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STUD SOFT STUD TOMBOY
MACHA BOI HARD STUD BUTCH
DOMINANT AGGRESSIVE



Butch Voices

'Masculine of center' women say that, all labels
aside, it's about being comfortable in being yourself

■ Read the full story beginning on Page 12



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Lesbian challenging in District 7



Casie Pierce

Casie Pierce believes that the Great Trinity Forest could be the gateway to lifting up South Dallas community

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

If Casie Pierce wins her District 7 race, she would be the first open lesbian to serve on the Dallas City Council. She is challenging incumbent Carolyn Davis.

District 7 runs from the Mesquite border north of I-30 then dips south of the highway through Pleasant Grove, across parts of South Dallas including Fair Park and stopping just before North Oak Cliff.

There have been no openly-LGBT council members since Ed Oakley resigned to run for mayor in 2007. James Nowlin, another openly gay candidate, is challenging incumbent Angela Hunt in the District 14 race.

For a number of years, Pierce has been active in her Parkdale community, a section of Pleasant Grove with a large LGBT population. She

worked on neighborhood cleanup and park projects with at-risk youth.

In 2005, Pierce founded Groundwork Dallas Inc., a nonprofit organization that has improved access to the Great Trinity Forest and cleaned up gateway neighborhoods. The group has built nature trails that connect with the Trinity River Audubon Center and the planned neighboring equestrian center. The group has also done landscaping around churches and on roadway medians, and, using grant money, it has employed at-risk neighborhood teens.

Pierce sees the possibility of bringing business to South Dallas by developing local eco-tourism in the forest surrounding the Trinity River.

"Lots of people go outside of Dallas to go mountain biking," Pierce said, adding that most people don't even know these trails are here.

Pierce said that much more could be done to develop the Great Trinity Forest into a recreational area. The 6,200 acres of forestland lies just four miles south of downtown encompassing an area four times the size of Manhattan.

While Pierce calls District 7 incumbent Carolyn

■ **PIERCE**, Page 11

Walking to remember

For Kelly Smith, volunteering at AOC and participating in the AIDS Walk is a family affair — in more ways than 1

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

When she was growing up, Kelly Smith always thought of her uncle, Brad, as more of a brother and friend than an uncle.

"He was my dad's only brother. He was a chef, a great cook, and when my parents opened up Tommy's Hamburgers, he helped them out a lot," Smith said. "He was only 10 years older than me, and I grew up hanging out with him and his friends."

But then AIDS struck, Kelly said, "and I lost Brad. I've lost his partner, and I've lost all of his friends but one. It was devastating."

But before he died in 1994, Brad Smith introduced his niece to Tarrant County's AIDS Outreach Center and the agency's annual AIDS Walk. In the years since, the bond between Kelly and that agency has grown ever stronger, giving her an op-



FAMILY BUSINESS | One reason Kelly Smith works at the Tommy's Hamburgers on Camp Bowie, owned by her parents, is that her job there gives her plenty of time to volunteer with AIDS Outreach Center. (Tammye Nash/DallasVoice)

portunity, she said, to honor the memories of her uncle and friends by helping those still living with HIV.

"I did the AIDS Walk with Brad in 1992 and 1993 before he died in 1994. Then by the mid-90s, I started getting more involved. I became a team captain and started getting other people to walk with me."

But Kelly didn't limit her involvement to the AIDS Walk: She joined the center's board of directors three years ago and is now vice president of the board.

Still, the AIDS Walk holds a special place in her heart.

"It's my passion. It's my calling. I truly love it,"

■ **KELLY SMITH**, Page 10

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Gay divorce goes to high court

More than two years after he filed an uncontested petition for divorce, attorneys for the gay Dallas resident known as "J.B." have appealed his case to the Texas Supreme Court.

J.B. and his husband, H.B., were married in 2006 in Massachusetts before moving to Dallas. After they filed for a divorce in Dallas County in January 2009, Democratic District Judge Tena Callahan ruled in October 2009 that she had jurisdiction to hear the case, calling Texas' bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. Republican Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott promptly intervened and appealed to the 5th District court, which overturned Callahan's decision.

On Feb. 17, attorneys at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, which represents J.B., filed a Petition for Review of the 5th District's ruling by the Texas Supreme Court.

"This Court should grant review because this case involves questions of great importance to Texas state law, which likely will recur with increasing frequency until this Court provides guidance," the attorneys wrote in their Petition for Review.

— John Wright

Anti-bullying bill attacked

The removal of sexual orientation from an anti-bullying bill didn't stop anti-gay groups from opposing the measure during a Texas House committee hearing on Tuesday afternoon. Jonathan Saenz, director of legislative affairs for the Plano-based Liberty Institute, told the House public education committee that even though sexual orientation and other enumerated categories were removed from Rep. Mark Strama's HB 224, he fears the categories will be restored to the measure at some point.

"It is about the gay rights, the homosexual community, the transgender community, and an effort to create special categories and special rights in our law that don't currently exist, and really carve off protections for some groups and not others," Saenz told the committee. "It's not about bullying, and it's not about solving this problem. It's about creating new classes of people and giving special protections to some categories and not others."

Strama said during the hearing that he has no plans to restore the enumerated categories to the bill. "We took all those classes out so we wouldn't have to have this discussion," said Strama, D-Austin. "It's not my intention to put any of that list back in the bill. At this point I'd like to keep it the way it is if we can get this bill moving through the process."

Representatives from Equality Texas, which supports the bill and testified in favor of it on Tuesday, have said the enumerated categories were removed to improve the bill's chances of passage and de-politicize the issue.

Also testifying against Strama's bill were both the anti-gay Texas Eagle Forum and the normally pro-equality American Civil Liberties Union. ACLU representatives say Strama's bill, which would allow school officials to crack down on cyberbullying that occurs off campus, creates concerns about free speech and parental rights.

— John Wright



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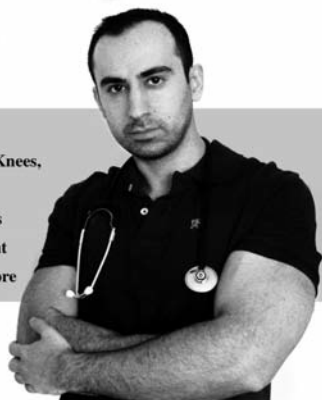
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localbriefs

S. Dallas AIDS Walk orientation set

Volunteer orientation for the South Dallas AIDS Walk takes place on March 15 at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and on March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Sanford Brown College, 1250 W. Mockingbird Lane.

The walk will be on March 19 and benefits the Anthony Chisom AIDS Foundation and other South Dallas AIDS service providers. Auntjuan Wiley is the event chair. To volunteer, contact Ray Jordan at 214-491-8028.

LGBT Lobby Day set in Austin

The LGBT community will gather in Austin this weekend for several conferences that culminate in lobby day at the state capitol on Monday, March 7.

Registration for lobby day begins at 7:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. in downtown Austin.

At 9 a.m. Equality Texas will hold a press conference on the south steps of the Capitol. Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston and the parents of suicide victim Asher Brown will speak. Brown would have celebrated his 14th birthday on March 2. Joel Burns has been added to the speakers line up. After a training session, lobbying begins at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at the church at noon with lobbying continuing another two hours on Monday afternoon.

DBA offering free LegalLine

The Dallas Bar Association will offer two LegalLine call-in programs in March, in which volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions free of charge. The programs will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 16.

For LegalLine assistance, call 214-220-7476 between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the designated days.

Words of Women celebration set

The 9th Annual Words of Women, a Dallas Celebration of International Womens Day, will be held at The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future, 3800 Parry at Exposition in Fair Park, on Sunday, March 13, from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature the Words of Women Essay of the Year Presentation, speakers addressing issues of important to women, music and entertainment, an information table and food.

One of the main topics will be the women of Egypt.

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez will attend. Suggested admission is \$10.

Parking is free.

For more information, call Christine Jarosz 214-319-6696 or Linda Evans at 214-660-1820, or e-mail Teresa Nguyen at teresa@redidagency.com. ■

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Carnivale returns to Oak Cliff



CARNIVALE ON PARADE | Entries in the Oak Cliff Mardi Gras parade set for Sunday reflect an eclectic mix, with everything from the Oak Lawn Band to the Catholic School Dad's Club participating.

Oak Cliff Mardi Gras celebration promises an eclectic mix of participants and sponsors, including many from LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Oak Cliff celebrates Mardi Gras with a two-day event this weekend, beginning with the second annual "Dash for the Beads," a 5K run, one-mile walk and costume contest.

As with many Oak Cliff events, the sponsor list and participants in the weekend include an interesting and diverse mix. Sponsors range from Gay-Bingo, Hewitt Habgood Realty, Monica Greene's new restaurant Bee and attorney Chad West to the Oak Cliff Lions Club and Oddfellows.

"It's why I love it over here," said Old Oak Cliff Conservation League President Michael Amonett. "It's an interesting, eclectic mix."

The walk begins in the Bishop Arts District on Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. and the "Dash for the Beads" run at 9 a.m. Runners will proceed west on Davis Street, turn north on Tyler Street then east on Colorado Boulevard, with a detour through scenic Kessler Lake Drive, and return to the starting point on Bishop Avenue.

After race participants return, race awards will be followed by costume awards. Judges for the contest include Sheriff Lupe Valdez and Councilwoman Delia Jasso.

Vendors will have booths in the Bishop Arts District throughout the morning. The Cliff Blues Band will provide live music. DJ Ish follows and Ballet Folklorico performs.

A masquerade ball begins at 8 p.m. at the newly restored Kessler Theater on Saturday night. Lil

Malcolm and the House Rockers will headline the evening. Zydeco Blanco will open.

Weekend organizer Amy Cowan called OCarnivale at the Kessler a semiformal masquerade ball with people dressed in everything from jeans to black tie — with lots of masks.

The Mardi Gras celebration continues on Sunday with a crawfish boil at 3 p.m. in Bishop Arts. Tickets are \$15 in advance and a limited number will be sold at the door for \$20. That will be followed at 4 p.m. with the Mardi Gras parade.

Parade entries reflect an interesting mix and include everything from the Oak Lawn Band to St. Cecilia Catholic School's Dad's Club. Cowan said they have 48 entries.

Following in New Orleans style, several Oak Cliff krewes have formed with names like Krewe of Winnetka Heights and Krewe du Cliff Temple. Cowan is part of the Kings Highway Krewe, which has a 24-foot float.

She said Krewe La Rive Gauche always has the best costumes and that Friends of Kidd Springs Park's entry features a 10-foot Eiffel Tower.

Norma's, a popular Oak Cliff diner since 1956, has a vintage fire truck in the parade. Valdez will march with a sheriff's posse on horseback.

Cowan said most mayoral and council candidates will be participating.

The parade begins on Davis Street at Windomere Avenue. The route follows Davis Street to Madison Avenue where it returns to Bishop Arts on Seventh Street.

Among the parade sponsors is Hunky's. "We're going to open at 10 a.m. on Saturday," said Hunky's owner Rick Barton, referring to the Bishop Arts location only. "We'll be decorated and festive."

Cowan said traffic and parking will be difficult. "Take public transit or ride your bike," Cowan said. ■

TCU hosting LGBT leadership conference this weekend

Students from other area schools will gather for workshops and speakers on Fort Worth campus

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

This weekend, Texas Christian University is hosting an LGBT leadership conference that started out as a response to bullying and bullying-related suicides, organizer Jamal King said.

Last fall, as news spread about the large number of gay teens who took their own lives in a short period of time, the TCU gay-straight alliance held a candlelight vigil on campus. But King said they felt it wasn't enough. "[We felt] there must be something more we could do," he said.

In November, the GSA invited a speaker from the Trevor Project to come to campus in the spring. That speaking engagement quickly evolved into an all-day conference.

King said there was an overwhelming response, not only from his own campus but also from Texas Wesleyan University and University of Texas at Arlington. Students from campuses around the state and Oklahoma have registered.

In addition to the speaker from the Trevor Project, representatives from Youth First Texas, the AIDS Outreach Center, QCinema, PFLAG, GLSEN, Dallas Voice and Pride in the Truth, a religious group founded by members of LGBT-friendly Crossroads Community Church, will participate. "We had a surprising amount of support from the faculty and staff," King said.

He was also happy with the corporate support the project received. Pepsico and Wells Fargo are the event's main sponsors. Z's Café, located at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center and formed in partnership with Samaritan House, will provide lunch.

Eric Russell is a junior at TCU and vice president of the GSA. He is coordinating committees from check-in to food, entertainment and programming. "It surprised me how quickly we did this," Russell said.

Russell said he knew they were on the right track when he heard from a psych professor that she was letting all of her students know about the conference. He said the diversity and acceptance on the TCU campus has surprised him.

Amanda Moten is president of her GSA at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, and she said she is "expecting to learn a lot" at the day-long conference.

