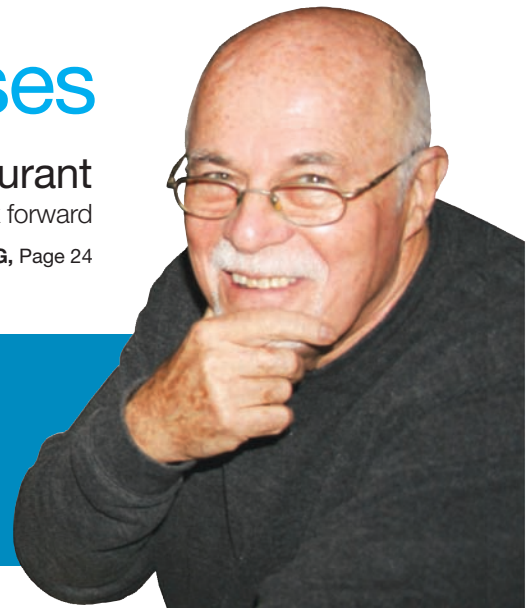


After 35 years, The Bronx closes

The Melrose purchases iconic restaurant
Owners of the gayborhood institution look forward

■ DINING, Page 24



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COVER PHOTO

Members of the Dallas Sisters include, front row, left to right: Post. Shahira Lotta Voicez, NvSr Amanda DeFlower, NvSr Kerianna Kross; middle row, left to right: Post. Fondalyn Grope, Post. Plenty O'Cleavage, Post. Thumb Belina; back row, left to right : NvSr Bertha Sinn, NvSr Eve Angelica, NvSr Tasha myFUPA. Photo courtesy Dallas Sisters. Cover design by Michael Stephens.

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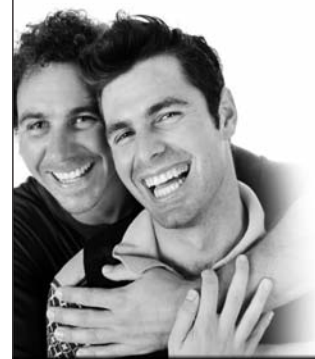


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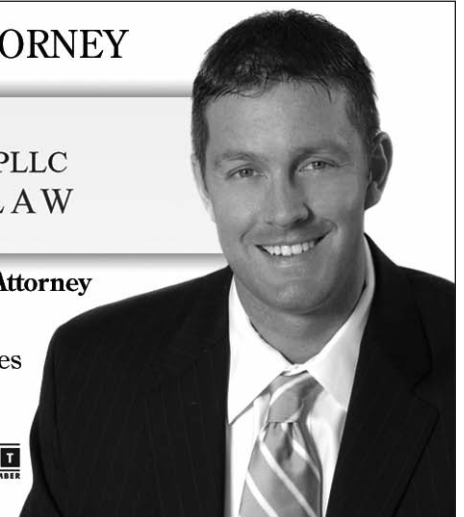
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Making a better world, one step at a time

John Boeglin repays the help he gets as a client at AOC by also being a volunteer at the agency

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
taffet@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — John Boeglin, first diagnosed with AIDS in 1989, has been a client of Tarrant County's AIDS Outreach Center off and on since 1991.

But Boeglin doesn't just go to the center for help for himself; he helps others in turn by volunteering at AOC. And he has taken his volunteerism a step forward by looking for — and finding — ways to help the agency go a little more green.

"I have volunteered in different parts of AIDS Outreach, and I had volunteered in the food pantry for about four years when I started thinking that there was a real need for us to start incorporating recycling into all of our events," Boeglin said.

So he took the initiative of coordinating with the city to get recycle bins at the agency and has been leading AOC's recycling efforts in the three years since then.

"It's not very profitable. But at least we are helping the environment. We can now take all the cardboard and plastic and aluminum that comes through here and recycle it, instead of having it all end up in a landfill somewhere," he said.

He added, "I have always been cautious about my own carbon footprint, about the impact I have on the environment. I was always riding a

■ **BOEGLIN**, Page 11



John Boeglin

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson: Crowe 'never met a stranger'

Chris Crowe, 29, a gay staffer for Democratic Dallas Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson who also served as president of the LGBT Congressional Staff Association, died Wednesday of complications from a staph infection that damaged his heart.

Johnson, a longtime LGBT ally, issued a statement on Crowe's death Wednesday night.

"He was respected by his colleagues for his professionalism; he was beloved by many for his generous spirit and good humor," Johnson said of Crowe. "He was a person who enjoyed life and always had a smile to share. He never met a stranger."



Crowe was a Kentucky native who worked as an intern for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in 2005. According to Roll Call, he studied government and global securities at Johns Hopkins University before becoming a staff assistant for Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. Crowe became a staff assistant in Johnson's office in 2006, and last year he was promoted to legislative assistant.

— John Wright

Council incumbents discuss election issues



Pauline Medrano, District 2



Angela Hunt, District 14



Delia Jasso, District 1

Medrano, Hunt face challengers; Jasso unopposed but still plans 'get out the vote' effort in April

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Three incumbents — Pauline Medrano, Angela Hunt and Delia Jasso — running for re-election have forged close ties with the LGBT community. All are running for reelection, they said, because they love their jobs and each highlighted particular community issues and economic

development in their districts.

The one thing all three mentioned was making Dallas more bike-friendly. Two of them — Jasso and Medrano — returned from an urban biking conference in Seville, Spain last week with ideas on how to accomplish their goal.

Pauline Medrano

"Crime reduction, economic development and quality of life issues" are what Medrano said she has been focused on for the past six years on the council.

Running for her fourth term as District 2 councilwoman, she said, "I take my job very seriously. I put in an eight-hour day, and I love it."

Although she said that people in her district know her well, she is taking nothing for granted as she faces an opponent in her bid for re-election. She said she talks to people around the district daily about what she's done and what she still plans to do.

Neighborhood watch groups have been a key to crime reduction in the district, Medrano said. She touts the 10-70-20 plans that the police department helps implement — 10 percent of a neighborhood are non-tolerant and actively

■ **INCUMBENTS**, Page 10

Controversy over GSA scares away faculty sponsor

Undoubtedly you'll recall that earlier this month, Corpus Christi's Flour Bluff Independent School District reluctantly agreed to allow a chapter of the Gay Straight Alliance.

When the district initially refused student Nikki Peet's application for the GSA, the ACLU threatened legal action and hundreds of people protested outside Flour Bluff High School.

Almost a month later, KZTV Channel 10 reports that although the district ultimately voted to allow it, the GSA chapter still has not met because the faculty sponsor has backed out.

Peet says the student Gay Straight Alliance did have a sponsor, but the sponsor backed out after the controversy started getting attention. Peet also says Flour Bluff's Superintendent Julie Carbajal is organizing a committee on Friday to review the policy created in 2005 that does not allow limited open forums at the school.

We've got a message in to Peet to get more information. You can sue to force a school or district to allow a GSA, but what do you do when faculty members are scared to sponsor it because they're afraid of backlash? The irony of this whole saga, of course, is that it demonstrates precisely why the GSA is so badly needed.

— John Wright

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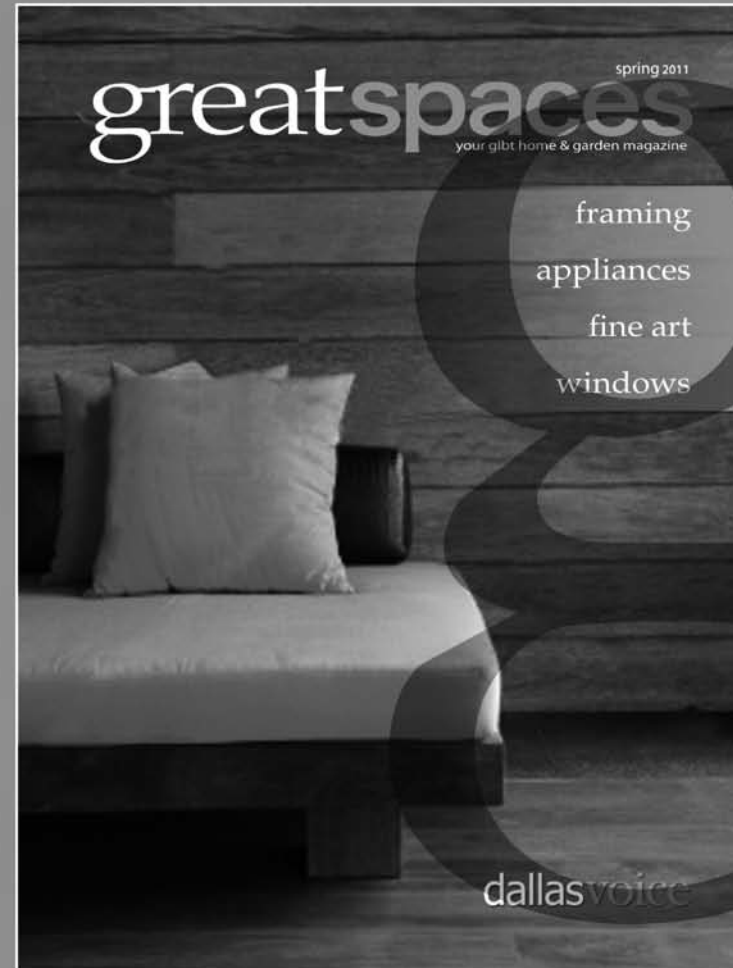
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localbriefs

RCD to present Gayla Prom

Resource Center Dallas will present the 2011 Gayla Prom, "Runway," on May 21, from 7 p.m. to midnight, at the Owens Arts Center on the campus of Southern Methodist University.

Adam King is chair of the 15th annual event for LGBTQ youth and their allies, ages 14-18.

Resource Center Dallas has been the home of the Dallas/Fort Worth Gayla Prom since 2008. The event was established by the Walt Whitman Community School in 1997.

Supporters of the 2011 event include American Airlines, Youth First Texas, GLSEN-Dallas, SMU Meadows School of the Arts, Best Buy and Dana Barber — Realtor.

For information, call 214-528-0144 or email Chair@gaylaprom.org.

Peace Chapel hosting event with Harvey

The Interfaith Peace Chapel presents a "Weekend of Sacred Activism," featuring acclaimed poet, novelist, mystical scholar and spiritual teacher Andrew Harvey, April 7-10.

The event includes opportunities for dinner, workshops, readings and book signings focused on the principles of Harvey's latest book, *The Hope*.

The event is open to the public and ticket prices vary. Tickets and more information are available

online at InterfaithPeaceChapel.org. Tickets will also be available at the door on April 8-9.

The event includes dinner with Harvey and a copy of his latest book on Thursday, April 7, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at a private residence. Cost is \$80.

Harvey will speak on "Rumi's Embrace, Hope for Humanity," beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, April 8 at the Peace Chapel. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

On Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Harvey will lead a workshop on sacred activism. Cost is \$50 in advance, \$75 at the door.

The event ends with book signings by Harvey following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services at Cathedral of Hope on Sunday, April 10.

Copies of Harvey's latest book will be available for purchase at the church's Sources of Hope Bookstore.

Community health forum set

Resource Center Dallas, Dallas County Health and Human Services and AIDS Arms Inc. are joining together to sponsor an HIV Community Forum Thursday, April 7, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room 118 at Sabine Hall at Richland College, 12800 Abrams Road in Dallas.

Refreshments will be provided and TOLI credit is available.

The event is hosted by the Richland College Health Center.

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



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Black Tie announces 2011 beneficiaries

The board of the Black Tie Dinner this week announced that 18 local organizations and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation have been named as beneficiaries of the 2011 Black Tie Dinner, set for Nov. 12 at Sheraton Dallas hotel.

This will be the 30th anniversary of the fundraising event.

