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Amy and David Truong meet gay Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns at Lobby Day. By David Taffett

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texasnews

Endorsement vs. endorsement

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance's political action committee began its candidate screening process this week for the May 8 Dallas municipal elections.

Last weekend, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas interviewed candidates and has released its endorsements.

Stonewall President Omar Narvaez said his group looks for candidates who are inclusive of the community.

"But we are partisan," Narvaez said. "We're looking for good Democrats."

That's the big difference between Stonewall and DGLA.

DGLA President Patti Fink said, "We're nonpartisan and have been since the 1970s."

In the mayor's race, Stonewall interviewed only three of the candidates. Ron Natinsky, the fourth, spoke at Stonewall's monthly membership meeting the previous week and honestly answered a question that he had voted for John McCain in the 2008 presidential race.

Although he had originally asked for the group's endorsement, he withdrew his request when Stonewall members questioned his eligi-



Damien Duckett

bility based on their bylaws that prevent the group from endorsing Republicans.

That won't be a sticking point for DGLA.

"DGLA endorsed him in the past," Fink said, "And we're looking forward to speaking to him again this year."

Stonewall gave its nod to former police chief David Kunkle. Mike Rawlings also received con-



DIGGING IN | Alternative spring break trip leader Nate Bozarth and Emilie Patterson, one of seven other students who made the trip to Dallas with Bozarth, put their shovels to work doing landscaping work at AIDS Services of Dallas' Hillcrest House. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)



Patti Fink

siderable support, and Edward Opka screened with the group as well.

What gave Kunkle the edge, Narvaez said, was that all of Rawlings' answers revolved around business.

"Business is a very important part of our city," Narvaez said, "But you've got to think about the ENDORSEMENT, Page 11

Spring break with a purpose

KU students spend a week at AIDS Services Dallas as part of alternative spring break program

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

When Nate Bozarth signed up to participate as a trip leader in the alternative spring break program at Kansas University, his first choice was to go to Louisiana to help with ongoing efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina six years ago.

Then he realized that the Louisiana trip had two leaders assigned to it, while there was no leader assigned for the group coming to Dallas to volunteer at AIDS Services of Dallas.

"I saw that, and I said, 'Why do you have two assigned to Louisiana when there's no one for Dallas?' I told them to switch me to Dallas," Bozarth said. "Now, I am really glad it happened that way. I am glad I came to Dallas."

SPRING BREAK, Page 10

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Dallas County adds sexual orientation to policy

The Dallas County Commissioners Court voted Tuesday, March 22 to add sexual orientation to the county's employment nondiscrimination policy.

However, the amendment adding "sexual orientation" to the policy does not include gender identity/expression, meaning it covers gay and lesbian employees but not transgender workers.

County Judge Clay Jenkins, who chairs the Commissioners Court, and Commissioner Elba Garcia told Instant Tea they were under the impression that sexual orientation includes gender identity/expression, which it does not. Jenkins and Garcia, both Democrats who took office in January,

spearheaded the proposal to add sexual orientation to the policy.

Jenkins and Garcia said there was no debate on or opposition to the amendment adding sexual orientation to



the policy, which first Clay Jenkins

appeared on the court's briefing agenda a month ago. The policy covers the county's roughly 7,000 employees.

"Dr. Garcia and I talked about this before we were elected, and it was a campaign promise," Jenkins said. "This is something we wanted to do as quickly as possible. We wanted to send a message by doing this as quickly as we did that it was long overdue."

The city of Dallas' employment nondiscrimination policy has included sexual orientation since 1995. However, a Republican majority on the Commissioners Court reportedly has prevented Dallas County from enacting similar protections. Jenkins and Garcia, along with Commissioner John Wiley Price, comprise a Democratic majority on the Commissioners Court for the first time in three decades.

Jenkins and Garcia said they also want to add domestic partner benefits for county employees, but first they must determine what the fiscal impact would be. The county is facing a \$33 million budget shortfall this year.

Jenkins said he's asked the county's budget director to determine how much offering domestic partner benefits would cost, adding that he believes the countyowned Parkland hospital is at a "huge competitive disadvantage" without them.

"I think it's very important that we send a message as an employer that we will be competitive with the rest of the marketplace," he said.

Jenkins also said that he thought it was covered but he'd be willing to revisit the issue of adding gender identity/expression to the nondiscrimination policy. —John Wright

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localbriefs

Women's History Month program at UNT

In celebration of Women's History Month at the University of North Texas, Megan Conway, professor of French at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, will discuss the life of Olympe de Gouges, an 18th century French playwright, political activist, abolitionist and feminist.

The program begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 in Room 225 of UNT's Eagle Student Services Center, located across from the Willis Library between Avenues A and C (1147 Union Circle).

A question-and-answer session will follow.

The free lecture is sponsored by the UNT Department of History and is a part of UNT's observance of Women's History Month in March.

Conway's presentation will highlight the feminist principles of de Gouges, who protested against the French government, organized clubs and parades, and wrote newspaper articles, plays, about 70 political pamphlets and a 500-page novel.

Conway is writing the first English-language biography of de Gouges, using information gathered from rare book libraries in the United States and France over the past 12 years.

De Gouges is best known for writing the "Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizenesses," which acted as a counterpoint to the "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen." The document includes her idea for a marriage Deaths

James P. "Jim" Walker, former pastor of White Rock C o m m u n i t y Church, died Saturday, March 12. A memorial serv-

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held Saturday, March 26, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of Royal Lane Baptist Church,

6707 Royal Lane in Dallas.

Memorials may be made in memory of James "Jim" P. Walker to The American Cancer Society — Cancer Research, 800-227-2345 or www.cancer.org/donate.

contract, gender equality in marriage and the right to divorce.

De Gouges' socially advanced ideas were not accepted by the government or many women, and she was beheaded by the guillotine in 1793 during France's Reign of Terror.

For more information, contact the UNT Department of History at 940-565-2288. flagship of the UNT System. ■

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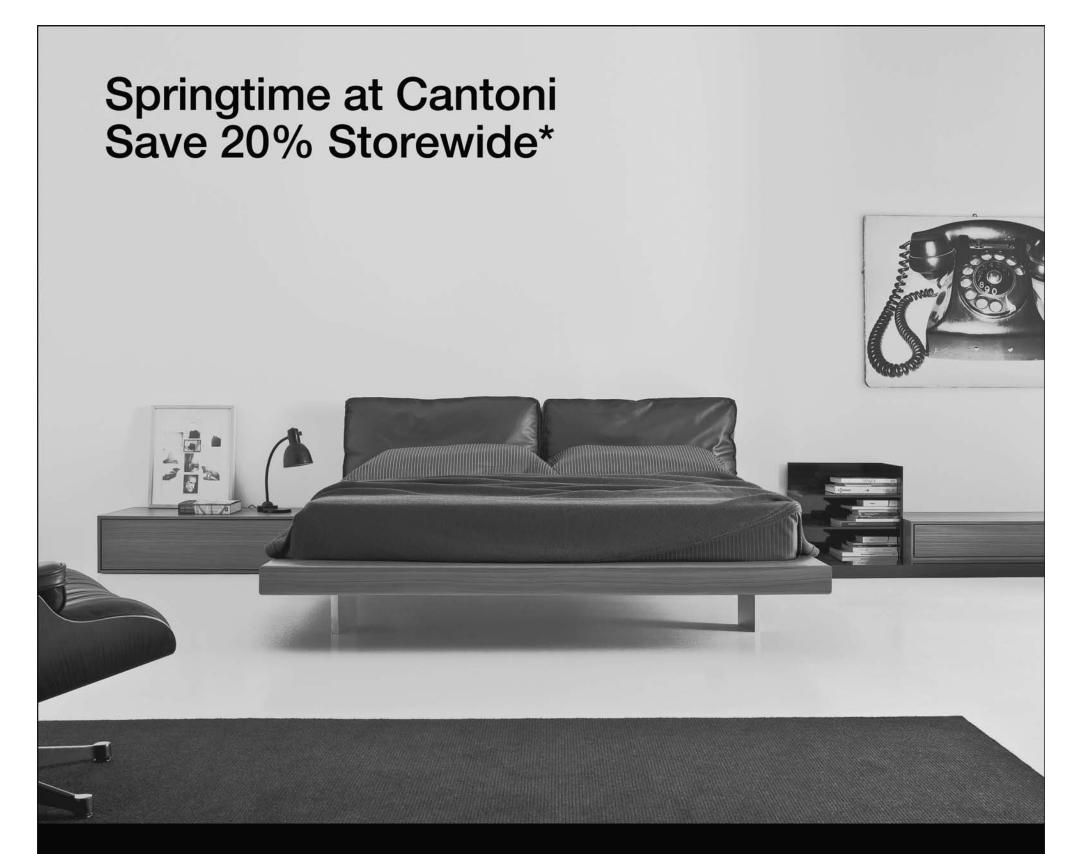
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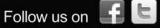


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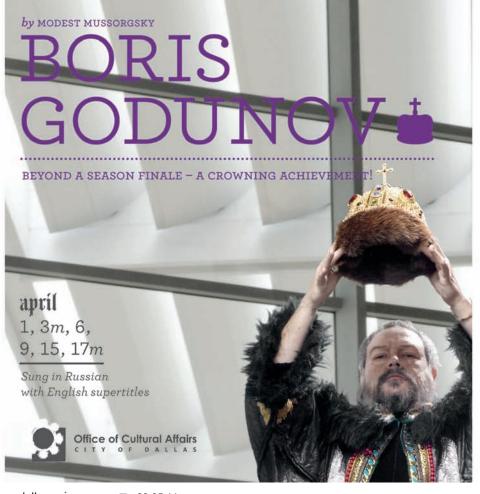
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texasnews

TCC adds sexual orientation to nondiscrimination policy



MAKING STRIDES | Tom Anable, left, pictured here with Todd Camp, says that the lack of controversy surrounding the TCC board's unanimous vote on adding sexual orientation to its employee nondiscrimination policy shows how far the Fort Worth area has come since the Rainbow Lounge raid.

Anable speaks at board meeting on adding transgender protections, says suggestion was well received

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — The board of Tarrant County College recently changed the school's employee nondiscrimination policy to add protections based on sexual orientation and is considering another change to include protections based on gender identity and gender expression.

Tom Anable, president of Fairness Fort Worth, said he spoke to the TCC board about the importance of including protections based on gender identity and expression and was well received.

Anable said the impetus for the policy change began, in effect, last year when two TCC students started a gay-straight alliance on campus. This year's LGBTQA Awareness Week at TCC last month grew out of that, Anable said, and the increased awareness of LGBT issues on campus prompted one faculty member to question whether the school's nondiscrimination policy included protections based on sexual orientation.

Urged on by those questions, board members began a discussion about expanding the employee nondiscrimination policy that resulted in the March 9 vote.

Anable said that the big story here — as with the Fort Worth Independent School District's recent vote to amend its anti-bullying policy for employees to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression — is that "there was no story. The change passed on a unanimous vote as part of the consent agenda. There wasn't anyone who showed up to try and stop it. It wasn't even controversial to them."

Anable said it is also important to note that the change started within the faculty and the board, not because activists broached the subject first. He also said he believes the board's failure so far to include protections based on gender identity and expression stem from a lack of understanding gender issues rather than a deliberate refusal to include them.

Anable said he heard about the then upcoming policy change vote when he participated in a panel discussion during LGBTQA Awareness Week in February, and asked for the chance to address the board regarding adding transgender protections.

"They said of course I could come speak, that they would love to have more information," Anable said.

"I gave my presentation and it was a very positive experience. The trustees all seemed very receptive and very supportive and they want to continue the dialog. I think they will add protections based on gender identity and expression; I think they will do it sooner rather than later, and I think they will do it without much controversy," he said.

Anable said Fairness Fort Worth also hopes to work with TCC to make sure the school complies completely with the U.S. Department of Education's recent guidelines for anti-bullying efforts. ■

FW council oks settlement with Rainbow Lounge patrons

Chad Gibson to receive \$400,000; TABC agreement not yet signed

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — The Fort Worth City Council on Tuesday, March 22, voted unanimously and without discussion to accept a consent agenda that included an award of \$400,000 to Chad Gibson, the man who received head injuries in the 2009 Rainbow Lounge raid.

George Armstrong, another man injured that night, settled for a lower amount. Because his award was less than \$50,000, the council did not have to vote on that settlement.

The two injured men entered into mediation with the city of Fort Worth and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Any agreement from settlement negotiations with TABC has not been signed. The state's approval process takes longer than the city's.

Don Tittle, the attorney who represented Gibson and Armstrong in mediation with the city, said, "We thought it was a fair resolution."