She said that she's been encouraging people from her campus and others in the area to attend. She said she's been a member of a GSA since she was in high school and has opened her school's group up as a safe space for high school students who don't have a place in their own school. "People can come and talk," she said. "No matter what other people have told you that you are, you're accepted here."

Moten said she is helping sponsor high school students who cannot afford to attend the conference. She also commented on the relationship her group has developed with TCU's. "I love that our GSAs are becoming BFFs," she said.

King said that it was important for TCU's GSA to become more visible on campus. He said he hopes that students just coming to terms with coming out would be helped by just knowing the LGBT leadership conference was taking place on campus and that they are not alone.

The conference begins with a kick-off party on Friday, March 4, at 7 p.m. The \$20 registration fee for the Saturday conference includes lunch. The party and conference will be held in TCU's Brown Lupton University Union. ■

To register or for more information, contact gsa.tcu@gmail.com.



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KELLY SMITH

From Page 4

she said. "This year is my fourth year to be co-chair of the walk, and it's going to be the best one ever."

"My partner, Holly Edwards, works for Luke's Locker, and now Luke's has come on as a walk sponsor. It's always so much fun to be part of the walk, but it's even better now because this is something that we do together," Kelly said.

Supporting the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities has always been something of a family affair for the Smiths, starting with her parents, who own Tommy's Hamburgers.

They first opened the restaurant in 1983 in an old Texaco station in Lake Worth. The second location opened 19 years ago on Green Oaks, and nine years ago the third location on Camp Bowie — where Kelly usually works — opened its doors.

Tommy's has long been a meeting place for LGBT community groups, like Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County, and a sponsor for events like AIDS Walk.

That support obviously grew out of the family's love and support for Brad and Kelly, but it may have been kick-started by some people's response to news of Brad's HIV-positive status.

"We had a lot of people back then calling and saying things like, 'Do all of you have AIDS?' People were so confused about AIDS, about what it was and how it was spread," Kelly recalled.

Kelly went to college first at Texas Wesleyan then graduated from Texas Christian University. She taught school for a few years, but then decided what she really wanted to do was return to the family business. And now she is in charge of marketing and buying for Tommy's Hamburgers.

"It's certainly never boring around here," Kelly said. "I love working with my family and meeting the customers. But what I really love about this job is that it gives me the time to do volunteer work at AIDS Outreach Center."

And that volunteer work is really about family, too: "There's a great group of people at AIDS Outreach, like a family," Kelly said. "It's a group of people all coming together with one goal — to get services to the people who need them."

Right now, that group is all coming together to kick off the agency's 25th anniversary year with a



READY, SET WALK | Participants in the 2011 AIDS Outreach Center AIDS Walk get ready to set out from the Fort Worth Community Arts Center on the 5K course. This year, the walk moves back to its roots in Trinity Park. This is Kelly Smith's fourth year as AIDS Walk co-chair.

successful 19th annual AIDS Walk. And although the walk accounts for only a relatively small percentage of AIDS Outreach Center's overall budget, Kelly said it is one of the agency's most popular annual events.

"This is the one fundraiser we do that everyone can participate in. You can bring your children. You can bring your pets. It's just a lot of fun for everyone," she said.

Kelly is getting close to her own 20th anniversary with AIDS Outreach, and that's a long time to work or volunteer in the world of AIDS — burnout is often an issue.

But not for Kelly Smith.

"Things have changed over the years," she said. "People are more receptive to donating to the cause and being involved. But at the same time, some things haven't changed. People are still getting infected."

"Just recently, I reconnected with an old friend I hadn't seen in awhile," she continued. "He told me he is positive. On the one hand, it made me feel good that he felt comfortable enough with me, that he trusted me enough to tell me something so personal. But on the other hand, it was very hard to hear that someone else I know, a

friend who is such a wonderful guy, has HIV.

"I was feeling safe again, I guess. And then my friend tells me he is infected. It just drives me more, makes me want to do more and work harder," Kelly said. "I won't stop. I can't stop. Until there's a cure, I'll never stop." ■

The 19th annual AIDS Outreach Center AIDS Walk will be held Sunday, April 3, beginning at the pavilion near 7th Street in Fort Worth's Trinity Park. The event begins at 1 p.m., and the walk steps off at 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is \$25, available online at AOC.org. Registration the day of the walk is \$30 and starts at 12:30 p.m. at Luke's Locker, 2600 W. 7th St.

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PIERCE

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Davis supportive of the work she's done to clean up neighborhoods and attract more people to the district, "I'd be more aggressive" as the District 7 council representative, she said.

Pierce said that businesses should be given a reason to move into the district. With the opening of DART's Green Line, she would work to bring development to the area as a council member, especially around the new Lawnview Station.

Pierce said that while she wasn't expecting anything on the scale of the development that surrounds Mockingbird or Park Lane stations to come to her South Dallas district, she would like to see some new apartments and stores.

Pierce works as a grant writer. She cites that talent as a source for funding new projects that will stimulate and attract business to the district. Groundwork Dallas got started with an initial \$100,000 grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

As a City Council member, Pierce said she would be more aggressive in attracting grant money to her district for development.

And she believes the area is primed for business development. Pierce points to all of the vacant stores, offices and manufacturing facilities in the area. She said that while much of the opposi-

tion to beer and wine sales in last November's election came from her district, she'd like to see a few carefully zoned stores inside the Dallas border that cater to the still-dry Mesquite market.

"Right now they're shopping in Garland," she said.

Pierce calls herself a fiscal conservative and said the city should stop giving away PIDs — public improvement districts that offer large tax advantages to locate businesses in certain areas. She mentioned the new Hunt Oil building downtown that she said was going to be in the exact same location whether they received a tax abatement or not.

"That's \$30 million," Pierce said. "We shouldn't bribe people to be here."

Pierce said her strategy is to build a coalition of voters who want to see positive growth in the area. She said she hoped her fiscally conservative views would attract voters in the more conservative District 7 areas north of I-30. In her neighborhood clean-up campaigns, she has worked with a number of South Dallas pastors who she hoped would support her candidacy.

In addition to her grant writing career, Pierce has worked for the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority and still volunteers as a trolley operator when they need extra help for special events.

Her Parkdale neighborhood lies east of Fair Park and south of Military Parkway. She lives with her partner who manages a high-end restaurant.

MARATHON MILESTONES



OUT RUNNING | Tom Timbol, left, and Tito Flores recently completed the 2010-2011 Marathons of Texas Challenge by running marathons in Austin on Feb. 20 and in Houston on Jan. 30, and the White Rock event last Dec. 5. Earlier in 2010, they completed the Marine Corps marathon on Oct. 30 and the New York City marathon on Nov. 7. And they participated in the Cowtown Marathon in Fort Worth on Feb. 26; it was the 40th for Timbol and the 17th for Flores.

District 7 incumbent Carolyn Davis was contacted for comment for this article, but had not responded by press deadline. ■

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Butch Voices

'Masculine of center' women say that, all labels aside, it's about being comfortable and confident in being yourself — whoever you are

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

At 53, Theresa Strong is used to being called "sir." She's accustomed to the double-takes when she uses a public restroom. She's used to the stares. None of it bothers her.

"I'm very comfortable with who I am. I have

been a tomboy all my life," Strong says.

In "the old days," Strong would have been called a "butch." Although some people still use that term, today it's more common to hear "stud," instead. At least, in some places.

The terminology varies from region to region,

STUD SOFT STUD TOMBOY
MACHA BOI HARD STUD BUTCH
DOMINANT AGGRESSIVE



from culture to culture, even from race to race, says Q-Roc Ragsdale, a Dallas lesbian who, like Strong, is considered a "stud."

Ragsdale, who works with the group that stages the national Butch Voices conference, says that here in North Texas terms like "aggressive," "dominant," "boi," "tomboy" and "macha" are common, depending on where you live and your cultural background. And then there are the "degrees" of butch: "hard stud," "soft stud," and so on.

But whatever label you use, Ragsdale says, it's about a "masculine of center" identity that is a natural state for some women but that, at the same time, can put them at odds with the society around them.

"It's not male; it's masculine. There's a difference," Ragsdale says. "A lot of people don't understand the difference between sex and gender. Gender is so fluid. It's a spectrum. ... There are woman-identified butches, trans-identified butches. Some use male pronouns and some use female pronouns. Some are just butch in presentation. Some don't like gender roles, and some live gender roles.

"You can't make assumptions. You can't generalize. Our community is so diverse, just like any other community," Ragsdale says.

Challenges

But one thing most masculine of center women share, she adds, is a sense of living outside the mainstream. And that can often leave them facing many disadvantages.

Butch Voices aims to help correct those disadvantages with its three-pronged mission focusing on physical and mental health, social and economic justice and community building.

As a masculine of center woman, "there are just so many different social norms that you challenge," Ragsdale says. "You challenge gender norms. You challenge the mainstream notion of lesbians." And those challenges can sometimes make life difficult.

When that happens, Ragsdale says, it can af-

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A BUTCH LEXICON

Below are samples of definitions taken from UrbanDictionary.com. But as Q-Roc Ragsdale points out, the language for masculine of center women varies geographically, culturally and even racially. And some women may use the same words, but have different meanings for them.

On UrbanDictionary.com, each word listed below has several "definitions," and some, Ragsdale warns, can be very derogatory.

- **Stud:** Basically a badass. This person is really cool. Everyone looks up to them and wants to get with them. This person can be a male or a female, gay or straight. Studs do not discriminate; STUDS DOMINATE!

- **Soft stud:** A somewhat masculine gay woman with just a hint of a femme in her, i.e., she may look like a guy one day but look like a girl the next. She may be a bit more feminine than most studs or wear makeup. A soft stud will usually have a femme for a girlfriend but may also date another stud that is more masculine than her.

- **Aggressive:** The dominant female in a lesbian relationship (usually the girl who dresses and acts like a tuggish male)

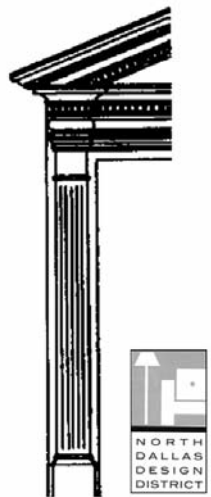
- **Dom:** A dominant homosexual female, mostly used in the African-American community on the East Coast. The more masculine female is assumed to be the dom but that is not always the case because there are feminine females that are "dominant" also.

- **Butch:** An overtly/stereotypically masculine or masculine-acting woman. Can be used to denote an individual, or the dominant role in a lesbian relationship.

- **Tomboy:** A girl who dresses and sometimes behaves the way boys are expected to, often into more masculine things, like "stronger" sports, computers or cars. Stereotypically wears jeans, baseball caps, and denim vests/jackets.

- **Boi:** In the lesbian community, a young transgendered/androgynous/masculine person who is biologically female and presents themselves in a young, boyish way.

- **Macha:** The feminine form of macho.



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BUTCH

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fect a person's mental health. "Butch women often have to go through a double coming out. They have to come out as lesbians, then they have to come out again as butch women. Depending on where you live, geographically, that can be hard, and it can affect a person's mental health," she says.

Lesbians in general often don't have the same access to health care, and it can be even more pronounced for butch women.

"It's very uncomfortable sitting in that waiting room with a lot of women, and then they call your name and all the other women are looking at you, wondering why 'that dude' is there," Ragsdale says. "And it's hard for a lot of butch women to have the kind of conversations they need to have with a doctor."

She cites, as an example, trying to explain to a doctor why she wouldn't agree to taking birth control pills, which can be used to control menstruation as well as to avoid pregnancy.

"I had a girlfriend who went on birth control once, and it made her breasts bigger. [As a stud], I don't want my breasts to be bigger. It's hard to explain that to a doctor who is not understanding me and my relationship with my body," Ragsdale says.

It's even more conflicting for women in the



Eva Rivera



Q-Roc Ragsdale

Butch Voices

The Butch Voices National Conference is being held Aug. 18-22 in Oakland, Calif. Registration, before Aug 1, is \$100, or \$85 for volunteers signing up to do at least four hours of volunteer shifts during the conference.

The official host hotel where most events will be held is the Marriott City Center. Room rates are \$109 per night. For reservations, call 510-451-4000.

For more information about Butch Voices and the national Butch Voices Conference, go online to ButchVoices.com.

category that used to be referred to as "stone butch." A lot of butches, Ragsdale says, "don't want anybody at all 'down there,' whether it be a partner or otherwise."

Women who don't fit traditional gender stereotypes also often find themselves unemployed or under-employed, especially when they are unwilling to compromise on their identity or gender presentation, Ragsdale says.

"I have a mentor in her early 50s who has always been butch, and even she has advised me that 'you need to femme it up' to get a job or keep a job. Personally, I am against that. I won't

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coverstory



Michelle Paris



Theresa Strong

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do it. But I know a lot of people who do it, a lot of teachers especially," Ragsdale says.

And then there's that third prong of the Butch Voices mission: building community.