The 18 local beneficiaries are:

- AIDS Arms
- AIDS Interfaith Network
- AIDS Outreach Center
- AIDS Resources Rural Texas
- AIDS Services Dallas
- Celebration Community Church
- Congregation Beth El Binah
- Equality Texas Foundation
- Health Services North Texas
- Lambda Legal
- Legacy Counseling
- Legal Hospice
- Northaven UMC
- Resource Center Dallas
- The Women's Chorus
- Turtle Creek Chorale
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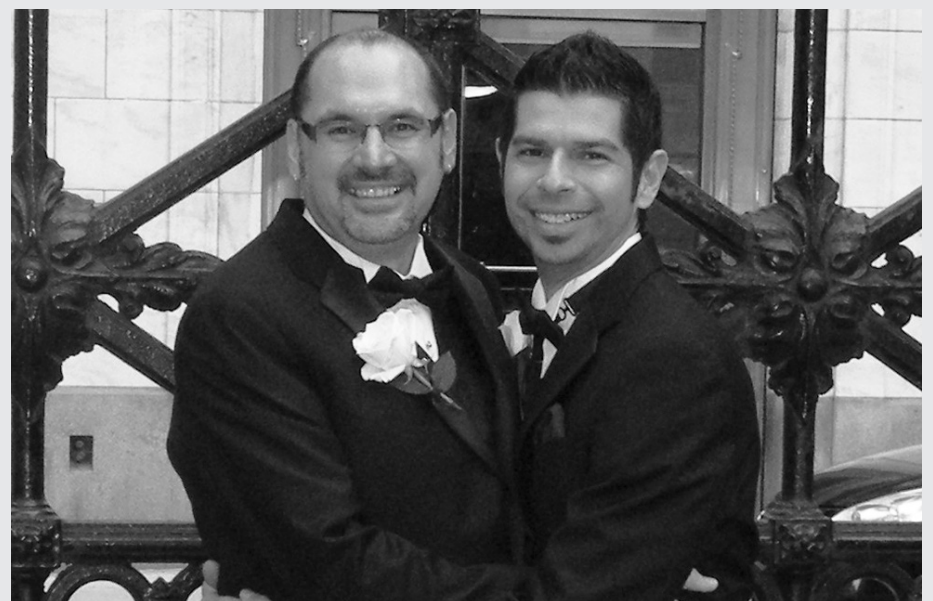
In a statement released Thursday, Black Tie Co-Chair Nan Arnold said Black Tie is "thrilled" to be able to help support the beneficiary organizations, adding that "thanks to the ... great work that they do, men and women are living longer, healthier, happier and more fulfilled lives."

Arnold explained that beneficiary applications are reviewed by the 24 active members of the Black Tie board and advisory members. They validate services each applicant organization provides, along with the organization's stability and strategic plan.

Ron Hill, chair of the Black Tie Community Relations Committee said the process is "enlightening," allowing board members to "understand the purpose of these vital organizations. It's interesting to see the short and long-term goals they have established to sustain and increase the services they provide."

Since it began in 1982, Black Tie Dinner has distributed more than \$15 million to local beneficiaries and the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For more information go online to Black-Tie.org or call 972-865-2239. ■

WEDDING



Mitchell-Percell | Shannon D. Mitchell-Percell and Ronye H. Mitchell-Percell were married in Boston on March 13, in a ceremony held at the historic Omni Parker House Hotel, at the Parker Restaurant — the site where John F. Kennedy proposed to Jackie Onassis. The Mitchell-Percell wedding made history as the first marriage at this site. The wedding cake was Boston Cream Pie, which originated at the restaurant. Best friend Melisa Ramsey attended the ceremony. The couple will celebrate with a local reception for family and friends.



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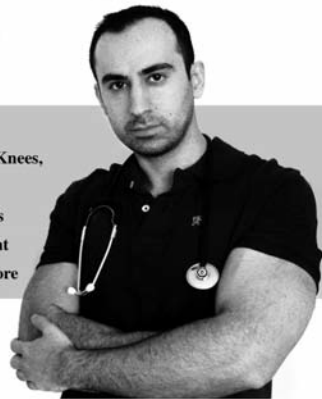
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North Texas GLBT Chamber celebrates sixth anniversary



CHAMBER HONORS | Dinner chair Lorie Burch, left, awards Fashion Optical owner Morgan Metcalf the GLBT Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award. (Courtesy Terry Walker/563 Photography)

Fashion Optical named business of the year; Bob McCrainie of Texas Pride Realty wins businessperson of the year for 2010

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Fashion Optical was named business of the year and Bob McCrainie of Texas Pride Realty was recognized as businessperson of the year by the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

On Wednesday, March 30, several hundred members of the chamber attended the sixth anniversary dinner and awards presentation at the Adolphus Hotel in Downtown Dallas.

Fashion Optical was cited for turning a discount eyewear store into the largest optical store in North Texas.

Morgan Metcalf said he turned the store that was doing about \$350,000 annually into an almost \$2 million operation in about two years.

"We have the look of luxury at reasonable price points," he said.

Metcalf spoke about having been bullied in high school and by his father and said that was actually his motivation for success.

"I love being underestimated," he said.

McCrainie was recognized for his work locally with the Carrollton Project, an LGBT outreach project in the northern suburbs, for his evergreen award for promoting environmental issues and for his work nationally. McCrainie was instrumental in getting sexual orientation added to the Realtors' code of ethics.

J.T. Williams was named Emerging Leader for the success of his company, Uptown Capital Title, and for his work in the community. He is treasurer of Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats and volunteers with and raises money for Legacy Counsel-

ing Center and Lambda Legal.

Luke Crossland, developer of ilume on Cedar Springs Road, received a double award, the first time the chamber has given two awards to one company in the same year. The ExtrAA Mile Award and the Member Service Award went to the developer for his commitment to the community and his contributions to the chamber.

"From the start, he made it clear they [ilume] would be part of the GLBT community," said Lorie Birch, the dinner chair and presenter.

The company donates office space to the chamber as well as separate meeting space for the chamber and other groups.

Raytheon, recipient of the Corporate Ally Award, is "a great partner in the chamber," said Chamber President Tony Vedda. "The sponsored the Emerging Leader Award. They sponsor a membership for Youth First Texas. They supply us with volunteers. Raytheon has a wonderful track record of diversity and inclusion."

He said that Raytheon won't sell more missile guidance systems because of company employment policies and support for the LGBT community.

Raytheon was the first aerospace company to score 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index. Alice Walker, who heads the company's LGBT employee group, gave credit for that to Louise Young.

Vedda gave the Chairman's Awards to Jamie Sloan of the UPS Store Highland Park and Christopher Walthall, owner of Aneita Fern.

Chamber member Candy Marcum called Sloan a tireless ambassador for the community. Sloan has chaired the chamber's membership and fundraising committees.

Vedda said that when ilume offered the chamber office space, he called Walthall about donating some furniture. Vedda said he hoped for a desk and a chair. Instead, Walthall fully outfitted the office with Stickley furniture, artwork and accessories. ■

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■ texasnews

■ INCUMBENTS

From Page 4

report crimes, 70 percent are tolerant and uninvolved, while 20 percent make up the criminal element.

By involving more of that 70 percent, Medrano said, one neighborhood reduced crime by more than 30 percent.

Medrano said she always has her eye on the neighborhood. She said she's out five nights a week and constantly reports street lights that are out.

"If I'm in someone else's district, I pass on the information," she said.

Medrano is excited about development coming to her area, including two new Krogers — one at the current Elliot's Hardware site and another at the former Loew's Theater site. Both neighborhoods lack convenient grocery shopping and residents asked for her help in bringing the stores to the area.

Medrano noted that Elliot's is staying in the area and is relocating to a space across from Inwood Station that was formerly a Carnival supermarket.

The CityPlace development will also include new housing units and an LA Fitness.

Medrano called the Green Line expansion that cuts through her district the best economic engine in the area.

She said that with construction of the new Parkland Hospital, the challenge has been to keep traffic in the area moving, but once the rail line is complete, employees can walk over to the new Kroger, shop and then hop on the Green Line to get home.

Medrano said she would like to integrate an idea she got in Spain to her district's new DART service. She called them docking stations: Run a card through the docking station to get a bicycle. Ride to DART and return it to the docking station there before boarding a train. Take the train to another station and pick up another bike.

Medrano said she talked to someone who runs the bike share program in Seville who told her it was a way of life there.

Medrano called her job a seven-day-a-week job and her work on the council a privilege and an honor.

Angela Hunt

The incumbent that attracted the most opponents in her race for re-election is Hunt, with five. One of them, Chad Lassiter, will appear on the ballot but has dropped his campaign.

Hunt's delay in deciding whether to run for mayor or for re-election to her current seat may have been a factor in attracting those opponents. In her last two races, she was unopposed.

Hunt said she was surprised she hasn't had opponents in the past and thought every race should have a choice of candidates, saying a choice of candidates is healthy.

Hunt said she decided to run for the council rather than mayor because, "I don't think this

council can best be run by someone from the council."

Hunt has her eye on citywide issues like the 2012 bond package, the budget and redistricting. But she has spent a lot of her time on neighborhood issues.

"We need to be focused on more bike-friendly streets and make neighborhoods more walkable," she said. She wants to add streetcars to downtown. She said the Katy Trail, which runs through her district, has become more than a linear park and is now used as a transportation device. She said she'd like to see the 2011 bike plan fulfilled.

On one issue, Hunt remains a holdout against the rest of the council:

"I'm still against pouring millions of tons of concrete into our floodway," she said, adding that she wants to see "the parks the voters were promised," which she said would be an economic generator.

Hunt called improvements to the Trinity River levee system a public safety issue.

Hunt said she has been working with police, business owners and neighborhood groups to solve problems on Lower Greenville Avenue. She said that the city would invest in streetscape improvements this summer, including planting trees and making the strip more walkable.

New zoning will require businesses to obtain city permits to remain open after midnight to lower the concentration of bars.

Hunt said she worked with neighborhood groups and the landlord to change zoning for a property on Oak Lawn Avenue. Neighborhood groups didn't want another convenience store or liquor store on the street, and the landlord needed additional options for the space. Rezoning will allow the owner to lease the storefront as an office, a restaurant or a variety of other new possibilities.

On the other side of her district, Hunt said that while the city is investing a half-billion dollars to modernize Love Field, she's working to address noise issues with neighborhood groups when the Wright Amendment goes away in three years.

Delia Jasso

After 20 years of trying, Oak Cliff's Bishop Arts neighborhood finally has taken off during the two years Jasso has been in office.

"I've liked being able to affect Bishop Arts," Jasso said.

And, she said, she hopes to bring that success to other parts of her North Oak Cliff district.

Jasso said she is working with the city to come up with solutions to improve tricky intersections on Westmoreland Avenue and hopes to bring some of the sparkle back to Jefferson Boulevard.

But while Jasso wants to spread some of the Bishop Arts success, she is keeping a close eye on the successful area.

"I don't want Bishop Arts to go the way of the West End," she said.

One difference, Jasso said, is that West End developers worked hard to keep out LGBT-owned businesses while those businesses are an important ingredient in the Oak Cliff success.

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■ INCUMBENTS

From Page 10

Jasso said that during her first term she learned a lot and spent quite a bit of time helping small businesses navigate the city's complicated permit and inspection process.

"Lucia is a perfect example," she said.

Without her intervention, that new restaurant, which has already received a five-star rating, would have had a more difficult time opening.

■ BOEGLIN

From Page 4

bicycle everywhere. I didn't even have a car until my father passed away."

Boeglin has also been a big supporter of AOC's annual AIDS Walk, both as a walker and as a volunteer who helps set up on the day of the event, and then take everything down and put it away when it's over.

"I'm usually there from the first thing in the morning until that night when it's all done," he said. "And I have walked in the AIDS Walk for at least 10 years now."

Boeglin said he volunteers with and walks in the AIDS Walk, now in its 19th year, because "it helps earn money to pay for the services that we need. And with all the cuts the government has made since 2000, that money has become a real necessity.

"This agency probably wouldn't make it without the money from the AIDS Walk," he continued. "Because of all the changes made by the previous administration [under President George W. Bush], people can't even get on disability now. A lot of people wouldn't be able to make it without the programs at AIDS Outreach Center."

Boeglin said he first started doing volunteer work "primarily because there wasn't a lot else to do. Those of us who were diagnosed in the 1980s and early '90s, we found out we were sick and so we started planning for the end of our lives. Then all of a sudden, we realized we weren't dying.

"So we tried to go back to work, but we either couldn't get jobs at all, or we couldn't get jobs that would actually pay the bills," he said. "So we found ourselves sitting around our apartments with nothing to do. That's how it happened with me. So I started volunteering."

Boeglin said he volunteered with the Healing Wings program at JPS Hospital and then later at AIDS Outreach when the program moved. He has also volunteered with Q Cinema and has been involved with Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats. He has been politically active as well, once getting a scholarship that allowed him to fly to Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress on behalf of the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program.

He said he has lobbied the Texas Legislature on HIV and LGBT related issues, too.

"Sometimes, you can get a little burned out when you stay in one place, doing one thing for too long. So I avoid the burnout by going from

■ BOEGLIN, Page 12

Jasso said she would like to see some of that process streamlined.

Also recently back from the bike conference in Seville, Jasso said, "It's amazing how easy it is to put in bike lanes. We make it hard on ourselves."

She said studies show that women are less likely to ride bikes as transportation without buffer zones protecting them from vehicular traffic.

Jasso has become a biking enthusiast herself. She'll be leading Bike Friendly Oak Cliff on a ride to City Hall on May 22 in honor of International

Bike Day, and said she would ride in this year's Lone Star Ride in September. Among the Lone Star Ride beneficiaries is AIDS Services of Dallas, which is in her district.

In her first two years, Jasso spearheaded an anti-graffiti campaign funded by a \$100,000 donation from Mark Cuban. She initiated the GLBT Task Force to update policies and procedures and begin diversity training for Dallas Fire and Rescue. Working with a wide cross-section of animal advocate groups, Jasso also started Dallas Loves Animals.

"We need pet adoptions and [to be taught] how to treat our pets," she said.