Adam Seidel is a defense attorney who has been working with Gibson and Armstrong since criminal charges were filed the night of the raid. Those charges have since been dropped.

Seidel said that both Gibson and Armstrong would have preferred the events at Rainbow Lounge hadn't happened at all.

"An experience like that impacts you for some period of time," Seidel said. "You don't just put that into a small box and put it away."

Gibson continues to receive medical treatment related to his head injury. Armstrong had a rotator cuff injury and will likely face surgery.

"This will make finishing that easier for him," Seidel said.

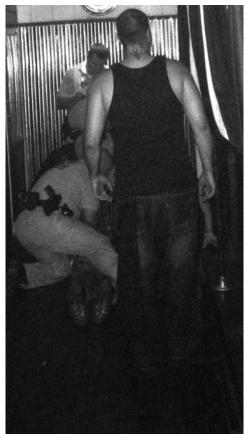
Jason P. Lamers, the manager of Fort Worth's Office of Media and Public Affairs, sent the official city response. He said the council acted on advice of the legal counsel, and the intention was to limit the city's financial exposure.

"This settlement is not an admission of liability on the part of the city, but rather a recognition of the nature of civil rights litigation," said Lamers. "It was city staff's recommendation — and the City Council agreed — that, considering the circumstances, not only is this settlement the right thing to do, but it is also in the best interest of the city and taxpayers."

Tittle wasn't sure why the city included a statement of no admission of liability.

"We released all claims as part of the deal," he said.

He thought they might have been concerned that since the two-year statute of limitations had not passed, someone else might come forward with a suit.



CASE CLOSED | It has been a year and a half since Chad Gibson was injured in the Rainbow Lounge raid. This week, the Fort Worth City Council approved a \$400,000 settlement payment.

"But it waters down the good will," he said. And although Fort Worth, and presumably TABC, claim no liability for the incident, Tittle said, "\$400,000 speaks for itself."

Tom Anable, president of Fairness Fort Worth, a group formed in the wake of the Rainbow Lounge raid, only commented on the progress that has been made since the event.

He said that this was the first time the city of Fort Worth had ever entered into mediation without a federal lawsuit being filed. He also said it was the first time Fort Worth had ever compensated a member of the LGBT community for unfair treatment by the city.

David Mack Henderson, also with Fairness Fort Worth, was at the city council meeting. He said that a number of reporters with TV cameras were at City Hall and requested interviews but he refused. He said Fort Worth's LGBT community is moving on and that there was nothing to talk about.

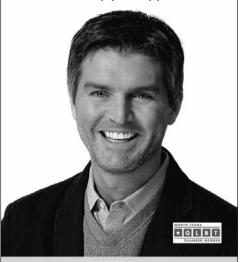
"We're just part of the city — the way it should be," Henderson said.

Lamers said that you couldn't talk about the Rainbow Lounge story without talking about the strides the LGBT community has made in Fort Worth.

FW COUNCIL, Page 11



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SPRING BREAK

From Page 4

Volunteering is not a new experience for Bozarth, a sophomore majoring in cultural anthropology and minoring in leadership studies. He said he works to help raise funds for an organization that builds schools in Pakistan. And last year, he spent his spring break building trails yes, literally building trails — in the Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee.

But this is his first real experience involving HIV/AIDS and people living with the virus.

"In health class in school, we talked some about safe sex and we talked about the medications people who have AIDS have to take, but not much else. That's the most I really knew about it," he said. "So I am really looking forward to learning more about AIDS, to seeing how it really affects people on a daily basis and to gaining a new perspective."

Bozarth is the student leader for a group of eight (including him) KU students who are spending the week here volunteering at AIDS Services of Dallas. He explained that the group was originally scheduled to arrive in Dallas on Sunday, March 20, and go back to school on Friday, March 25.

But when Bozarth talked to Mary Beth O'Connor, ASD's volunteer services manager, those plans changed.

"She asked me what days we would be here, and when I told her we were leaving Friday, she said, 'Oh, that's too bad! I wish you could be here Saturday to participate in the No Tie Dinner.' And I said, then we will be there Saturday," Bozarth said.

So the students made the nine-hour drive from KU to Dallas on Tuesday and will leave on Sunday morning, giving them the chance to work on Friday helping set up for the No Tie Dinner and Dessert party, and then volunteering at the party itself on Saturday.

Bozarth was, he added, especially excited to get the chance to participate in ASD's annual fundraising gala, because he has participated in other fundraising events and is glad to have the chance to "get another perspective" on the experience.

Bozarth said that the cost to participate in the alternative spring break program at KU is \$250 a



GIVING BACK | Anna Rogers, foreground, Alex Noblett and Meghan Kelly plant gladiola bulbs in a flower bed outside AIDS Services of Dallas's Hillcrest House. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

student, although the college does have some scholarship funds to help students who want to participate but can't afford it. Usually most of that money is spent on housing and feeding the students during their week of volunteer work.

On this trip, though, the students are being housed for free at Spencer Gardens, one of ASD's several housing projects, and ASD is providing meals for them, too. As a result, the money that would normally have covered the cost of housing and food is not being spent.

"But instead of it just automatically coming back to us, the students, it's all going to be donated to AIDS Services," Bozarth said with a proud smile.

Bozarth — who said when he finishes school he wants to "work with poor people; I want to help people and I want to love people"— at first sounds too good to be true. But spend just a few minutes chatting with the other seven students who spent the first part of their week in Dallas landscaping around ASD's Hillcrest House and it quickly becomes obvious Bozarth's altruism is real, and it is shared.

Alex Noblett is a sophomore majoring in chemistry who is also "sort of pre-med." He spent the week volunteering at ASD because "my spring break was open, and it just seemed like this would be a pretty good thing to do."

NO TIE DETAILS

The 2011 No Tie Dinner and Dessert Party, benefiting AIDS Services of Dallas, will be held Saturday, March 26, with dinners beginning at various private homes around the Metroplex around 6 p.m.

All diners will then gather for dessert at 8 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. The evening will include a silent auction and desserts by some of the city's finest chefs.

Admission to the dessert party is \$50 at the door.

For more information, contact publicity chair Susan Friedman at 214-559-0122.

Noblett said he wasn't familiar with ASD, so when he started trying to decide which trip to register for, "I looked online to see what this place is about, and I really liked what I saw. So I chose this trip."

Freshman Macy Warburton, studying political science and leadership studies, said she wanted to participate in alternative spring break because "service is very important to me, and I like being able to give back." But like Bozarth, the ASD trip was not her first choice for alternative spring break.

"But now that I am here, I am really glad this is the trip I got. This is really opening my eyes to what it's like to live with AIDS on a daily basis," she said.

Stephanie Wilson, another freshman, is a health major who also is a student ambassador for the leadership studies program at KU. For her this alternative spring back trip is "the perfect opportunity to give back to the community."

Grant Langhofer, a sophomore kinesiology student at KU, explained that he grew up in the relatively insulated environment of Wichita, Kansas, and he wanted to volunteer this week at ASD "because I thought I could get the most out of this trip. I talked to my advisor, and this was my only choice for alternative spring break. For me, it was come here [and volunteer at ASD] or nothing."

Sophomore biology major Emilie Patterson chose to participate in alternative spring break because she wanted to have more opportunities to volunteer, and she chose to come to Dallas "because I have been to Texas before, and I like it here."

Meghan Kelly, a sophomore pre-med student majoring in microbiology, had a friend in high

school whose father had AIDS. So while she had an idea of how the virus affects a person, she said, she never talked much about it with her friend or the friend's father.

"I chose to come on this trip because, first of all, I love volunteering. And I had researched AIDS Services and it just seemed like the most interesting of all the trips," Kelly said.

"First of all, it gives me a chance to see how people in an urban environment like this live with AIDS, to see how it is different for people in the city than for people who live in the country," she continued. "Plus, I had never had any experience working with a nonprofit agency [like ASD]. It's really amazing to me see everything they have to offer."

Microbiology student Anna Rogers is a junior, and she is the most experienced alternative spring break volunteer, since she has participated in the program all three of her college years so far.

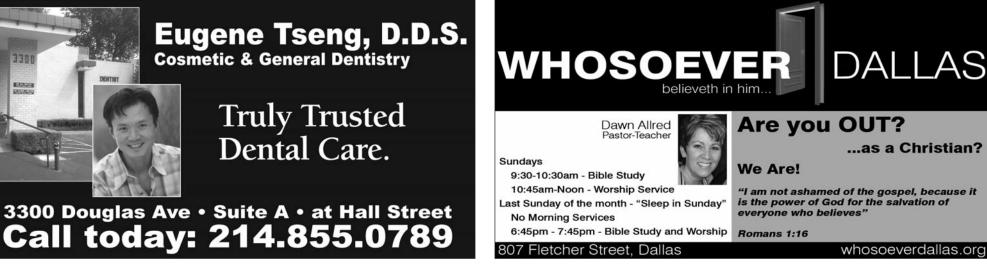
She is also the most experienced when it comes to AIDS Services.

"I was here [at ASD] two years ago, during my first alternative spring break when I was a freshman, and I am really happy to have the chance to come back," Rogers said. "When I came [to ASD] two years ago, I knew the science of AIDS. I knew how you got it. But that was the first time I saw how people actually live with AIDS. I could see for myself that they are people just like anyone else who just happen to have this disease, but they can still live and enjoy themselves in a positive environment."

Bozarth explained that the alternative spring break trips are administered at KU through the school's leadership studies program, and that the leadership studies program is designed to help create "knowledgeble, ethical, caring, inclusive leaders for a diverse and changing world.

"Some people think leadership is something you are either born with or you aren't; you have it or you don't. In this program, we believe leadership can be taught, that everyone has the capacity, everyone is a leader in some capacity or another," Bozarth said. "that's why we are here this week, to learn more about how to be leaders and to try to give back to other people.

"But the truth is, we are the ones gaining," he said. "I bet we are probably gaining more ourselves on this trip than we could ever possibly give."



ENDORSEMENT

From Page 4

parks, the libraries."

He said Kunkle spoke movingly about inclusiveness and talked about working with a transgender officer who transitioned on the job.

"He reinstated the liaison and made the position full-time," Narvaez said, referring to the LGBT police liaison position. "His experiences were heartfelt."

In the District 14 race, the vote was close, but in the end, the endorsement went to openly gay candidate James Nowlin over incumbent Angela Hunt.

"It was a coin flip," Narvaez said. "That was a tough one."

Although the vote was split, Stonewall does not do dual endorsements. He said Stonewall makes a single recommendation and then works to get that candidate elected.

"We'll block walk, fund raise, put out yard signs, advertise, distribute push cards," he said.

DGLA has made dual endorsements in the past when the committee's vote was close and two candidates seemed equally suitable.

Stonewall attracted 73 people to their candidate forum. All were able to ask the candidates questions. Of those, 57 were current members who were allowed to vote on the endorsements.

Damien Duckett, DGLA's political action committee chair, heads that group's endorsement process. He said DGLA has a three-step procedure.

This week, they began contacting candidates by phone and sending questionnaires.

When Natinsky withdrew his name from the Stonewall endorsement process, he also released his questionnaire. Stonewall's policy is to shred questionnaires after the endorsements are announced.

But DGLA keeps its questionnaires on file.

When President George Bush nominated Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court in 2005, DGLA released her written answers to a 1989 Dallas City Council election endorsement questionnaire, a document that contradicted some of Miers' statements after she was nominated.

But, Duckett said, the questionnaires are normally not released.

Duckett said that after candidates return the requested information, the organization schedules a confidential interview with the screening committee. Those will be held over several days during the next two weeks.

FW COUNCIL

From Page 9

"Fort Worth has made remarkable progress to become an even more inclusive city than it ever was," he said. "That's a credit to our City Council, our police department led by Chief Jeff Halstead and the GLBT leaders in the city's workforce and in our communities. We're very proud of theprogress that has been made."

After the Rainbow Lounge raid, Halstead made significant changes to the police department by clarifying the department's policies on conducting bar checks, adding an LGBT liaison and, recently, DLGA's Don Baker Educational Fund, the non-profit branch that is separate from the DGLA PAC, will hold an open candidate forum on April 9. Everyone running for city office is invited to participate and the public is invited to interact with the candidates.

The committee will then vote and Duckett said he expects to release the group's endorsements the following Monday or Tuesday.

"We're the only nonpartisan LGBT endorsements in Dallas," Duckett said.

"We've endorsed a number of Republicans over the years," Fink said.

Among them is Natinsky, who was endorsed by DGLA for his current council seat.

"DGLA isn't interested in your voting history," Duckett said. "Simply your views on LGBT issues."

