and the spider contortionist are some of the feats of physical skill in 'Ovo,' a thrilling big-top circus extravaganza.

The opening of *Ovo*, the new Cirque du Soleil touring production, sounds like an attack of locusts, which is sort of the point. The concept of the show is *A Bug's Life*, set to abstract music and eye-popping feats of physicality.

As a concept, it works terrifically. Cirque shows traditionally have themes that establish the look, but don't really tell a story. None of it matters — it's just a pretext for the juggling and high-wire acts. But here, there really is a romance between a ladybug and a housefly, played out with clownish bravado. And even better, the acts seem to tie into their characters.

That's due in large, large part to the gorgeous costumes, which are as colorful and varied as the microcosmos of the insect world itself. (And, let's say it, sexy.) The design mirrors what the acts are supposed to do: Crickets with extended haunches bounce off walks faster than a meadow on a warm summer night; a spider — the slack-wire gymnast, all of 95 pounds, clad in a skin-tight exoskeleton — scurries across a strand of his web, doing handstands and rolling on a unicycle; fleas flick their bod-

ies nimbly through the air as if the dog show just got to town.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S OVO

Dr. Pepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco.
Through Feb. 27. \$45-\$250.
CirqueDuSoleil.com

The awesomeness is difficult to describe — or to put in context. After the parade of characters, the main event kicks off with a small display:

A firefly who contorts while balanced on his hand. It sounds simple, even ordinary, but the skill involved astonishes you. Then out come a crew of waif Asian girls who juggle — balls, ottomans, each other — on their feet, passing human bodies around as effortlessly as a salt shaker at the family dinner. It takes the spool juggler — basically, a yo-yo artist extraordinaire — to drop a few to realize these are, in fact, humans who make mistakes. The illusion is that effective.

There's something for almost every taste, from the elegant aerial ribbon flight of the butterflies to the oh-my muscularity of the trapeze-swinging beetles to the silly, wild dancing of the inchworm. I don't remember the circus being this fun — or this sexy — when I was a kid. Here's to progress. ■

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Just don't say the Infiniti EX35 wagon has junk in the trunk — all of its features are top of the line

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

Like a great drag queen, Infiniti's EX35 wagon is all about the booty. A big round rump is attached to a body that otherwise looks much like the handsome G37 sedan. It's not really a crossover (the FX fills that role beautifully), and you wouldn't call it a station wagon, either — no wood sides or long rear quarters here. Instead, it is a very clever extended sedan that provides a lot of utility in its nether region. A butt man who's also a gearhead could stare at that steel-hard bubble for hours.

What the rump attaches to is also pretty good-looking. Infiniti's wavy chrome-grass grille puts a bright face on sucking air and eating bugs. Rounded headlamps flow right into a sweeping body that gently curves from the bumper, over the hood and arching into the short tail. If you squint just right, the car looks like a tall Porsche — a 911 crossover. Burgundy metallic paint, dual chrome exhaust tips, satin metallic roof rails, corner-following adaptive front lighting, LED taillamps and 19-in. five-spoke Enkei wheels dress the EX to a tee.

Having a delicious exterior is only an invitation to know what's inside. A raised ride height

makes sliding into the heated leather seats little effort. A leather-wrapped three-spoke steering wheel, large analog gauges and leather-wrapped gear selector say it means business. Bose audio with USB input sounds like cherubs while concealable cupholders, fold-down rear seats and a large hatch provide plenty of room for all you plunder. Dark wood on the center console and doors adds ambience. You gotta love the cool flip-up hangar on the back of the headrests that are perfect for your purse, jacket or umbrella.

The Beautiful People — and Cars — still have to work occasionally. An advanced undercarriage gives the EX moves usually reserved for European sport sedans. Based on Nissan's FM

platform, which also underpins the Nissan Z and every Infiniti save the QX56 SUV, the EX35 comes from pedigreed breeding stock.