Although she wasn't on the council when ExxonMobil paid the city \$30 million for drilling rights inside the city limits, Jasso said she's very concerned about the process of fracking and what goes into the air and water.

Although she faces no opposition in the May election, Jasso said she's running a "get out the vote campaign" in April to keep people used to voting for city council members every two years. ■

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■ texasnews

■ BOEGLIN

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one place to another," Boeglin said. "After I had volunteered at the food pantry [at AOC] for several years, it started to get really difficult. When you start losing so many people, it gets hard. You come in and even though you know they're gone, you keep looking for them, keep waiting to see them. It's hard."

That was one reason, he said, that he chose to work with Q Cinema. "I needed to do things that let me see more people that are affected by HIV instead of only seeing people who are infected with HIV. I needed that change of pace," he explained.

Boeglin has a lot of hobbies, too, that help keep him busy and healthy. He is a writer and an artist and works in wood crafting. He also likes to attend Scarborough Faire and sci-fi conventions, and will be volunteering at an upcoming convention here in North Texas.

Boeglin said his interest in sci-fi conventions grew out of a fascination with science and with space that began when he was a child and sat with his grandfather to watch as Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

"Did you know that it was protease inhibitors developed during experiments on the space shuttle that led to the use of the 'drug cocktails' in the 1995 that have helped people with AIDS live better and longer?" Boeglin asks. "They were able to grow these protein crystals large enough in space with zero gravity to be able to see how they would

AIDS Walk Info

The 19th annual AIDS Walk benefiting AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County will be held Sunday, April 3, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Park Pavilion on 7th Street in Fort Worth. Pre-registration is available online at FirstGiving.com/AOCWalk for \$25. Registration the day of the event is \$30, and will take place at Luke's Locker in Montgomery Plaza, 2700 West 7th St. The pre-walk party and warm-up starts at 1 p.m. and will include entertainment and vendor booths. The walk steps off at 2:30 p.m. For more information, go online to AIDSWalk@aoc.org or call Penny at 817-916-5224.

affect how HIV is able to enter cells. And millions of us are alive today because of those experiments they did on the space shuttle in 1995."

While some people may joke about the sci fi convention fans and the separate world they sometimes seem to live in, Boeglin sees a kind of nobility in that world that gives him hope for a better future in this one.

"The conventions and the fans, there's a very, very good sense of community there, just like there is here at AIDS Outreach," Boeglin said. "It makes me believe that someday that altruistic future [of the sci-fi world] may really someday come true, because people care enough to be here, to be at the AIDS Walk and participate in it — the ones who don't have to be there, but are there anyway, and the ones who struggle to be there and make a difference. It gives me hope." ■

Finding a way to help, even if it's sitting down

FORT WORTH — When Sean White moved from Chicago to Fort Worth, he knew he wanted to find somewhere that he could volunteer. His mother already lived here, so he asked her if she had any ideas.

His mom had a friend who worked at AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County, and since White had already lost a number of friends to HIV, he decided AIDS Outreach would be a great place to volunteer.

"I love doing volunteer work. It's my way of giving back," White said. "And I loved volunteering at AIDS Outreach Center. Every time I would leave here, I just felt so fulfilled."

Then some health problems interfered. First White had to undergo back surgery, and that was followed up by hip surgery.

Now, though, White is back, and just in time for the AOC AIDS Walk on Sunday.

"I can't do the walk myself because of the surgeries, but I can still help," he said. "Just sit me at that desk and let me help people check in, or whatever."

White said the walk is one of AOC's most important events because it raises awareness of HIV/AIDS, and because it provides an outlet for people who want to do something to help.

"It gives those people who can't or don't vol-



Sean White

unteer a chance to give back. It gives them a chance to remember and to honor the friends and loved ones they have lost, or who are still living with AIDS," he said. "Sitting there, watching all those people show up to participate in the walk each year, it just gives me such a full feeling. I think everybody should do this."

— Tammye Nash

Sisters: Not just doing it for themselves

DFW Sisters bring the outrageous fun and dedicated activism of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to the DFW Metroplex

M. M. ADJARIAN | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

In their whiteface makeup, gaudy jewels, spangles and nun habits gone gloriously wild, the DFW Sisters are hard to miss — and equally hard to ignore. “[Our appearance] brings people to us,” says Novice Sister Tasha myFUPA. “The public wants to know: what’s this all about?”

A branch of the San Francisco-based Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the DFW Sisters have been doing fundraising, charity and service work in the DFW area for more than a year.

Originally founded as the Sisters of the Yellow Rose in February 2010, the DFW Sisters formed when the STYR regrouped the following September. In January, the main — or “mother” — SPI

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FRESH FACES | Novice Sisters Eve Angelica, left, and Bertha Sinn say the DFW sisters have a calling to educate the public. (Courtesy DFW Sisters)

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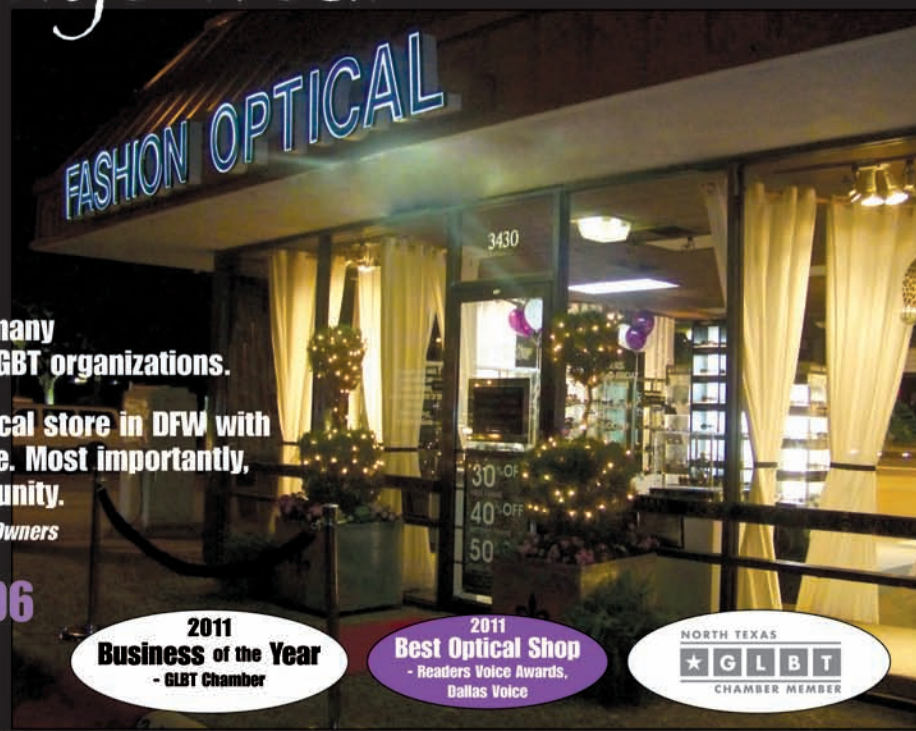
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coverstory

■ SISTERS

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house in San Francisco recognized the Sisters as an SPI mission.

"We [now] have to do six fundraisers [to] prove ourselves to San Francisco and the United Nuns Privy Council," Novice Sister Bertha Sinn explains. "Then we become a fully professed house."

The United Nuns Privy Council is comprised of delegates from all missions and houses around the country. If all goes as planned, the Dallas Sisters will become the Dallas Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in early 2012.

The beginning

The impetus to start a Sisterhood in the DFW area came from members who had contact with other SPI houses. Says Sister Eve Angelica, "We felt that Dallas was lacking an organization [. . .]

that provides an outlet for us to be out there [. . .] sharing [our stories and] teaching people about safer sex and community safety."

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence itself — now an international organization with 1,200 past and present members — came into existence in 1980. However, the three original founders had begun appearing (or manifesting, as the Sisters would say) in public the previous year.

Their first manifestation occurred on Easter Weekend 1979. The trio donned nun habits from an Iowa convent and went for a stroll through the Castro, home to San Francisco's gay community.

The men were members of the Radical Faeries, an alternative gay male spirituality group. Part of their intent was to protest the too-slick "Castro Clones" image that they believed inhibited freer expressions of male homosexual identity. But, as Sister Bertha remarks, "[They also just wanted to] go out and have fun."

Irreverent gender play was not new to either

■ SISTERS, Page 16

A Brief History of the Sisterhood

- **1979:** On Easter weekend three men in nun habits walk through San Francisco's Castro District to protest problems in the gay community. Other manifestations take place later that year at a softball game, a nude beach and the annual Castro Street Fair. During the Labor Day weekend, the men attend the first International Spiritual Conference for Radical Faeries in Arizona.

- **1980:** The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence is officially formed and a Sister named Hysterec-toria designs the first official habits, which are modeled after those worn by 14th century Belgian nuns. Engagement in more general social activism — such as the Three Mile Island protests — begins. The Sisters also begin campaigns to stop fundamentalist Christians from preaching anti-gay rhetoric in the Castro. In October, they hold their first benefit and net \$1,500 to help gay Cuban refugees.

- **1981:** The first international order of SPI is established in Sydney, Australia. In San Francisco, the Sisters organize the first-ever AIDS fundraiser, the Castro Dog Show.

- **1982:** As a response to the AIDS crisis, Sisters Florence Nightmare and Roz Erection (who also happen to be nurses), help put together Play Fair!, a safer sex advice pamphlet that uses sex-positive language, and which the SPI distribute in the Castro community (that pamphlet is revised in 1999 as part of the SPI 20-year anniversary celebration).

- **1983:** The Sisters hold the first AIDS candlelight vigil.

- **1984:** After holding an exorcism of Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell at the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, the SPI are "disinvited" to the Republican National Convention in Dallas. They come to Texas anyway and perform a second exorcism of Falwell — and one for conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly —

in Dealey Plaza.

- **1987:** During a papal visit to San Francisco, the Sisters hold a mock exorcism of Pope John Paul II. For their efforts, they are placed on the Vatican's Papal List of Heretics.

- **1994:** The Sisters attend the Stonewall 25th anniversary celebration in NYC and lead the Drag March from Alphabet City to the Stonewall Inn.

- **1996:** With more than 20 convents worldwide, the SPI are now a global force. They honor the loss of more than 30 sisters to AIDS (called Nuns of the Above) by creating four 24-foot-by-24-foot panels for Names Project Quilt, which they bring to Washington, D.C.

- **1999:** The SPI celebrate their 20th anniversary with an International Conclave of Nuns and an exhibit entitled "A Consistory Conspiracy: Changing the Face of Activism."

- **2000:** During San Francisco Pride, the Sisters show support for the Californians for Same-Sex Marriage movement. They also hold another mock exorcism, this time of conservative talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger.

- **2001:** In the wake of the 9-11 terror attacks, the Sisters hold a candlelight vigil to remember the gays and lesbians lost in the attacks.

- **2003:** In a banner year for SPI fundraising, sisterly efforts bring in more than \$100,000, with 80 percent returning to the community.

- **2008:** The SPI are featured in Queer and Catholic, a book of collected essays, short stories and poems about LGBT life and Catholicism.

- **2009:** The Sisters mark their 30th anniversary with "Nun World Order" celebrations in San Francisco's Dolores Park.

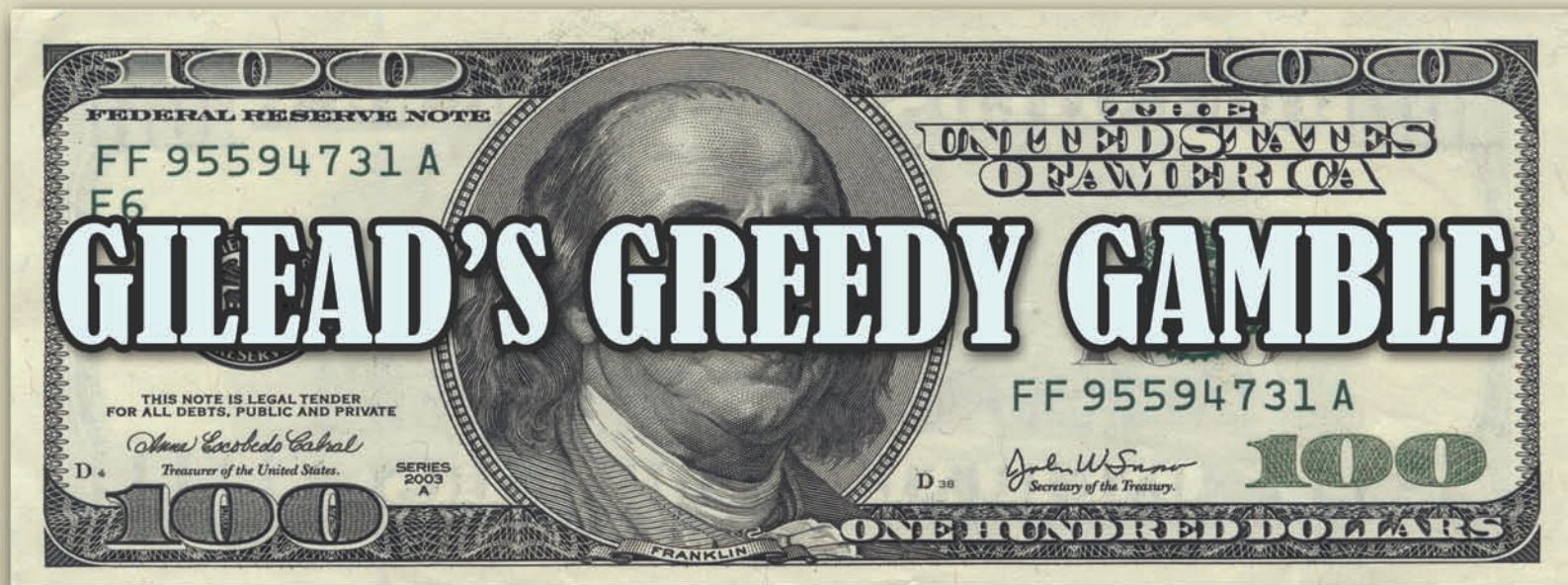


Gilead Sciences will soon apply to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval to market its HIV chemo-therapy Truvada to HIV negative gay men. Truvada is currently only approved for use in HIV+ patients. However, it can be prescribed off-label to HIV negative patients by any doctor who feels that their patient is at high risk of contracting HIV.