He said he was surprised at some of the candidates who indicated that they wanted DGLA's endorsement.

District 7 incumbent Carolyn Davis asked for a questionnaire. Although she never sought the group's endorsement before, this time Davis has an opponent — Casie Pierce, who is openly lesbian and received Stonewall's endorsement.

Duckett said the committee would concentrate on how candidates support five issues that DGLA expects to be action items over the next two-year council term.

DGLA and Stonewall endorsements are usually the same. In some council races, DGLA has endorsed Republicans in races that Stonewall offered no endorsement. But in this race there may be different endorsements in major races including District 14 and mayor.

Both groups said they would work for their endorsed candidates. Neither thought that presented a conflict in the community.

Fink said she thought it was a sign of maturity that a variety of candidates held appeal within the LGBT community.

Narvaez said that in the District 14 race, the margin between Nowlin and Hunt was razor thin.

He acknowledged that some Stonewall members are working with Hunt's campaign and said that although Stonewall would work for Nowlin, members were free to work for any candidate they chose.

"There were hurt feeling on both sides in that one," Narvaez said. "It hurt to make that phone call [to Hunt]. You had to pick between two friends."

enacting an anti-bias policing policy to strengthen existing rules against discrimination by officers.

The council voted in October 2009 to add transgender protections to its nondiscrimination policies. The council also appointed a city manager's diversity task force and has approved 14 of 15 recommendations the task force made, including offering domestic partner benefits for city employees.

Anable said that the city has worked closely with the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association to stage this year's parade. Pride will be held downtown for the 30th anniversary making it more visible than it's ever been, he said.





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coverstory

In the aftermath of tragedy, parents carry on

Despite their ongoing trials, Asher Brown's parents have become champions for LGBT teens; Truongs say they have gotten little support outside the LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Amy and David Truong joined about 350 people at the state Capitol in Austin on March 7 to talk to legislators about Asher's Law. For the Truongs, passing the bill is personal. Asher Brown, who committed suicide in September after being bullied, was their son.

A number of people from around the state who had come to lobby thanked the Truongs for their support. Some shook hands. There were lots of hugs.

The couple shrugged off the thanks.

"We're all in this together," David told those he met.

Asher, 13, was a gay eighth grader at Hamilton Middle School in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in the northwest corner of Houston. He was, his parents say, a target of constant bullying.

On Sept. 23 last year, Asher went into his father's closet, retrieved the 9-mm Beretta David kept there, and shot himself. David found his son's body lying in the closet when he got home from work.

Since then, life for the Truongs has been tough, to say the least.

The Cy-Fair school district blames Asher's death on problems at home and denied that the family had contacted the school about bullying, and the Truongs have been victims of "a constant stream of harassment" ever since, David said.

Every morning, David has to go out to pick up trash neighbors have dumped on the lawn and



EMOTIONAL MEETING | State Sen. Wendy Davis, who authored anti-bullying legislation that was heard in the State Education Committee this week, meets with Amy and David Truong on March 7. (Courtesy Equality Texas)

the beer bottles that have been thrown at the house.

Their house attracts gawkers and hecklers.

"People screaming and yelling from their windows as they drive by," he said, and some rev their engines when passing the Truong house.

"Some even slow down, stare out their car windows and take several U-turns to gawk and stare at us if we are outside on the front lawn," he said. David rarely answers his phone anymore be-

cause most of the calls are harassing.

David took a few weeks off from work after Asher's funeral but was having a hard time. Soon after returning, he was fired.

To avoid harassment in the neighborhood and school, they sent their other son to live with relatives.

But the most telling sign of how Asher's death has affected this couple is that every time David or Amy mention Asher's name, their eyes fill with tears.

A group from Youth First Texas was at the

Capitol lobbying for anti-bullying legislation the same day as the Truongs. When Amy heard some of the stories of those teens, some of whom also attempted suicide, her shoulders slumped. She looked helpless.

Asher

While the school district blamed Asher's suicide on problems at home, his mother described a loving son.

"My son was a warm and wonderful child," said Amy. "He was smart and funny. He loved all of his pets and animals in general. He was well read. By the people who knew him most and accepted him for who he was, he would be your best friend."

But Asher was bullied in school for two years. He complained about it the first week of school in August 2008.

"They picked on him for being the new kid, not dressed in Abercrombie & Fitch, having a big head and big ears, his lisp, his chosen religion of Buddhism and their perception of him being gay because of his gentle demeanor and his love of choir," his father said.

Bullies made jokes about anal sex when Asher would bend over to tie his shoe or ran slower than the rest of the class in gym, his father said.

David told Asher to report the abuse to his teachers, coaches and the school administrators, which he did.

"Amy and I would follow up with phone calls, visits, emails and our own handwritten notes when he would come back to us saying it hadn't stopped," he said.

Some of Asher's classmates told the Truongs that they documented the harassment and bullying they witnessed Asher endure. They filled out their own "incident reports."

David said that at home they always reinforced that they loved him unconditionally. When Asher **TRAGEDY**, Page 14



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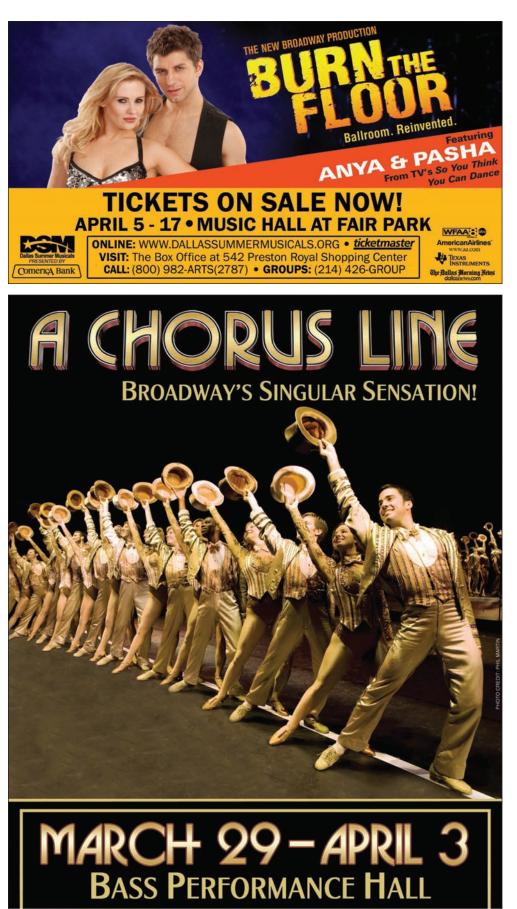
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A CHORUS LINE contains some adult language and is recommended for mature audiences.



coverstory



STANDING UP TO BULLIES | David and Amy Truong address members of the LGBT community who came from around Texas to lobby for anti-bullying laws on March 7. (Dallas Voice/David Taffet)

TRAGEDY

Continued From Page 14

came out to them, they told him they loved him no matter what.

Every night the family ate dinner together and talked. Asher seemed relieved just to have the chance to talk about what happened and seemed satisfied with his parents' attempts to notify the school, David said.

Despite their denial after Asher's death that the Truongs had ever contacted the school, David said administrators sounded concerned when they got through to someone.

"They told us, 'We know about what happened to Asher,'" he said.

They always got the same message — when and if the school bothered to respond to their calls, he said.

School administrators told them, "We will do everything to take care of it and we assure you, everything is going to be okay."

"They did not offer any suggestions," David said, "But did continue to praise our efforts in working with them to help Asher."

One even told them, "I wish other parents were as involved as you two are!"

The day before Asher killed himself was particularly bad.

"We did not see bruises on him the day before he died, but his behavior was out of the ordinary in that he did not join us in the family room as he would usually do," David said. "Instead he chose to read quietly and keep to himself."

But David said that Asher told him he had a terrible day without going into detail.

According to Asher's classmates and their par-

ents, bullies tripped him and he fell down a flight of stairs. When he got up and had barely regained his balance, they tripped him again and he fell down a second flight.

None of the assailants were charged with assault or disciplined by the school.

After his death, the school claimed that Asher, his parents, classmates, teachers nor anyone else ever made any reports of him being harassed, taunted or tormented by bullies.

David called these callous attempts to cover up and said it added to their grief and heartache.

The morning he died, Amy said she told Asher she loved him and to have a good day before she left for work. He said, "I love you, too."

"I went to work and my son was fine," Amy said. "I came home and he was dead. No one should ever have to come home to police tape around their house. And my son shouldn't feel like it was the only thing he had left to do."

"He died because he couldn't take it anymore," David said. "People harassed, persecuted, bullied him and no one gave a damn."

But as much as they talked at home, David said Asher never spoke about suicide.

The school district

The school district continues to deny any blame.

David called administrators banding together to deny any knowledge of the bullying part of the "good old boy network" in the area.

And this isn't the first time Cy-Fair has been in the news for bullying.

In October 2009, Jayron Martin, 16, was chased and attacked by a group of classmates who **TRAGEDY**, Next Page

PERFORMING ARTS FORT WORTH presents

TRAGEDY

From Previous Page

wanted to "beat the gay out" of him.

A group of eight boys surrounded him while a ninth attacked him with a metal pipe and beat him with his fists. Jayron was left with a concussion and numerous cuts.

A neighbor with a shotgun scared the boys away. Had he not intervened, Jayron may have been killed.

Jayron said he told the principal, an assistant principal and his bus driver that a group planned to attack him after school.

Students and others claiming to be from the school blamed Jayron for the attack. A number of comments with a variety of different stories were left on the Dallas Voice website under the story of the attack.

In that case, the main attacker was the only one arrested in the incident. He was charged with assault. Because it was handled in juvenile court, the records are sealed.

The school district denied liability since the attack happened off school property, but because of the national publicity, the school district had to do something. So they fired the bus driver. They investigated one assistant principal but did not discipline him or any school administrative staff.

But no one has been disciplined relating to the bullying incidents and ignored reports regarding Asher's death.

David said, "No one has spoken to us and no further press releases have come from the school since it was revealed by the Houston Chronicle that the district spokeswoman, Kelly Durham, was the wife of Asher's seventh-grade assistant principal, Alan Durham."

The future

This week, the Truongs were back in Austin to testify for Sen. Wendy Davis' anti-bullying bill before Senate Education Committee.

On their earlier visit to Austin, Amy said, "Children shouldn't have to be tolerating this on any level. My son didn't deserve it. None of the other children who go through this deserve it. It's not a right of passage. It's not boys being boys. This has gone way beyond that and people need to realize it."

Amy works as an executive assistant and uses her time off from work to lobby for anti-bullying legislation. While not looking for a job, David devotes his time to that same goal.

He said they'd like to move but home prices have taken a much steeper dive in Houston than they have in Dallas. Their house is worth \$40,000 less than when they bought it and they cannot afford to move.

And, David said, the suicide makes it much less sellable. Real estate agents would rather not touch a house that was the scene of a shooting.

"Maybe we can rent it out," he said.

David said they've gotten very little sustained support beyond the LGBT community, families of Asher's friends and their "wonderful and supportive family."

"We received cards, emails and flowers from all

Anti-Bullying Bills

Federal:

Tyler Clementi bill Sponsors: Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Rep. Rush Holt

Would require colleges and universities that get federal money to adopt a code of conduct that prohibits bullying and harassment based on a student's sexual orientation, race, gender, and other factors. It also would provide \$250 million for schools to establish or expand programs to prevent harassment. **Texas:**

HB 130

Creation of an anti-bullying hotline Dallas Rep. Rafael Anchia is among the authors. In the Human Services committee. **CS HB 224**

- Rep. Mark Strama
- CS SB 242
- Sen. Wendy Davis

Relating to bullying, including cyberbullying, in public schools.

House: Pending action in Public Education committee

Senate: Hearings held in Education Committee earlier this week.

HB 944 Rep. Dawna Dukes

SB 736

Hinojosa

Relating to membership and duties of local school health advisory councils. In Senate Education and House Public Health committees.

- HB 1386 "Asher's Law"
- Rep. Garnet Coleman

Relating to the public health threat presented by youth suicide and to the prevention of associated discrimination, harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying.

HB 2343 Rep. Garnet Coleman

Relating to the creation of Asher's Law, the public health threat presented by youth suicide and to the prevention of associated discrimination, harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying.

over the country during the first week of the tragedy," he said, adding that the family appreciated every prayer and every bit of support.

Now, the Truongs are focused on putting their lives back together with counseling and therapy and on keeping Asher's memory alive with their commitment to help other LGBT youth by passing Asher's Law and other anti-bullying legislation.

Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas, said that legislators must hear from their constituents as anti-bullying bills work their way through committee and onto the House and Senate floors. He said a phone call to a representative and senator was a good way to remember Asher.