"We are working to create an environment where everyone can be themselves and still get the kind of health care and work they want and need," Ragsdale explains. "A lot of that work is about awareness. There is a lot of mystery surrounding the butch identity; it's plagued with so many stereotypes. That's why I always encourage people to have the courage to ask questions.

"A lot of people are deterred from asking questions because they don't understand us. But if they'd take the time to get to know us on a personal level, it would make a big difference," she adds. "And that's not just in the mainstream community. I think there are a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions about butches in the lesbian community, too. We have to start at home, in our own community. To the lesbians who don't get it, who don't understand us, well, I say just know that we are still women, still lesbians, still part of your community."

Even among the masculine of center community itself, Ragsdale acknowledges, there are differences. "Every butch, every stud is different," she says. "Sometimes people get caught up in labels. It's like the word 'dyke.' Some people have reclaimed 'dyke.' Others hate the word. What I say to them is, at what point do we stop worry-

ing about the semantics and just get things done? We have to celebrate all our identities and work for all the community and not spend time debating the labels."

Taking responsibility

But while masculine of center women face any number of challenges, that more masculine identity and presentation also "comes along with some male privilege," Ragsdale says. And with that bit of male privilege comes responsibility.

"If you are a butch, or a stud, and you get that bit of male power and privilege, then you have a responsibility to use that power and privilege in the right way and not abuse it — not in your personal life, and not in the world," she says.

And in the same vein, butch women need to pool that male power and privilege to work for positive change for the community as a whole.

"We have got to get our whole community more involved [in the battle for LGBT equality]," Ragsdale says. "If you go to a meeting or event for one of the more mainstream LGBT groups — like Lambda Legal or Human Rights Campaign — you'd be really hard pressed to find any butches or studs. Maybe that's because the mainstream LGBT community looks down on us. But maybe it's because we don't try to be involved.

"We have to focus on mobilizing our base. We can't sit around and cry about how we aren't being included if we aren't even bothering to show up in the first place," Ragsdale says.

■ BUTCH, Next Page

BUTCH

From Previous Page

It's personal

Ragsdale, like Strong, can trace her stud roots back to her childhood. She remembers her mother giving her a Barbie doll, when what she really wanted was the Ninja Turtles and the G.I. Joes her brother got. Still, she played with the Barbies, wanting to fit into the role her parents and society had mapped out for little girls.

Eventually though, Ragsdale came to terms first with her sexual orientation and later with her more masculine identity as a stud. It's all about, she says, finding that comfort level that allows you to be who you are.

Eva Rivera and Michelle Paris both describe themselves as "soft butches." While they may lean toward the more masculine end of the gender spectrum, that doesn't mean they always ignore the more feminine accoutrement, like makeup or jewelry.

"I guess a soft stud is kind of a mixture of femme and stud," Rivera says. "I am tomboyish. I always have been. I came out at 19, and the way I dressed then was sporty — you know, tennis shoes and baggy jeans. I never wore a dress, and I have always been attracted to feminine women."

Being a stud is partly about the way a woman dresses and her mannerisms, Rivera says. "You take on a role. But we're not all the same. Being a butch or a stud, being hard or soft or whatever — it's just what makes you comfortable," she adds.

Paris agrees: "I am a soft butch. That's just the way I am. Underlying that is who I date. I like feminine women. And in a relationship, I am the more dominant one. But I don't have to make a big deal of it."

"I am the same with everyone — family, friends, people I know, people I don't know. I am the same; I am myself," Paris continues. "When you see those women who are always trying to prove what studs they are, that's because they have low self esteem. They make it more of an issue because they are trying to prove something, to themselves or to other people. Me, I don't care. I am who I am."

And that, says Strong, is at the core of the issue: Self-esteem and confidence and a sense of self that doesn't rely on labels or clothes or mannerisms.

"You have to be comfortable with yourself. You have to be confident in yourself," Strong says. "We [as masculine of center] women are so diverse. Everything that women are and do, we are and we do. My best friend is a stud, but she has a son, so she's playing all the roles."

"The fact is, I dress the way I dress because it's comfortable for me. You like who you like, and I like very feminine women. I am courting a woman right now and she is totally femme," Strong adds. "This is who I am. I am not playing a role. This is just natural for me. We may be butch or studs or whatever word you want to use, but at the end of the day, we take off our clothes, and we're still women. A lot of people forget that." ■

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viewpoints

We are 'greater than AIDS'

As LGBT community grows more complacent, HIV infections in gay, bisexual men continues to rise

This year marks 30 years since the discovery of the first case of what was later identified as AIDS. With that news, our lives and relationships as gay men were forever altered. We witnessed an unthinkable tragedy that has taken the lives of more than a quarter million of our gay and bisexual friends and lovers.

In the face of this devastation, leaders emerged. The crisis helped to shape our community's political agenda, and it provided a platform around which gay leaders could advocate for rights and equality. We realized that if we informed ourselves and acted on what we learned, we could be greater than the disease.

Thanks to the efforts of gay men and our allies, our community saw a dramatic decline in new infections by the late 1980s. Many of us can look back with immense pride at the collective response in those early years.

The availability of effective combination drug therapies in 1996 fundamentally changed how we thought about HIV. No longer was HIV the death sentence it had once been. We had new hope. For many, HIV was a manageable chronic disease.

Many of us turned our attention to marriage equality, adoption rights, the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" and other pressing issues facing our community. While we

broadened our focus, AIDS did not.

When we become complacent, HIV thrives. New HIV infections among gay and bisexual men in the United States are on the rise. Yes, on the rise.

We are the only risk group for whom this is the case. According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control, one in five of us — that is, gay and bisexual men — in some of the largest U.S. cities today are living with HIV. And half of those who are positive do not know it.

Unless we act now, we will see these numbers rise even higher, and quickly.

My partner, Sir Elton John, often talks of his friend Ryan White, a boy whose tremendous courage in the face of AIDS forced our leaders to take action and inspired many of us. Today, Ryan's story continues to remind us that just as HIV began one person at a time, it will end one person at a time.

Elton and I recently had a baby boy. Becoming fathers has given us new perspective on what it means to take care of one another — as parents, as partners and as members of a community.

And, it reminds us that we cannot be complacent in helping to create the kind of society in

which we want our son to grow up. In short, we must take responsibility and each do our part to create a future free of HIV, by being informed, using protection, getting tested and treated — and by getting involved.

And so, as we mark 30 years of this disease, Elton and I have recommitted ourselves to being greater than AIDS. As chairman of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, I'm proud of the community organizations with which we are working to fight stigma and prevent the spread of the disease. And I'm proud that leading LGBT companies — like HERE Media, LOGO TV and Dallas Voice — are refocusing attention on this epidemic. And I hope more will join us.

As a community, we once showed that we could be greater than AIDS. Now is our time to do it again. Visit GreaterThan.org/pride to get started.

David Furnish is Chairman of the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF.org). The Elton John AIDS Foundation is a supporting partner of Greater Than AIDS (GreaterThan.org/pride), a national movement organized in response to AIDS in America with a focus on the most affected communities. Columnist photo courtesy Richard Leslie.



David Furnish
Special Contributor



A LOOK BACK | Elton John, right, is joined by Ryan White, left, and Jason Robertson, both suffering from AIDS, as he performs at "For the Love of Children" benefit for children with AIDS and other serious illnesses in 1988. (Alan Greth/Associated Press)

How to tell if you are middle aged

From the Lingerie Football League on one end to lesbian separatism on the other, some of us that are left stuck here in the middle get a bit annoyed with those on the ends

Ever heard of the Lingerie Football League? It's a women's football league where the women wear helmets, shoulder pads, bras, panties and garters. Billed as "true fantasy foot-

ball," the teams have names like the Los Angeles Temptation and the Dallas Desire.

If this league catered any more to men there would be cigars at halftime.

But I didn't learn about the Lingerie Football League from a guy; I learned about it while visiting a lesbian website.

The site, TheSeattleLesbian.com, provided Lingerie League information and videos on its sports page.

That in turn provided me with a reminder of my age, a keen sense of where I am on the spectrum of lesbian thinking — and a headache.

I don't react well when lesbians view women in the bootylicious way many men do. Maybe it's because I'm 47 and remember how women fought to be viewed as more than tits and ass.

Now to see lesbians encourage the ogling of women, to watch them match men drool for drool — well, that feels like a step backwards.

However, as I'm 47 and not dead, I'm mindful of the sentiments of a younger lesbian generation, which might be expressed like this: "Hate to tell you Grandma, but you older folks fought

so that we could be whoever we want to be. We can revel in pure sexiness like guys do. We can be as shallow as guys. So thanks!"

Um, you're welcome?

When I looked further down The Seattle Lesbian's sports page, I found stories about the WNBA's Seattle Storm. As a huge Storm fan, I was pleased to see them. As a reader teed off over the highlighting of the Undressed Football League, I assumed the site and I could now be friends again.

Not. The stories concerned three players, and the site editor chose one action shot and two glamour shots. The two glamorized players had on more make-up than RuPaul.

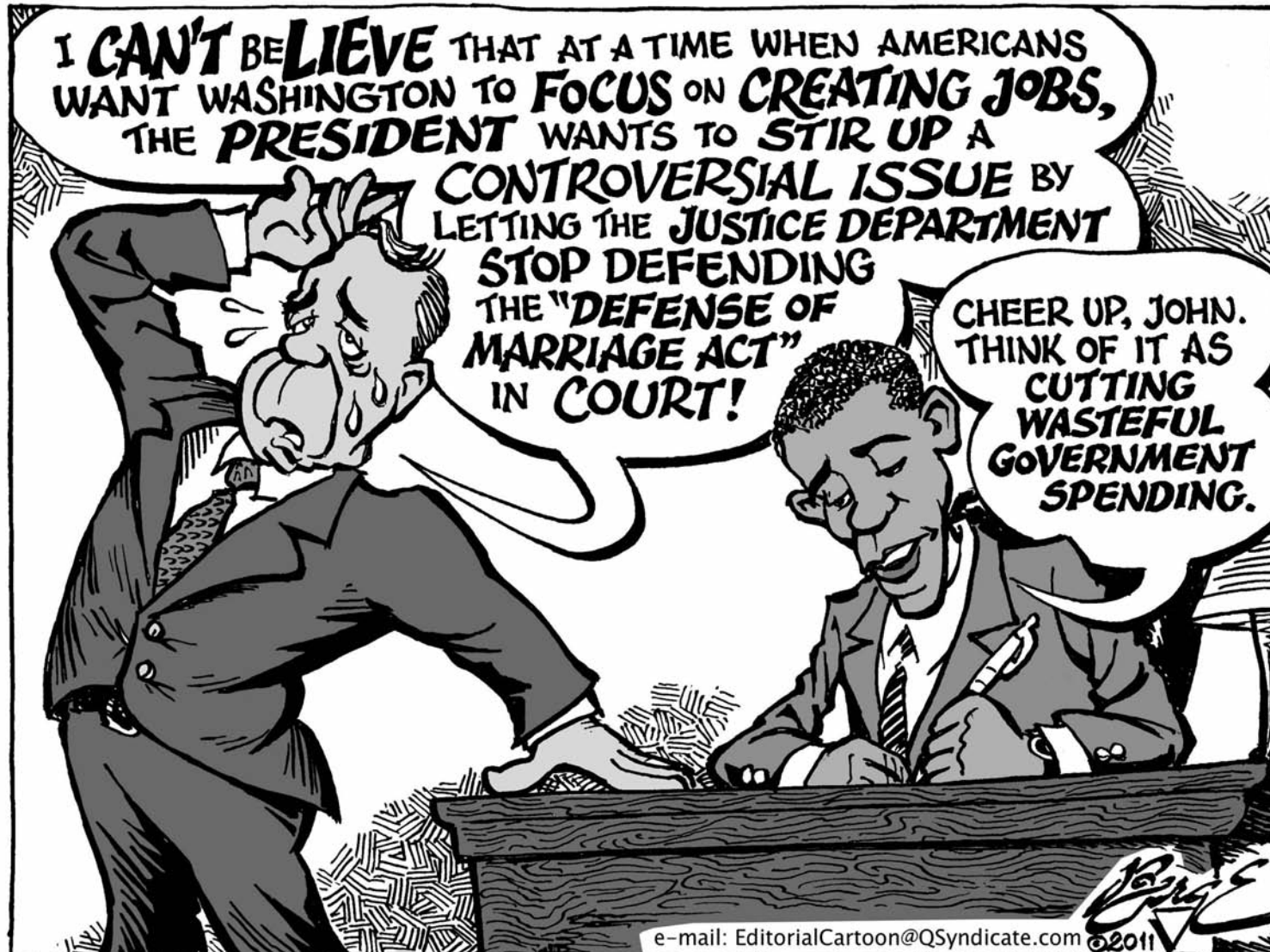
So far on this lesbian site I'd seen sex and glamour — and that was just the sports section.

The experience made me feel old and on the curmudgeonly end of the lesbian spectrum. But another experience with media had me feeling youthful and wildly open-minded.

