

Dallas' Purple Party Weekend gets groovin'

Out DJ Alyson Calagna says Dallas knows how to dance

Michael Tank, pictured, and a host of other DJs spin at Dallas' big circuit event

■ MUSIC, Page 28



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NEED to KNOW

Trans women talk about who to come out to, and when *AND* Nikki Starr's business helps trans women learn the feminine ropes

Read the full stories beginning on Page 14



Here are the

FACTS

about **ANGELA HUNT...**

FACT: **ANGELA HUNT** was **LATE** or **ABSENT** at **80%** of the Council meetings, **MISSING 189** votes in the past term¹. Hunt's time off for maternity leave was not even counted in this figure.

FACT: **ANGELA HUNT** asked to open a review for Council member pay² and thinks **YOU OWE HER A PAY RAISE** for being late and **NOT** attending council meetings.

FACT: **ANGELA HUNT** was the deciding vote for the **LARGEST PROPERTY TAX INCREASE IN 20 YEARS** during the worst recession since the Great Depression. Hunt voted to **RAISE** your taxes³.

FACT: **ANGELA HUNT HAS DONE NOTHING** to fix the potholes on Lemmon Avenue. It's past time to re-pave Lemmon Avenue, Hunt wants to continue to fill in the pot holes.

FACT: **ANGELA HUNT FAILED** to act on a complete cut of \$325,000 that provided HIV/AIDS services from the Dallas city 2009 - 2010 budget until LGBT community lobbied for relief⁴. Hunt was **UNSUCCESSFUL** in reinstating some or all of the funds.



If you were late or absent to your job
80% of the time, would you expect
a pay raise or to be fired ?

It's time to fire Angela Hunt!

¹ www.dallascityhall.com - Council Minutes February 25th, 2009 to February 9th, 2011, ² Dallas Morning News - April 9th, 2010

³ Dallas Morning News - September 22nd, 2010 and CBS 11 September 22nd, 2010, ⁴ Dallas Voice, September 24th, 2009

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Nikki Starr, Dee Boydston and Bree Bentley; photo by David Taffet.
Design by Michael Stephens



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LCR convention brings prominent Republicans to Dallas

DADT attorney Dan Woods, former Congressman Bob Barr slated to speak at gay Republican gathering at the Anatole Hotel

JAMES BRIGHT | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Several prominent GOP members will be spending some time in Dallas this weekend to participate in the Log Cabin Republicans' annual convention, which will take place at the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

The event, that began Thursday, April 28, runs through Sunday, May 1, and includes discussions and speeches from politicians, lawyers and members of the media.

Dan Woods, lead attorney in LCR's lawsuit challenging the military's "don't ask, don't tell policy," will be speaking at the convention about the importance of the case, its current standing and some of the war stories involved in the suit.

"People think this case is over and it's not," Woods said in a recent interview. "Our case is

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ASKING, TELLING | Attorney Dan Woods, right, speaks to the media at the U.S. District Court in Riverside, Calif., after making arguments on the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy last October. Woods, who represents Log Cabin Republicans, the plaintiffs in the case, will be in Dallas this weekend to speak at the LCR National Convention. (Francis Specker/Associated Press)

Dallas County adds transgender protections

Activists around Texas look to expand nondiscrimination policies after Dallas becomes first to add gender identity/expression

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer and
JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
taffet@dallasvoice.com

On Tuesday, April 26, Dallas became the first county in Texas to add gender identity and expression to its nondiscrimination policy. After listening to more than 30 minutes of public comments in favor of the proposal, the Dallas County Commissioners Court voted 3-2 along party lines to add trans protections.

The vote came five weeks after the commissioners voted to add sexual orientation protection to the policy.

Commissioner John Wiley Price provided the third and decisive vote in favor of transgender protections this week, joining fellow Democrats County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia. Republican Commissioners Maurine Dickey and Mike Cantrell voted against the transgender protections.

The city of Dallas already had those protections in place, as does Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

Of the other 253 counties in Texas, only Travis County includes sexual orientation in its policy, although its county seat and largest city, Austin, does have protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

After the Dallas vote, Chuck Smith, deputy executive director of Equality Texas, said that he spoke with leaders of the Transgender Education Network. He said that they are interested in working together to change the policy in Travis County. They plan to meet after the current legislative session ends in late May.

Mayor Annise Parker expanded the nondiscrimination ordinance in the city of Houston to one of the most expansive in the country soon after taking office.

Houston's Harris County, however, guarantees no protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Tim Brookover of the Houston GLBT Gay and Lesbian Community Center said he didn't expect his county to follow Dallas any time in the near future.

Noel Freeman, president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus said, "At some point in the future I intend to go down that path, but not in the

next couple of months, if not through the end of the year."