The Truongs have been working closely with Equality Texas on the pending legislation and understand that despite the publicity about the suicides last fall, passing anti-bullying laws is an uphill battle.

But David repeated several times, "Together we will move mountains."

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businessnews

Tips for same-sex couples as tax time approaches



Tax laws weren't written with LGBT families in mind, but there are ways to make them work for you

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

A new tax ruling in California that appears to be a first step toward federal recognition of samesex marriage will actually cost gay and lesbian couples there more money, according to Jon Chester of Sterling Bookkeeping and Tax Service.

In that ruling, the IRS said that registered domestic partners in that state must file as married filing separately.

"Married filing separately is the worst way to file a return," Chester said. "We're going to recognize you, but we're going to have you file in the worst way a married couple can file."

Married filing jointly, he said, usually saves the most money and that filing is something samesex couples cannot do on their federal taxes.

The so-called marriage penalty has been eliminated because a married couple gets to deduct twice the amount of a single person.

"But married tax brackets are much wider and save," he said, so married couples filing jointly enjoy a tax advantage.



Jon Chester

Chester had some other tips for same-sex couples in filing their returns.

He said that to take anything other than a standard deduction of \$5,400, you must itemize.

Those deductions include property tax, charitable donations and medical expenses.

Chester said that if you support someone, you could take a deduction for that person.

Married couples who are recognized by the federal government regularly take deductions for dependents. He said gay people often do not think of that.

The person might be a child or a domestic partner. Chester suggested deducting for a parent that you support, even if that person doesn't live with you. A parent in assisted living whose monthly bills you pay, for example, qualifies as a dependent.

He said it's usually better for the partner making less money to claim any investment income and for the partner making more money to take any losses. The amounts can also be allocated proportionally, as long as no more than the total is claimed between the couple.

Ron Allen, a CPA who used to work for the Internal Revenue Service, said that when a same-sex couple is sharing ownership and deductions on property, do three things to make the tax return **TAX**, Next Page

TAX

From Previous Page

audit-proof. Make sure both names are on the deed and on the mortgage and make payments from a joint account.

He said that for an account to be considered joint for tax purposes, both partners should make deposits into the account during the year. He suggested that even couples that kept their finances separate should make common household payments from a joint account.

Allen said that tax laws were not written with same-sex families in mind, but we must fit the laws to work for our families.

For instance, Allen asked, who deducts a dependent child when Texas doesn't recognize a second parent adoption? He said that he has seen a number of cases where the adoptive parent stays at home and the non-adoptive parent earns most of the household income.

The non-adoptive parent may take deductions for the partner and child but will bear an extra burden of proof that married couples don't need.

Allen said that when he went into business, he saw same-sex couples that used his practice because it was a safe place to reveal their relationship status. Now, he said, many of his clients come to him because tax preparers outside the community don't know what to do

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stamson joins Oak Lawn bank staff

Clay Stamson will be serving commercial lending clients in the Oak Lawn branch of SharePlus Federal Bank at Maple Avenue at Oak Lawn Avenue. Based in Plano, the bank has seven branches in the Dallas area. Stamson has medical lending expertise.

Doctors make changes in practices

Several Oak Lawn-area doctors made announcements about their practices over the past week.

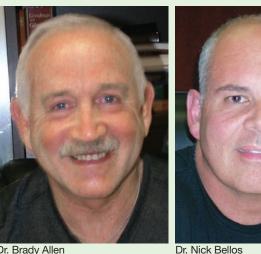
Dr. Brady Allen of Uptown Physicians Group said that they signed a new lease that will give the five doctors more space. They will remain in the same office at 2929 Carlisle St. Patient care should be unaffected during the expansion.

Dr. Stockton Roberts announced that Michael Limerick, R.N, Ph.D. has joined his practice. Limerick is known in the community from his work at Amelia Court at Parkland Hospital.

Roberts recently moved his practice from Oak Cliff and is now located at 2909 Lemmon Ave. They will hold a meet-and-greet at their new office, now known as The Neighborhood Clinic at Uptown, on March 28, 4-8 p.m.

Dr. Nicholaos Bellos announced that he has joined the practice of Dr. Allen Reuben, known as Citywide I.D. Associates, located at 15800 Dooley Road, Addison. The two doctors have known each other for 20 years and

regularly provided cross-coverage during that time. They plan to open an Oak Lawn-area office over the next six to nine months. Bellos' new office phone is 972-239-3849.



Dr. Brady Allen

with same-sex families.

Allen said that CPAs now are included in confidentiality rules. If one partner brings him tax returns for both members of the couple, he legally cannot answer any questions about the partner's returns unless he has a power of attorney or a signed document.

"It's just another case of us having to do something special," he said. "A husband and wife don't have to do these things.'

Couples dealing with issues of joint home ownership or other joint assets, adoption and disability and dependency issues should see a CPA who is experienced in handling these issues for the LGBT community, Allen said.

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viewpoints

Remembering Liz Taylor

The actress with the violet eyes captured LGBTs first with her grace and beauty and then with her unstoppable AIDS activism

Old queens worldwide will likely be watching "Cleopatra," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Butterfield $\bar{8}^{\prime\prime}$ and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" this weekend as they drink cocktails and weep.

Elizabeth Taylor, the greatest superstar of all time - and a world-renowned friend of the LGBT community and loving godmother to people who suffered and died from HIV infections - has passed away from congestive heart failure at the age of 79 in a Los Angeles hospital.

Her children issued a statement saying that the world had been a better place as a result of her living in it. And that is an understatement.

Her Oscar-winning contributions to entertainment and charity

> were phenomenal. At the age of 10, I would go to the grocery store with my parents and immediately rush to the magazine rack to grab copies of the

The Rare Reporter reigning queen of Hollywood. I loved reading about the triumphs, tragedies, scandals and excesses of her life, and I adored and supported her throughout them.

David Webb

At the time I had no way of knowing that I was gay, and that as such, I was one of those people she often embraced and befriended, long before it became fashionable to do so.

But I did know there was something different about me that made me sympathetic to her love affairs and life in general that shocked conservative people.

When the AIDS epidemic struck in the early 1980s and Elizabeth Taylor's good friend Rock Hudson later became one of the early victims of it, she proved how brave and loyal a friend and humanitarian she could be.

The most beautiful and glamorous movie star of all time commanded the kind of clout that drew international attention, inspired others to follow suit and revolutionized public opinion. Without her help, I can't imagine that we would be where we are today in terms of education, research and treatment of HIV infections.

While others reacted with fear and hatred as the epidemic raged, she spoke out on behalf of HIV patients and urged compassion.

Elizabeth Taylor's reach was phenomenal. About five years ago I intended a charity benefit for the Disciples of Trinity in Dallas that provides



Elizabeth Taylor

cause of that and her work promoting HIV research, she received France's Legion of Honor in 1987 and Queen Elizabeth made her a dame in 2000

She also received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Oscars in 1993 and the Pres-

Feedback

Be above petty squabbles

I have followed with much interest the recent joint endorsements of municipal candidates by the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats. A spirited debate is always healthy, and it is good to see this happening, especially with the race for City Council District 14 which features the Stonewall-endorsed candidate, James Nowlin, and current City Councilmember Angela Hunt. However, I have been disheartened by the direction that some voices in the debate have taken. As members of the LGBT community, we should be inherently sensitive to the inappropriateness of comments that personally judge an individual and call into question their motives for running for office, or the legitimacy of emotion shown in public. We are above this!

James Nowlin is a member of this community and has served this community since first moving to Dallas. Now is the time to get behind candidates that are a part of our community, such as Mr. Nowlin and Cassie Pierce (City Council District 7 candidate), not because they are simply LGBT individuals, but because they are both qualified for the job and represent the much needed change we need on City Council in having representatives that can build consensus and take issues that impact not only us, but their entire constituency, through to the finish line. I encourage all in this community to contact the campaigns of those that support us and see how they can get involved. Jared A. Pearce,

president, Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats

help to terminally ill people. She had sent autographed an photograph to the charity for it to sell in a silent auction.

2001.

that bears her name.

I was determined to leave the party with the photograph that night and I did about a hundred dollars later.

Her generosity extended to many charities, and be-

was time for hers. It was a brilliant performance. And although she is gone she will live on in my memory and millions of other fans. I'll be one of those old queens watching her movies this weekend.

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has written about LGBT issues for more than two decades. He is a former Dallas Voice staff writer. E-mail him at davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com.

ident's Citizens Medal from President Clinton in

The Elizabeth Taylor Foundation for AIDS that she underwrote evidently will live on, as her chil-

dren have asked for anyone wanting to send

flowers to instead make a donation to the charity

I had always hoped I would get to meet Eliza-

beth Taylor one day. The closest I ever got was to

seeing her at a public appearance to promote her

perfume "Passion" at NorthPark Centre in 1987.

I also saw her footprints at Grauman's Chinese

Theater, her star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame

and the gates of her estate in Bel Air, and I've

I console myself with the knowledge that

everyone has a final curtain call to make, and it

toured her former villa in Puerto Vallarta.

Open letter to Elba Garcia

On behalf of Resource Center Dallas, we wish to thank you and the court for voting to expand the county's nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation. This effort is long overdue and demonstrates a commitment to fairness and equality. We believe the policy should also specifically enumerate protections for gender identity and gender expression. I'd like to discuss this issue with you at your earliest convenience.

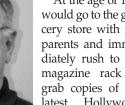
I read the post on [the March 22] vote on the Dallas Voice's website. Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are three separate characteristics. As subject-matter experts who offer diversity training as part of our mission, these are the definitions the center uses:

· Sexual orientation: A person's enduring physical, romantic, emotional and spiritual attraction to another person.

• Gender identity: A person's internal and personal sense of being a man or a woman. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same; transgender people may be heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual.

• Gender expression: External manifestation of one's gender identity, usually expressed through "masculine," "feminine" or gender-variant behavior, clothing, haircut, voice or body characteristics. Typically, transgender people seek to make their gender expression match their gender identity.

The center and others in the LGBT community assert that a policy would need to specifically enumerate all three characteristics for maximum effectiveness and protections. It simply makes business sense. As you know, both the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth already offer these protections for their LGBT employees, as does DFW International Airport. Also, a better understanding FEEDBACK, Next Page



latest Hollywood gossip rags featuring Elizabeth Taylor, the

FEEDBACK

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of the LGBT community will aid Dallas County in employment recruiting and retention, and in serving your diverse public.

You may have seen some of the stories in the Dallas Morning News last summer about the center's work with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) as it added gender identity to its nondiscrimination policies. This is part of our ongoing work with businesses, universities and governmental agencies including Dallas ISD, DFW International Airport and TABC as they strive to make their workplaces more inclusive.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. *Rafael McDonnell, strategic communications and programs manager, Resource Center Dallas*

Know the facts on PrEP

A robust public debate is underway about the potential use of anti-HIV drugs to prevent HIV infection (also known as pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP). Our study, called iPrEx, provided the first conclusive evidence that the daily use of PrEP with the FDA-approved HIV treatment Truvada® can significantly reduce HIV infection risk in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women, when delivered as part of a comprehensive package of prevention services, including condoms.

The protection provided by PrEP and condoms together could have a substantial impact in reducing new HIV infections among MSM worldwide.

Recently, a private healthcare provider has begun a paid advertising campaign urging the FDA not to even consider approving the use of PrEP — charging, among other things, that MSM will stop using condoms if PrEP is permitted. The pros and cons of PrEP use should be vigorously debated — but that debate should be based on facts, rather than the assumption that MSM will not act to protect themselves and others from infection.

Here are the facts about the iPrEX study:

• A diverse group of 2,499 HIV-negative MSM and transgender women on four continents with a range of sexual practices participated in iPrEx. All participants received a comprehensive package of HIV prevention services. Half also received Truvada, while the other half received a placebo (blank pill). Neither the study participants nor the investigators knew which pill they received during the study.

• The group that received PrEP with Truvada in addition to condoms had 44 percent fewer HIV infections. This protective effect was seen across different groups in the study, including those of different age, ethnicity and education level.

• Men in both study groups reduced their risk behaviors and increased their condom use demonstrating that MSM can use PrEP and condoms together. PrEP does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections and should never be considered as a substitute for condom use or other safer sex precautions.

• Ensuring daily pill use will be critical to the

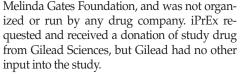
success of PrEP. While many iPrEx study participants used the pill consistently, about 50 percent did not — which impacted the effectiveness of PrEP in the study. Among those who took the medication consistently, the level of protection PrEP provided reached 72 percent to 95 percent. A second phase of the iPrEx study will begin soon, in which all participants who want PrEP will receive it. We are hoping to learn whether knowing that PrEP works will help participants achieve higher rates of pill use and protection in this phase of the study.