The body structure is solid while the four-wheel independent suspension system is tuned to be compliant on the highway, yet firm in the corners. Steering feel is spot-on, giving drivers a direct connection to the car's every quiver and breath. Given a firm hand, the vehicle can do anything a rational person could ask and will do its best to please even the most irrational request.

There's plenty of heart to energize the EX35's svelte moves. Every EX35 scampers with a 3.5-liter

V6 engine that generates 297 horses and 253 lb.-ft. of torque, routed to the extremities by a 5-speed automatic transmission and available all-wheel-drive. The clever transmission has a manual shift mode to provide crisp shifts at the driver's behest. Fuel economy is rated 17/24-MPG city/hwy. Infiniti should consider putting the G Sedan's smaller 6-cylinder engine on the options list to bump those results a few digits.

Equipped to play, the EX35 is also loaded with the latest safety tech. Front and rear ABS disc brakes with force distribution and brake assist technology ensure the car can stop as well as it goes. Electronic stability control, traction control, and full-range intelligent cruise control keep the car going where intended without hitting things unintended.

Around View Monitor with front and rear sonar, blind spot detectors and lane departure warnings can detect your girlfriend from three galaxies away. Protecting your ego, a rearview camera keeps the EX from making unintended friends.

I'm a big fan of cars that show their techno side, but too much makes a big ol' nerd. The warning system is so sensitive that it constantly mouths off with beeps and blinky lights as anything passes in town or on the highway.

Note to Infiniti: The EX is a car, and as such, occasionally comes within a solar system of



EYES ON THE ROAD...AND ALL AROUND | The Infiniti EX35 features the Around View Monitor to see where you can't and a very sensitive warning system.

other cars. I don't always need to be alerted to the occurrence. Try to cross a line on the highway with the system engaged and it brakes wheels to automatically nudge you back into your lane. No doubt, the systems are impressive, but at some point I would like to enjoy the superb handling without back seat nannies bantering about. Of course, I could just turn it off with the press of a button and quit complaining ...

The hot thing you're after can run with toned muscles, change course in a flash, wear the finest threads, and hover over an iPad waiting for the latest app. But, if said thing doesn't have the perfect booty, then why bother? If you don't like the shape of the EX35's, try dating the Cadillac CTS Sport Wagon, Subaru Outback, Mini Countryman, or Acura ZDX.

Price as tested came to \$48,605. ■

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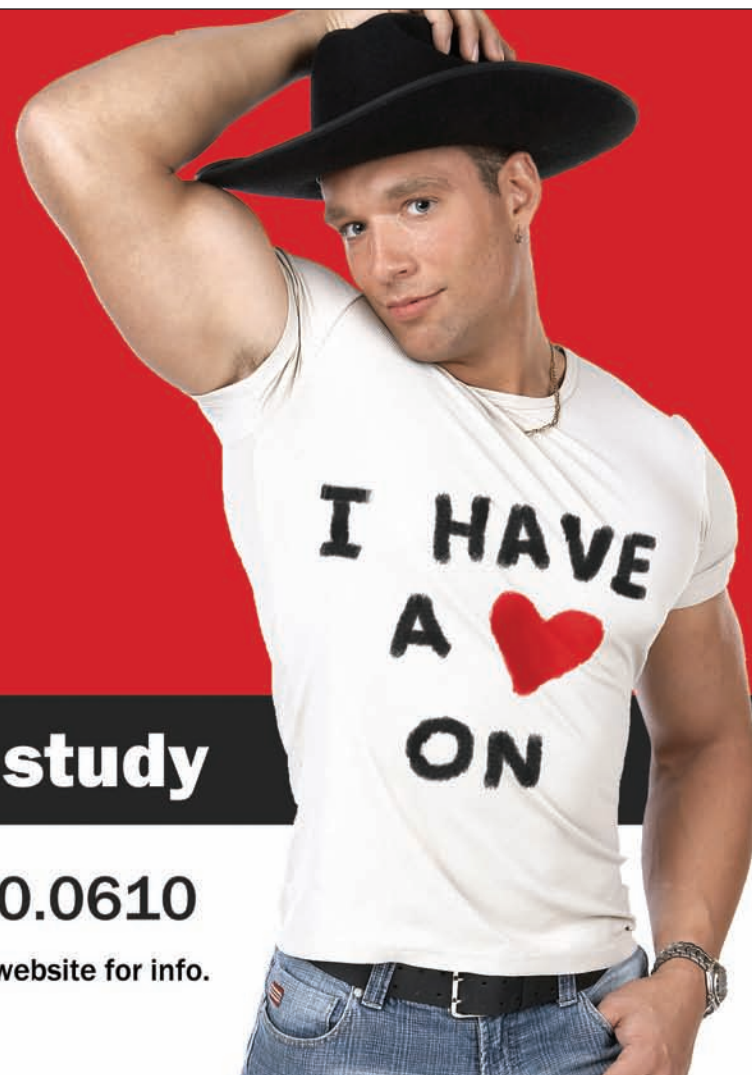