He said that Houston's local election activity is about to ramp up and his group won't have much time until January to pursue the county's policies.

Parker, the first openly LGBT person elected mayor of a top 10 U.S. city, faces re-election in November.

Fort Worth was the first city in Texas to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. The city added gender identity in 2010.

Tarrant County, however, protects neither.

Tom Anable, president of Fairness Fort Worth, expects his county to follow suit soon, however. He noted that the new Dallas County guidelines are based on the new Fort Worth city policy.

Anable said his first step will be to take the Dallas County juvenile justice nondiscrimination policy to the Tarrant County juvenile justice system. His next step will be to approach the county.

Collin County has no nondiscrimination policy on its website and did not return a call.

Before the Tuesday vote in Commissioners Court, about a dozen people from the LGBT community spoke. Despite rumors that detractors would also appear, no one spoke against the

■ DALLAS, Page 12

Gay couple found murdered in burned apartment

Two men found dead inside a burned Northeast Dallas apartment on Wednesday morning were a gay couple, Dallas police confirmed Wednesday afternoon.

The two victims, whose names are being withheld pending notification of their families, were found inside their first-floor unit at the Villa Joya Apartments, 11210 Woodmeadow Parkway, near Ferguson Road and LBJ Freeway.

After responding to a fire call at about 4:10 a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue crews extinguished the flames before finding the victims — a 59-year-old black male and a 61-year-old white male — inside the apartment.

Authorities say the men appeared to have died in a violent attack before the fire was set in an attempt to destroy evidence from the murders.

Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse, a spokesman for DPD, told Instant Tea that detectives have no reason to believe the murders were a hate crime, but he added that the motive is unknown.

"Yes, it does appear that they were in a relationship together, but that does not appear to have anything to do with this case," Janse said. "It is not being investigated as a hate crime or anything like that."

According to the Dallas Morning News, neighbors said the older victim was disabled and the other was his caretaker. Neighbors also told the DMN that the victims' apartment had an alarm and surveillance system and that the younger man would never open the door for someone he didn't know.

News reports indicate that the suspects likely knew at least one of the victims. Authorities believe one of the victim's vehicles is missing. Patrol officers are searching for it and hope to find the suspects in it.

UPDATE:

Police are still not releasing the victims' names because their bodies were so badly damaged in the fire that they're waiting on the medical examiner to positively identify them.

However, police have now released a description of the vehicle belonging to one of the victims, which is apparently missing. The vehicle is a silver, four-door 2002 Saturn L200, with a license number of 5CVDN. If you see it, call 911.

Again, police have confirmed that they believe the two victims were a gay couple, but they aren't treating the murders as a hate crime.

Police also say they don't know the motive for the crime, prompting some to question how a hate crime can be ruled out. We posed this question to DPD Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse:

"Detectives will not elaborate at this time," Janse told Instant Tea. "It may hamper the investigation."

— John Wright



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localbriefs

HRC, LULAC mark Cinco de Mayo

Human Rights Campaign will partner with the local LGBT chapter of LULAC — The Dallas Rainbow Council to celebrate Cinco De Mayo.

The annual Salsa Cocktails event, featuring dancers, food and high-energy music takes place at Havana's, 4006 Cedar Springs Road, at 7 p.m. on May 5.

"We have already confirmed Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez as one of our speakers," said Kimberly Williams, HRC event coordinator. "Our dance group will also offer free salsa dance lessons

for our guests."

HRC and LULAC will talk about recent national and local successes. The public is invited to attend. The event is free, though a \$20 donation for HRC at the door will get two free cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

"Both HRC and LULAC will have information about membership and ways to get active," said Jesse Garcia, president of LULAC 4871. "We have great projects coming up this summer. We invite community members ready to get involved to come learn about opportunities to further equality."

Death

CORRECTION: James "Kissey" Olson, 62, died at his home in Dallas on March 30 after recently being diagnosed with liver cancer.

Olson was native of Iron River, Mich. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force for six years. He went to work for AT&T, living in Phoenix, Little Rock and finally Dallas, where he retired.

He had lived in the Dallas area for more than 24 years.

His home here was party central and was always open to his many friends who will miss his and his



hospitality.

Olson is survived by his mother, Minnie, and sisters, Ruth and Doris, of Iron River; his brother, Ron, of Milwaukee; his ex-wife, Jo, of Yuma, Az.; his two children, Scott and Amy of Phoenix, and six grandchildren.

Olson was cremated and his ashes were buried at Iron River. A celebration of his life will be held on the patio at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St., on Saturday, April 30, at 2 p.m.