The multi-billion dollar profit that Gilead is currently making on Truvada is not enough for them. Bloomberg has estimated that Gilead would add \$1 billion in revenue if the FDA approves Truvada for use in HIV negatives. One billion dollars is more than the entire US government budget for HIV prevention.

Gilead is basing its application on a single study that found that it reduced infection by only 44%. What medication is approved based on only a 44% success rate? That means that 56% of the gay men who participated in the study were not protected.

The study itself is not reflective of the real world. The study participants were paid; they went to the doctor monthly and were tested for STDs and HIV monthly; they were individually intensively counseled to take their medication; the US participants were only drawn from San Francisco and Boston; and the overwhelming majority of study participants in the US were white and educated. Nevertheless, when their blood was tested, 51% of them had no Truvada in their system at all - they weren't taking the medication.



Gilead intends to charge \$10,000 a year for the drug as a preventative. It is highly unlikely that government programs will pay for it. There are already 7,000 HIV infected patients on waiting lists nationwide who do not have access to medication. So only the wealthy and insured would have access.

About 26,000 gay men are infected with HIV every year in the United States. More than half of these are the result of men who are positive but don't know it. If the majority of gay men were not currently practicing safer sex most of the time these numbers would be much higher.

If we tell gay men that there is a magic pill that will protect them, fewer of them will use condoms and more of them will become infected. Gilead is irresponsibly seeking more profits based on a single study with dubious results. We respectfully urge them to hold-off in applying to the FDA to use Truvada for prevention until extensive studies in real-life situations, with diverse populations have been completed.

The first obligation of healthcare providers is to do no harm. Gilead is playing a very dangerous game.

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■ SISTERS

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the SPI founders or the Castro District gay community. In fact, the Sisterhood was a direct heir to the legacy of two theater performance groups that emerged in San Francisco in the late 1960s: the Cockettes and the Angels of Light.

These groups became known for the way they would use high camp and drag to satirize all aspects of popular culture: no topic — including religion — was ever deemed too sacred to be mocked.

From the start, however, SPI playfulness was also imbued with a sense of activist purpose. Soon after the Sisters formed in 1980, they began campaigns to stop fundamentalist Christians from preaching anti-gay rhetoric in the Castro. And when the AIDS crisis began to take shape in the early 1980s, the Sisters responded by holding the first-ever AIDS fundraiser and writing a safer sex pamphlet that they distributed to the gay community.

Today's mission

That sense of community responsibility abides 30 years later. Says Sister Bertha, "One of our main ministries, our bar ministry, is safe sex outreach. [We always have] our bliss kits [on hand], which [include] a condom, a little packet of lube and instructions on how to use it."

Disseminating this kind of information has become an especially important part of the DFW Sisters' work in the aftermath of cuts the Dallas City Council made in September 2009 to HIV/AIDS education programs.

The religion-inflected language the Sisters use in referring to themselves and their work belies the non-denominational nature of the Sisterhood.

"We've got people of all faiths. And no faiths. It runs the gamut," Sister Bertha notes.

Diversity also defines the personal backgrounds of individual DFW sister members. The SPI began as a male-only organization; but now "[i]t doesn't matter if you're gay, straight, [male, female], blue, white, black [or] green," says Sister Tasha. "[What does matter is that] you feel the calling."

As would be the case in a regular religious order, commitment to the organization and its mission is paramount, as is a strong social and moral conscience. Novice Sister Edina T. Krisis' decision to join the group arose after the devastating loss of her partner to AIDS. "Dallas was amazing to me," she said. "I had to give back because [others] gave me back the rest of my life."

At the same time, the commitment required to be a sister can, as Novice Sister Angelica remarks, "almost make [the whole enterprise] feel like a part-time job." Moreover, sister-status is not for the faint-hearted. Only after one year of rising

■ Continued, Next Page



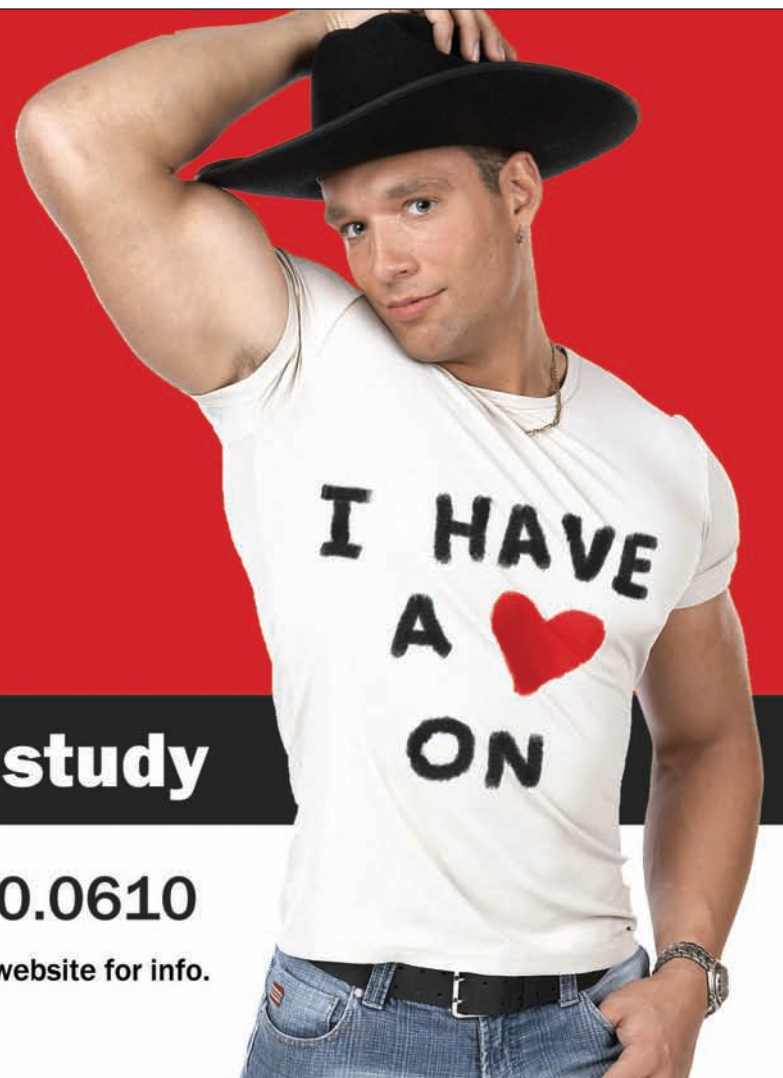
HELPING HANDS | The DFW Sisters help welcome participants in the Texas Bear Round Up to Dallas. (Courtesy DFW Sisters)

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Volunteers must be men who have sex with men, 18-50, HIV-negative. Visit the website for info.





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through three levels of membership — aspirant, postulant and novice — can an individual have the chance to become a fully professed Sister. After that, the person is a member for life.

Since the Dallas Sisters are an SPI mission rather than an SPI house, those designated as Sisters are still at novice level. Only after they are approved as an autonomous house will those who have been novices for at least six months be considered for elevation to full Sisterhood.

While the Dallas Sisters now work primarily in the Metroplex's LGBT communities, with such groups as Resource Center Dallas and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, long-term the Sisters see themselves as also working in the mainstream, too.

"So long as the mission [of a group] is in keeping with our mission and goals," says Sister Bertha, "then [we'll help anyone]."

For all their good works in the community, the Dallas Sisters have not been without their critics, not all of whom have been affiliated with conservative religious organizations.

Novice Sister Polly von Acocker recalls an incident when a gay man from Dallas posted pictures of the Sisters on his Facebook account along with derogatory comments about the Sisterhood itself.

"We ruffled his feathers," Sister Polly recalls. "He didn't like the way the Sisters portrayed the gay community."

Undaunted, Sister Polly used this incident to educate this detractor about the SPI: "[After] opening up a dialogue with him, [the man] became one of my biggest supporters. I know now that if I need a donation, I can go straight to him."

The ability to attract attention, stir up controversy and change minds is part of what Sister Tasha calls "the power of whiteface." But behind the makeup are just ordinary — and in many

cases, surprisingly shy — people just trying to make a difference in the community. Their Sister alter-egos, with the outsized personalities, are what make the group successful.

Having an organizational strategy that works also helps. The DFW Sisters run primarily on consensus, Sister Polly explains. Any voting that takes place is done to lend an official stamp to any agreements reached among group members.

Where the real challenge lies, says Sister Polly, "is in making sure everyone has a role in running the [group]."

The Sisters run their organization a bit like a family, but with Roberts Rules of Order in hand. Their "kinship" ties run much deeper, however: their shared vision has become a kind of "blood bond" that unites them beyond structure.

"We bicker like family," says Sister Bertha. "But there's a lot of love there, too." ■

Dallas Sisters Roll Call:

NvSr. Amanda DeFlower
 NvSr. Bertha Sinn
 Postulant Christina Manger
 NvSr. Edina T. Krisis
 NvSr. Eve Angelica
 Postulant Fondalyn Grope
 NvSr. Hera deDog
 NvSr. Kerianna Kross
 Postulant Lawna Jocqui
 NvSr. Lynn daHand
 NvSr. MaeLynn Hanzment
 NvSr. Opelia Nutz
 Postulant Plenty O'Cleavage
 NvSr. Polly von Acocker
 Postulant Porsche Monkai
 NvSr. Rhoda Hardcoque
 Postulant Shahira Lotta Voicez
 NvSr. Tasha myFUPA
 NvSr. Thumb Belina

the dallas opera

by GIUSEPPE VERDI

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march

25, 27m, 30

april

2, 7, 10m

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BORIS GODUNOV

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april

1, 3m, 6,
 9, 15, 17m

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 with English supertitles



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viewpoints

Remember when Victoria Jackson was funny?

Well she isn't anymore, and she definitely isn't as 'Christian' as she claims to be, either

I am older than I think — at least that is what I found out when I made the comment that I remembered Victoria Jackson when she was funny. My companions at lunch looked at me blankly and said, "Who?"

Years ago Jackson was the comedienne who "killed" on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show

when she did handstands and recited poetry. She was the personification of the blond airhead doing what might have passed as "talent" in a beauty pageant.

She was very funny then, and it launched her career, which included a gig on *Saturday Night Live* for several years.

Lately, Ms. Jackson has gained notoriety by her rants denouncing the romantic kiss between actors Chris Colfer and Darren Criss on *Glee*.

Her diatribe against homosexuality, delivered in her trademark squeaky voice, sounds almost like a joke — until you find out that she claims to be a devout Christian.

So, I have no problem with her saying whatever she wants about fictional characters on *Glee*, or for that matter expressing her views on what is right and what is wrong in general.

My problem is her declaration that she is a devout Christian.

As someone who calls himself a Christian, I figure I have a little skin in this game, and frankly, I am sick and tired of the hijacking of one of the world's great religions by a bunch of loud-mouthed bigots.

The Fred Phelps and Victoria Jacksons of this world have given my religion a really bad name. Heck, I even have a straight friend who has stopped calling himself Christian and now prefers "follower of Jesus," since that makes clear the distinction between him and the hate-

filled voices that dominate the media.

Victoria Jackson is just the latest person that somehow figures that the collection of books and stories that we have come to call the Bible were handed down from on high, written in 17th century English prose.

They claim to take every word as the literal word of God, and as such, the scripture for them is a handy rulebook to gaining a seat in heaven.

Jackson herself says, "Basically, the Bible says that homosexuality is a sin."

Though the word "homosexuality" was unknown until the 19th century, Jackson like so many of her ilk indeed re-interpret the "literal word of God." They selectively twist it to their own ends.