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Friday 02.04

She'll give you 'Hot Pleasure'

With five number one dance hits, Erika Jayne is nicely establishing herself as a singer to be reckoned with. She's even knocked off big hitters like Katy Perry and Lady Gaga from the top spot of Billboard's Hot Dance Club Play charts. Her most recent single "One Hot Pleasure" is her fifth consecutive hit. Yeah, she's pretty much bringing it.

DEETS: Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Midnight. \$7. PartyAtTheBlock.com.

Saturday 02.05

As gay as the Super Bowl can get

Are you ready for some football? OK, what about a big Cedar Springs Super Street Party? Showing that the LGBT community has an affinity for both, the Cedar Springs Merchants Association put together what may be the first gay Super Bowl celebration ever. Live music, DJs, food, beer and an appearance by gay athlete of the year Michael Holtz round out the shebang.

DEETS: Cedar Springs and Throckmorton roads. 7 p.m. Free. ShopCedarSprings.com.

Wednesday 02.09

Payback really is a bitch

New company Broken Gears Project Theatre presents August Strindberg's *Creditors* about three people who play diabolical and manipulative games with each other. And it all sounds delicious, especially when Rene Moreno is directing.

DEETS: 3819 Fairmount St. 8 p.m. Through Feb. 26. \$10-\$15. BrokenGearsTheatre.com



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Lori McCracken	6:30
Anton Shaw & Trouble	5:15
Camille Cortinas	4:15
Ciao Bella	3 pm

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FRIDAY 02.04

COMMUNITY

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets for those wishing to quit using meth. Also meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. 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.

Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1784.

Business Network Collin County luncheon. Fox Sports Grille, 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano. 11:30 a.m. \$20. BusinessNetworkCC.org.

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

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

THEATER

Daddy's Dyin': Who's Got the Will? Onstage in Bedford presents the Del Shores comedy. Trinity Arts Theatre on the Bedford Boys Ranch, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Sunday. Fridays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. \$15. OnstageinBedford.com.

Evita by Andrew Lloyd Webber with Lauren Kennedy as Eva Peron and Kevin Gray as Che. Casa Manana Theatre, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 13. \$40-\$65. CasaManana.org.

Mamma Mia! The ABBA musical plays a short run in Fort Worth. Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Saturday. \$37-\$75. BassHall.com.

O Brother, Werewolf Art Thou? Another popcorn-tossing melodrama 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.

SATURDAY 02.05

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).

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

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.

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

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

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

DFW Bi Net Bisexual, Bi-Curious and Allies Support Group meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 11 a.m. Brown bag lunch encouraged. Email SupportGroup@dfwbi.net for more details.

7 For All Mankind host a ladies day out event with DJs, makeovers and fashions. Northpark Center, Level One, 8687 N. Central Expressway. 1 p.m.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 02.06

COMMUNITY

Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living. LGBT-Friendly "meditation and more" event. All faiths welcome. Sign interpreters available. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson. 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.