I received in the snail mail the latest issue of a magazine called Lesbian Connection. I began getting the bimonthly publication last year, and it's now clear to me what an asset it is for dykes



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety



everywhere.

LC serves as a lesbian forum, enabling readers, who provide most of the content, to tell their stories. It offers a worldwide list of lesbians willing to share information about their regions. Subscriptions are on a sliding scale.

It's also now clear to me that the average LC reader remembers Truman's inauguration.

Okay, I exaggerate.

But the magazine, founded in 1974, is something of a relic. Birthed in the era of lesbian separatism, LC reflects its origins. Readers have names like "Artemis Passionfire" and "Flash Silvermoon" — and while I wish I made those up, I didn't.

I've read a lot about "womyn's land" and combed through oodles of irate letters when the cover art on LC wasn't PC. The magazine says it defines lesbians as "women-born-women," meaning transgender women don't count.

I wouldn't say LC is stuck in time, but it's moving arthritically through it.

I'll continue reading and enjoying it, and I'll go back to TheSeattleLesbian.com. Both will keep me honest.

Now I know middle age is more than just a number. It's when you feel connected to the generation behind you and the generation ahead of you — and when both generations annoy the crap out of you. ■

Leslie Robinson suspects that 35 years ago she would've called herself "Cheddar Morning-Glory." E-mail Cheddar at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and read other cheesy columns at GeneralGayety.com.

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

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Is Tom Leppert anti-gay?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Will you attend Equality Texas' Lobby Day

- Yes: 21 percent
 - No: 58 percent
 - Not sure: 21 percent
- 61 Votes cast

Feat of Clay

Clay Aiken went from 'American Idol' to gay icon — and more

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

It should come as no surprise that singer Clay Aiken would be a gentleman. With his Southern twang and clean-cut persona, he's both personable and professional in an interview. But the kid is also pretty slick.

"Not many people can deal with the scrutiny of bullshit."

Whoa — did Clay Aiken just drop the "S" word? The remark comes on the heels of a question about his much blogged-about new relationship with Jeff Walters, a local actor with recent parts in such shows as Uptown Players' *Closer to Heaven* and Ohlook's *The Rocky Horror Show*. Perez Hilton and many others (our own Instant Tea blog even got in on the action) were quick to highlight the guys' night out on the town, complete with pics at Theatre Three and the Gaylord. What soon followed were pics of Walters from Grindr and his work as an underwear model.

"I'll save you the trouble of asking and not answer," Aiken laughs with that underlying tone that he's tight-lipped about his personal life.

Fair enough. There is much more to Aiken, after all, than mere gossip fodder, as he's proven with his staunch activism for the welfare of children and youth. His service with the National Inclusion Project (formerly the Bubel/Aiken Foundation) and UNICEF has been notable, but his work with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) may have his most personal vested interest at heart.

"I think that I chose to work with GLSEN more vocally than other equality organizations because it hits home more," he says. "All the organizations are incredible, but I got picked on growing up as a kid. For being a nerd, for being gay before I knew I even was. And I still get picked on. Being a celebrity doesn't protect you and it can be worse when it's more public."

Aiken says that without any sign of whining. He focuses less on what people are saying about him (there is a lot out there that's not-so-nice, starting when he was still an *American Idol* contestant) and is more interested in directing his attention to anti-bullying causes and making schools safe.

"I understand that mission from my personal standpoint. From the scars," he chuckles. "But as a former teacher, I want to be sure

CLAY AIKEN

Verizon Theatre, 1001
Performance Place Grand Prairie.
March 8, 7:30 p.m. \$49-\$70.
Ticketmaster.com

schools are safe places for kids."

Interestingly, as a fairly new dad (his son is 2 now), Aiken says his passion didn't necessarily grow from parenthood. Instead, he says he'd like to think he was always that passionate. But having a son did add a perspective that he thinks might be missing in today's LGBT parents.

"Well, it's one thing to protect yourself, but an entirely different thing to protect your child," he says. "I understand that if my son is gay, I want him to have rights and protections. I think that idea is somewhat lacking within the community. It's easy to forget that the rights we're fighting for are for another generation."

Aiken hesitates to liken the struggle for equal rights for LGBT citizens now with the civil rights movement of Black America in the '60s, but he connected with the idea that then, people were working and fighting for rights so that generation's children didn't

DAPPER DUDE | Clay Aiken doesn't spill the beans much on his personal life, but talks up his activism work with LGBT organizations because he takes them and the work they do very personally.

have to. Aiken encourages that thought for LGBT parents.

"We don't have as many opportunities to look at it that way," he says. "The generation before us may not have been able to get married and we may in this lifetime, but as a father now, I want to make sure and set up a future for my son."

Lest we forget, Aiken is first and foremost a musician and singer. He'll remind North Texas of that as his tour stops at Verizon Theatre on Tuesday in support of his fifth full-length studio release, *Tried and True*. He recorded old-school tunes from the '50s and '60s, putting his indelible vocal stamp on classics like "Mack the Knife" and "Unchained Melody." Ironically, Aiken doesn't listen much to any music. He's more of a news junkie.

"I really don't. I listen to NPR and watch CNN," he admits. "I love top 40 stuff like Katy Perry and Gaga when it's on in the car, but I guess I'm kind of a music-less musician."

Highly doubtful. ■



Men in blecccch!

'The Adjustment Bureau' portrays God as a bureaucrat. That's its best quality



ANGELS IN AMERICA | An adjuster (John Slattery, left) tries to keep a politician (Matt Damon) on course with his fate in this silly but never quite ridiculously fun time-waster.

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

At the risk of being accused of picking nits, the first thing among the many that bothers me about **The Adjustment Bureau** is that a key plot point involves a former congressman and current Wall Street big-wig traveling through New York City by bus. Now, in a movie that deals with angels, fate and magic doors, the details of transportation may seem miniscule, but that's the problem: If you want me to buy the big stuff, you have to convince me in the details. There's a reason monkeys pick nits out of their fur: They are *annoying*.

So is, ultimately, *The Adjustment Bureau*. As a movie, it's neither fish nor fowl: Does it want to be a chick flick, about how a romance between an ambitious politician (Matt Damon) and a free-spirited dancer (Emily Blunt) can overcome fate itself? Or is it a sci-fi action film with *Matrix*-like ambitions to reveal the One Big Secret: That what we think of as free will is actually an intense heavenly bureaucracy of angels wearing fedoras and God as a CEO who meddles in individual lives?

The script, based on a Phillip K. Dick story, is too gadabout for its own good. There are echoes of *Men in Black*, but not the humor. (The joke of *MiB* is that the agents *look* like clichés of spies; apparently, the best angels can do to disguise themselves in 2011 America is dress like 1950s G-Men, or extras who wandered off the set of *Mad*

Men.)

This is a poor man's *Inception*, and even though it makes marginally more sense, its style and its premises just don't fly. Damon's character wants to find Blunt's but can't — how could he possibly track her down? What, he's never heard of Missed Connections on Craigslist? How about he goes on TV and mentions it — he is a damn national hero, after all. (If I worried about every profile on Grindr that fell off my

radar, I'd never get any work done.) It's also been done before, better, as the "City on the Edge of Forever" episode of the original *Star Trek*. Harlan Ellison should consider legal action.

Maybe if there was any romantic chemistry between Blunt and Damon it could work (there isn't; a passionate kiss near the end looks like a painful prostate exam for both of them; Blunt seems far sexier when she's dancing with the men of the Cedar Lake Ballet company, which gets the best P.R. since E.T. ate Reece's Pieces). Or maybe we'd care if the climax didn't hinge on weird rules, like Heaven having worse security safeguards than Los Alamos, water making angels ineffectual (on a planet covered three-fourths in oceans) and a sleepy operative allowing destiny to go off course. I'm not exaggerating at all. Perhaps if I were, it might actually entertain you, instead of drain you. If this is the destiny of movies, I say we all go off the map. ■

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, John Slattery, Terence Stamp.
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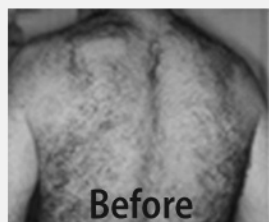
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L+S clubs

Bellying up to the bar

Leatherman Payne and his partner dive into club ownership with the Eagle



MEN OF DENIM | Ostmeyer, Payne, Johnson, Frazier and Roy now all own the Dallas Eagle.

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

Until about a month ago, everything Jeffrey Payne knew about a bar was how to order a Sprite in one (Payne doesn't drink). Maybe how to cruise a guy during happy hour. That was it. That's changing. Fast.

At the end of January, Payne and his partner David Roy became shareholders in the Dallas Eagle.

"David and I have been speaking about it for a few years. We toyed with starting our own bar, had looked at other bars that had come up for sale in the meantime but never found what we were looking for," Payne says.

Then last year Mark Frazier, one of the owners of the Eagle, approached them. "He heard we were looking," Payne says, and asked if they would be interested in investing. Things progressed fairly quickly from there.

"I really didn't know what to expect," Payne says. "Working with Mark and Cully Johnson and Jerry Ostmeyer, who are the other owners, we all bring something different to the table. We're all active. There's no silent partner, no one standing on the sidelines. Lot of changes have either happened or are about to happen. The DJ booth is now against the side; new countertops are being put in; and we have an updated draft [beer] system."

Payne's history with the Eagle is notable. He was named Mr. Dallas Eagle in 2008 — the first step on his way to Mr. Texas Leather and finally International Mr. Leather, a title he held from

May 2009 to 2010 and for which he received widespread acclaim throughout the community for his leadership.

"Having been around the world like I have been, getting to know the *hugely* supportive gay community — not just the leather community — I wanted to be more involved," he says. "The Eagle was just the right thing we were looking for. It's a Levi/leather bar, but it doesn't stop there: The bears, the court, the drag queens, softball teams, the bowling league — it's not limited to just one sector of the community. It's a wide array of people. Even straight people who are involved in the gay community hold activities there."

"Bar owner" joins Payne's other job titles of late, which also include running a court reporting service and serving on his non-profit Sharon St. Cyr Foundation, which raises money for hearing aids and sign interpretation for the deaf community. Payne is going deaf, although it has not progressed as fast as his doctors had predicted.

"It has gradually gotten worse but I'll hang on to every day I can," he says. "Understanding is escaping more and more. David said something to me this morning and what I heard and what he said were on two different planes. Mine was much funnier."

His hearing impairment also figures into his work at the Eagle — in some not-to-predictable ways.

"Sunday was the first time I worked behind the bar," he says. "When I'm at the Eagle I don't wear my hearing aids so people were placing orders and I didn't hear them." ■

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BEEFCAKE WEEKEND: PORN STARS WILL PACK 'EM IN

Maybe you could call it ironic that the weekend before *Fat Tuesday*, Dallas is being inundated with lots of *muscle*. It also gives those gays who head down to Cedar Springs something to repent during Lent: Lustful feelings will be top on the list.

Over at **The Tin Room**, Men magazine's Man of the Year for 2010, **Samuel Colt**, pictured top right, joins real-life boyfriend and fellow adult film star **Chris Porter**, below right,



for two nights of booty-shaking deliciousness. They will make a joint appearance starting at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Also on Saturday, hot star and multiple GayVN Award winner **Ricky Sinz**, pictured below, will make his Dallas bow with an appearance at **TMC: The Mining Company**. You can get your photo taken with the sexy hunk beginning at 11:30 p.m.

Samuel Colt and Chris Porter at the Tin Room, 2514 Hudnall St. March 4 and 5, 11 p.m.—2 a.m.
Ricky Sinz at TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. March 5, 11:30 p.m.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

WFAA abc

Buick seduction

Don't let its old-man rep scare you off — the new Regal is a powerhouse

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

I feel guilty, like a guy on the down-low looking for a trick in a dark alley. A hot body, charming personality, hard romp and a delightful ride through ecstasy wouldn't erase the fact that I'm crossing a forbidden threshold. It feels dirty, yet somehow invigorating. While I may harbor a certain lust to explore my inner feelings, I'm afraid people will find out.

What will they think? What would my *partner* think? What if I came home with a ... *Buick*??

Best to come clean and confess: I've been on a tryst with the new Regal, all fine in handsome dark skin sublime.

I've been tempted by Buicks before — the Park Avenue, LaCrosse, and Enclave to name some. I even enjoyed a rendezvous with a *Rendezvous*. But I was completely seduced and taken in by the German-built Regal. Oh, I love getting in the sack with Germans: Mercedes, Volkswagens, BMWs, and Audis — a little Teu-

tonic romance is delish. I even devoured a couple of half-breeds like the Smart, Mini and departed Chrysler Crossfire. I tend to be turned on by German cars that disguise their upbringing. Few do so better than this Buick.

For a mid-size sedan, the Regal's body is smokin'. Its hunkered shape with arched roofline looks like it was water-hewn from petrified Black Forest trees. Buick's trademark waterfall grille, swoosh down the side, 18-in.

aluminum wheels, fog lamps and formed-in rear spoiler cut a swath. Chrome puts a shine to the twin exhaust outlets. Red paint would be hot, but I'm warming up to the carbon black metallic.