• Truvada is widely used for HIV treatment because it is generally well tolerated. Rates of side effects were very low in the iPrEx study. A small amount of bone loss was seen among those receiving PrEP, a finding commonly seen in HIV-positive individuals starting anti-HIV treatment; these changes had no apparent negative health impact.

Studies to date also show no evidence of HIV drug resistance associated with PrEP use. HIV testing and medical evaluation before starting PrEP and while using PrEP are important to prevent resistance.

• A daily PrEP dosing regimen was used in the iPrEx study. It is not known whether PrEP can be taken less frequently to prevent HIV infections. Additional studies are underway or being planned to look at whether different dosing regimens (e.g., taking PrEP before and after sex, or on a regular schedule several times a week) would be safe and effective.

• The iPrEx study was paid for by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and by the Bill &



Much more work lies ahead to determine whether PrEP can help stop HIV infections in other populations, such as heterosexuals and injection drug users, to better understand possible side effects of PrEP, to support consistent pill use among people who want to use it, and to ensure that PrEP is seen as one element of an HIV prevention strategy that includes regular condom use.

It will also be critical to address issues of cost, and to determine how to ensure that PrEP will be available to MSM in the United States and around the world who need it most.

Additional studies are also underway to test whether other anti-HIV medicines (including pills, gels, and other formulations) are safe and effective for HIV prevention.

We believe that MSM and all communities working to protect themselves and reduce the impact of the HIV epidemic have the right to full information about PrEP, and can make informed, intelligent decisions about whether or not to utilize PrEP as one component of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy.

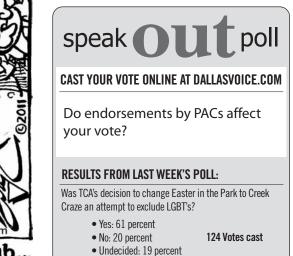
The iPrEx study investigators are committed to providing complete information about the study findings tohelp ensure that those decisions are made based on the facts about PrEP. We thank the volunteers who participated in this important study, including volunteers in San Francisco, and the more than 20,000 participants in PrEP trials worldwide for their commitment to advancing HIV prevention.

More information about iPrEx and PrEP is available at iPrexNews.com.

Robert Grant, MD, MPH, iPrEx Protocol Chair **Albert Liu**, MD, MPH, iPrEx Medical Officer and San Francisco Site Researcher

Susan Buchbinder, MD, iPrEx San Francisco Site Researcher

Kenneth Mayer, MD, iPrEx Boston Site Researcher Pedro Goicochea, MSc, MA, iPrEx Investigator Jeff McConnell, MA, iPrEx Investigator





Tweedle-dum, Tweedle-dee, Tweedle-doo, Tweedle-dah, Tweedle-duh...

LIFE+STYLE Savagely better, people listen to Dan Savage books

1 ex advice guru Dan Savage — whose column/podcast/iPhone-iPod app Savage Love has made him the queer Dear Abby — founded and launched the It Gets Better Project (ItGetsBetter.org) in September 2010 with husband Terry Miller via its first YouTube video. At the time, he never expected that it would go as far as it has in sheer numbers (10,000-plus and counting) and input from across the globe and social strata: President Obama's video went up just a month later, and Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns was attributed with expanding the cause when his (unrelated) heartfelt confessional went viral.

Now the book companion, *It Gets Better*: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living (Dutton; \$21.95), edited by Savage and Miller, drops, featuring all-new essays by the likes of David Sedaris, Kate Clinton, Michael Cunningham and Alison Bechdel, as well as video transcriptions and expanded essays from high-profile personalities and everyday folks alike.

Savage, who serves as editorial director for Seattle's The Stranger weekly and recently shot a TV series pilot for MTV (he's awaiting word on whether it's being picked up), spoke about the book, where he turns for advice, and the next social-sexual mission on his agenda.

Lawrence Ferber

SAVAGE LOVE LIVE

The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. March 31 at 8 p.m. \$20. WordSpace.us

Dallas Voice: How does this book further the It Gets

- Better mission and message? Dan Savage: The book includes pieces from people who haven't made videos. It also creates another way for kids who need to hear these messages to find them. I've written books before, and you never really know where a book is going to wind up. Sometimes they wind up in school libraries; I've gotten notes from people who stumbled across my book The Kid in the Himalayas. The Internet has tremendous reach, of course, and kids are wired and tech savvy, but not all kids have access to the Internet and not all kids want to leave a browser history that might incriminate them. So this gives another way to reach a lot of kids.
- Who would you like to see contribute an It Gets Better video or message but hasn't yet? I would love for the prime minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, to make one. I would like to see - and am not surprised we have not seen - a video from a prominent Republican elected official. There has been not one. I wish every politician would make one.



BETTER ALL THE TIME | Dan Savage, right, and his partner Terry Miller offered a helping voice for LGBT youth during a rash of suicides with the 'It Gets Better' campaign. The campaign has grown that the couple has turned it into a book. Savage comes to Dallas to talk up the book and likely, some sex.

- Look at New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg. He made a video where he said we welcome everybody - LGBT youth have a home in New York if where you're at is not welcoming you. At the same time that he released that video, he slashed funding for the Ali Forney Center, which is a shelter for LGBT teens, and he was called out for his hypocrisy. People were able to use the video to shame him and he reversed [his decision] and refunded the center. So calling in these chits, and being able to hold the people to the promises they made in their videos, is valuable.
- That said, for me the most important videos are the ones from people no one's ever heard of - average, everyday LGBT folks reaching out and sharing their joy with LGBT kids who may be having trouble picturing a future for themselves. Queer kids know there are gay celebrities out there, and straight celebs and politicians who are fine with gay people, but what some of them are having trouble picturing is how they get from being a bullied, miserable 14-year-old gay kid whose family is also tormenting them to a happy, secure, loved and perhaps, reconciled with their family gay adult.

What are the next steps in It Gets Better's future?

There's a good body of videos and we want to archive and tag them so they're more easily searched. There are a lot by trans people, but you can't always tell which just by looking at the thumbnail images, so we would need to make them easier to break out into playlists and search. We're working on that now. The mission after that is to make sure that five to ten years from now, once this moment of such intense media interest has passed, that kids who are 5 today and going to be 15 then and don't know about the website can find their way there. We have to make sure that there is enough money raised to host and maintain the website and awareness about it in schools and where kids are at

As a sex advice columnist, who do you look to or read for sex advice? I read a lot of sex columns. Llike In & Out, Caroline Hax, Dear Prudence, Margo Howard. If you go to TheStranger.com/Savage, there's a blogroll called "Want a Second Opinion?" which is links to other columns I approve of and enjoy.

So what is the one issue when it comes to our sex

lives that you have made your number one mission to change through your work? I just want people to be more realistic about monogamy. People's expectations about what a long-term relationships is like are so in conflict with what LTRs are actually like that a lot of decent, fine, functional relationships have ended because people had irrational expectations. If we can change expectations we can save a lot of relationships. Life-long sexual monogamy and the expectation that an LTR is always going to be this extraordinarily passionate fuck-fest sets us all up for disappointment.

And is there one strategy you are taking to go about that? It's an issue that constantly comes up. Sexual dissatisfaction, mismatched libidos, unmet sexual needs. people being cut off sexually by their spouses after they have children. I'm in the position often of recommending what I describe as "the least worst option." I think if the choice is a nasty divorce that upends the lives of four to five people and family or a little discreet infidelity that makes it possible for that family to remain intact and otherwise completely functional, I'm for infidelity.

Doctors gave Bob two weeks to live. We gave him 15 years and counting.

AIDS Services of Dallas would like to thank all of the generous supporters of our sixth annual No Tie Dinner & Dessert Party.

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Please join AIDS Services of Dallas for Dessert and Entertainment at the

2011 No Tie Dessert Party Saturday, March 26, 2011

8:00 pm Frontiers of Flight Museum 6911 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX 75209

Celebrity Emcee Amy Vanderoef, Host, WFAA Good Morning Texas

A donation of \$50 per person is suggested.

Come prepared to bid on items donated by Dallas' finest showrooms, retailers and restaurants. Decadent desserts from the city's top chefs will be served, along with beverages of your choice!

www.NoTieDinner.org

Dessert Sponsors -

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Dude, Sweet Chocolate	Trulucks
Frosted Art Bakery	Wendy Krispin Caterer
Gregorio's Catering	Zaguan Latin Café & Bakery

Special thanks to all of this year's gracious dinner hosts.

Using VIRAMUNE gets you some things you can't get from a pill—information, education, and inspiration.

Enroll now in the Vlife on Therapy™ program. Whether you have been taking Viramune[®] (nevirapine) tablets/oral suspension together with your other HIV medicine for years, or just started, the *Vlife on Therapy*[™] program is an ongoing source of ideas and perspectives that may help you:

-Better understand HIV, and help you maintain your VIRAMUNE care and treatment plan

-Learn how you may save up to \$50 toward your monthly prescription co-pay for up to a year. Go to www.viramune.com for details

—Be inspired by people who lived through similar experiences and want to share them with you

VIRAMUNE used in combination HIV therapy helps to increase CD4+ cell counts (T-cells) and reduce HIV viral loads.

Receive a medication reminder when you enroll.*

It's a special top that fits on the cap of your medicine container that alerts you when it's time to take your medication. *Limited quantities available.

Enroll today. Visit www.vlifeontherapy.com/JOIN

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.



Indication and Important Safety Information

VIRAMUNE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

VIRAMUNE can cause severe liver disease and skin reactions that can cause death. These reactions occur most often during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but can occur later. Ask your healthcare provider about how to recognize symptoms of skin and liver problems.

Stop taking VIRAMUNE if you have any of these reactions. Do not restart VIRAMUNE if you experience any of these reactions. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any of these reactions.

VIRAMUNE is only for people diagnosed with HIV. If you have not been diagnosed as HIV positive, then do not take VIRAMUNE.

Any patient can experience liver problems with VIRAMUNE, but women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater risk. If you are a woman with CD4+ >250 cells/mm³, or a man with CD4+ >400 cells/mm³, you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Women, including pregnant women, with CD4+ cell counts >250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk.

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Do not take VIRAMUNE if you have severe liver problems.

The dose of VIRAMUNE for adults is one 200-mg tablet daily for the first 14 days, followed by one 200-mg tablet twice daily. VIRAMUNE is always taken with other anti-HIV medications. The 14-day lead-in period is important because it can help reduce your chances of getting a potentially serious skin rash. If you have a skin rash during the first 14 days, immediately contact your doctor and do not increase your VIRAMUNE dose to twice a day. The total duration of the once daily lead-in dosing period should not exceed 28 days, at which point an alternative regimen may need to be started.