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Nina

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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 www.operationkindness.org



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■ texasnews

Two gay men among One Man Dallas semifinalists

Because women volunteer at a greater rate, group formed to encourage men to give their time

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Two gay men are among the 20 Dallas men who have been nominated for the title of One Man Dallas, presented by an organization that honors men who volunteer. Because women volunteer at a rate five times that of men, One Man was created to encourage and honor men who volunteer.

The project began in 2009 with One Man Minneapolis. Last year the group added Chicago and this year Dallas.

From hundreds of applications, the field was narrowed to 20 semifinalists. Nominees had to be men between ages 24 and 44 who are affiliated



Joseph Hernandez, left, and Steven Weir

with a local charity and live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The 20 semifinalists are competing to become One Man Dallas, which will be awarded on May 19. Among them are Joseph Hernandez who volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, and Steven Weir who is a board member of Legacy Counseling Center.

■ Continued, Next Page

GLAAD TO BE IN DALLAS



NEW CHAPTER | GLAAD president Jarrett T. Barrios, third from left, and GLAAD Senior Director of Community Engagement Juan Barajas, second from left, were in Dallas on Wednesday, April 27, for a reception for the new Dallas chapter of GLAAD at Fin at ilume. The local chapter will do fundraising and monitor local media. Pictured is the Dallas leadership council, from left: Sean Franklin, Barajas, Barrios, Kerry Buell, Deke Mooney, Chet Whisenant and Eric Tschetter. Buell co-chairs with Lindsay Romig, who was not in town for the event. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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■ From Previous Page

Hernandez has been a Habitat volunteer for about 11 years.

"One thing I do is serve as their banker and I work on homebuilding projects," Hernandez said.

Each year, Habitat provides about 100 homes for low-income people in Dallas.

Habitat is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Dallas this year. Since 1986, it has helped 850 low-income families. They have invested \$95 million in Dallas in more than 20 neighborhoods and have increased the tax base by \$2 million annually.

When constructing new homes, Hernandez said that volunteers do everything that doesn't require a licensed contractor. He said there's a spot on a construction site for anyone.

"They take people based on expertise and put them in the right place," he said. "There's something that everybody can do."

For the more experienced that includes nailing framework and installing sheetrock, but for less experienced volunteers there's planting landscaping, painting and cleanup.

And as their banker, Hernandez works with each of the applicants for a Habitat home to ensure their success in the program.

Steve Weir has been the board chair for Legacy Counseling Center for several years. Legacy provides counseling services for people with HIV and a substance abuse program in Oak Lawn and operates Legacy Founders Cottage, a 24-hour supervised special care facility in Oak Cliff.

Legacy's executive director, Melissa Grove, called Weir an amazing volunteer who works throughout the community.

In addition to his work with Legacy, Weir has done fundraising for Lambda Legal, Legal Hospice of Texas and Home for the Holidays, been a team captain for LifeWalk and collected silent auction items for Genesis Women's Shelter.

Grove said, "I'd be tickled if a gay man won" the One Man title.

She credited the LGBT community with volunteering at a much higher rate than the general population and said that should be highlighted for the community. She was surprised more gay men weren't among the finalists.

Voting takes place on the OneManDallas.com site. Anyone can sign in and vote once a day.

Two additional happy hours will take place before the final event. On May 4, all of the finalists will be at Board Room Salon in Highland Park Village and on May 12 at Aloft Hotel in Downtown Dallas from 6 to 8 p.m.

The final show will be on May 19 at Gables Park 17, a new high rise on McKinney Avenue at Akard Street, at 7:30 p.m. Five finalists will be announced. Those five will participate in a live competition involving fashion, pop culture trivia and interviews. Denise Lee will be among the entertainment.

The winner will split \$5,000 with his charity and win a wardrobe from J Hilburn. ■

More information on Dallas Habitat for Humanity at DallasAreaHabitat.org, about Legacy Counseling at LegacyCounseling.org and on One Man Dallas at OneManDallas.com.

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■ LCR

From Page 4

alive and kicking.”

Woods said there are two different things going on with the case: Although LCR won at trial, the government has decided to appeal the decision. After months of legal arguments and appeals from both sides oral arguments are supposed to begin next week.

Despite the legal battle and action in Congress to repeal the anti-gay law, Woods said as of this point the repeal of DADT is not in effect. He said that steps have to be taken to get the military ready and although there are some efforts in this area service men and women are still suffering from this legislation.

“There is no timetable as to when this repeal will become affective,” Woods said. “Although the numbers are smaller the government is still investigating people under ‘don’t ask, don’t tell.’”

Another problem Woods said he has run into is that many potential presidential candidates have made stopping the repeal part of their platform. Political issues are key in this legislation’s evolution, according to Woods.

“The government has said they don’t want the courts deciding how our military is run. What’s really going on is President Obama wants to take credit for all this to help his next campaign,”

Woods said.