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

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

Interweave meets for lunch. Community U.U.

Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano. Noon. 972-248-9343.

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

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

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

Friends Associating and Relating, social group, meets twice a month for potluck dinners, game nights and more in the evenings. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is counselor Candy Marcum. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

MONDAY 02.07

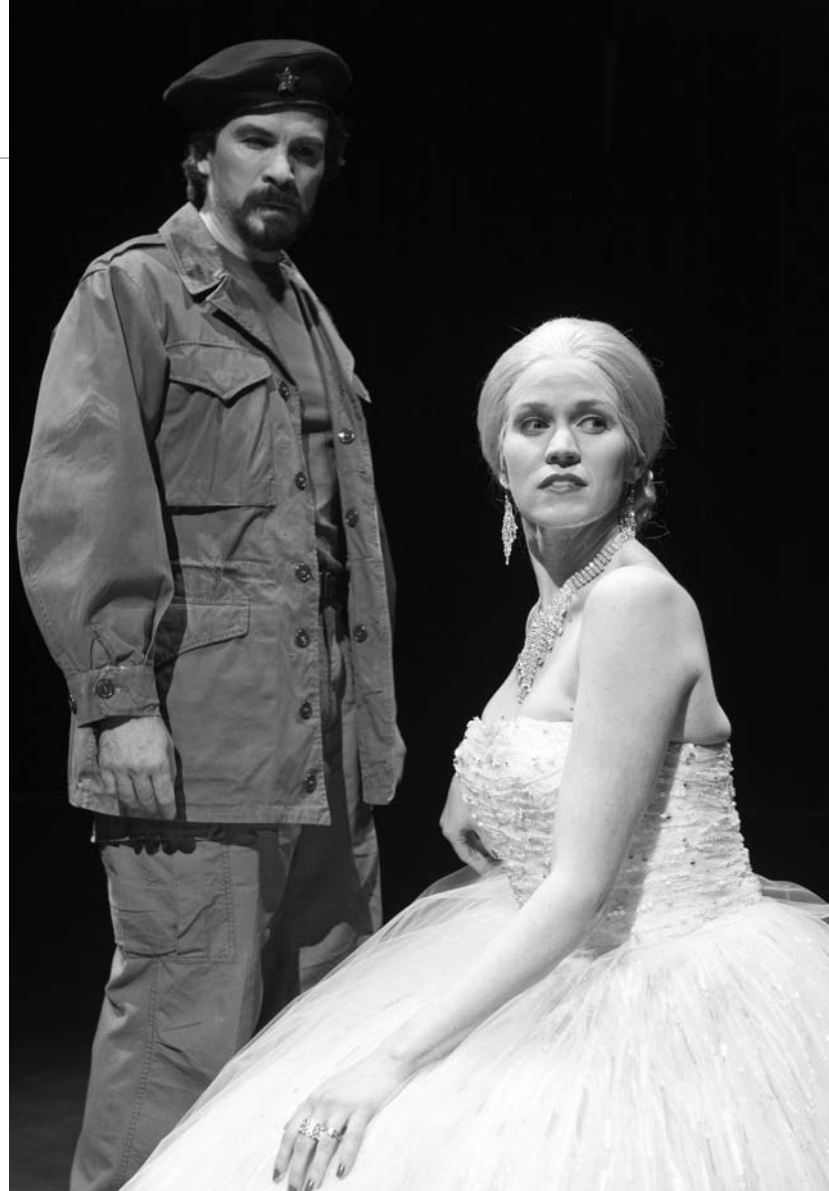
COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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



YOU MUST LOVE HER | 'Evita' opens this week at Casa Manana in Fort Worth with Lauren Kennedy as Eva Peron.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 02.08

COMMUNITY

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

■ CALENDAR, Page 44

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CALENDAR, From Page 43

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

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.