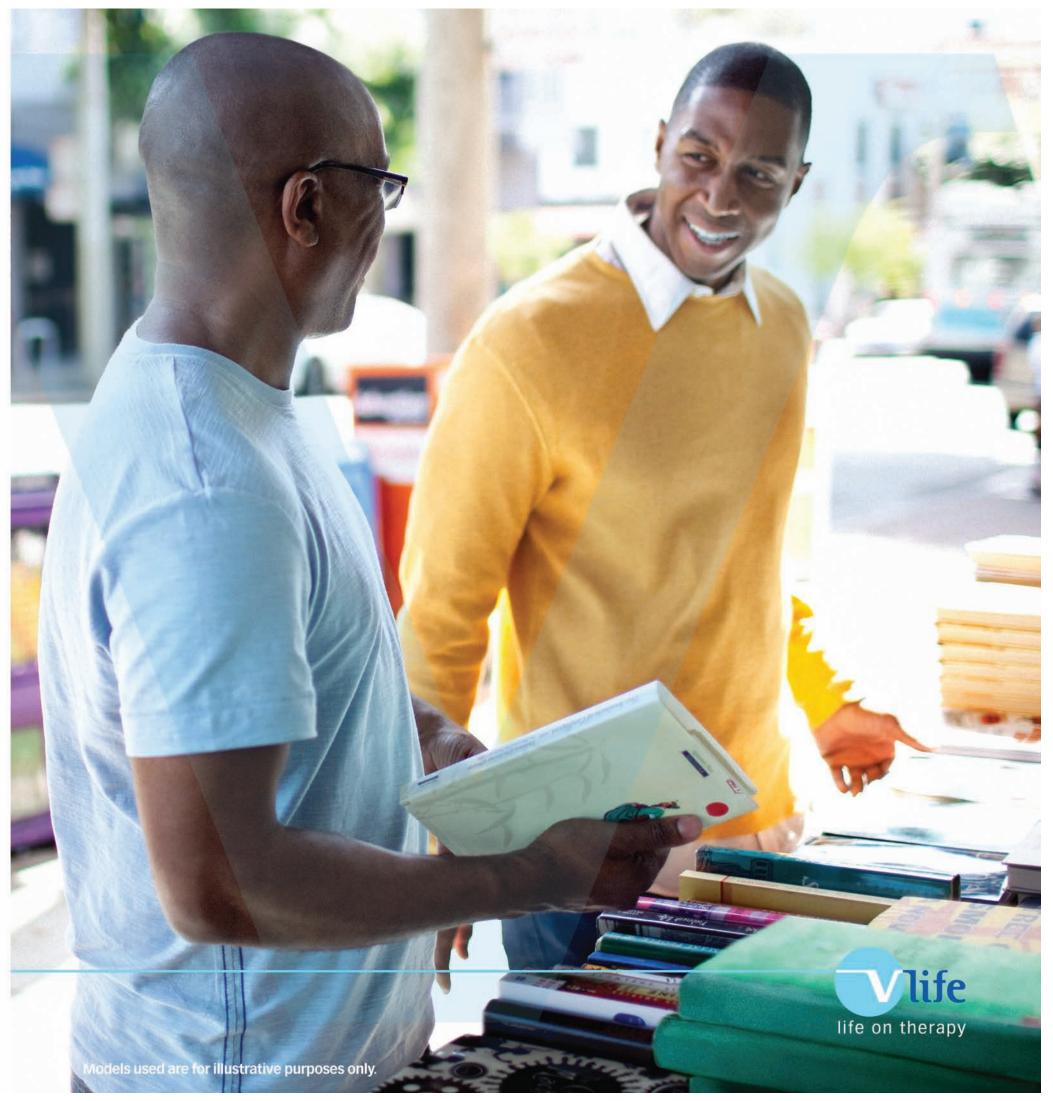
Other side effects that patients have experienced include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and myalgia. Changes in body fat may occur in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Immune reconstitution syndrome has been reported in patients treated with combination ARV therapy.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Medication Guide for VIRAMUNE on the following pages.







MEDICATION GUIDE VIRAMUNE[®] (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Tablets VIRAMUNE[®] (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Oral Suspension

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking VIRAMUNE and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE can cause serious side effects. These include severe liver and skin problems which can cause death. The risk of these problems is greatest during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but these problems can also happen at any time during treatment.

Severe liver problems: Anyone who takes VIRAMUNE may get severe liver problems. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to liver failure and the need for a liver transplant, or death. You may get a rash if you have liver problems. People with higher risk of these problems include women or anyone with higher CD4⁺ cell counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment. Women with CD4⁺ cell counts higher than 250 cells/mm³ at the start of treatment have the greatest risk for liver damage.

If you are a woman with CD4⁺ cell >250 cells/mm³ or a man with CD4⁺ cell >400 cells/mm³, you and your doctor will decide if VIRAMUNE is right for you.

People who have abnormal liver test results and people with hepatitis B or C have a greater chance of getting liver problems and further increases in liver test results during treatment.

If you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems, stop taking VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- fever
- "flu-like" symptoms or you do not feel well
- · dark (tea-colored) urine
- tiredness
- · light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
- loss of appetite
- · yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes

Your doctor should see you and do blood tests often to check your liver function during the first 18 weeks of treatment with VIRAMUNE. You should continue to have your liver checked regularly during your treatment with VIRAMUNE. It is important for you to keep all of your doctor appointments.

Severe rash and skin reactions: Skin rash is the most common side effect of VIRAMUNE. Most rashes happen in the first 6 weeks of taking VIRAMUNE. Rashes and skin reactions may be severe, life-threatening, and in some people, may lead to death. If you get a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- · "flu-like" symptoms or you do not feel well
- · blisters
- fever
- · mouth sores
- · muscle or joint aches
- swelling of your face
- red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye" (conjunctivitis)
- tiredness
- · swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes)
- · liver problems (see symptoms of liver problems above)

If your doctor tells you to stop treatment with VIRAMUNE because you have had the serious liver or skin problems described above, you should never take VIRAMUNE again.

These are not all the side effects of VIRAMUNE. See the section "What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?" for more information.

What is VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE is a medicine used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

VIRAMUNE is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI). VIRAMUNE works by lowering the amount of HIV in your blood ("viral load"). You must take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines. When you take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines, VIRAMUNE can lower your viral load and increase the number of CD4⁺ cells ("T cells"). CD4⁺ cells are a type of immune helper cell in the blood. VIRAMUNE may not have these effects in every person.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and it is not known if it will help you live longer with HIV. People taking VIRAMUNE may still get infections common in people with HIV (opportunistic infections). It is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

Who should not take VIRAMUNE?

Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver problems. Your doctor may tell you not to take VIRAMUNE if you have certain liver problems.

VIRAMUNE is only for people diagnosed with HIV. If you have not been diagnosed as HIV positive, then do not take VIRAMUNE.

What should I tell my doctor before taking VIRAMUNE?

Before you take VIRAMUNE, tell your doctor if you:

- have or have had hepatitis (inflammation of your liver) or problems with your liver. See "What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?" and "Who should not take VIRAMUNE?"
- · receive dialysis
- · have skin problems, such as a rash
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if VIRAMUNE will harm your unborn baby.

Pregnancy Registry: There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your doctor about how you can take part in this registry.

 are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. VIRAMUNE can pass into your breast milk and may harm your baby. It is also recommended that HIV-positive women should not breast-feed their babies. Do not breast-feed during treatment with VIRAMUNE. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. VIRAMUNE may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how VIRAMUNE works. Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- St. John's Wort. You should not take products containing St. John's Wort during treatment with VIRAMUNE because it can lower the amount of VIRAMUNE in your body.
- efavirenz (Sustiva[®], Atripla[®]). You should not take efavirenz during treatment with VIRAMUNE. You may have an increased chance of side effects if this is taken together with VIRAMUNE.
- atazanavir (Reyataz[®]). You should not take atazanavir during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- itraconazole (Sporanox[®]). You should not take itraconazole during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- ketoconazole (Nizoral[®]). You should not take ketoconazole during treatment with VIRAMUNE.
- rifampin (Rifadin[®], Rifamate[®], Rifater[®]). You should not take rifampin during treatment with VIRAMUNE.

 Birth control pills. Birth control pills taken by mouth (oral contraceptives) and other hormone types of birth control may not work to prevent pregnancy if you use them during VIRAMUNE treatment. Talk with your doctor about other types of birth control that you can use to prevent pregnancy during treatment with VIRAMUNE.

Also tell your doctor if you are taking the following drugs:

- clarithromycin (Biaxin®)
- fluconazole (Diflucan[®])
- methadone
- rifabutin (Mycobutin[®])

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take VIRAMUNE?

- Take VIRAMUNE exactly as your doctor tells you to take it.
- The dose of VIRAMUNE for children is based on their size and thus may not be the same as in adults.
- · You may take VIRAMUNE with or without food.
- If you or your child takes VIRAMUNE suspension (liquid), shake it gently before use. Use an oral dosing syringe or dosing cup to measure the right dose. The oral dosing syringe and dosing cup are not provided with VIRAMUNE Suspension.
- After drinking the medicine, fill the dosing cup with water and drink it to make sure you get all the medicine. If the dose is less than 1 teaspoon (5 mL), use the syringe instead of the dosing cup.
- · Do not change your dose unless your doctor tells you to.
- Your doctor should start you with one dose each day to lower your chance of getting a serious rash. It is important that you only take one dose of VIRAMUNE each day for the first 14 days.
- Call your doctor right away if you get a skin rash during the first 14 days of VIRAMUNE treatment and do not increase your dose to 2 times a day.
- You should never take your starting dose (200 mg one time each day) for longer than 28 days. If after 28 days you are still receiving this starting dose because you have a rash, you and your doctor should discuss replacing VIRAMUNE with another HIV medicine. Never increase your dose to 2 times a day if you have a rash.
- Do not miss a dose of VIRAMUNE, because this could make HIV harder to treat. If you miss a dose of VIRAMUNE, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose, just take the next dose at your regular time.
- If you stop taking VIRAMUNE for more than 7 days, ask your doctor how much to take before you start taking it again. You may need to start with one time each day dosing again.
- If you take too much VIRAMUNE, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE may cause serious side effects.

- See "What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?"
- Other common side effects of VIRAMUNE include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and muscle pain.
- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your doctor if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.
- Changes in body fat can happen in some people who take antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from your legs, arms, and face can also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known at this time.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store VIRAMUNE?

Store VIRAMUNE at 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

Throw away VIRAMUNE that is no longer needed or out-of-date.

Keep VIRAMUNE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about VIRAMUNE

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use VIRAMUNE for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give VIRAMUNE to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about VIRAMUNE. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about VIRAMUNE that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., at 1-800-542-6257, or (TTY) 1-800-459-9906.

What are the ingredients in VIRAMUNE?

Active Ingredient: nevirapine

Inactive ingredients:

Viramune Tablets: microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and magnesium stearate

Viramune Oral Suspension: carbomer 934P, methylparaben, propylparaben, sorbitol, sucrose, polysorbate 80, sodium hydroxide, and purified water

Distributed by: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Ridgefield, CT 06877 USA

Rev: June 2010

This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration

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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.





www.viramune.com

LIFE STYLE

travel

Boards, BOYS & beers

Man and nature are in accord on the slopes of Whistler at the gay ski week event WinterPRIDE

NICK VIVION | Contributing Travel Writer gaytravel.com

Moments after arriving at the Whistler resort in Canada, I find myself walking down the main drag in a harness, with straps dangling and my crotch scrunched up in a tidy triangle. Boys are staring at me as I walk down Skiers Approach towards the slopes.

"Who knew that I would be in a harness so fast," I joke, marking the official start of my WinterPride.

The First Nations peoples in Whistler have a striking moniker for their traditional home: Where mountains, rivers and people meet. That's an apt description not only of the British Columbia region but also of WinterPRIDE, one of North America's largest and longest-running gay ski weeks.

WinterPRIDE celebrates the intersections of nature and people in the gay community, providing a solid base of parties and events to whet the appetite of even the most avid circuit partier



or event-monger. On top of this base, just like the fresh powder that falls on the mountains here regularly, the organizers have layered a multitude of experiences that shake things up and allow gays to meet in contexts beyond nightlife.

The dual mountains of Whistler and Blackcomb are the anchors of Whistler Village, the two omnipresent elders watching over their flock. The Lower Village is home to the majority of the shops and restaurants, while the Upper Village is mostly the higher-end resorts and hotels.

The town itself is small, with a permanent population of roughly 10,000. There is also an army of seasonal workers who man chairlifts, cash registers and guide positions for the many activities.

The Whistler Blackcomb resort spans the largest skiable acreage of any resort on the continent, so it's no surprise that WinterPRIDE is a marquee event for the area, bringing in gay men and women from all over the world to take advantage of the fabulous terrain. In addition, the breadth of the resort affords non-boarders an abundance of activities to stoke any passion. So, back to the harness: Nothing really gay

about it; we are simply going ziplining.

Whistler's Ziptrek has one of North America's original zip courses, and one of the best. The guides are well-spoken and passionate about conversing on issues affecting the area, which is one of the last remaining temperate rainforests on earth.

There is nothing quite like zooming along at

high speeds, hands-free and spinning, watching the winter wonderland of babbling brooks, snow-capped stones and stately pine trees laid out.

There's a sensuality to a week in B.C., and not just because it is gay ski week. The bonding over physical activity in a locale remote from everyone's comfort zones allows for significant connections among gay travelers, as well as between nature and man.

After an active day on the mountain, there were plenty of après-ski events:

Apostolic

Resource

Center

A comedy night, a pool party, a drag party, a bear party, downhill ski races, dog sledding, brewery tours and more.

The apex of Whistler's WinterPRIDE lineup is Saturday night's Snowball. The party goes on until the sky lightens, revealing the soft outline of the towering peaks of Whistler Blackcomb Mountains. The party thins out after the booze stops around 3 a.m., but the remaining crowd is full-tilt.

WinterPRIDE turns 20 in 2012, and the Snowball is the centerpiece for the festivities. This year, a robust performance lineup, combined with an impressive conversion of the Whistler Conference Center into a nightclub to make it a hit, with DJ Eddie Baez grinding out his signa-



HILLS ARE ALIVE | Even a fab party schedule shouldn't keep you off the slopes at WinterPRIDE.

ture tribal-inflected beats and keeping the crowd moving.