In addition to talking about the current status of DADT, Woods said he will talk about some of those suffering from this legislation.

“We are going to focus on stories about those affected by ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ and the heart-breaking tales of how it impacted them and the unit they worked on,” he said.

One such servicemember, according to Woods, was Alexander Nicholson, who was kicked out of the Army because he was caught writing a letter to a former boyfriend. Another story involved a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves whose name cannot be used.

“This is just another story where someone is being denied their constitutional rights while they work to protect ours,” Woods said.

LCR Executive Director R. Clarke Cooper said the repeal of DADT is a front page and front burner issue for the organization.

“We can’t take our eye off it,” he said.

The convention will also feature as keynote speaker former Congressman Bob Barr.

Barr, who ran as the Libertarian candidate in the 2008 presidential election, served in the House of Representatives as a Republican from Georgia from 1995 to 2003. During his time in office he authored and sponsored the Defense of Marriage Act, which was enacted as law in 1996.

At the federal level the legislation recognized marriage as being between a man and a woman

and declared that individual states can choose not to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Barr apologized in 2008 for his role in creating the legislation and now supports the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal DOMA.

Rob Schlein, Bob Barr, president of the Dallas chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, said Barr is one of the speakers he is most looking forward to hearing, since the former congressman switched his position on DOMA. Schlein said it’s important for members of the LGBT community to hear this information due to misconceptions about the GOP’s opinion toward LGBT people.

“The Republican Party is one of liberty and freedom,” Schlein said. “Gay people should feel at home in the party.”

Cooper said having Barr available to speak at the convention was a wonderful advantage since he was the father of DOMA,



Bob Barr

■ Continued Next Page

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■ From Previous Page

"We started at the top," Cooper said. "It's anti-government for the federal government to have such power over the states like what is granted in the Defense of Marriage Act. It's going to die, but when that happens is just speculation right now."

Cooper said communication is an important factor in battling for LGBT rights within the GOP.

"We need to let people know in the gay community who are businessmen, or servicemembers that they have a home in the GOP," he said.

Cooper said the general consensus surrounding the idea of a gay Republican has become a matter of levity to him.

"I joke for gay Republicans there is coming out twice," he said. "You come out first when you're gay and then when you're a Republican."

Cooper said marriage equality at large is a growing issue on a broader scale. Although it is unlikely that debate over DOMA will be seen on the floor this year, Cooper said events like these give Log Cabin Republicans a chance to educate the entire party.

"We use traditional conservative values from the 19th century," he said. "We should not regulate or impede on our neighbors' rights and someone born differently should not be treated differently."

Cooper said it is important for the entire GOP to know that Log Cabin Republicans are also in-

terested in pushing the party's larger and broader agenda.

"We want to educate while working with our fellow Republicans," he said.

Republicans will be responsible for giving members of the LGBT community the liberties they want, according to Schlein, who said that Democrats are the ones perpetuating limited rights.

"Democrats need these issues to keep winning elections," he said.

Even Democratic politicians at the top of the federal hierarchy are responsible for limiting LGBT equality, according to Schlein. He said President Obama could have easily repealed DADT when he had the support of a Democratic Congress during his first two years in office.

"He chooses not to repeal it, because he wants to enslave gay people," Schlein said.

In addition to hearing some of the speakers at the convention, Schlein said he will also go to board meetings since he does sit on the national board of the Log Cabin Republicans.

Cooper said recently the number of supporters and members of Log Cabin Republicans have been increasing somewhat dramatically. The development of LCR candidates is an important issue the organization is tackling according to Cooper.

LCR members are developing relationships in the GOP, but also getting members to run, Cooper said.

"Our numbers are starting to grow as more people come out of the closet and more members start to become more supportive," he said. "We are at a point in the organization where we have to say, 'It's just not enough to be visible. We need gay Republicans to run for office.'"

Ken Mehlman, former head of the Republican National Committee and campaign manager for President George W. Bush's successful second run for president, will also be speaking at the convention.

And former Sen. Norm Coleman was a late addition to the event. Coleman, who served as a federal senator from Minnesota from 2003 to 2009, now works as an adviser to the Republican Jewish Coalition. He was one of three candidates in the highly publicized 2008 senate election in which the Minnesota Supreme Court handed down a ruling declaring comedian Al Franken the winner of the seat.