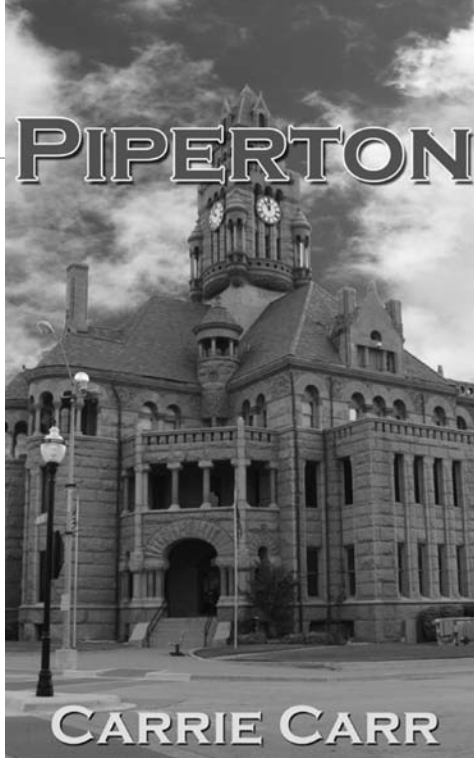
Stop Smoking psycho-educational group by the AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

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 meets at Gilda's Club Dallas, 2710 Oak Lawn Ave. 6 p.m.

GLSEN Tarrant County. Bennigan's, 5751 Bridge St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-294-5101.



NEW CHAPTER | Carrie Carr's 'Piperton' is Jewel's book selection for February.

BROADCAST

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

The 10% streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 02.09

COMMUNITY

Positively Straight meets. AIDS Outreach Center,

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY 02.10

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.

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

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

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

JEWEL's Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets. Urban Dog Coffee, 2720 Oak Lawn Ave. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 214-540-GIRL. Jewelbookclub.blogspot.com.

BROADCAST

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

Reckless After Dark. LGBT radio show hosted by Chase Brooks with Cat Michaels, and Auntie J. The show takes on all topics from gay rights to pop culture. Aired on FishBowlRadioNetwork.com every week at 5 p.m. ChaseBrooks.com

this week's solution

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Resource Center Dallas and SMU Simmons present two interactive workshops with renowned author, philosopher, counselor and educator John Bradshaw.

Thurs., February 10, 2011 • 9:00 a.m.-noon (Registration opens at 8 a.m.)
Reclaiming Your Inner Child
This workshop will explore the impact of growing up in dysfunctional families and reclaiming the wounded inner child.

Wed., March 2, 2011 • 9:00 a.m.-noon (Registration opens at 8 a.m.)
Healing The Shame That Binds Us
This workshop will highlight John Bradshaw's theory and therapeutic processes on healing toxic shame.

Visit www.rcdallas.org for event details and tickets.

Tickets:
One workshop..... \$65
Both workshops..... \$100
Students..... \$25

Location:
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
3014 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas 75219

CEUs available for mental health professionals.
Proceeds from both events benefit programs and services of Resource Center Dallas.

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Resource Center Dallas, in partnership with the Center for Family Counseling at SMU, offers affordable mental health counseling services for the Oak Lawn community. Call 214-393-3680 for appointment information.

The mission of Resource Center Dallas is to serve the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and North Texas communities by providing health, HIV, and social services; education and advocacy; and support to GLBT individuals and organizations.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Judith Light turns 62 on Wednesday. We couldn't get enough of her as Claire Meade in *Ugly Betty*, but really, how can we not cherish Light's extensive work as a gay rights and AIDS activist? The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center named their library after her. Last spring, she joined Cyndi Lauper's Give a Damn campaign joining the likes of Elton, Whoopi and Anna Paquin.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Some bee in your bonnet has you agitated and touchy. What's at the bottom of this? Who are you really angry at? Yourself? Talk with someone who knows your BS better than to fall for it.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