Interior accommodations meld Bauhaus with Buick. Large analog gauges, an array of buttons for audio, NAV and climate controls, and an Audi MMI-style joywheel for major dash controls are straight from Die Fatherland. Harman/kardon speakers thump you stupid from the USB iPod input. Bluetooth enables hands-free calling while heated leather seats could cook stuffing. If chocolate is an aphrodisiac, then I'm

'11 REGAL

Buick. 182 horsepower, 2.4 liter inline 4. 19/30-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$31,975



HOT AND SHAME FREE | Let others roll their eyes — you'll enjoy driving the revamped Buick Regal if you can get beyond the down-low guilt of a classic with sporty updates.

in bliss with the dash, steering wheel, buttons and trim decked in that color.

Automakers often cut pennies on things like steering wheel leather, but the hide in the Regal feels like it came from a Hilfiger calf. It would feel even better heated. Buick hit all of the details like chrome door releases, padded dash materials, thick carpeting and classic style. Everything feels like it could be in a car half-again more expensive.

A front-drive car can never be coaxed into positions rear-drivers flex with ease, but that's not because the Regal lacks heart. Tickle its front toes with the 2.4-liter engine that generates 182 horses through a six-speed automatic transmission, and

it steps off smartly. An available Ecotec 2.0-liter turbo four-cylinder engine generates 220-HP through an available six-speed manual transmission. Turbos only give up one mile per gallon from the base engine's frugal 19/30-MPG city/hwy. GM's Ecotec engines are a little rambunctious, but turbos make whoopee as if on a Miami pool lounge.

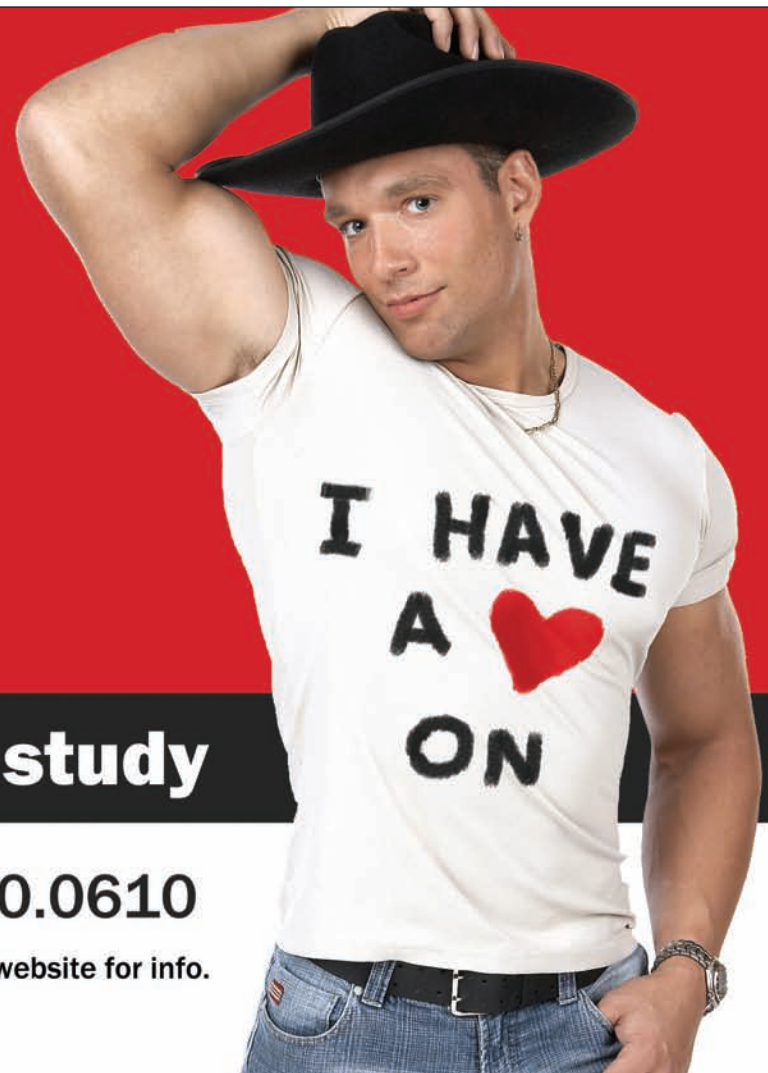
Putting this in perspective, the renowned Buick Grand National fed its rear wheels from a 245-HP 3.8-liter turbo V6. The 1987 GNX was rated 276-HP and could blast a 'Vette. The 2012 Regal GS, due soon with a turbo-four, will enjoy 255-HP and enhance handling with an adjustable suspension system. Not only is it more muscular

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than the famed Grand National, but it is a far better dancer.

During development, GM flung Regals around Germany's famed Nurburgring and tempted Bimmers on the Autobahn. Even without the forthcoming turbo, the Regal has no problem passing triple-digits on open roads. Its chassis, steering and brakes are equal to the task of controlling the sedan at such velocities. The car for middle-agers could stand to lose a few pounds, but is otherwise athletically fit.

Can't a guy fall in love with a perfectly decent luxury sedan and not feel shame? I shouldn't have to sneak it into a back drive-

way so my parents don't find out. My best friend made all kinds of cracks about arthritis and joining John McCain for early-bird dinner specials. Fair enough — the name Regal reeks of old-fashioned appeal, but one drive stops the jokes. With the exception of plastic Buick badges and a re-worked grille, it is 100 percent pure German sport sedan — an Audi A4 with American comfort (and a Buick price tag). So sue me if I don't want to pay a fortune for escorts anymore.

The Regal is a good companion, but just a little mischievous with a six-speed manual transmission and turbo. The beautiful body keeps all that fun below the covers. Secure in

my manhood, I realize a secret relationship with a Buick is nobody's business. In no time, gangstas and club queens will be singing Buick's praises. If not, I won't give a damn, because I won't be able to hear any of it from the car's silent interior.

Cooler than an Electra 225 "Deuce and a Quarter," Regal is far more than a 60-minute man. You can rock 'em and roll 'em for up to five years or 100,000 miles and still have the powertrain covered. Of course, you can also enjoy the Regal all night long.

Prices start around \$27,000 for non-turbos, just under \$30,000 with. The '12 GS will come in around \$40k. Ready to be seduced? ■



CHOCOHOLIC | The dark, rich interior of the Regal is not only beautiful, it doesn't skimp on simple luxuries.

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7:30pm (ST) \$10 Broken Gears Project Theatre -
The Magdalen Whitewash
7:30pm (SC) \$10 *Taking Chances - A Cabaret with Marjorie Hayes*

FRIDAY • MARCH 4

7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$15 Faye Lane - *Beauty Shop Stories*
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Second Thought Theatre - *The Lesson*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 *David Lee Nelson...Status Update*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Nouveau 47's FTP Comedy - *Inside the Loop*

SATURDAY • MARCH 5

11:00am (MS) \$10 *Debutante Warriors: Girl Power in 3D*
12:30pm (SC) \$20 Playwriting/Storytelling workshop with Faye Lane
(not included with Loop pass)
2:00pm (MS) \$10 Cordes & Parr Productions - *The Great White Way*
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Rite of Passage Theatre Company - *Technically Related*
5:00pm (MS) \$10 *Points of Departure: Sarah Gamblin & Friends*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Second Thought Theatre - *The Lesson*
7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$10 Muscle Memory Dance Theatre -
Black is the Color of that Kettle
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Blacken Blues Theater - *Acts of Love*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 *Taking Chances - A Cabaret with Marjorie Hayes*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Dallas Poetry Slam

SUNDAY • MARCH 6

2:00pm (MS) \$15/\$10 (\$15 for both or \$10 for one show)
Ellie Leonhardt - *Pixel Dances* and
Satellite-Dance Collective -
Water's Edge and Eclipse Project
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Broken Gears Project Theatre -
The Magdalen Whitewash
2:00pm (SC) \$10 Rhythmic Souls - *Tap This*
5:00pm (MS) \$10 Greyman Theatre Company - *Dani Girl*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Audacity Theatre Lab - *I Have Angered a Great God*
5:00pm (SC) \$10 *David Lee Nelson...Status Update*
7:30pm (MS) \$15 Faye Lane - *Beauty Shop Stories*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Rite of Passage Theatre Company - *Technically Related*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 *Taking Chances - A Cabaret with Marjorie Hayes*

TUESDAY • MARCH 8

7:30pm (MS) \$10 TBA
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Blacken Blues Theater - *Acts of Love*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 *David Lee Nelson...Status Update*

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 9

7:30pm (MS) \$10 Cordes & Parr Productions - *The Great White Way*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Audacity Theatre Lab - *I Have Angered a Great God*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 Rocketship Productions - *Dark at the End of the Tunnel*

THURSDAY • MARCH 10

7:30pm (MS) \$10 Greyman Theatre Company - *Dani Girl*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Second Thought Theatre - *The Lesson*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 Rocketship Productions - *Dark at the End of the Tunnel*

FRIDAY • MARCH 11

7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Lauren Weedman - *No...You Shut Up*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 Stacey Smith - *Confessions of a Chubby Tomboy*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Nouveau 47's FTP Comedy - *Inside the Loop*

SATURDAY • MARCH 12

2:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Audacity Theatre Lab - *I Have Angered a Great God*
2:00pm (SC) \$10 Rocketship Productions - *Dark at the End of the Tunnel*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Rite of Passage Theatre Company - *Technically Related*
5:00pm (SC) \$10 Stacey Smith - *Confessions of a Chubby Tomboy*
7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Lauren Weedman - *No...You Shut Up*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 Rhythmic Souls - *Tap This*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Nouveau 47's FTP Comedy - *Inside the Loop*

SUNDAY • MARCH 13

2:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Lauren Weedman - *No...You Shut Up*
2:00pm (SC) \$10 Stacey Smith - *Confessions of a Chubby Tomboy*
5:00pm (MS) \$10 *Debutante Warriors: Girl Power in 3D*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Broken Gears Project Theatre -
The Magdalen Whitewash
5:00pm (SC) \$10 Rhythmic Souls - *Tap This*
7:30pm (MS) \$10 Dallas Cabaret Artists - *That's Life*

LB = Theatre Lobby MS = Main Stage ST = Studio Theatre SC = Stone Cottage

*Some productions may contain adult language, sexual situations, and/or violence.
Please consult the box office for content information regarding a particular production.

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DRIVER'S SEAT: JENNY BLOCK

Occupation: Author, freelance journalist and blogger, Jenny OnThePage.com.

How might we know you? I'm the author of *Open: Love, Sex, and Life in an Open Marriage* and sex columnist for FoxNews.com. If you can believe it!

What kind of car do you have? 2011 Subaru Outback. Cyprus green.

Have you named her? I just got her the beginning of February, but I'm toying with calling her the Green Machine or maybe just Greenie. Sigh. Who am I kidding? None of my cars have ever had names.

Subaru is a cliché lesbian ride, but I'll still ask: Why this car? You never know what we'll be up to. In the last four years, I've taken up all sorts of adventures and this car will be perfect for putting up with all of it.

Good gas mileage?

Yup. 29 on the highway and 22 in the city.

What are the rules of your car? No yelling. No playing "Punch Buggy." No eating if you're under 18. And I get to pick the music — always.

You have the most modern of modern families. How does this car help? Everyone and everything can pile in: my husband, my girlfriend, my daughter, our dog Walter, the Hula Hoops, the mountain bikes, the climbing equipment. You name it.

Fast driver or grandma? I can't lie. Grandma. Definitely.

Who drives more — your hubby, girlfriend or you? So far I'm the only one who drives this one. But most of the time we take his car or her car. They never want me to drive when they're with me. They say I drive too slowly. Go figure.

Best car memory: When I bought it, the guys at Subaru of Plano wanted to take a picture of me with it for some groovy promotion they're doing where they make you a calendar with a pic of you and your new car. Anyway, we had such a blast doing it. It was during one of those hideous, freezing, snowy days we had, but I insisted they help me onto the top of the car for a picture. And they did. I look like a crazy person in the pic because I'm laughing so hard.

Funniest road trip story? Ask me in six months.

What's in your CD/mp3 player right now? Jason Mraz, Katy Perry and Brett Dennen.

Stick shift vs. automatic: Automatic.



JENNY ON THE BLOCK

Bisexual author Jenny Block chose the cliché of a car for her new ride: A Subaru.

How do you rate this car to previous ones? I have always had Jeeps and I have always loved them. But this car is amazing. I suppose I'm going to need to give it some time. But I think it might beat out all of my previous rides.

Did any TV commercials sway you about your purchase? Maybe the one about "You never forget your first Subaru." But, honestly, it was the gang at the Subaru dealer. I just swung by one afternoon to have a look and it was super low pressure. They wanted me to want the car. And I did!

Sexiest thing about your car? Love the moon roof. Everyone looks good in moonlight.