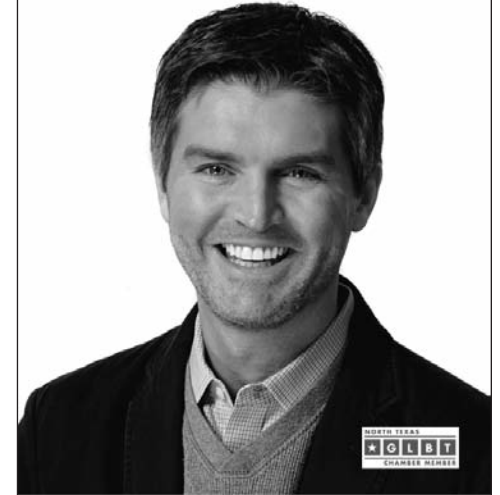
Coleman will not actually be at the convention, but has recorded a video message in which he welcomes all members of the GOP into the Republican tent.

Although originally listed as a speaker, Fox News correspondent Margaret Hoover will not be attending the convention. Cooper said her cancellation had nothing to do with the group's social agenda.

Those interested in the event can register at Logcabin.org. ■

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CHEERS | Supporters celebrated after Dallas County commissioners added gender identity and expression to the nondiscrimination policy. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

■ DALLAS

From Page 4

proposal.

The vote came five weeks after the court unanimously added sexual orientation but not gender identity/expression to the policy covering the county's 7,000 workers.

LGBT advocates who attended Tuesday's meeting erupted in applause after the dramatic vote, and they gathered on the steps of the county administration building for an impromptu celebration moments later.

LGBT advocates spoke at each of the court's regular meetings since the vote to add sexual orientation to the policy, calling on commissioners to go back and make it fully inclusive. But no turnout was as large as Tuesday's, when LGBT advocates exceeded the time limit for public comment on the issue, prompting the Commissioners Court to vote to wave the rules to allow more speakers.

Those who spoke at the meeting ranged from pioneering Dallas lesbian activist Louise Young, to 24-year-old trans man Jeffrey Barnett, to well-known trans fitness trainer Chris Tina Foxx Bruce, a former Dallas resident who flew in from San Diego for the vote.

Even Dickey and Cantrell, who voted against

the proposal, said they appreciated the public input.

"In the seven years I've been here, I don't believe I've ever seen a more meaningful and sincere group of people," Dickey said, adding that she supported the addition of sexual orientation to the policy. "I'm going to vote against [this] for one reason, and that is that I'm reluctant to add special protected classes under the umbrella of Dallas County policy."

"I've heard the speakers and I appreciate all that they've brought to the table today," Cantrell said in explaining his vote. "I didn't hear anyone talk about any other county that's passed this, so anyway, but my 'no' vote today will be based on the liability that I believe that it will cost the county and ultimately the taxpayers."

Price, who previously said he was undecided on the issue, said he initially thought transgender employees were included under sexual orientation.

But Price said he asked that the item be placed on the agenda for Tuesday after, in addition to hearing compelling arguments during public comments, he consulted with medical experts.

"I think there is a lot of medical evidence," Price said before the vote. "At the end of the day, it's about doing the right thing, and this court will do that." ■

Giving up on Gay Men

By Michael Weinstein, *President AIDS Healthcare Foundation*

GILEAD

Recent headlines applauded taking medication as 'pre-exposure prophylaxis' to prevent transmission of HIV among gay men.

The news came in a study of nearly 2,500 men in six countries that found that an average man taking the medication

was 44% less likely to become infected than a control group taking a placebo.

How very sad that we have come to this point. The applause for this approach shows just how disposable we consider the lives of gay men.

If we were talking about protecting the general population with a treatment that was only 44% effective, would we be celebrating? The 44% who received a benefit from the medications were intensively counseled monthly, with frequent blood draws and tests for sexual infections. This is in no way representative of any real world situation.

In the real world, why would anyone subject himself to drug therapy—with the potential of very serious side effects—every day if they had any intention of using condoms? If someone tells almost any man that it is safe to have sex without a condom, they will likely do so.