One of your friends is out to double-cross you. Keep your radar up. Standing with one foot in the future and one in the past blinds you to the present. Focus on what matters at the moment.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Consider social demands before agreeing to any. Focus on challenges at work. Reexamine your goals and your strategies. Are they realistic? Even the best plans need an occasional tweak.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

You prefer safer paths, but are now easily goaded to big gambles. Some risk-taking is good and necessary; exercise foresight, good sense and moderation. If it looks good, go for it.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

New sexual adventures take you to places you'd never dreamed of. Be careful. Bragging about your new erotic adventures is also fine, but be careful about "the time and place for everything."

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You and your partner need some spice in your love life. Take turns granting each other's desires. You'll be surprised. Be careful where to discuss. If it gets out that could also be a surprise.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Your efforts on teamwork are admirable, but remember that teamwork is not necessarily what you say it is. Work at taking orders and suggestions, then show how you can carry those out.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Sports injuries and accidents are out to get you. Whatever you do to relax, stay focused on developing technique and keep your eyes open to usual risks. But you'll look sexy in a cast.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Fun and games at home start more fights than they prevent. The best application for rough competitive energy could be wrestling to see who gets on top.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Family fights break out too easily. Discussing those problems with a friend is more helpful than putting it in the face of your folks. Work helps relieve tension gets you some perspective.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

In your heart, you know compulsive spending is counterproductive. Sit down and analyze your finances. Learning a new game or creative outlet is helpful, if it doesn't get expensive.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Trying a new look either gets expensive or challenges your resourcefulness. Go for something radical and dramatic, even if it's just for those special occasions.

THIS WEEK

Sun and Mars are in a long dance together through Aquarius. Dissonance from Venus and Pluto, both in Capricorn, can turn that into a war dance. It's too easy to build up resentments over nothing. Strive for clarity and self-awareness. If you feel wronged, own your part of it and move on.

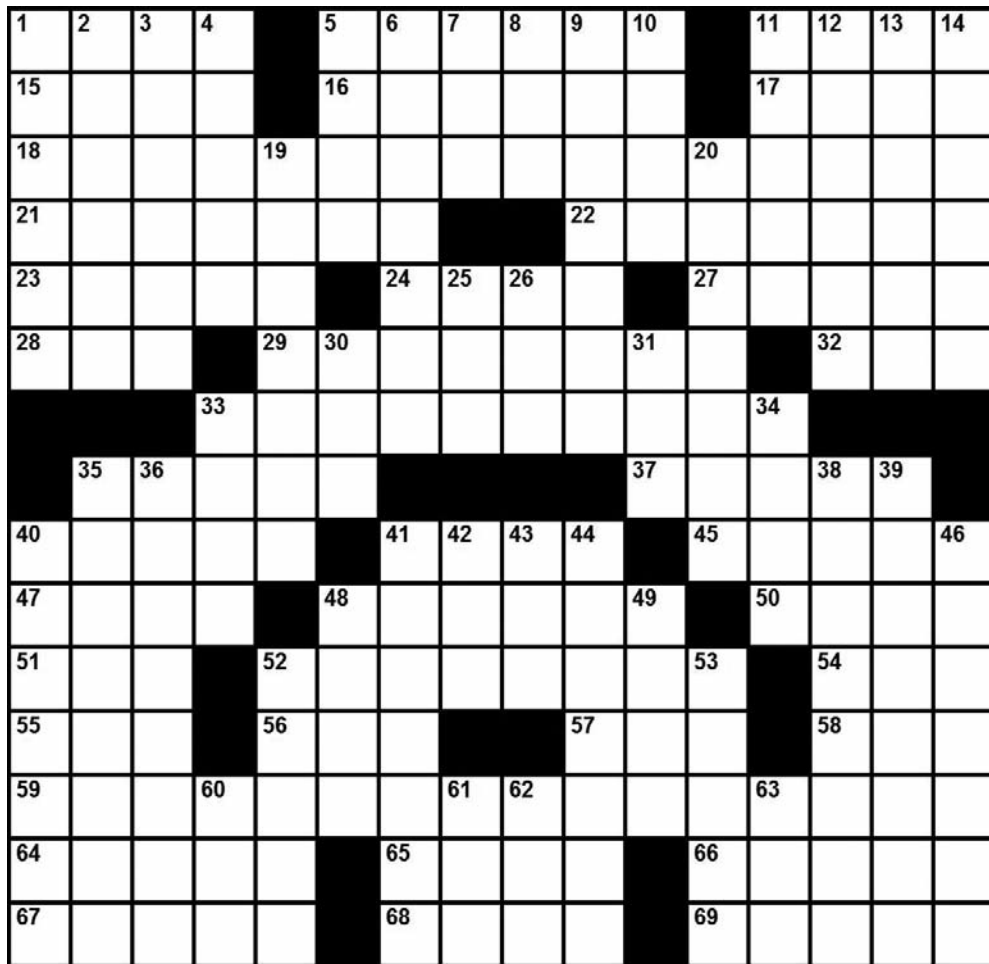
Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