What's the one new feature you already can't live without? Heated seats. I know it's not new in general, but it's new to me. I didn't have them in the Jeep. Now I do and I love them.

Where is one place you would like to drive your car? To Enchanted Rock in Fredericksburg, Texas, so we can go climbing and "camp" in the car if the tent freaks out my 11-year-old — or me.

So is this an SUV or a car or what? I think they consider it a crossover. It's a wagon but it looks more like an SUV and it has a ton of space. Besides, I cannot say I drive a station wagon because that reminds me of the white Dodge Aspen my mom drove in the '70s. Yick.

Are you a double space parker now that you have a new car? I so do not want to be that girl. I don't take up two spaces. But I do park way in the back of a parking lot where there is generally less commotion.

— Rich Lopez

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Whistlin' Dixie

Dixie Longate peddles plastic as America's funniest Tupperware Lady

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com



RESEAL THE DEAL | Drag Tupperware guru Dixie Longate keeps Fort Worth fresh with her show ... which also functions as a real Tupperware party.

Someone at Amway is very jealous, because fast-talkin', Southern drawlin' Dixie Longate (né Kris Andersson) has turned catalog sales into a small empire. It's mostly thanks to some hilarious shtick, the mouth of a sailor and a surprisingly thorough product knowledge in her plastic extravaganza, *Dixie's Tupperware Party*.

In her one-woman interactive comedy show, starting Wednesday in Fort Worth's McDavid Studio, Dixie reveals her sordid past, what with three dead ex-husbands and three children home alone in a trailer in Mobile, Ala. Stints in and out of prison keep her grounded and streetwise. But it's her genuine passion for those burpable bowls that has made the Tupperware HQ take notice since she began selling nearly a decade ago. After her first year, she landed in the top 20 of national sales and hasn't ever dropped out of it. Twice, she was the No. 1 Tupperwaresalesperson in the nation.

"I work real hard," she says. "When I was No. 1, I was doing buttlods of home parties. I don't sell as much at my shows because people are coming to be entertained — buyin' Tupperware is not always on their minds. But I'm not going to take that away. What sort of lady would I be if I showed all this fine-quality plastic crap and then forbid you the opportunity to purchase it? That would just make me sad."

Even though her show is wildly entertaining, it is an elaborate sales pitch. Tupperware is indeed available for purchase and what she started in small home shows translates just fine to bigger venues because she's confident in what she does. Becoming Tupperware's top sales diva has been motivating, but Longate acknowledges that there are other things in life.

"I have tasted sweet victory; now I want to taste other kinds of things," she laughs. "You have to keep puttin' stuff in your mouth to keep tastin' 'em. Victory tastes good. But you know what? So does a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader!"

Longate is stoked to be returning to Texas, if only to experi-

ence our hospitality: "Everybody's so neighborly. People want to have sex with me and I have to say, 'Not everybody!' Because I'm busy," she says. "I didn't get my chance to ride a mechanical bull, and that makes me happy, so I need to find one when I'm in Fort Worth. There's nothin' more fun than gettin' on mechanical bull and ridin' more than eight seconds, diggin' your heels in and just havin' a cocktail in a Tupperware tumbler in one hand and ridin' it like a Christian."

Longate is serious about her Tupperware sippy cup, always in-hand during her parties.

"Oh hell yes, I don't want to spill my drink. Riding is so much exercise, you need to make sure you're hydrated."

Longate takes a dragtastic approach to sales that shocks suburbia. "There are a couple fun

gals that are now selling Tupperware, making sure your food storage needs are being met. But you know how some Tupperware ladies just suck ass?" she asks. "They just sit there and they're boring as hell. You don't want someone sittin' there talkin' to your face about some bowl. You want to get up and have fun and do something crazy. That's why it's called a party, after all."

And it's one hell of a party. She's taken it on the road all over the U.S., and even out to sea on several Atlantis gay cruises. It's there she first came to love and accept the homosexuals — even if she can't say the word.

"Oh you know what? At first I was a little scurred of the homosectionals because in the Bible they say things like don't touch tongues with another man because that's filthy and all that. But I was like, well wait, I touch tongues with other men and they're so nice," Longate says. "And then I met some of them homosectionals, and at first I clutched my Bible and said, you're not supposed to be like that. But let me tell you somethin'. Homosectionals always smell good and they travel in packs so you don't want to mess with one because another one's gonna come up and throw glitter at your head and that's

gonna get in your eye and sting."

There are also other benefits to hanging out with the homosexual set.

"They are just such nice people, please and thank you and oh-ma'am-you-look-so-pretty-today. They're never trying to rub up on your leg when they buy you a drink. They just buy you a drink and that's that. And for that the Bible says I'm supposed to burn them? I don't believe in that part of the Bible."

As for her three dead ex-husbands, Longate swears there won't be a fourth.

"It's like they say: You can take the milk out of the cow, but you can't have sex twice in the same room without losing the camcorder. Or something like that," she says. "I'm gonna have some fun and meet some people behind the dumpster and lift my leg up just enough to put a smile on my face, but I'm not gonna get in a serious relationship again."

After all, she's got her job. Tupperware has been very good to her. Her bestsellers continue to be her Jell-O Shot Caddy (for takin' to church, of course), her safe-edge can opener and a new product that she swears the gays are going to love.

"I know you all go to the gym all the time and work out. We have this little shaker that you put all your protein shakes and stuff in and you shake it up real quick and it blends it without all those big lumps," she explains. "You don't want a big lump in your mouth when you're at the gym. Maybe afterward in the locker room, but that's different."

Look for that and plenty of other products to be demonstrated like never before at her party. And because she says the "homosectionals" like beautiful things, she promises you'll be happy just to sit and stare at her on stage.

"I'm just lucky Jesus made me pretty. I have nice legs and can have sex like a trucker for a month. I might not be able to cook real well and I might not be able to add stuff together without a really big calculator, but that's what Asian people are for," she says. "Everybody has their niche."

And Dixie's niche is one that can't be filled by just anyone. ■

TUPPERWARE PARTY

McDavid Studio, 301 E. 5th St.,
Fort Worth. March 9–13. \$22–\$38.
BassHall.com.



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L+S stage

The thin red line

Musical parody 'Trannie' toys with controversy but (sort of) rises above it

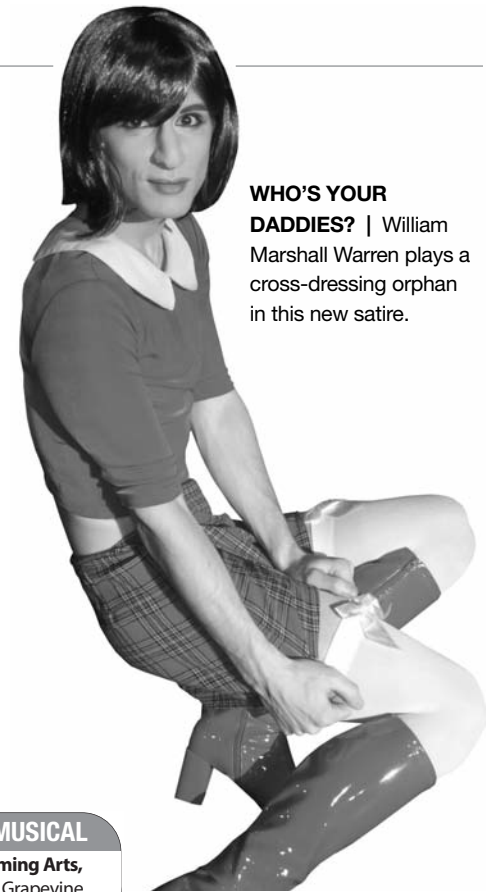
STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

It's amazing how two little letters added to a word can make such a big change. By taking the legendary Broadway musical, *Annie*, and putting a simple "TR" in front, a small-town theater has created a parody that will forever change the way you look at cute little red-headed moppets singing about mañana.

Despite what a lightning rod the mere word "trannie" is to controversy, in the context of this new musical, it's a necessary evil in order for the whole gag to succeed. It's never made completely clear

TRANNIE: A MUSICAL

Ohlook Performing Arts,
316 S. Barton St., Grapevine.
Through March 12. 10:30 p.m. \$15.
OhlookPerform.com.



WHO'S YOUR DADDIES? | William Marshall Warren plays a cross-dressing orphan in this new satire.

whether the title character is transgender or a transvestite, but the or-

phan's search for her two dads and meaning in the world defies most labels. Except funny, which would apply wholeheartedly.

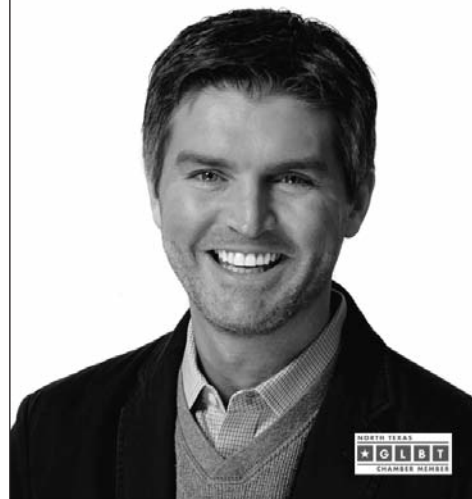
Tucked away in a tiny theater that looks like an old garage in Grapevine, Ohlook Performing Arts Center is just the kind of place you want to see pregnant teens dancing about and singing a song called "It's A Knocked Up Life." The fact that it's BYOB and has late-night-only showtimes makes the cheap admission even more enticing. And what's not to like about a show where the length of intermission is only as long as it takes patrons to use the single public restroom? Two members of our party were even asked to go pee behind a trailer so the show could go on.

Written by Matthew Lord and directed by his wife, Jill Blalock Lord (yes, this comes from a straight couple), the show has genuine moments of inspiration and some truly demented lyrics. It's got the high-school-drama-club charm of a single piano accompanying the singers, but it's that homespun quality that keeps the X-rated dialogue that much more off-kilter. Taking place at Unplanned Parenthood, a gay bar called The Manhole and Hooker's Alley, and with musical numbers like "STD," "Sleazy Street" and a newly imagined "Tomorrow," it's full not just of showstoppers, but pretty solid parodies.

In the lead, William Marshall Warren is a wisp of a man, but he infuses Trannie with just enough heart and old-fashioned gumption to elevate the whole thing to something with a sincere message and not just pondering. Sure, some people may not find the joke as funny as others and some may be put off by the low-budget production, but in the end, it does exactly what every small theater company should do: Experiment. Take risks. And make sure there's at least one sight gag involving anal beads. ■

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Munch madness

Brackets makes a run as an upscale sports bar, but it's a swing and a miss

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

Ever since the Hotel Palomar opened as a Hilton more than 40 years ago, it's had a Trader Vic's onsite — even when the restaurant was shuttered for more than a decade, the bones of it remained.

Until last year.

Now, the only tiki you're likely to see in the space of the old Trader Vic's is named Barber and may be commenting on one of the innumerable TV screens that dot the room. Gone are the wicker and bamboo; in their stead, brushed concrete and the green felt of pool tables. Polynesian is so 1962; Brackets is a the newest trend: The high-end sports bar.

Which is kinda sad. Are there any real sports bars left?

Brackets tries. You won't recognize the space, which extends cavernously back a lot further than Traders Vic's did. The food is slightly upscale, but the wide-open atmosphere, plethora of pool tables and ping-pong stations and dart boards mark this as a guy's hang.

Which, just as March Madness is underway, it should be. Though it doesn't have the buzz yet.

On several visits (including lunchtime during a recent game), we've been one of the few tables occupied by paying customers, and a sports bar demands buzz. You want to feel part of the action, lubricating it with likeable food and free-flowing alcohol. A lonely sports bar is *really* lonely.

The potential is there. The New York trend of high-end table-tennis gastropubs is its model, and if it catches on, this is the place to be for it. We liked the glass wall partitioning diners from the occasion stray ball landing in our soup, with a huge hi-def TV on the far wall to give up a clear view of the game. But you want someone *playing* on that table. Otherwise, it's just wasted space.

The kitchen tries for something as contempo-



THE USUAL LINEUP | Even upscale sports bars stick to the fundamentals: Pizzas (pretty good), nachos and nibbles. No home runs, though.

rary as the atmosphere. It's what it needs to be — pub grub. And that means shareable bites with lots of flavor. That worked with the pepperoni rosettes and knotted garlic pizza dough (\$8), sickeningly rich and delicious and almost certainly unhealthy-for-you appetizers that were meant to be washed down with a match playing over your shoulder. Probably slightly healthier but also good was the asparagus/green bean tempura (\$8) with spicy Asian mayo. Good start.

Then came the short-rib nachos (\$9). The chips themselves were more like fried wontons crisp, airy and firm and sufficient to support the plentiful garnishes on top. The meat was styled more like pulled pork than a more traditional bone-loosened strip, and the meat itself was excellent. We think. The black bean puree that crowned it was simply too salty and overpowering. Bar food is meant to make you thirsty — its how you sell beer — but this interfered with the taste. Although the guac looked slightly anemic and pale, the taste was spot-on — creamy with chunks, and we got lots of heat from the side of jalapeño.