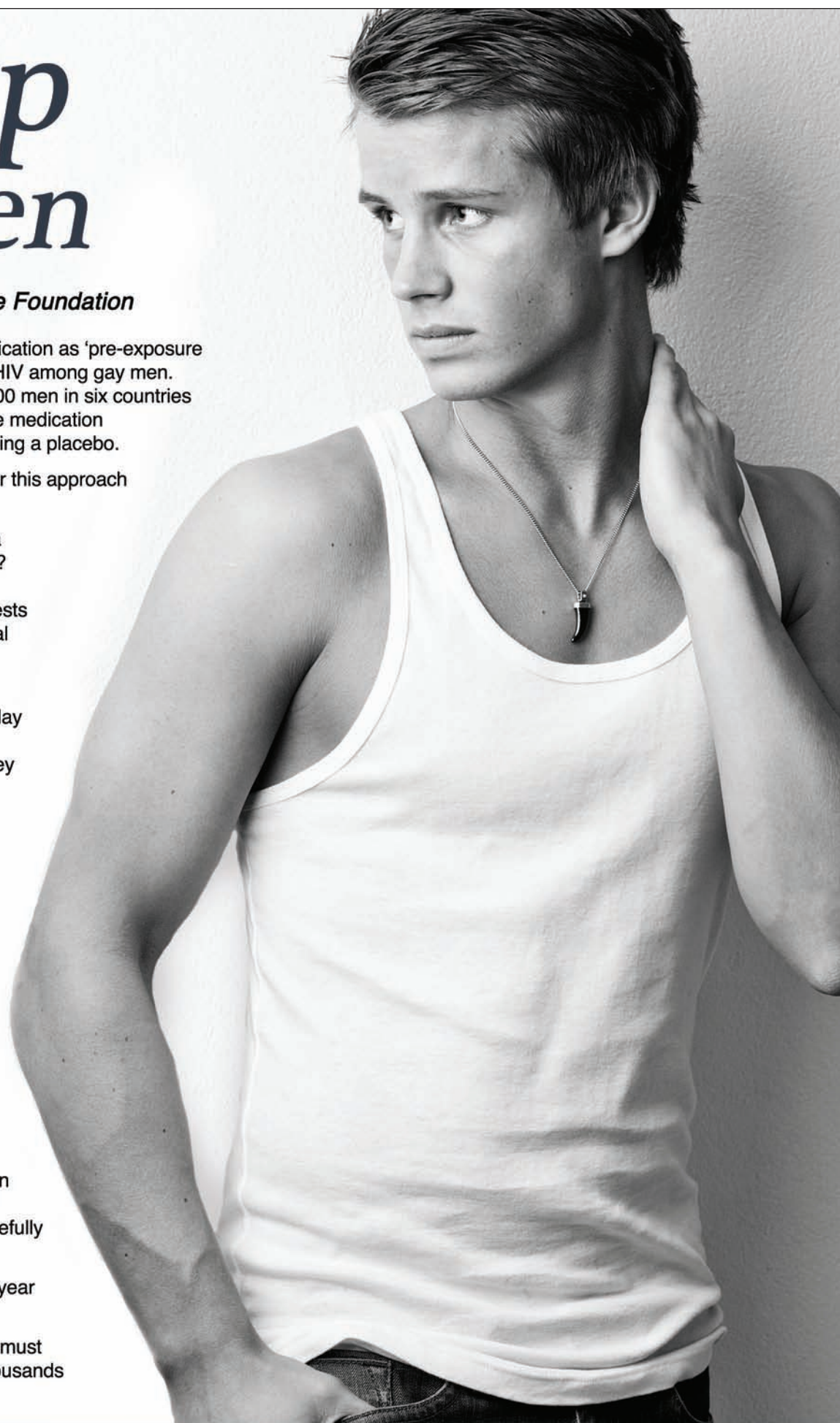
Kevin Fenton, chief of HIV/AIDS for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said: *"Some studies suggest that even a small increase in risk behavior due to a false sense of security about the pills effectiveness could actually increase HIV infections, an outcome we cannot afford."*

A large percentage of patients already infected with HIV do not take their medications. How likely are uninfected men to take pills every day for the rest of their lives to prevent an HIV infection? If the pre-exposure HIV medication is not at therapeutic levels in their system before they have sex, they will not be protected.

The potential use of drugs to prevent HIV infection is based on the premise that we cannot succeed in getting gay men to use condoms. Has an effective effort really been made to market condoms in gay-friendly ways? Are condoms readily available in bars, bathhouses and other meeting spots? Advertised on TV? Do our political, religious and community leaders speak out forcefully for protecting gay men from HIV infection? No.

Another question: who will pay for this \$10,000 per person, per year pre-exposure treatment?

I commend research into HIV prevention. But, our communities must consider these points if we are going to offer up hundreds of thousands of gay men for an unproven experiment.



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coverstory

Femme X provides service to people learning to be women

Starr says her service benefits trans women who want to present a more feminine appearance

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Way back in 1996, Nikki Starr started Miss Victoria's Feminine Illusions, a business dedicated to helping those — male or female — who wanted to be more feminine in appearance.

Starr suspended operations in 2001 because she traveled quite a bit with her job as an executive for a software company dealing with supply chain logistics.

But with the encouragement of a friend, Starr decided to try again, and Femme X Studios has been up and running since 2006.

Starr said she works with a variety of people: Some might have a fetish; others are transgender women who know they are women but never learned how women's sizes work or how to put on makeup.

"They don't know where to start," Starr said.

While her target audience is varied, Starr said she rarely works with drag queens. She said she is not in business to help someone present an illusion or exaggeration of femininity.

"I provide a service as an image and style consultant," she said.