While wearing her acrylic and cotton blend fabrics, and most likely eating pork and shellfish, she forgets other verses that would declare her an abomination, no interpretation needed.

Now, I am not a theologian — far from it — but I do understand a few

basic truths about trying to condemn people you don't like using Bible verses. It's dangerous and, quite frankly, about as close to blasphemy as I can imagine.

To try to take the feeble words of people who tried to wrestle onto paper something so great they could not even speak its name, and to then say that those few words were the end-all-and-

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Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left



USED TO BE FUNNY | Victoria Jackson speaks during a tea party rally in Buffalo, last year (David Duprey/Associated Press)

Losing our libraries

Here's what the legislature's proposed budget cuts will really do to our library systems

In their rush to close the biennial budget gap — brought about by a barely acknowledged statewide recession and a badly flawed statewide tax policy — the Texas governor and legislature are defunding our future.

No doubt you have read that the lege proposes enormous cuts to K-12 education and higher education. You may not have read that the same lege proposes to totally defund the Texas public library system.

Here's what that means:

- Texshare Databases will lose \$8 million. Texshare is a program through which all of the state's public libraries, public and private univer-

sities, community colleges and libraries of clinical medicine gain access to information on topics from art to Zen.

- K-12 Database will lose \$5 million. This statewide program offers thousands of full-text educational resources to students in Texas public schools. Think homework help.

- Loan Star Libraries will lose \$13.4 million. This direct aid program provides grants to about 500 of the state's public libraries, allowing them to extend hours, buy collections and equipment and offer educational programming.

- Remaining statewide programs will lose \$3.5 million. This represents the elimination of money for upgrading systems, training staff and assisting bilingual learners.

When these four are cut to save the state just under \$30 million over the two-year budget, a fifth source of funding will disappear:

The federal government provides \$8 million in library support. But the feds only help states that help themselves; no participation means Texas forfeits all the money that now sustains interlibrary loans, job search software and hardware and outreach to rural and other underserved communities.



Phyllis Guest
Special Contributor

The Dallas Public Library System alone will lose \$300,000 under the legislature's proposals. It would be hard to overestimate the impact of such a loss, given that city of Dallas budget shortfalls over the past two years have forced cutbacks in staff and hours and that the coming budget year looks as bad or worse.

Not willing to let our libraries go down without a fight? Here are five things you can do:

- Find out more at txla.org/take-action
- Sign the petition you will find at that website.
- Call and email and write your state senator and representative.
- Write letters to the Dallas Morning News and other media.
- Check out the Oak Lawn Library (best LGBTQA collection).

- Volunteer at your local library and join its Friends group.

While our elected officials and media tell us Texas is the best of all possible worlds, we know that is untrue. We also know that it's up to us to fight for our state's intellectual infrastructure — and our future.

Phyllis Guest is a Democratic and LGBT activist living in Dallas.

JACKSON

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be-all of the divine? Well, that belittles both the scriptures and God.

It is equally silly to just dismiss humankind's struggle to find the meaning of existence as merely superstition and myth. Just because a story isn't literally true doesn't mean there isn't an abundance of truth beneath the words.

Who can't see the lessons behind the fables of Aesop or the poetry of Homer? That same truth exists in the parables of Jesus and the stories of the Patriarchs.

For that matter it exists in the recitations of the Prophet Mohammed, in the tales of the Gita.

So, let me just make myself clear. I am a Christian; I am gay; I am politically liberal and sexually more than a bit kinky.

Why am I telling you this? Because I don't want people like Victoria Jackson to be defining what it means to be a Christian.

Let this be my personal witness, and you can take it or leave it. But I really prefer you consider it. Think about what you believe; don't just mouth the words.

Rabbi Hillel, one of Judaism's great teachers, who lived around 30 BCE, was asked to give his full understanding of the Torah while standing on one foot. He is quoted as saying, "Do not unto your neighbor what you would not have him do unto you; this is the whole Law; the rest is commentary."

Sounds like something another Rabbi named Jesus said, doesn't it?

In one recent interview Victoria Jackson stated, "This culture is affecting our children and making them run away from Jesus Christ."

I say no, Ms. Jackson. Our culture is not the reason. It is the intolerance and bigotry of people like you claiming to be Christian that is making children run away from Jesus.

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

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Speak out poll

CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

Should the Illinois sheriff who used the phrase "little fag Jew boy" on Facebook resign?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Do endorsements by PACs affect your vote?

- Yes 19 percent (15 votes)
 - No 59 percent (47 votes)
 - Sometimes 22 percent (17 votes)
- 79 Votes cast

Take

2

Gay Texas filmmaker Ash Christian's second movie encountered death and cast changes on its way to its debut this week — in his home state

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



It is New Year's Eve 2009, and Ash Christian is ready to unwind a bit — probably for the first time in a month. In a few hours, after a haircut and a disco nap, he will be out partying at Dish in the ilume. The wine will flow freely that night, and at midnight he will ring in 2010 to the strains of Black-Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feeling."

Ash Christian certainly is feeling *something* that day, and that is stressed. He had returned to North Texas a few weeks earlier for what was supposed to be a quick two-week trip to scout locations and raise money for his independent film, *Mangus*, which was supposed to *finish* filming before it had actually begun.

But as with a lot of what happens in Hollywood, things did not go as planned. Christian had an enthusiastic backer in Friley Davidson, a well-off Dallasite who had pledged a big chunk of the budget for *Mangus*. But Davidson died unexpectedly just before Christmas ... and before he had cut the check for the film. (Several

months later, Marty Hershner, owner of the Tin Room — Christian's favorite gay bar in Dallas and the set for one of the climactic scenes — dies, devastating Christian.) It's been a scramble ever since.

MANGUS!

Screens at **AMC NorthPark** on April 1 at 10:30 p.m. and at **Angelika Film Center** April 6 at 10:15 p.m. DallasFilm.org

Christian is used to it by now. Although it's only his second film, and he was only 24 when he started on it, Christian is already a veteran of the indie filmmaking scene and all the potholes that dot the road. He was 20 and about to shoot his first movie, *Fat Girls*, when civic leaders in the town of Canton, where photography was supposed to take place, pulled the permits a day before production was set to start because they didn't like the gay content in the script.

"I don't know why we even *wanted* to film in Canton anyway," he says years later. Christian found a replacement quickly in Waxahachie, and the final product became well-received on the festival circuit, praised for its quirky charm about a gay, musical-loving

Texas boy and his chubby best friend (Ashley Fink, now on *Glee*).

Although not a financial hit, *Fat Girls* got Christian noticed in Hollywood. He "took a lot of meetings," as they say, discussing big-budget projects studios wanted him to helm. But nothing seemed to fit. Whatever they wanted him to make isn't what *he* wanted to make.

"You need to believe in your vision," he said earlier this week over chicken flautas at Komali. "You have to be comfortable with your vision not being totally mainstream."

That devotion has paid off in little ways. This week, *Mangus* gets its world premiere in Christian's home state with two screenings at the Dallas International Film Festival.

"I'm happy it is premiering here, because so much of the crew was based here. It's great for them," says the Paris, Texas, native. "We already have some distribution offers, too, so we're in a good place."

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CASTING A WIDE NET

Paris, Texas' Ash Christian, above, scored a stellar comedic cast for his low-budget, North Texas-shot indie film that includes, from left, John Waters, Jennifer Coolidge, Leslie Jordan and Heather Matarazzo.

DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT

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FIGHTING
AIDS

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and the American Arts & Crafts Movement

SPECIAL EVENT!
STICKLEY SATURDAY, APRIL 2
Half-price admission (\$5) and parking (\$5)

Closes May 8

Gustav Stickley and the American Arts & Crafts Movement is organized by the Dallas Museum of Art.



The exhibition is supported by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Henry Luce Foundation. Additional support is provided by DMA patrons and supporters with funds raised through Silver Support 2010 and from the Donor Circle membership program through leadership gifts by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas. Publication of the exhibition catalogue is underwritten by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Windgate Charitable Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Air transportation in Dallas is provided by American Airlines.

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Promotional support provided by Stacy Furniture.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

IMAGE: Side Chair, Gustav Stickley, designed c. 1903, executed c. 1903-04, oak, pewter, copper, various woods, and rush (replaced). The Estate of Dr. Edgar G. McKee

DallasMuseumofArt.org

L+S screen

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It's been a long journey from that day 15 months ago when I met Christian, one of his stars, actress Heather Matarazzo, and her girlfriend, Caroline Murphy, at Taco Diner in the West Village, where we discussed the film over fish tacos and quesadillas. There was a lot of excitement that day, as filming was about to start. They toasted with Diet Coke.

But things happen quickly and unpredictably in the universe of indie cinema: Sometimes things go smoothly and sometimes not. Christian was lucky to get Matarazzo to do the film — he wrote it with her in mind even though the two had never met. (Originally, Christian had written a leading role for himself, until he got too old to play it. He doesn't appear in the final version of the film at all.)

"I went to the premier of *Saved* [in which Matarazzo starred] and I came up to give you..." Christian begins, before Matarazzo interrupts.

"Was I nice?" she asks. Yes, he responds.

"I remember exactly where I was. He said I wrote this script for you — people say that all the time but this happened to be true," Matarazzo said. He told her he wanted to film it in North Texas, which just happened to be where her girlfriend was from. Murphy and her brother ended up writing music for the film. Then Matarazzo scored another coup for the film.

"Heather got Alan Cumming to take a part!" Christian gushes over his most recent casting decision. "She just sent him the script and he agreed to do it!" (The two had worked together on *The L Word*.)

But things are fluky. Within two weeks, Cumming will drop out, only to be replaced by Leslie Jordan. Jennifer Coolidge, who has been tapped to play the mother of the small-town kid Mangus, was still onboard though, as was Matarazzo, whose costume of Daisy Dukes, a



ON THE SET | Jennifer Coolidge's improvisation of a breadstick to look like a penis cracked up Heather Matarazzo during the last day of filming on 'Mangus.' For a slideshow of additional photos from the shoot, visit DallasVoice.com/Photos. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

blonde wig and hooker shoes "make you look like Jessica Simpson," Christian observes. (That's her character's name in the film, too.)

Shooting was delayed, as was the fundraising to produce the damn thing, but it eventually proceeds. Even that, though, was not without its drama. It's Feb. 10, 2010 — the last day of filming — and an unexpected snowstorm has all but ruined the final shots of the script. Overcast skies make the lighting all wrong for the scene, where Mangus' mom welcomes him home. It doesn't help matters that Christian is hopped up on antibiotics; he's been fighting a losing battle against the flu all week. But there are no sick days when you're making a movie in three weeks.

"This is my day, just sitting around," Christian says with frustration on the set, waiting for his cast to get into costume. But a year later, he's singing a different tune.

"Directing is my favorite part," he says. "You learn a lot. [The final film] isn't what I thought I was writing. Actors bring their own interpretations to it. Leslie is kind of amazing in the movie. Coolidge is great — she's really, really funny. Some of the stuff they come up with is funnier than anything I could have written." For instance, Coolidge suggests arranging the breadstick on a plate to resemble a penis; she keeps breaking up Matarazzo with her adlibs, necessitating numerous retakes.

Christian has learned some practical lessons as well to help him negotiate the minefield of moviemaking. He's just wrapped on his third feature, *Petunia*, starring Oscar winner Christine Lahti and David Rasche, the movie he fully expects will usher him into "the next level" of filmmaking. And a new financial angel has just given him half a million dollars to put toward his next picture. (This time, he got the money in hand before something happened to the backer.)

And as always, things seem to work out. Eventually, John Waters even joined the cast of *Mangus* to play the part of — wait for it — Jesus Christ.

"I sent him word I would like him to be in my movie and a few minutes later I get this call, 'Ash, this is John Waters. Can you send a script to my apartment?' I wasn't even sure if I needed to deliver it myself or send a courier or what. But he read it and quickly said, 'I'll do it; call my agent.'" They ended up shooting Waters' scenes in Provincetown in front of a green-screen to be digitally inserted in the final product. He can't wait for his local friends to see it.

Christian, who has lived in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan for years, says he fully expects to end up back in North Texas eventually. He likes Dallas, he says: The people and how much cheaper food is ... and, presumably, the reaction he gets here to his movies. But until the screening, it's across the street to drink sweet-tea vodka martinis and stare at the dick dancers at BJ's. Hey, there's a time for movies and a time to relax.