JANE'S WORLD



bitter girl
PERCENT FROM HEAVEN





A Different Perspective

Solution on page 44

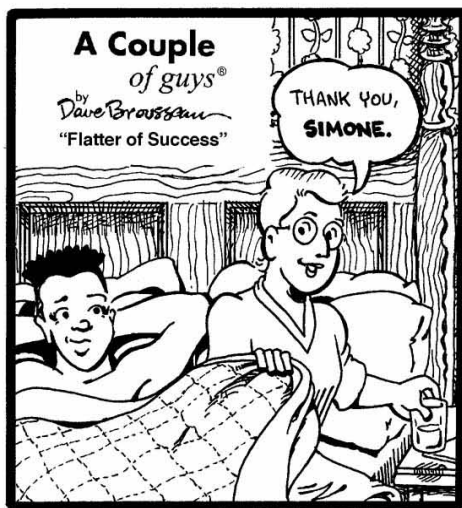
Across

- 1 Chicago director Marshall et al.
- 5 Top of St. Peter's
- 11 Flirts with, with "on"
- 15 Etheridge's "I'm the ___ One"
- 16 Beat up on
- 17 Taking care of business
- 18 "I don't celebrate ___ ..."
- 21 Fruitless
- 22 High point in church construction?
- 23 Some like it hot
- 24 Where a trolley goes "Clang, clang, clang"
- 27 Stuck your nose in
- 28 AARP members
- 29 Condom, in slang
- 32 Mag. execs
- 33 Skater who is the source of the quote in this puzzle
- 35 Feeds, in a sty
- 37 Labia, e.g.
- 40 Climax at the end of an action film
- 41 Oz setting
- 45 Continental coins
- 47 Former Minnesota governor Carlson
- 48 Like cardboard glasses at a movie
- 50 Singer Lovich

- 51 Start of a Hollywood Squares win
- 52 "... so why should I celebrate ___?"
- 54 [Not my error]
- 55 Greeting to Maria
- 56 B&O and Reading
- 57 Charlottesville sch.
- 58 Uey from WSW
- 59 Autobiography of 33-Across
- 64 Become an open pansy, e.g.
- 65 Locale of valuable stones
- 66 Stars that shoot off
- 67 Elroy Jetson stroked him
- 68 Goes out with
- 69 Shoots off