As we wandered out in a daze, the morning was settling in and the WinterPRIDE week was coming to a close. Staggering to bed, it was going to be a sleep-in kind of morning — even if a fluffy layer of powder was glistening, beckoning for some fresh tracks.

online exclusive

For photos from the Matthew Shepard Foundation Gay Ski Week at Crested Butte this week, visit DallasVoice.com/photos.

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26

+S screen

HORSE WHISPERER | Audrey Dean Leighton gives air kisses to this horse adding to his



Over the 'Rainbow'

'Rainbows End' puts stock in its eccentric characters, especially Twirler Man

RAINBOWS END

1 at 10 p.m. and at The

3 at noon. DallasFilm.org

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer lopez@dallasvoice.com

Perhaps the last place you'd find a gay guy who makes your movie work is Nacogdoches, Texas. But Austin-based filmmaker Eric Hueber did just that in his first film, Rainbows End. And it was all sort of by accident.

This documentary track quirky individuals on separate quests to get to California, each for their own reasons: Birdman wants to audition his cocks for an animal casting agency; musicians Country Willie and the Cosmic Debris have a date with the Stardust Cowboy.

But Audrey Dean Leighton is the most colorful of all, with sparkly pink shorts and a vest to match. He just wants to make it to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center to learn about the Internet. And Hueber just happened upon him.

"Yeah, he was walking down the street and I went and started talking to him," Hueber says. Leighton joined the others in a big green schoolbus that hardly works, making a tour out of their road trip, encountering the colorful characters and engaging in an array of shenanigans. Leighton proudly touts his purchases from Jasper. His ZZ Top beard is accented with his Easter hats and throughout the movie, he acts as

Some more gay at DIFF this year

Unlike the Dallas Video Festival, The Dallas International Film Festival doesn't have a category of gay-interest programing but there's still stuff for queer filmgoers to enjoy. In addition to the chance to meet screen legend Ann-Margret, known for her sex-kitten roles as well as her musicals, accept the Dallas Star Award at the opening night gala on March 31, Texas-bred gay filmmaker Ash Christian screens his new film Mangus at AMC NorthPark on April 1.

the sage character spewing out wisdom in his own fashion.

"He definitely was the elder statesman of the cast," Hueber says.

You might call Leighton crazy with his longtrailed monologues, but maybe "eccentric" is a

better term. So how did Leighton end up in the film? You have to go back a bit. Screens as part of the Dallas

"When we started talking, he International Film Festival at The Magnolia Theatre on April would mail me all these letters," Hueber says. "So I told him about Angelika Film Center on April email and got him his own Hotmail account and then he became

obsessed with the Internet. He would tell me about all the things he was discovering and then he learned that the gay and lesbian center was offering classes on the Internet to people over

Hueber talks about Leighton as "this guy who showed up at all the small-town parades." As the valedictorian of his high school class, Leighton went on to brighter and smaller things. A fixture in the small-town circuit of East Texas, his shorts and batons were the random highlights of each parade earning him the nickname 'Twirler Man."

With Hueber's storytelling, it's hard to define the film. It plays with a wink in its eye. In the age of Bruno and Borat, cynicism lingers from those films that these are put-on scenarios.

"The thing is I used the B-level of crazy from Nacogdoches," he laughs. "But these are my good friends, their stories and these events built into this nice narrative arc. "

Rainbows End screens at the Dallas International Film Festival, and will compete in the Texas Film category — that's a triumph in its own small way.

"Oh, this is the most appropriate category," Hueber says. "We're so excited."

J€LLE L

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Queen for a day

Gary Mullen, frontman for cover band One Night of Queen, fills Mercury's tight pants just fine

RICH LOPEZ I Staff Writer lopez@dallasvoice.com

Cover bands get no respect. You can't help but wonder why they play other people's music, never their own. They have the musicianship, so why not the song catalogue?

It's a tough argument to make. But when it gets to the level of world tours and actually paying the bills, well, Gary Mullen might have a little something to say about what he does.

"We have side projects, but this takes up most of our year," says the lead singer for the group The Works. "We're all creating music and have other bands. Music is in all of our lifeblood, but we have fun with this."

"This" would be Mullen and his band, the guys behind One Night of Queen, a show of Queen hits that stops in Dallas on Saturday.



DOING THE FAN-DANGO | Gary Mullen was a huge fan of Queen before filling in as the legendary bisexual frontman Freddie Mercury in the tribute show coming to Music Hall.

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN

Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave

March 27 at 8 p.m. \$25-\$70.

Ticketmaster.com.

Yes, Mullen fills in for perhaps the frontman of all frontmen, Freddie Mercury. The band is convincing enough that it's been turned into a concert experience and takes them on the road worldwide. Fortunately,

Mullen doesn't get swept up in false ideas of whom he plays and who he is.

"I have to approach it with a bit of caution,"

he says in a charming, thick Scottish accent. "I'm not Freddie, but I do want it to be convincing. I try to treat him in a way that's the guy onstage, but I'm the guy offstage. I have to do that with a

bit of caution."

Life changed for the former computer salesman when he won an American Idol-like TV contest, Stars in Their Eyes, in 2000. Using that

LIFE+STYLE music

boost, he and his band took their Queen act on the road, selling out venues and growing it into an entirely higher level. The show replicates a Queen concert at their most successful period, touching mostly on the mid-'80s Magic Tour. Adding flavors of the band in the '70s and '90s, One Night of Queen has garnered the attention of original Queen member Brian May and even "massive Queen fan" Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

The bisexual Mercury, of course, is legendary to the LGBT continuum and Mullen, who is straight, and his band have found their gay fans along the way.

"We've played a gay Pride festival in Scotland and they showed us a damn good time," he says. "Although one couple wanted me to come home with them."

No doubt they got caught up in the moment as Mullen says the fans do. But he admits that he's not like Mercury in one way that might have disappointed those boys.

"Well, I'm more phallically challenged," he confesses.

Gotcha. So long as the music is killer, we will let you rock us.

— Rich Lopez

Hudson grows in new CD

The last time we were media blitzed by Jennifer Hudson, she was winning awards for her movie and album debuts. Hudson stepped away from the spotlight when her mother and brother were murdered, but she's been guitely coming back — first as a Weight Watchers spokesperson, and now for her sophomore album, I Remember Me.



Considering her recent past, Hudson could easily have made a maudlin album. Instead, she's delivered a mature set of R&B grooves showing the emergence of a woman. With some help from Alicia Keys, R. Kelly and Ne Yo, the album stays fresh (while sometimes bordering on passé) with Clive Davis helming the production and Diane Warren injecting sappy ballads. Despite the soft opening of "No One Gonna Love You," the album gets

going with "I Got This." This could have been a self-help anthem, but she keeps it cool without showing off her strong voice.

She turns the emotion on in "Where You At." There is a patience here that's unexpected, but she can pack a punch. Lyrics like Thought you were my hero / But as it turns out, you a no-show are kinda sassy, but her disappointment reaches beyond the speakers and man; you just feel bad for her.

Davis' oversight sometimes makes the album a little obvious and the impact is referential rather than modern. What saves it is Hudson believing in these songs. Her most personal song, "I Remember Me" (which she cowrote), is part ballad, part declaration. With a heavy bass spine, it's still a delicate bird of a song and knowing her tragic story, she shows her survival mode and even celebrates herself without being narcissistic.

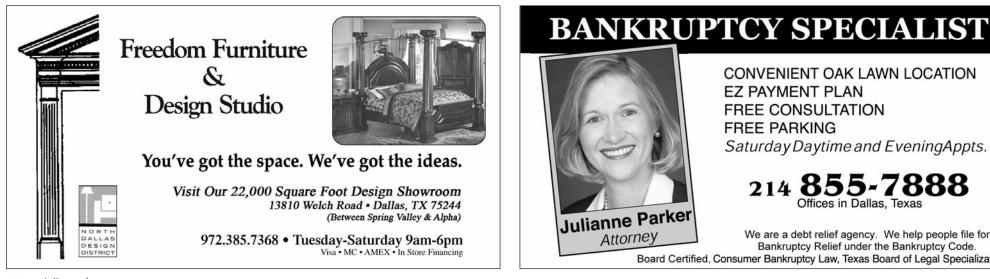
For a relatively newbie artist, Hudson can vocally walk a tightrope with subtle emotion. She holds back when you think she'll explode with a vocal run, and then she'll throw one into the fire once you've settled back into her quiet groove. It's a nice trick.

The album does suffer with some clichés. Keys pens three boring songs (you wonder if these are her throwaways because they never resonate). That said, "Don't Look Down" has a glorious '80s adult R&B vibe a la Patti Austin or Jeffrey Osborne.

The excitement trails off in the second half and lumbers a bit. The one punctuation that keeps it afloat is "Feeling Good," made famous by Nina Simone. This gives a punch of energy much needed by this point. Everything is right about this version from the lush horn riff to Hudson's respectful homage but leaving a very personal stamp on it.

I Remember Me is an exciting step forward for Hudson. Here, she seems to be recognizing the fairy tale that is her life and embracing its reality. She picks up where Whitney and Toni have left off and contemporary music has been missing that kind of vocalist. Despite some missteps, it's nice to see her return and do so with substance.

Three and half stars,



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Nest of vipers dividing the Estate,' DTC's foray in Foote, gets Gothic Southern comedy just right

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

"They were lazy and no good but they came from lovely families," declares Mama (June Squibb), matriarch of the Gordon family of tiny Harrison, Texas. It's a line that really sets the bar for your appreciation of Horton Foote's Dividing the Estate: You either get the joke (and the fact it's not really a joke at all) or you don't. This is a play that targets a Southern audience and assumes everyone else will just sleep in the weeds for two hours. And it's OK with that.

I am, too. There's a proud, fine tradition of Gothic Southern theater that runs a gamut from campy hoots (Del Shores, the Tuna guys) to strained melodrama (Tennessee Williams, especially his later stuff). There's

been a renaissance of it lately, with Broadway productions of Tracy Letts' awesome epic August: Osage County and Dividing the Estate, both of which tweak and (dare I say) improve upon their source material: King Lear and The Little Foxes, classics about crotchety old folks who use money

to control their families and expect the world to conform to their will. I've known women like Mama; I called one Grandma.

The Dallas Theater Center's current production at the Wyly, directed with astonishing surefootedness by Joel Ferrell, is a crackerjack comedy filled with death, lung-emptying sibling in-fighting and money-grubbing, and if that doesn't sound like the stuff of comedy to you, you might be a Yankee.

Set in the mid 1980s, it captures the fashions and Reagan Era social climbing with uneasy accuracy. Mama's three kids - Lucille (Gail Cronauer), Lewis (Kurt Rhoads) and Mary Jo

(Nance Williamson) — are all in need of money, and debate DIVIDING THE ESTATE whether they should divide the es-Wyly Theatre, 2044 Flora St. tate now or wait for Mama to die.

Through April 9. 214-880-0202. None has ever worked a day in DallasTheaterCenter.org. their lives, so they see the farmland, largely fallow, as some magi-

> cal money machine. Mama will have none of it, but her resistance really just causes more problems

> John Arnone's quasi-expressionistic set conjures the end of gracious living: A moldering plantation manor in need of a paint job, a faded



LITTLE FOXES | Mama (June Squibb, standing right) refuses to give sway to her money-hungry daughter Mary Jo (Nance Williamson, left) in 'Dividing the Estate.' (Photo courtesy Brandon Thibodeaux)

memory of a once-glorious monument to glamour... much like the Gordon family itself. But the performances are what really sell the play. Williamson's blowsy Houston wannabe socialite is a testament to superficiality. Rolling her eyes and hissing her lines, Williamson gives Mary Jo a swagger out of proportion to her own abilities. Her uncontrolled avarice is a study is slapstick. She contrasts beautifully to Lynn Blackburn's Pollyanna centeredness as an outsider about to marry into the family. Akin Babatunde seems to

have a rhythm all his own, a sing-songy cadence as the 92-year-old servant who engenders more respect than any of the children.

But at the heart is Squibb: Lips pursed, jaw set like a shovel in the ground, eyed focused so narrowly, Mama cannot see the big picture. You sympathize with her even as you know the mistakes she's making — just like your family, probably — certainly mine. Dividing the Estate resolves nothing; it merely reminds us that that's how it always is.



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LIFE+STYLE best bets





Friday 03.25

Don't mess with the jester

We've heard the sad clown bit before, but we think Verdi might have been the first with his opera *Rigoletto*. Ol' Rig is a jester of the tragic kind, which is only made worse when a bunch of noblemen set out to do some major harm. And trust us, that's not even the half of it.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. \$59–\$415. ATTPAC.org.