Some of Starr's clients are just coming out as transgender and learning to be more feminine. One client is a married cross-dresser whose wife does not know.

"She's just trying to figure it out," Starr said of her client.

Much of Starr's business comes from people who are in the closet. Some are high-powered business executives who need a private, discreet place to explore.

Starr said she schedules three or four appointments a week and while an appointment may last up to eight hours, the basic appointment is usually three hours.

"Everything's included," Starr said. "They don't have to bring anything — clothes, shoes, hair, lingerie. What do they want? Photography? Makeup?"

Starr has release forms for all pictures on her website. To assure discretion, she said she'll use the client's own camera and hand them the memory card. But, she noted, photography can be useful for the client to see and compare differences in makeup or hairstyles. And some do want a glamour shot session.

Starr said that some clients are very nervous on their first visit. They might spend the entire visit



Nikki Starr

just drinking a glass of wine and talking. And Starr said she is careful to take that client through each step and talk about the experience as they go.

She also offers a very basic one-hour make-up class in which she discusses products, skincare and basic makeup application techniques.

Starr also helps her clients prepare for their own forays into the world of retail. Her advice for people shopping for the first time who have not developed a relationship with any salespeople is to call ahead.

"If you call ahead, they can prepare for you," she said.

Starr used that same principle in planning an outing with a transgender group.

She made reservations for a group at the Uptown restaurant Sambuca and explained who they were. They told her, "as long as you're dressed appropriately." Starr said that when her group arrived, they were assigned a waiter who went out of his way to make the evening a lot of fun.

And while Starr specializes in image consulting, she refers her clients to a number of other people — including counselors, cosmetic surgeons and doctors to prescribe hormone therapy, as well as friendly gyms, retailers and restaurants.

Starr said that each of her customers is looking for something a little different and she said the key to success is spending time making sure she understands that client's needs.

"We can customize an experience that's right for you," Starr said. ■

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coverstory

Need to know

Trans women talk about how to come out, when, and to whom

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Perhaps one of the greatest fears that transgender people face is losing the love and support of family and friends when they “come out” about their gender identity. For transwoman Jamy Spradlin, honesty has definitely been the best policy.

“I don’t usually lie to people,” she said. “Covering lies is difficult.”

That policy has paid off for her.

Jamy said her father, Gregg Spradlin, who lives in Illinois, came to recently Dallas to be with her through her gender reassignment surgery.

Gregg didn’t think that was out of the ordinary. One of his children was having surgery. He’s retired and free to travel, so of course he was there for her.

Gregg said he was glad to help Jamy through her recuperation, but the best part for him was that they got to spend two weeks together.

“My relationship with Dad is closer than it’s ever been,” Jamy said.

And Gregg agreed, saying that’s because Jamy has been honest with him about who she is.

Although she has been honest with her father about her gender identity, Jamy is careful about telling others that she is transgender.

“I want to tell people, let them get to know me,” Jamy said. “If they have their own preconceived notion about what transgender is, they’ll know me first.”

But there are no set rules about who to tell or when. In fact, Spradlin broke her own rule about waiting when she went to buy her first bra.

Jamy said she went to Victoria’s Secret where she found a saleswoman she was comfortable with and confided in. She said she had to be honest with the saleswoman and tell her that she had no idea how to measure herself for a bra or figure out what size she needed, because asking the saleswoman for that kind of help without any further explanation would be confusing: How could a woman Jamy’s age not know anything about bra size?

But Jamy also knew that other transgender women have been thrown out of stores for no reason other than who they are. So she was relieved when her saleswoman smiled, told her to come to the back and promised to get her fixed up.

Of course, that saleswoman was smart. She gained a loyal customer.

In the workplace

Dee Boydston is facing a different type of coming out situation: She was married 20 years and has a 19-year-old son, and recently passed a mile-

stone in her life when she decided to live fulltime as a woman.

While her marriage is over, Boydston said, her son is completely accepting of her intent to transition.

Boydston works from home for a Fortune 500 company so transitioning on the job has not been a problem — until now.

“I’m at a point that I don’t want to flip back and forth,” she said.

Boydston communicates with other employees primarily by phone. She regularly talks to a company recruiter in Plano who recently suggested they get together for lunch.

And Boydston heads a team of employees who also work from their homes. The group will be getting together soon for a team meeting for the first time.

Both the recruiter and her team assume she’s a man.

So Boydston took her first step at work. Before they met, she told the recruiter, “I have to tell you something.”

She said the recruiter was totally accepting and their lunch meeting went fine. She’s hoping for the same acceptance from her team.

Marla Compton, who heads the transgender group GEAR at Resource Center Dallas, works for one of the largest banks. She said that the major banks tend to be transgender-friendly.