The pizzas (\$9–\$15) are a combination of New York and Chicago styles: Airy but thin-crust, except for the bulbous edge crust. They are filling without forcing you to feel engorged.

There are several thoughtful ideas to elevate the preparation, chiefly a wood-burning oven. That's what's used, we assume, to prepare the wood fired pork chop (\$16). It's a thickly cut slab of meat, but that's a danger with a pork chop you're not stuffing: It gets quickly tough, as this one did. The plum glaze, a gooey concoction, added sweetness to the garlic mashed potatoes, but only tended to obscure the flavors of the pork. Perhaps for good reason: The pork was bland. Sliders were more on track, especially coming on potato bread with matchstick fries.

Desserts are out of the popular playbook for middlebrow cuisine: molten chocolate cake and cheesecake and the way-over-the-top s'mores calzone (\$6), so sweet as to make Julie Andrews seem like a bitch. It's definitely diet defeating.

That's all right during the playoffs. Or the NCAA finals. Or the Super Bowl. But what's gonna get me coming back here off-season? That'll take a hail mary.

OVERALL RATING



Brackets at the Hotel Palomar, 5330 E. Mockingbird Lane. Open daily at 11 a.m. BracketsDallas.com.

Upscale sports bar falters with hit-and-miss menu.



Food: ☆☆☆☆☆

Atmosphere: ☆☆☆☆☆

Service: ☆☆☆☆☆

Price: Moderate



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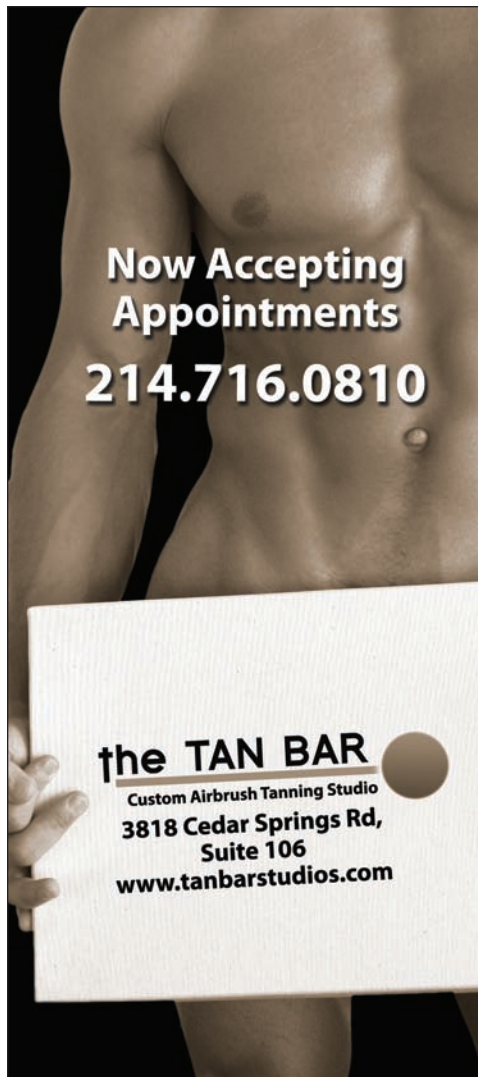


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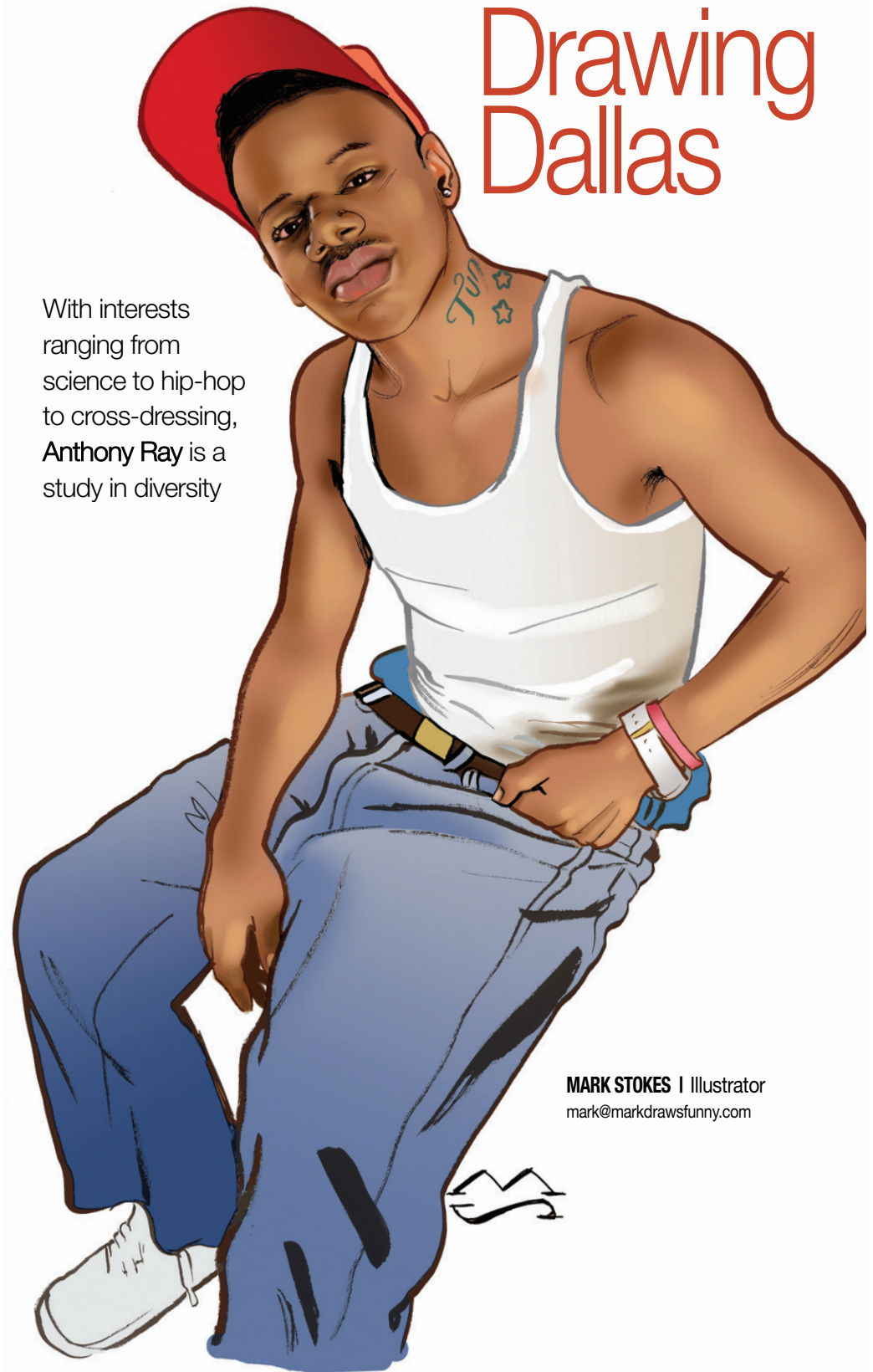
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Drawing Dallas



With interests ranging from science to hip-hop to cross-dressing, Anthony Ray is a study in diversity

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Anthony Ray, 19

Spotted along: Buckner Boulevard and Military Parkway, Pleasant Grove

Occupation: Food industry; student

Nature and nurture: A lively and vivacious Aries, Anthony is the baby in his family, and made the courageous and life-changing decision to come out at 15. His nurturing nature, along with an interest in math and science, has lead Anthony to pursue a career as a medical assistant, for which he is currently studying. This Dallas native has spent his entire life in the Big D and loves to hip-hop dance and sing R&B.

Budding Drag Racer? Anthony is in touch with his feminine side and occasionally likes to dress in women's clothes and paint his toenails. "I couldn't wait to get out of my mama's house to put on girl clothes." His two best girlfriends, Trice and Red, support him fully, often helping him do his hair and providing fashion assistance.

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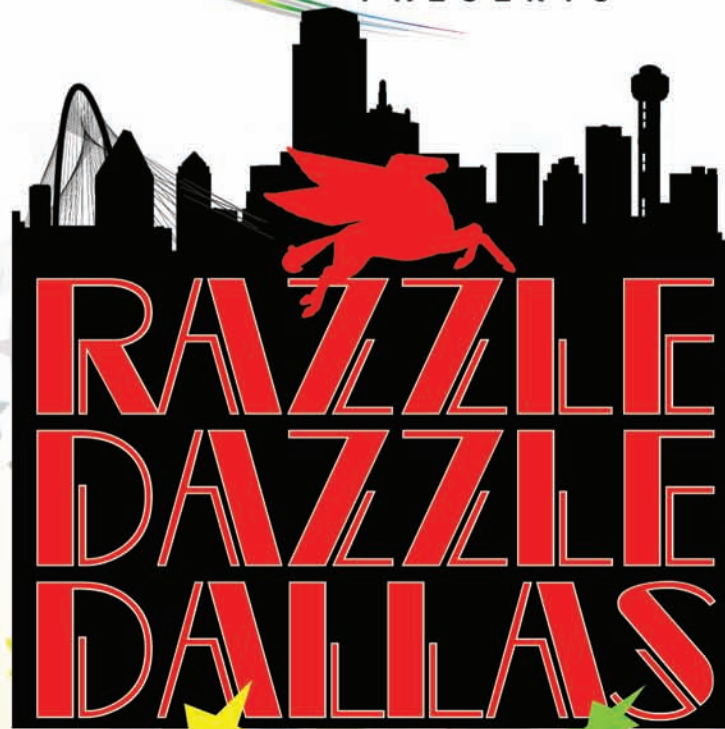
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Friday 03.04

A true international male

Nikolai Alekseev has become the face of Russia's LGBT community. He comes to Dallas to discuss the plight and triumphs of gays worldwide and how today's community can work toward equality everywhere. Gay Liberation Network's Andy Thayer from Chicago joins Alekseev talking about his experiences in Russia.

DEETS: Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. InterfaithPeaceChapel.org.

Saturday 03.05

Let's try this again, shall we?

Caven celebrates Mardi Gras across its clubs with Carnivale VI. With Ricky Sinz at TMC: The Mining Company and aerial artist Amber Monson at Sue's, the night is highlighted by the return of Cazwell at Station 4. We're not expecting the same Super Bowl party debacle that canceled his last show here. We are expecting a major crowd, if it's anything like his last S4 gig.

DEETS: Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$15-\$20. PartyatTheBlock.com

Thursday 03.10

Denton deals a pair of queens

The NX35 Music Conferette gets underway for a four-day music conference in little ol' Denton. Little D's answer to SXSW, NX35 gets way impressive with some pretty familiar names on the roster. The fest begins with legendary soul and gospel singer Mavis Staples and ends with outrageous sissy bouncer Big Freedia on Saturday.

DEETS: NX35 event grounds, 110 W. Hickory St., Denton. 35Conferette.com



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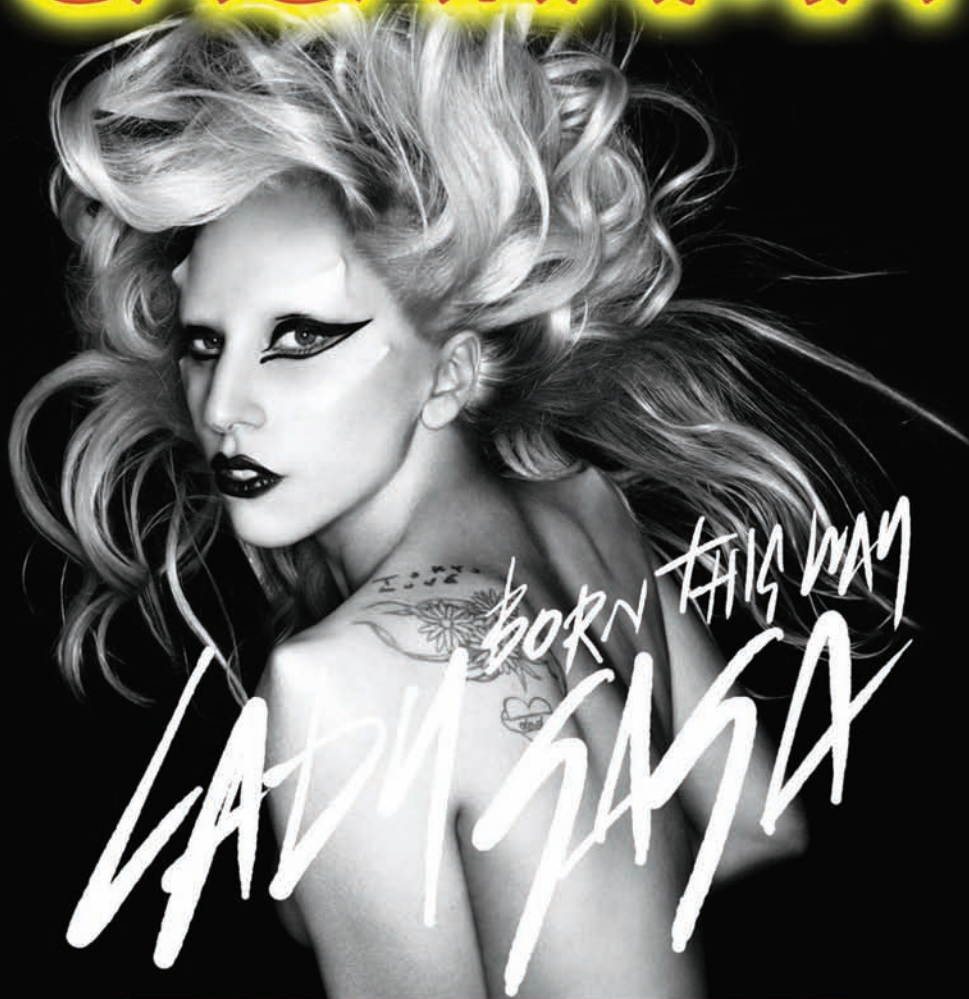
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FRIDAY 03.04**COMMUNITY**

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

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

Youth First Texas. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays-Saturdays and Tuesdays-Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org.