For additional information, visit MangusTheMovie.com

Also of interest at DIFF

In addition to *Mangus!*, some other films that came up on our radar at the Dallas International Film Festival include:



Boy Wonder — a psychological thriller about a comic book fan who witnesses the murder of his mother, becoming a vigilante by night as a super hero. *Screens at AMC NorthPark on April 1 at 7 p.m. and April 2 at 10:15 p.m.*

Lucky — A comedy about a fledgling serial killer (Colin Hanks), who wins the Iowa State Lottery, enabling him to pursue his hobby. Also stars screen legend Ann-Margret, who will receive an award from the festival. *Screens at the Magnolia Theatre, April 1 at 7 p.m. and April 2 at 12:30 p.m.*

More to Live For — A documentary about the quest for bone marrow donors (a procedure which holds the promise of becoming a cure for AIDS). Directed by Noah Hutton, the son of Debra Winger and Timothy Hutton. *Screens at AMC NorthPark on April 3 at 9 p.m.*

Rainbows End — This Texas-based documentary, which we profiled last week, tracks a kooky gay man from East Texas, pictured, as he sets off for L.A. to get Internet lessons from the gay and lesbian center there. *Screens at the Magnolia Theatre April 1 at 10 p.m. and April 3 at noon.*



BOY wonder

Not all young folks get their social media in app form, and Colin Stuckenschneider keeps gay chatting web-based with his site BoyGush

HITTING THE GUSHER
Local entrepreneur Colin Stuckenschneider goes old-school with his web-based dating site. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Like the phone apps, the name BoyGush seems to say everything it needs to and he assures that it was by complete accident.

"I wanted one that would grab attention and so I searched for hours on different names," he says. "I came across word 'gush' and it wasn't taken so I went with it. Nothing obvious came to mind then, but it sounds like a porn site. I guess that's outta my control."

Not that there's anything wrong with that. Words of advice, Stuckenschneider: Sex sells.

Nothing is set in stone for Stuckenschneider right now anyway. He went live but he's already been making adjustments to the site per the feedback from his friends and site members. What he saw as the winning feature — the chat — was off in the beginning. That drove people away, but after some major revamping, he's fixed the issue and is in the process of adding new features.

"I've been correcting the site since it first opened. I have a long to-do list I'm looking at," he says.

So far, in addition to taking suggestions from his 400-plus members, he's been working on a picture rating system, notifications and comments, comprehensible user searches, an easier way to organize profiles and ultimately creating an app version.

This is old hat for the tech expert. At 12, Stuckenschneider found himself fascinated by video games. He wasn't as interested in a high score so much as how the game was constructed. He read up on programming and began creating his own games. A virtual dog-sitting game was his first and at 15, he sold it for a grand, but not without making some impressive scratch thanks to a \$20 upgrade people bought in to. He partnered with a friend for the second game based in a fantasy realm. Soon after, the partner bought him out of it for \$2,000. Stuckenschneider was 16.

"I guess that's a good amount of money for that age," he laughs.

After graduating from high school, Stuckenschneider had just two goals: "I've always had a passion to have my own site and manage that," he says. "My other goal is that I want to work for Google."

One down, one to go.

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Colin Stuckenschneider is the kind of guy we all get jealous of. Young and smart, like Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Stuckenschneider recalls shades of the billionaire entrepreneur that most people will never be. At 22, he's already sold two online gaming websites, but his latest venture is something else altogether.

"I was very young when I did them," Stuckenschneider says, "and BoyGush is much more personal because it is a gay website and thus more related to me. I feel like I have more passion to manage this one."

On March 5, BoyGush.com went live offering a different take on the current crop of smart-phone apps — or rather, a nostalgic one. Where only people with high-tech gadgets could access the likes of Grindr and Scruff, Stuckenschneider saw a niche for people who like to surf from a laptop. Since those apps didn't have an online equivalent, he created his own.

Where Scruff is geared toward bears and admirers worldwide and Grindr is across the spectrum but local, BoyGush targets (duh) a younger crowd. But while phone apps are the apparent wave of the future, Stuckenschneider is hoping to recall the days of chatting *à la* AOL or Gay.com, but knowing whether that guy is either 236 feet away or three miles.

"I'm really trying to keep away from the social network label," he says. "You can just log on to chat with boys. It's already growing a lot bigger though and it seems I'll have to build up the social networking aspect to keep people's interest."

Dallas Theater Center

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Bronx. Cheers!

After 35 years, The Bronx — the institution that basically invented the Dallas gayborhood — shuts its doors

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

Probably the first time Jess Gilbert fully realized just what The Bronx means to his customers came this Wednesday. A regular lunch customer was sitting at his usual place and Gilbert walked over to say hello.

"I'm not speaking to you!" the customer snapped. "I'm mad."

Gilbert didn't take it personally; he knew why the man was upset. The night before, Gilbert and his partner, Howard Jacks, quietly announced that The Bronx — which has been an institution in Dallas for 35 years, owned and operated by the two — would be closing almost immediately. After months (even years) of rumors, Gilbert and Jacks had finally sold it to the neighboring Warwick Melrose Hotel.

The end came swiftly — the Melrose wanted everything cleared out within seven days. So this Sunday, April 3, will be the final day of service for the restaurant.

The news shocked almost everyone, especially long-time employees like David Eckert, who for 16 years has been a server and helped manage the restaurant. Eckert teared up just discussing the last day.

"It's like having a wake," says Gilbert.

"It's a real emotional time for us cause we've been there a long time," says the director of special events, Jamie Carmen, choking back sobs.

The reach that The Bronx had on gay Dallas cannot be overstated. When Jacks and Gilbert



THE USUAL SUSPECTS | It's a melancholy week for Bronx staffers and friends, above, but a long time coming for co-owner Jess Gilbert, left. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

decided to open a New York-San Francisco-style bistro on Cedar Springs in 1976, "Afternoon Delight" was the big radio hit, the Bicentennial Minute played nightly on TV and men thought bell-bottoms were pretty cool. The gayborhood also didn't exist — at least, not like it does today.

"There were no gay bars here back then," recalls Jacks. "Hookers hung out on the street. But we knew gays would always come into neighborhoods, tart them up and make them chic." That's exactly what they did.

"Really, it was a social thing," Gilbert explains about their motivation for opening The Bronx. "We didn't do it to make money, though it did. We planned to keep it open about 10 years."

But The Bronx basically spawned the Crossroads; by the mid-1980s, it was the granddaddy of the neighborhood, revered as much for its friendly atmosphere ("we had really interesting music," Gilbert brags about its early success) as

for its then-cutting edge cuisine.

Wow! I'm shocked," says Stephan Pyles, the celebrity superchef who began working there as a line cook in the 1970s, working his way up to executive chef before starting the Southwestern movement at a string of restaurants. "I feel like I was born there — and to some degree I guess I was. To say it's the end of an era seems like a gross understatement, but it is just that on so many levels — both personally and to the city."

During their run, Jacks and Gilbert have played hosts to numerous celebrities, including Carol Channing, Tab Hunter, the Manhattan Transfer and Monica Lewinsky. The building itself was built in 1910 — "We weren't here at the time, despite appearances," jokes Gilbert — and while the Melrose has asked that all fixtures (including silverware and linens) be left in place, no one is sure what will happen to it.

"It's soon to be rubble," speculates Jacks,

though rumors range from the restaurant staying open under new management to the lot being cleared for parking or condos.


It's that change in the Strip that's partially behind the decision to sell — there's less foot-traffic than there used to be, and Jacks laments what he calls a "hardening" of the neighborhood.

"We're getting up in years," says Gilbert (he and Jacks were both born in 1933; they met at a party in San Francisco in 1960). "I have a mother to look after, too." Gilbert's mom is 93; Jacks' died a year ago at 104.

So while the regulars may see this as an end, for Jacks and Gilbert it's merely the third act in their story.

"Life goes on," Jacks shrugs.


The final day at The Bronx will be Sunday, with a farewell party starting about 6 p.m. To see photos of the restaurant, or to upload some of your own, visit DallasVoice.com/Photos.




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Mixed messages

Britney, Stipe & Co. deliver shiny, happy CDs ... but not without some dents

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

2011 has already been an impressive year for major music releases: Adele and Jennifer Hudson's strong sophomore albums have impressed, and Lady Gaga's third is on the horizon.

But these relative newcomers aren't scaring off pop and rock veterans. R.E.M. just released its 15th studio album, **Collapse Into Now**, and Britney Spears is halfway along with her seventh, **Femme Fatale**. Ultimately, it's the hard rockers who prove their metal, while the pop princess struggles.



Spears declared *Fatale* "a club album," as if that's her excuse for putting out drivel. So be it: *Fatale* praises dancing, cocktails and sex, making her the voice of a generation of

aimless twinks everywhere. While the production behind it is top notch, the CD is held back musically by two things — bad lyrics and Spears.

Opening with her single "Till the World Ends," she sets the dance tone with a strong beat, but the

moment she sings *I notice that you got it / You notice that I want it / You know that I can take it to the next level baby*, you just can't help but think, "Really?" Ke\$ha, credited here as a co-writer, is new enough that she can get away with such dumb sentiments; Spears should be striving for more at this point. Brit has always been her own worst enemy, and her poor judgment shows.

Using a joke of a pickup line and turning it into a hit, her team of producers and writers are on top of dance music trends, creating radio-ready tracks like "Hold It Against Me" while keeping the Britney formula intact. Instead of competing with current pop-stars sounds, Spears

adheres to her own, jacks it up with modern, fresh beats and sticks to her guns with sex kitten tunes. Perhaps we can never expect much substance from her, but she knows at least who she is.

With some flat out dance songs, the first half is stronger than the second; that's when *Fatale* peters out. "How I Roll" is a hot mess of vocal effects and pedestrian "bum-de-dum" skatting while her collaboration with Black Eyed Peas' will.i.am on "Big Fat Bass" is downright embarrassing, especially as she repeats *I can be the treble, you can be the bass* to a painful, idiotic degree.

There are moments that break from the pack. "Inside Out" delivers a surprisingly crisper voice. She's not a great vocalist, but we get a glimpse of some actual prowess here that isn't hard on the ears. The final track "Criminal" follows suit. We're not pounded with the song; instead, it contains some nice intricacies and has

the most narrative. Musically, it's fresh with actual guitar touches. Is that a pan flute in there? I wish she'd take this direction more. It's not so bad to hear an actual story.

Femme Fatale is a nice workout

album, but Spears remains trapped by heavy production. We always hope she's smarter than that, but *Fatale* doesn't lend itself to brilliance, only to working up a sweat on the dancefloor.



R.E.M. rediscovers itself with *Collapse*. Gone is the overwrought tone of late, which has been in apparent search of recapturing *Out of Time*. Letting go of those expectations, R.E.M. is back

to delivering the edge of their early days, And we feel fine.



FEMME FATALE
Britney Spears
Jive Records



COLLAPSE INTO NOW
R.E.M.
Warner Bros. Records



NOT YET OUT OF TIME | R.E.M. breaks its 15-year slump with the release of 'Collapse Into Now.'

The band launches the CD with the raucous and strong "Discoverer" and "All the Best." The flat-out abandon Mike, Michael and Peter play with here is a harbinger of mostly good things to come. "UBerlin" suffers from some underproduction, but the fourth track, "Oh My Heart," is a beautiful song of pain. *I came home to a city half erased* is a simple but devastating line, yet sung without sadness. The band doesn't spend emotion needlessly here and still gets a point across.

What is funnily unnerving is Stipe's voice. Most noticeable on "It Happened Today," he sounds older, which will remind early fans they are getting older, too. But the wisdom behind it is comforting, like when your father first talks to you as a fellow adult, not as a child.

I can't quite figure out what the message of "Mine Smell Like Honey" is, but with lyrics *Climb a mountain, climb it steeper, steeper / Dig a hole, dig it deeper, deeper / Track a trail of honey through it all*, I feel like my imagination is al-

lowed free rein to interpret it. The energy is infectious but again, underproduction cuts into Stipe's vocals. He sounds muffled, being swallowed by drums and guitars.

Initially I wanted to hate "Alligator Aviator Autopilot Antimatter" for its ridiculous title and its opening line *I feel like an alligator, climbing up the escalator*, but it re-

calls that vivaciousness of "It's the End of the World As We Know It," followed by the equally strong "That Someone Is You."

Going for a slower finale with "Me Marlon Brando, Marlon Brando and I" and the spacey "Blue," the album has a lackluster finish. After a rowdy ride, R.E.M. opts for a poignant, slower ending.

Collapse allows us to remember what R.E.M. can still do. With the help of friends like Eddie Vedder, Peaches and Hidden Cameras' gay frontman Joel Gibb, the band has found its mojo. They probably didn't think they lost it, but listeners had. That should likely change. ■



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Celebrity apprentice

Gay assistant-to-the-stars Michael Fazio dishes in 'Concierge Confidential'

Some people you'd do anything for: The sweet older lady next door calls for a favor and you go running. Your nephew bats those baby blues and you'd buy out the toy store for him. If she asked, you'd dig ditches for a beloved former boss, and all your mom has to do is crook her finger for you to be at her service.

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Read **Concierge Confidential** and you'll think twice before answering.

When Charlie Sheen called and asked if the boss was in, Michael Fazio was barely fazed. Fazio figured it would be a small step from agency assistant to "the next big Hollywood movie mogul," and a good mogul isn't impressed with fame. But Fazio's job at The Liberty Agency didn't so much include hob-nobbing with the stars as it did taking care of his boss, Glennis. He soon learned that keeping her happy meant plugging in her curlers and making coffee before she got to work. Caring for her was, oddly, something Fazio enjoyed.