Saturday 03.26

Dinner's nice but dessert is better

You might think "progressive supper" when someone says dinner at one place, dessert at another. No Tie Dinner is so not that. Have dinner with your friends, but convene for the most fabulous sweet endings at the posh Dessert Party later. Plus, it all benefits AIDS Services of Dallas, which is probably the sweetest deal of all.

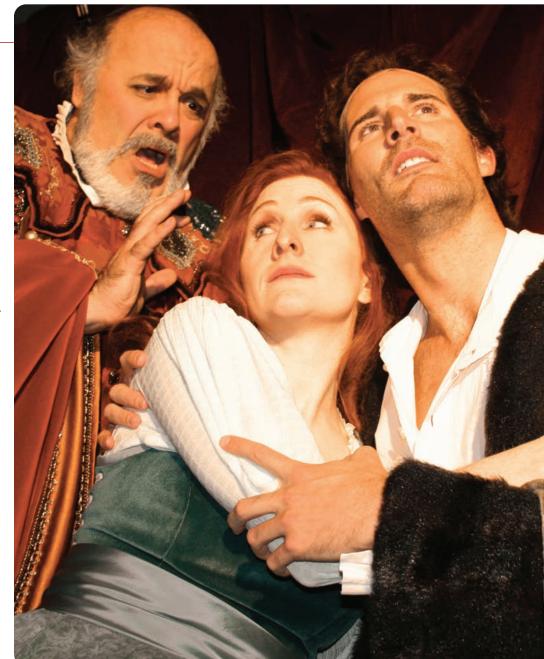
DEETS: Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 8 p.m. \$50. NoTieDinner.org.

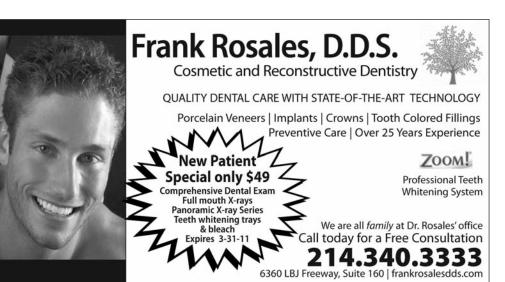
Sunday 03.27

Leave you wanting Maher

There is one thing we have to be thankful to Sarah Palin and the Tea Party for and that's Bill Maher. Mixing humor and politics, the funny man is never without fodder or even a serious commentary thanks to them. And when it comes to LGBT rights, Maher's been a vocal heavyweight in our corner. He's practically the perfect man.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$45–\$75. ATTPAC.org.











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PLAY BALL | Opening games and ceremonies happen this weekend as PSSA starts the softball season.

FRIDAY 03.25

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

SATURDAY 03.26 COMMUNITY

The Dallas Flea is not your average flea market,

with more than 70 vendors for shopping and eating along with live music, giveaways and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. South Side, 1409 S. Lamar St. 9 a.m. \$5. TheDallasFlea.com.

DFW Prime Timers play bingo at private residence. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

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

SUNDAY 03.28

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

MONDAY 03.28

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 03.29

COMMUNITY FUSE Movie Night every week. Resource Center



Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

Tuesday Night Fellowship with The ONE Church. Buffalo Wild Wings, 4140 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

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

WEDNESDAY 03.30 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.

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

THURSDAY 03.31 COMMUNITY

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

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

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

PSSA STANDINGS

The Dallas Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association is gearing up for their 2011 season and encourage fans to come out for opening weekend. Opening day is March 27 at Kiest Park, 3080

S. Hampton Road. Games begin at 8 a.m. Opening Ceremonies begin at 11 a.m.

Additional events through the weekend are posted on the PSSA website and on Facebook.

Provided space is available, we will provide PSSA standings here, as provided by the association, in the calendar section.

For more information, visit DallasPSSA.org.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY By Jack Fertig

Amy Sedaris turns 50 on Tuesday. There are so many things we love about Sedaris and it all starts with her creepily funny character Jerri Blank in *Strangers With Candy.* Her books are just as hilarious, whether collaborating with her brother David or on her own with 2010's *Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People.*

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Reconsider life's priorities. Rude financial shocks should stimulate brilliant new ideas, although any new ideas now will need revision later. Stay patient.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

You're certain to make a fool of yourself one way or another, so lighten up and let yourself be in on the joke. While taking yourself too seriously is surely disastrous, do be serious about safety.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

You need to worry better. Get clear on what's provoking your anxieties so you can resolve them once and for all. Resolution won't come instantly, but insights now will prove helpful later.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Arguments with friends are blamed on miscommunications. If you can't patch things up now, a little time apart could be helpful. New friends could cause more confusion than they solve.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Anything you do will be observed. Consulting with your boss will help disperse any blame and make those mistakes more interesting. A good sense of humor will get you through.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Only get into arguments if you want to be proven wrong. You could learn a great deal, but don't jump on any bandwagons. Novel notions will require closer examination and corrections.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Experimental sexual techniques will teach you more about what you don't like than what you do. Scratch things off the list. Avoid anything risky for now. These are accident-prone times.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Arguments and misunderstandings with your partner are expected. Every relationship has challenges. Breaking up now is a mistake. Committing to a new relationship now is a bigger one.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Moderation is the key to fitness. Pushing too hard will do harm. Take disruptions at work in a calm, even stride. Are you being fair to colleagues? Consider those problems now. Decide later.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Daring gestures blow up in your face and creative efforts backfire. Stay in good humor and treat it all as a grand experiment. Learning what doesn't work will serve you well in the future.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Household accidents are likely. Write down and design any bright ideas you have, but review them next month before fiddling with wires.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your mouth is getting way ahead of your brain. Be very careful to converse only with people who aren't easily offended. Writing is safer than talking —unless you're worried about evidence.

THIS WEEK

With Mercury turning retrograde in Aries, be careful of spontaneous speeches and actions. Mars conjunct Uranus makes it way too easy to leap before you look — metaphorically and literally. The good news is that mistakes and missteps will show up immediately. Be very ready to make corrections and apologies.

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





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JOAN HILTY .. @20

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Family Ties

Solution on page 33

Across

1 Climax, e.g. 6 Brief instant 9 "I vant to be alone" actress 14 Vibes not from a vibrator 15 Pay or Cray ending 16 Erection supporter 17 Start of a quote from Meredith Baxter 20 Audre Lorde's tool 21 They have pressing work 22 Site of iniquity 23 Aladdin's monkey 24 Shorten leaves of grass 26 More of the quote 33 Gad about 34 Home of T. Bankhead 35 From the top 37 Sorbonne summer 38 More of the quote 42 Low grade 43 Where colonists shot off their muskets in 1775 45 Needing to be set straight 47 Part of an espionage name 48 Firebird composer Stravinsky 49 More of the quote 56 Eugene O'Neill's daughter

57 Game with "Reverse" cards 58 "Beat it!" 59 Cole Porter's "Well, ____ You Evah" 60 End of the quote 64 Lance in a robe 65 Wall St. group 66 He danced in Silk Stockings 67 Dorm VIPs 68 From Jan. 1 to now 69 Kneel before, e.g. 70 Prufrock poet's monogram Down 1 Bound gaily 2 Walk the waiting room 3 "Viva Las Vegas" middle name 4 Mustang's sch. 5 Chevy model 6 Gay nightlife district of London 7 Joie de vivre 8 Spelunker's opening 9 Apocalypto director Mel 10 James Buchanan follower, familiarly 11 Clarinet part 12 Ruination 13 Male mating call? 18 Beat soundly 19 Witty Bombeck 23 Very hairy swinger 25 Org. of guys who can knock you out 26 Magazine section 27 Like ambidextrous masturbation? 28 Tearoom Trade author Humphries 29 Variety 30 "____ Get a Witness" (Marvin Gaye) 31 It gets next to you 32 Patty Sheehan supporters

A Couple of guys® HOW ARE THINGS GOING Dave Browssan WITH BILLY, DAVID? "It's Lonely at the Top' SORRY, I JUST MEANT ... WELL, YOU SEEM SO CONFIDENT LATELY





prousseau

33 YMCA activity 36 Director Craven 38 Dick of Bewitched 39 Not a dup. 40 Way to come 41 Hourly pay 44 Water-to-wine town 46 It grows on trees 49 TV show of this puzzle's quote 50 Get up 51 Gives a pink slip to 52 Coming soon 53 Stray from the herd 54 The I's of Sappho 55 Horny lodge member? 60 Unsettle 61 Milk, so to speak 62 Cross-dresser Joan of ____ 63 To this point



LIFE+STYLE

scene



ChiChi and Jamie at Rainbow Lounge.

Are you feeling the spring fever like we are? Maybe we can find some relief in here somewhere JR.'s Bar & Grill is all about the music this week. They host two CD release parties celebrating Jennifer Hudson's new album on Tuesday and the Pet Shop Boys' latest on Thursday Find out who wins the crown at the Miss Gay Dallas US of A Newcomer pageant on Wednesday at the Round-Up Saloon The Lisa Marshall Band plays Saturday night at Sue Ellen's. Hit up the Pool and Dart Tournament on Tuesday to win gas cards as prizes Troy Sands returns to the turntables Friday at the Dallas Eagle. Show your drawers at Throb! Underwear Night on Wednesday. Got post-beardom depression from TBRU last weekend? Hit up Thursday night's Growl Party for your furry action Music comes from New York's Justin Ryan and Dallas' own Adam Metts at the Spin party on Saturday at the Brick. Get a Sip N' See every Wednesday at the cast show featuring Kandy Cayne, Jennifer Justice and more Our favorite lactose-based event Cheese Wars of the Cheese Whores happens again this Tuesday at Best Friends Club. Once you're done with the nibblies, aim straight for the Dart Tournament immediately after Whitney Paige's Super Sunday Show at the Rainbow Lounge rounds out your weekend just nicely Feeling better? We are.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM



Matt, Justin, Donnie, Jay and Ty at Station 4. dallasvoice.com 🔳 03.25.11



Andrea, Leah and Kerri at Jack's Backyard.



Brandon and Will at the Round-Up Saloon.



Danny and Michael at Best Friends Club.



Scott at Big D Bear Dance during TBRU weekend.



Reed and Curtis at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

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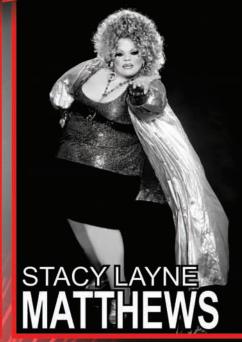
FRIDAY APRIL 1

LIFE | STYLE | ENTERTAINMENT EvokeMedia ZINE | ALINCH PRE-PARTY | 8:00 - 11:0

MAGAZINE LAUNCH PRE-PARTY | 8:00 - 11:00 PM SHOW GIRLS | DANCERS | ENTERTAINMENT

CAST PARTY RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 3 SHOWTIME 11:00 PM MEET AND GREET AFTER





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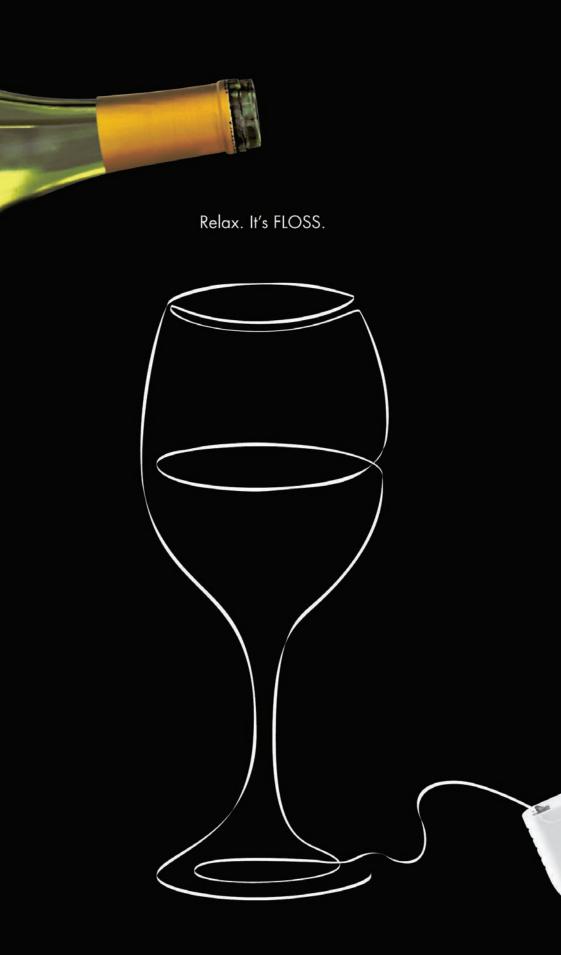
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