Down

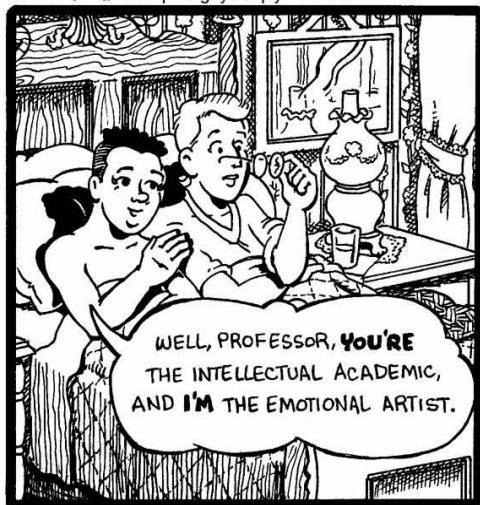
- 1 Men with steel rods
- 2 A fan of
- 3 Venetian assembly
- 4 Where priests come together
- 5 Sounds of Scarecrow's foes
- 6 Herald
- 7 Pitchfork-shaped letter
- 8 Morsel for a mare
- 9 Stays in the closet, say
- 10 Loads
- 11 Score for Billy Bean
- 12 Where little Jack Horner stuck it
- 13 Used hoes
- 14 High-spirited horses
- 19 What you use to tie a man up?
- 20 Cold-blooded one
- 25 Alice portrayer on The Brady Bunch
- 26 Frigid
- 30 Post-lovemaking sighs
- 31 WWI troop group
- 33 "No way" man?
- 34 Julia of Kiss of the Spider Woman
- 35 Loses an erection
- 36 Robert Goulet role on Broadway
- 38 Can some tomatoes, e.g.
- 39 Acquired family member
- 40 Red grape variety
- 41 Tools for Michelangelo
- 42 East end?
- 43 Stocking stuffer?
- 44 Billy Bean's food group?
- 46 Pulls out, in Gone with the Wind
- 48 School year division
- 49 Jones with a locker
- 52 Relief that rhymes with "homo"
- 53 Open-mouthed responses
- 60 Nero's heart
- 61 Foot fetish digit
- 62 Verse on a vase
- 63 Caveman of comics



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Chris and Sterling at Rainbow Lounge.



David and Larry at the Round-Up Saloon.



Tye and Mattie at Sue Ellen's.



Todd, Jeff and Raymond at Cross Bar.

If you're braving the weather, these spots might make it worth your while. It is **Super Bowl Weekend** for starters.... **Sue Ellen's** brings in **Krimsin Door** to play on Saturday night. The **Andrea Dawson Band** finishes off the weekend playing on Sunday. **Little Chalupa** hosts karaoke on Thursday **DJ Perry** spins during the **Dallas Eagle's Fetish Friday** party. This week's theme is **Hanky Code Party**. Just be sure yours is on the correct side. **DJ Blaine** follows up on Saturday's **Release** night **TMC: The Mining Company** opens early for it's **Super Bowl Tailgate Party** on Sunday Looking for your Valentine's date? **Dallas Pride Cheer** hosts their **Valentine's Dinner and Date Auction**. The event benefits **AIDS Arms** and you might get your V-Day kiss Head to the **Bud Light Hotel (AKA the Aloft)** downtown Saturday to catch **Ke\$ha** perform with **Nelly** and **Pitbull** **DJ Escape** plays Saturday during the **Brick's Super Party Weekend**. Their Sunday **Super Party XLV** is sponsored by **Manhunt** and they are offering a sponsorship to the gay sports team with the most members there **Sports Illustrated** and the **Black Eyed Peas** host their own Super Bowl party before performing halftime at the game. The event happens Friday with **DJ David Guetta** in tow So you think you want a cowboy? Perfect timing because the **Round-Up Saloon** brings back its **24th Annual Rent-A-Cowboy** event. The dollar-a-dance night gets you boot scootin' time with all your favorite guys and gals and benefits the club's **R.E.B.A.** fund Mondays and Wednesdays **Dish** adds live music to the menu with **Kristin Center** and **Matt Barron** performing respectively Just be sure and bundle up!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Randy and Will at Grapevine Bar.



Ty, Kevin and Pot Pie at Station 4.



Larry and Richard at the Hidden Door.

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