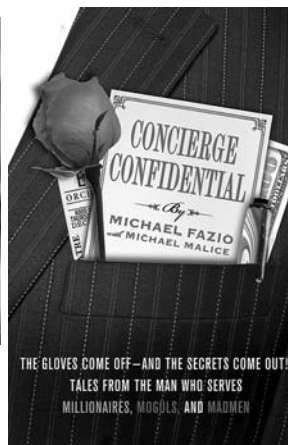
After another brief assistant's job and a gig playing piano on a cruise ship, Fazio and his partner, Jeffrey, moved to Manhattan. Though Fazio was initially unemployed, he quickly found a job at the InterContinental Hotel on 48th Street, where he learned that his unique strengths would best be put to use as a concierge.

A good concierge, like a good business person, has lots of contacts to call upon for favors. He excels at making the impossible possible. Though celebrities and millionaires are the concierge's typical clients, anyone staying at a hotel with a concierge can use the service.

Fazio writes about finding tickets to sold-out concerts, reservations to jam-packed restaurants and night clubs, and yes, even the unconven-



NICE WORK IF YOU GET IT
Michael Fazio wrote the tell-all memoir 'Concierge Confidential.'



★★★★★
CONCIERGE CONFIDENTIAL,
by Michael Fazio (with Michael Malice). St. Martin's Press (2011). \$25. 271 pp.

tional, like yachts for his clients. He writes about good tippers, bad eateries, ugly situations and how he survived them all.

Going on vacation this summer? Check this book out before you leave.

Concierge Confidential includes the dishiest stories of wealth and celebrity, as well as a wealth of tips on star treatment and getting the best results from your hotel stay. But Fazio doesn't stop there. He explains what a concierge does, where you'll find one and how to get what you need (hint: being a jerk won't impress anybody). In between lessons, you'll be regaled by tales of Hollywood and Broadway, challenges and chefs, businessmen and bubbleheads, hissy-fitting stars and hustling scammers, and the rich and famous. And then, if your hotel doesn't have a devoted concierge, you'll learn how to schmooze tickets, reservations and admission on your own.

It's hard not to love something that so effortlessly entertains, and *Concierge Confidential* does just that. If you're heading for holiday, or if you're just up for a light, fun, privy look at leisure and luxury, you should do anything to get this book.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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HOT TO FOXTROT
Pasha Kovalev and Anya Garnis bring some of the sexy moves to ballroom dancing with 'Burn the Floor.'

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

It's an hour before showtime, and Jason Gilkison is busy making sure his dancers are ready for the opening night in Oklahoma City of their show *Burn the Floor*. There's a lot to coordinate, but Gilkison stays cool, despite having to mount a show with eight dancing couples and two singers, including *American Idol* finalist Vonzell Solomon and *So You Think You Can Dance* married heartthrobs Ashley and Ryan DiLillo.

Those may be the marquee names, but the real star of *Burn the Floor* is the show itself, an energetic and sexy two hours of ballroom-on-Red Bull. And that, as director and choreographer, is Gilkison's responsibility.

It's not as if Gilkison didn't have his day in the footlights, too. He got rhythm early — his grandfather opened the first ballroom dancing studio even in Australia, in 1931 — dancing from a young age with his partner, Peta Roby. At age 16, he and Roby moved to London, then the epicenter of ballroom training anywhere in the world. By 1988, he and Roby were world champions.

If the story vaguely conjures images in your brain of the Baz Luhrmann film *Strictly Ballroom*, that's not really an accident: "Peta and I were loose prototypes for those characters," he modestly concedes in his charming Down Under accent. "I actually just met with Baz last week."

You might not see Gilkison on the stage of Fair Park Music Hall when *Burn the Floor* opens, but his stamp is on it.

"It came too late for me," says the still-boyish

Gilkison, who has been dancing and choreographing for an astonishing 37 years. He and Roby retired in 1997 — just about the time *Burn the Floor* was conceived of at, of all places, Elton John's home.

"The executive producer was Elton's manager, and for [Elton's] 50th birthday party, eight ballroom dancing couples came for a 15-minute display. No one had ever seen a group of dancers have such a hold on people," he explains.

That party became the germ for the show; it debuted in 1999, and Gilkison joined it soon after. He never thought it would be a career. He may not have thought it would last a season.

"Eleven years ago, it was very experimental to take ballroom dancing and put it into a theatrical form," he says. It has evolved over the years, as well. "The original show was 45 dancers, not eight or nine couples. We redid it — the new version is more dancer-friendly."

And it has become its own animal. *Burn the Floor* has toured non-stop for more than a decade, including a five-month run on Broadway that Gilkison directed and choreographed (it ended last year). That production features *Dancing with the Stars* veterans Maksim Chmerkovskiy and Karina Smirnoff.

So how does a serious dance expert like Gilkison feel about such pop-competition TV shows like that and *So You Think You Can Dance*? He loves them.

"It's the perfect time for something like *Burn the Floor* with [the popularity of DWTS and

Everybody dance now

Out ballroom dancing champ Jason Gilkison keeps 'Burn the Floor' on track — from behind the scenes

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SYTYCD]. These obscure dance forms have now been popularized. Dancing that had been dormant is now seen in a contemporary way."

Not always in a good way, though. He admits Kate Gosselin's lead-footed stomping on last season's *DWTS* made him cringe. "She really struggled," he says.

Gilkison himself has been a choreographer and judge on *SYTYCD*. Just a few days before, former gay contestant Ade has been in the house (he is dating one of the current dancers), and Gilkison even shares a bit of news for the show's diehard fans: "Mary Murphy will be back!" (Murphy is a ballroom expert whose shrill enthusiasm was sorely missed last season.)

Burn the Floor needn't worry about guest visits from Gosselin, though. While Gilkison's chief job is effortlessly substituting new acts and "special guests" as the show has developed, that been easier due to its reputation for excellence.

"The right dancers have always gravitated toward us," he says. "I think what surprises the ballroom dance masters is that technically they are at a high level — these are not cruise ship dancers." (One downside: The energy level starts out so strong, it has no place to built to.)

It certainly has a lot to offer an audience primed for sexy athleticism: In tight black pants, and with hips swinging from their killer abs, the show sometimes resembles a muscular Tom of Finland catalogue, including a shirtless *pas de deux* between two male toreadors. And it concludes with a Cher song. Hey, put the gays in charge, and they know how to end strong. ■

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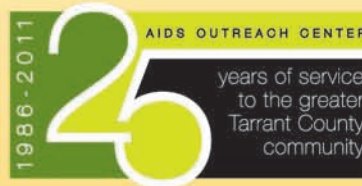
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Friday 04.01

Foote doesn't fool around

As part of the Horton Foote Festival, Uptown Players joins in with *The Young Man From Atlanta*. As the Kidders, an affluent Houston family, venture into a new business, their deceased son's roommate enters the picture. Upon his arrival, the Kidders may have to face some realities about their son, his death and this young man.

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Saturday 04.02

She's doing it all for you

Let's face it — Janet hasn't been the hitmaker she once was and now she's all into this acting thing. Now she's on the road with her Number Ones tour and the buzz is good about her scaled-back show in smaller venues. We know what to call her when we're nasty, but maybe after this concert, we can call her "great" again.

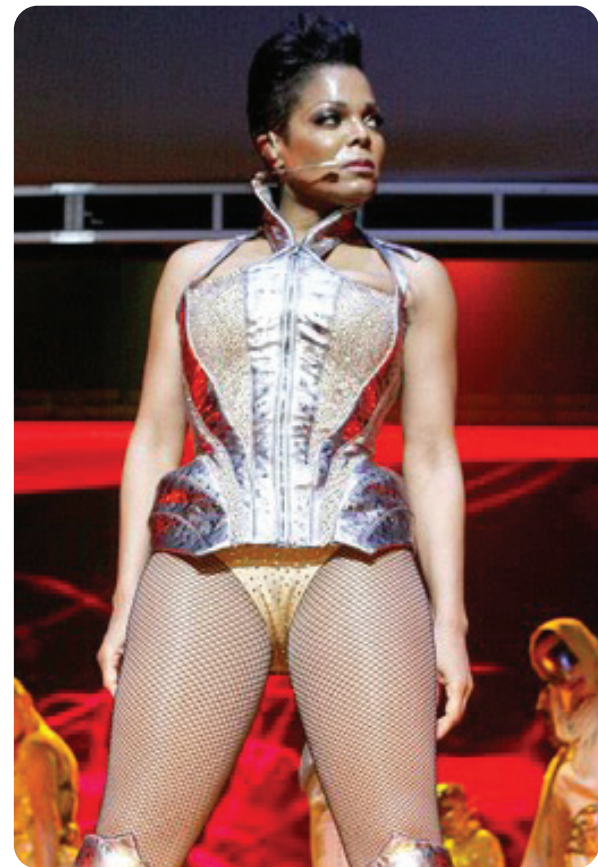
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Sunday 04.03

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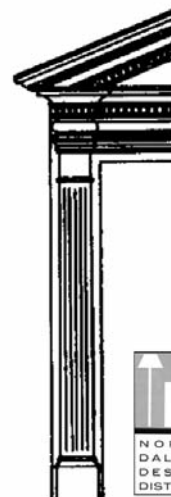
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Texas Sugardaddys
- 4/14 Little Chalupa Karaoke
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(LezBeProud Event)
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- 4/17 Anton Shaw & Trouble
- 4/21 Little Chalupa Karaoke
- 4/22 Ciao Bella
- 4/23 The Bright
- 4/24 Emy Taylor Band
- 4/28 Little Chalupa Karaoke
- 4/29 Drag King Show
- 4/30 Chris Miller Band



FRIDAY 04.01

COMMUNITY

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

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

Youth First Texas. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 6 p.m. Visit the website for weekly schedule. YouthFirstTexas.org.

THEATER

The Soul Gatherer. Due to the nature of the show, only 18 and up admitted. Stone Cottage Theater 15650 Addison Rd. Through April 16. 8 p.m. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

CONCERT

MEN with Romy opening. The gender bending trio headed by Le Tigre's J.D. Samson stops in Dallas. The Loft, 1135 S. Lamar St. Doors at 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. GilleysMusic.com.

SATURDAY 04.02

COMMUNITY

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3-6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

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

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

SUNDAY 04.03

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

MONDAY 04.04

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

TUESDAY 04.05

COMMUNITY

Classic Chassis Car Club. Ojeda's 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-446-0606.

National Leather Association-Dallas meeting.



HEAVY DRAMA | 'The Soul Gatherer' explores psychological delusions in its run at the Stone Cottage Theater.

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

Q's-Day Potluck. Casual LGBT gathering.

The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.

WEDNESDAY 04.06

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

THURSDAY 04.07

COMMUNITY

PFLAG Fort Worth meets. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. Pflagfortworth.org.

Career Fellowship unemployment support group. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. 972-662-4499.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Graham Norton turns 48 on Monday. The comedian and talk show host kills with *The Graham Norton Show*. Without the restraints of American TV, Norton is stomach-achingly hilarious as he puts celebrities on edge with his over-the-top humor. Especially when he chats them up about porn and bathroom humor.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Faith in yourself comes a little too easy. Find someone you trust for constructive criticism. You need that from them. Solving the challenges in a relationship is the test of true commitment.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Knowing that you worry too much about your health doesn't mean there aren't problems. Focus on real pains and get them checked. Find the middle ground between worry and neglect.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Ideals should be beyond reach; goals should be within. Build castles on strong, solid foundations. Keep searching to discover what the future holds. Just don't let it take up all your time now.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your brilliant ideas at work feel unappreciated at home. The lack of enthusiasm is because your talents are no surprise. Home support matters, but you have to explain specifics to get it.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Your brain's afire with grand ideas, but they need grounding in practicality. Find an Aquarius who knows the field. If he or she says, "That won't work," ask how to make it work.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Sex without guilt is fine, but sex without responsibility is dangerous. Be clear on safety and life's priorities. Cultivate a Puritan work ethic without getting hung up on prudery.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Holding down your partnership is a big mistake. It needs room to grow. That means allowing room to let your love do things you don't like. Mutually agreeable limits may require compromise.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

An obsessive rush to push ahead can make you miss important details, cause foolish mistakes and make simple things more long and complicated. Breathe, focus and relax.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Those powerful creative impulses hit a wall. Take the challenge to improve upon an original idea and make it more practical and effective. If it was that good an idea, it's worth the effort.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Domestic drama is a distraction from work you need to be doing. Harness that energy and get the folks at home to support you. That won't be easy, but the effort can pay off big time.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Examine new subjects from the ground up and review the basics on familiar topics. If you want higher purpose and inspiration find a Leo to help you develop your basic ideas into a grand vision.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