THEATER

Thank You For Being a Friend. The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road (inside S4). Through Sunday. \$20-\$25. UptownPlayers.org.

SATURDAY 03.05**COMMUNITY**

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling. Dealey Animal Care Center, 362 S. Industrial Blvd. 1 p.m.

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.

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



'GOLDEN' OLDIES | Uptown Players' 'Golden Girls' parody 'Thank You For Being a Friend' ends its run this Sunday at the Rose Room.

SUNDAY 03.06**COMMUNITY**

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

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

Friends Associating and Relating, LGBT social group Call 214-328-6749 for details.

MONDAY 03.07**COMMUNITY**

Log Cabin Republicans. Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

PFLAG Denton. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at 1

p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

TUESDAY 03.08**COMMUNITY**

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. 6-8 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY 03.09**COMMUNITY**

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.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas has a new time. This week's guest is Roger Wedell from Dallas Legal Hospice. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 03.10**COMMUNITY**

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

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

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Call 214-455-7316 for information.

this week's solution

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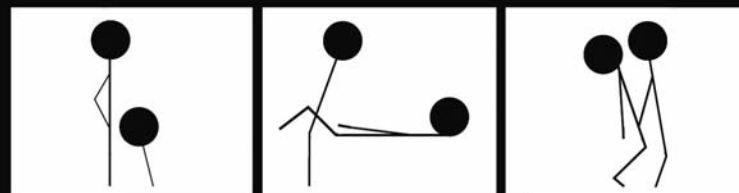


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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Wanda Sykes turns 47 on Monday. The comedian/actor came out during the National Day of Protest against Prop 8. We love her activist work with GLSEN and Cyndi Lauper's Give a Damn campaign. She recently played Miss Hannigan in a production of *Annie*. If anyone's going to bring sass to that role, it's Sykes.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Never forget to meditate. Getting into a frenzy and going off half-cocked carries a huge price. Calm that overheated brain and answers to your problems will come into focus.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Too many social temptations make it harder to get things done. Organize your friends in a productive way, especially in charitable service. That could introduce you to your next mate.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your initiative and innovations get good notice. Opportunities and responsibilities grow. Share the credit along with the work and you'll get lots of support from behind the scenes.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Friendly encouragement is welcome. When you parlay that faith into constructive efforts you'll run into new obstacles. Accept those creative challenges and justify the regard of your admirers.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your public reputation and career advances enhance your opportunities for fun and games. That feeds a cycle of benefits on both sides, but could be a distraction from work at home.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Being accommodating to your partner helps you reach new understandings. You may then hit a wall, but that was always there. It will give you a better understanding of how to negotiate limits.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Getting too clever at work confuses colleagues. Listen twice as much as you talk. Stick to what everyone knows you're good at and trust others on your team.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Indulge playful urges. Just remember your partner is with you against the rest of the world. If single, any prospective partner will be all the more eager to be on your side.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Creativity and even a dash of perversity, is the key to getting through any task, no matter how onerous. If you can hold on to that attitude you can clear away a lot of household drudgery.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Your efforts to be brilliant and playful are more confusing than amusing to the folks at home. Your friends kind of get it, but the act still needs a bit more work. It's OK; they all still love you.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

To get ahead more effectively you have to appreciate where you came from. Siblings, even if they seem angry or confused, have important lessons for you. Make a gratitude list.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Try a new look. That will start some fun discussions and then some arguments, but that's the point. You're used to stretching other people's brains, now push your own to new limits.

THIS WEEK

Spring fever hits early with Venus sextile Jupiter tempting us to new friends, fun and flirtation. Then she aspects Mars, eager to realize the dreams inspired by Jupiter. Venus and Mars will aspect Saturn, bringing everything back down to earth. Get grounded with fresh new perspectives and you're ahead of the game.

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

JANE'S WORLD



Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2011

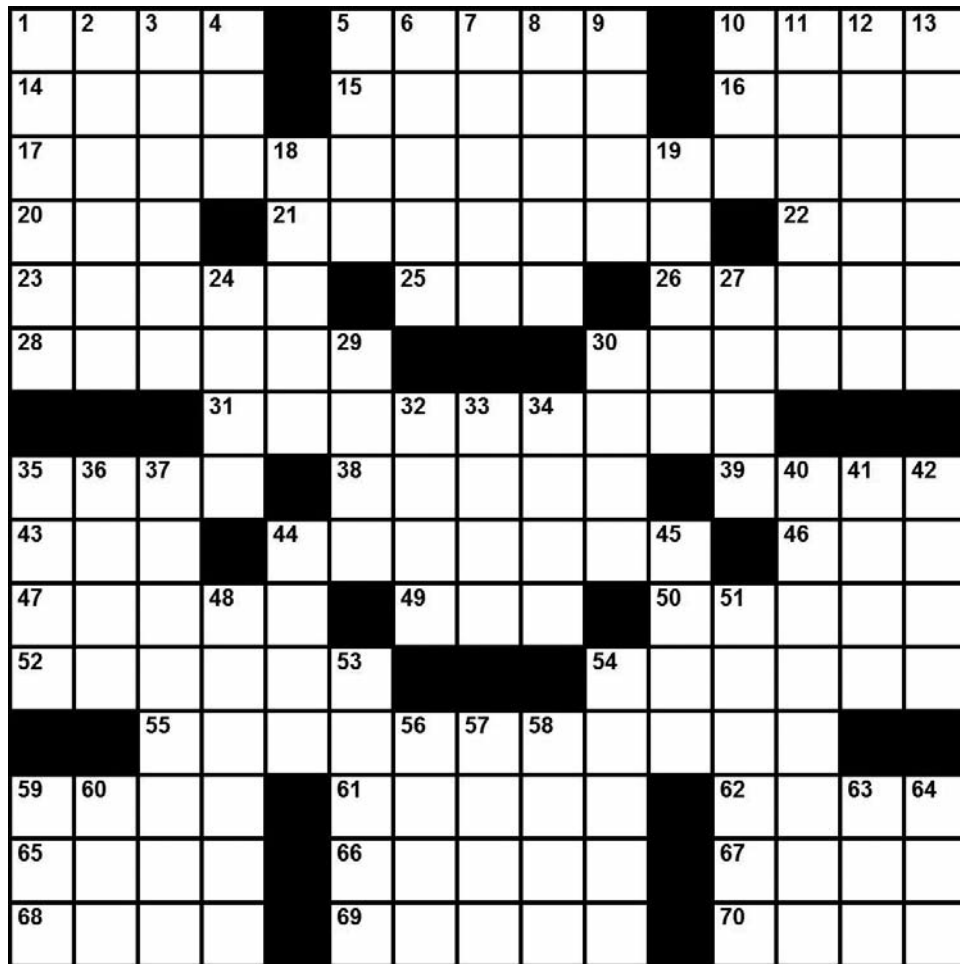
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Star-cross'd Garden Dwarfs

Solution on page 37

Across

- 1 Went down (on)
- 5 Sleek swimmer
- 10 Elizabeth of *Transamerica*
- 14 Burning software
- 15 Safari head
- 16 River of Ulrichs' country
- 17 Movie about garden dwarfs
- 20 Contemporary of Bela
- 21 Kind of reunion
- 22 Reagan prog.
- 23 John of *Gay Sex Quotes*
- 25 Wander (about)
- 26 Kelly Clarkson and Will Young, e.g.
- 28 Formal order
- 30 Dark red gem
- 31 His music is featured in 17-Across
- 35 Free verse "rhyme scheme"
- 38 News source of old
- 39 Garfield's whipping boy
- 43 Gamboling area
- 44 Gay neighborhood of New York
- 46 Off-rd. transport
- 47 Bette's *All About Eve* role
- 49 Atlantic crosser of old
- 50 Furnish food for festivities

- 52 Role played by a man named Julia
- 54 Queen of mysteries
- 55 What 31-Across called himself on *Today*
- 59 Slightly
- 61 Bear
- 62 Tool points
- 65 Jerry Herman musical
- 66 Joan of Arc keepsake
- 67 As to
- 68 Kind of pressure
- 69 Little bikers in a Gay Pride march
- 70 Top target

Down

- 1 Avoided going straight
- 2 Poe poem
- 3 Song by 51-Across
- 4 Member of an average threesome
- 5 It's in the winds
- 6 Sound from guitarist Townshend
- 7 Patty Hearst's SLA name
- 8 Rear follower
- 9 Indian chief
- 10 VIP of DC, e.g.
- 11 Light heavyweight
- 12 Tease
- 13 Keith Haring, for example
- 18 Waters of the blues
- 19 Heap of fiction
- 24 Rep in the 'hood
- 27 Bond's first foe
- 29 Emulate Paul Cadmus
- 30 Myra Breckinridge writer Vidal
- 32 Shaft output
- 33 Zips
- 34 Fool around
- 35 Coloratura Gluck
- 36 Bit of sweat
- 37 Competition with four queens
- 40 "You busy Friday night?" e.g.?
- 41 Caligula's way
- 42 "Climb ___ Mountain"
- 44 Lake of Lombardy
- 45 Sometime defender of gay rights
- 48 Mate of a heterosexual goose
- 51 Gay marriage advocate Morissette
- 53 On the ball
- 54 Boardroom VIPs
- 56 Heed a master
- 57 Liquid ___
- 58 Nurse Jackie protrayer
- 59 Part of Etheridge's equipment
- 60 ___ kwon do
- 63 Cross-dresser's padding site
- 64 Group of games, for Mauresmo



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Mark and Bill at TMC: The Mining Company.



Alex, Amber and Sir Blue at the Dallas Eagle.

Hard to believe March is here already. Time to start getting that spring fever **Sue Ellen's** brings regulars back to their stage with **Mojo Dolls** and the **Andrea Dawson Band** playing Friday and Saturday respectively. But fans of the now defunct **SouthFM** might check out the band's former frontman **Paco Estrada** on Sunday. Tuesdays are game night with the **Dart and Pool Tournament** happening alongside **Pocket Rockets Poker** Don't forget **Fat Tuesday** is around the corner. **The Round-Up Saloon** celebrates **Mardi Gras** all weekend long followed by a **Crawfish Boil** on Tuesday. We're ready to indulge Thursday night at **the Rose Room**, Messy Entertainment presents **Green With Envy — the Big D Continental Pageant** and it looks like a big deal It's the **Discipline Corps' Esprit D'Corps** all weekend at **the Dallas Eagle**. Sounds painful which means we're heading out that way. Cue your sticks at the club's **billiards tournament** on Wednesday We're kind of excited about **Bonnie Whitmore's** performance, also on Wednesday, at **Jack's Backyard** **The Firedancers** host the **Mr. Hidden Door** fundraiser on Saturday at the, um, **Hidden Door** **The Brick** sounds like they are getting dirty for Mardi Gras. They start off with **DJ Moses** spinning on Saturday. Then the club invites everyone to the **9th Annual Sleazy, Nasty, Raunchy Fat Tuesday Celebration** hosted by **Emperor Doctor Steve** and **Emperor JD** and with a Cajun buffet Yeah, we're there. ■



Munie, Henry and Manny at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Michelle at Station 4.

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Michael, Phillip and Jenny at Cross Roads.



DJ Mike at Drama Room.



Gregg and Johnny at the Round-Up Saloon.

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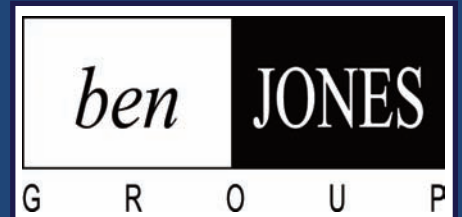
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