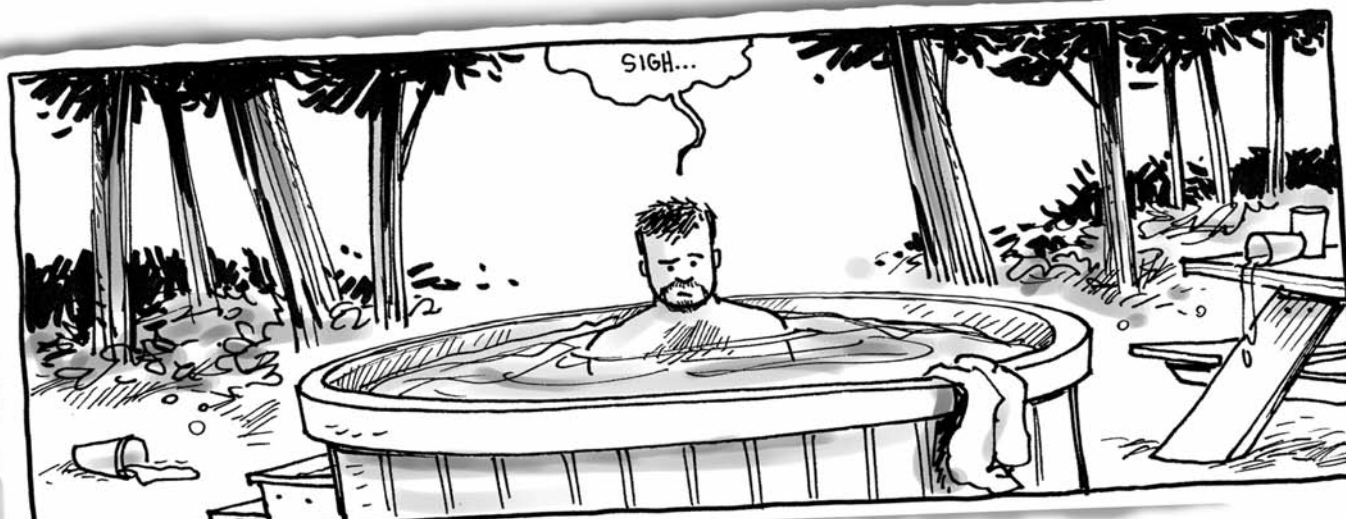
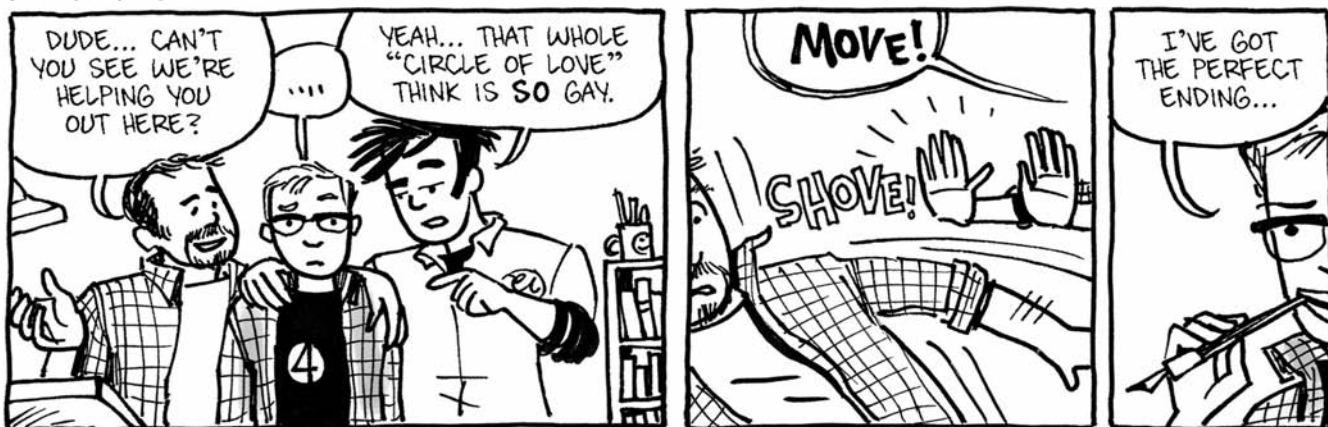
A sexual dry spell is a gift encouraging you to focus on practical matters. Keeping priorities clear is challenging, not impossible. Money comes and goes very easily. Work to keep it coming.

THIS WEEK

After three weeks retrograde, Mercury is turning direct while conjunct Mars. New ideas to fix recent problems are coming too fast and furious. Think carefully to pick the truly effective ones. Both planets are opposing Saturn, so be careful not to blame but to work on better cooperation.

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

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Alex and Lela at Percussions.



Legg and Ari at Sue Ellen's.



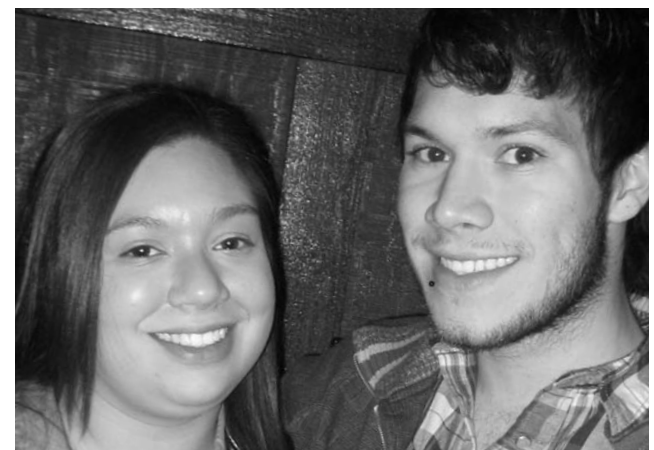
Big Mama, Jai, Chris and Christen at Level.

We know that you'll be wanting to dance to Britney's latest album, but don't rule out these nighttime options for frolicky fun Friday at **the Brick** is the time to get F'd up at **The F Factor** party featuring **Stacy Layne Matthews** and **Mimi Imfurst** from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. **DJ William Umana** returns to Dallas to spin the night away Saturday Have you been to the new **Level** lounge? Friday night, **DJ MichahB** returns to the old **Rush** spot with his '80s-music themed party **CockTails**. The club also starts its food service this week Get a good workout at **Club Dallas' Afterhours Party** with **DJ Paul Kraft** Saturday. And they aren't kidding. The party lasts till sunrise! ... Try the **Super Sunday Drag Show** every week at **Club Elm and Pearl** **Sue Ellen's** brings a couple of new names to the stage this weekend. Party cover band **Krimson Door** plays Friday night. Sexy country rocker **Rachel Stacy** heats up the club on Saturday. On Sunday, Voice of Pride winners **Mi Divas Locas** finish off the weekend of music. Head back to Sue's on Thursday when they give away copies of *Black Swan* for your movie watching pleasure **DJ Rob** is your musical guide for the evening at **the Dallas Eagle** on Friday. **DJ Blaine** hosts the **Release** party on Sunday Get the grime out with a good **Donkey Punch**. The softball team hosts a car wash in the back parking lot of **the Round-Up Saloon** on Saturday. **Texas Hold 'em Poker** returns to the club on Wednesday Enjoy a good old fashioned **song swap** Wednesday at **Jack's Backyard** featuring **C.C. Cross**, **Oliver White** and **Emy Taylor** Don't forget the school nights. Every Tuesday at **BJ's NXSI**, **DJ Mickey** hosts **Trashy Tuesdays** and **Ivana Man** makes hump day a pleasure with her **Amateur Stripoff** ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Angel, Ivana and Alex at Exklusive Lounge.



Elizabeth and Justin at the Round-Up Saloon.



Clint Herzog at Fashion Cited fashion show, a fundraiser for Legal Hospice of Texas.

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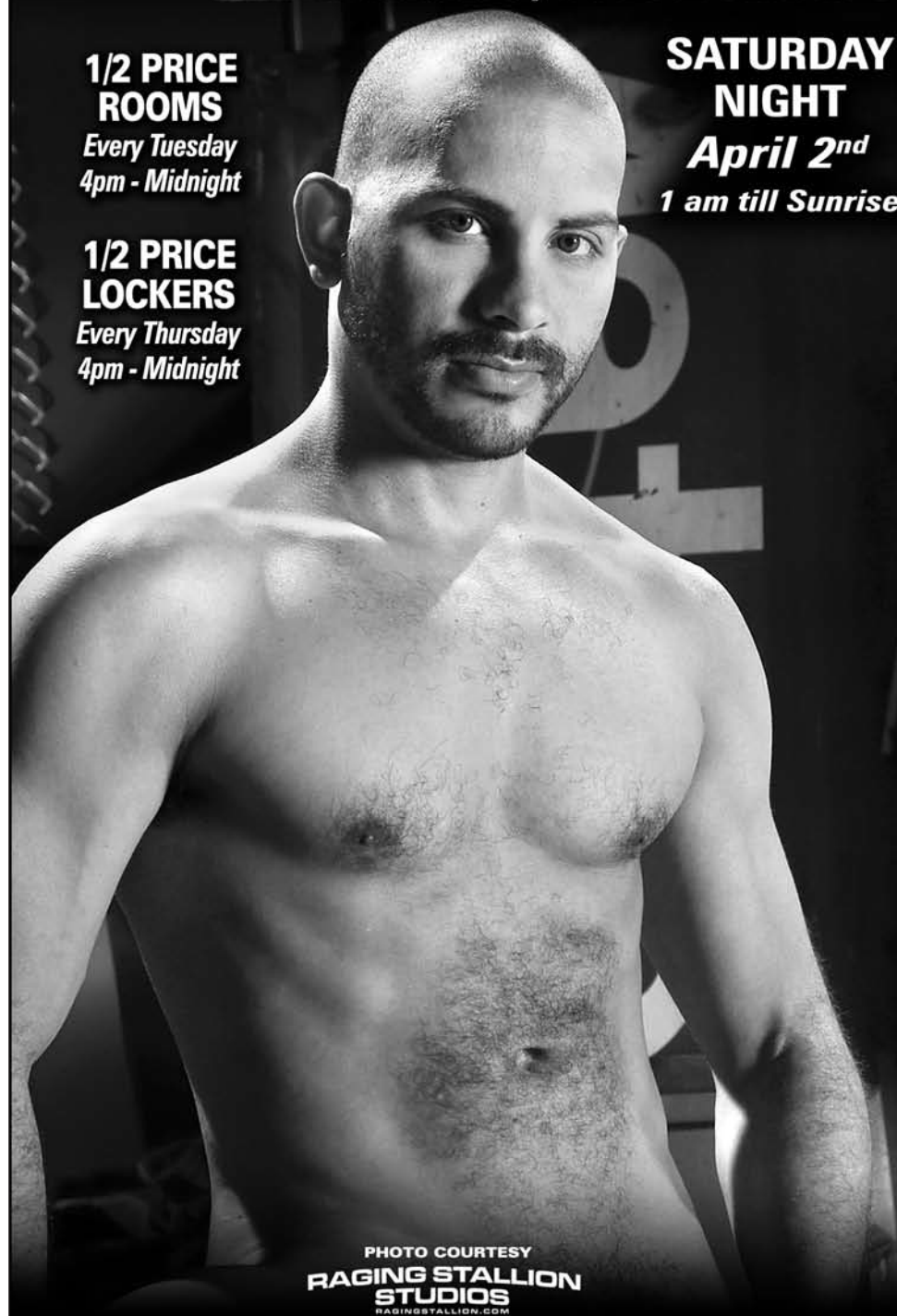


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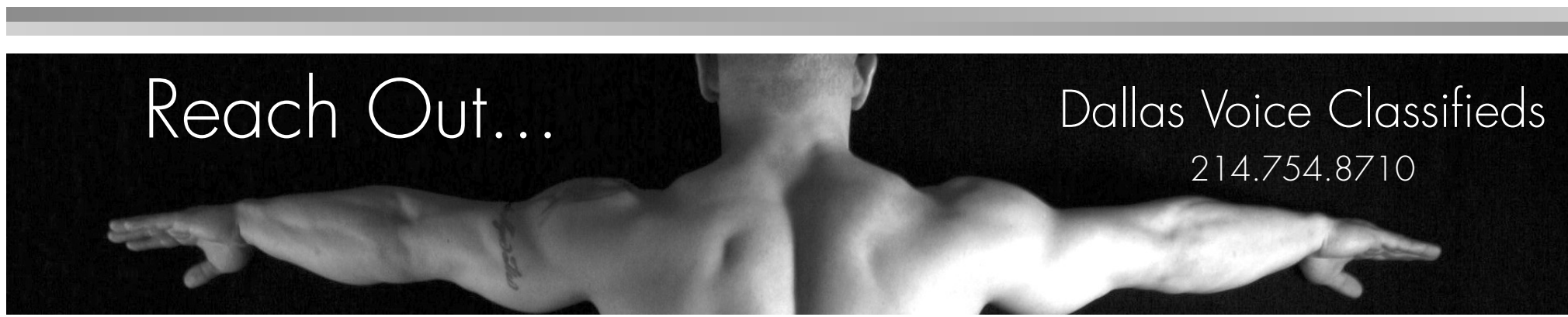
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