“But just because the company is transgender-friendly doesn’t mean the HR person is,” Compton said.

After applying for one job, Compton said the HR person was showing her around the office and introducing her to people she would be working with.

Continued Next Page

TRANSGENDER RESOURCES: GEAR

Gender Education, Advocacy & Resources, a program of Resource Center Dallas, provides educational and social opportunities, outreach and medical services for the transgender community.

Monthly Mixer: Last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Call 214-528-0144 for location.

Transgender Health Night: Third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Nelson-Tebedo Health Center. Low-cost lab work and access to medical staff. With letter from therapist, a doctor is available to prescribe hormone therapy.

Transgender Helpline: Second and fourth Wednesdays, 6–8:30 p.m. 214-528-0144. Other times, leave a message. Blair High checks GEAR’s voicemail and will return a call.



FAMILY TIES | Gregg Spradlin came to Dallas to help his daughter, Jamy Spradlin, recover from her gender reassignment surgery. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

■ From Previous Page

"Then I told her I was transgender and I never heard from her again," Compton said.

But Compton thinks it's important to be honest with employers so that everything from insurance to social security is filed correctly.

Dating and relationships

Dating and relationships present even more coming out challenges.

Compton said that while coming out is a personal choice, "I always tell the other person right off the bat."

She said she has heard stories of people going out. Then the relationship begins to get physical and the other person finds out in the bedroom.

"That can be very dangerous," Compton said. "I know of a person who kept it from a spouse for years — it was a very nasty situation."

Spradlin's advice is to be careful about where to come out. She said that many people meet in bars and come out where people are drinking. That might not be the best setting.

"Do it in a safe place," she said. "A public setting but not when you're in a position where you can be attacked."

Compton asks herself if she feels safe and comfortable with the other person.

"That's going to have a bearing on my choice," she said.

But if she's dating someone, she said she has to reveal her past. The other person will quickly realize something is missing when your past is left as a blank slate.

They'll ask, "Why don't you have graduation pictures? Childhood pictures?" Compton said. "If it's nothing to be ashamed of, we have nothing to hide."

Her best advice is to use common sense.

"There are men out there who are attracted to women who are pre-op," Compton said. "So it's case by case."

But she described situations when she was in a club and could have gone home with somebody but didn't.

"I was glad I didn't," she said. "Trust your instincts. Sometimes we overlook the warning signs."

She said she doesn't date someone — or go home with anyone — she's not comfortable telling about her gender identity.

"If it's someone who cares about you, your gender identity won't matter," Compton said.

Her experience with coming out to others is that it doesn't faze some. She's found others attracted to her more.

"Some admire what we have to go through," she said.

The best therapy

Blair High, as CEO of a Plano-based corporation, was a bond trader responsible for billion dollar portfolios who had played football in school.

Today, High volunteers on the help line at Resource Center Dallas on Wednesday nights, giving information on transgender issues.

"The best therapy for anyone is to be yourself," she said.

High said that sometimes coming out can be as bad as suppressing. "Some people call [who are] thinking of killing themselves," she said. "They can't stand it anymore."

High recommends they come to a meeting and meet other trans people. She said sometimes they will come and just cry for the first 30 minutes they're there.

Often, the calls High takes are from men who are married with children. She tells them to come out to their wives. She said that they should tell the spouse that they're having these feelings and would like to go to some therapy.

High, who has been married for 18 years, said that's what she did with her wife.

"It was not an easy thing," she said. "It's still an issue."

High said when she told her wife that she was having these feelings and wanted to go to therapy, her wife thought that was great.

"As time went by and things were the same, it wasn't so great," she said.

But they remain together.

"We love each other," she said. "We care about each other."

Trans woman Pam Curry said she "gave up trying to hide years ago."

She said she got advice from John Thomas, the first executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, who told her to "Be true to your cause."

Curry said she stopped worrying about it and stopped trying to be perfect.

Because she's so open about her gender identity, Compton said she gets lots of questions. She said she'll answer most but is surprised when she's asked graphic sexual questions, especially by someone she's just met.

Those are people she puts at arms length, she said.

"But I'm proud to be a transsexual," Compton said. "I'll never hide from it." ■



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Allies on Council deserve our support

Openly LGBT candidates are great, but the community shouldn't turn its back on the allies who have been there for us all along

I was surprised to learn this year that an openly gay candidate had decided to challenge Angela Hunt for the District 14 City Council seat in the Dallas municipal election on May 14.

The benefits of openly gay people serving in elected office are enormous to the LGBT community, but that goal should never cause us to abandon straight political allies who have served us well. And for her three terms on the City Council, Hunt has been a strong advocate for the LGBT community.

Like her predecessor, former Councilwoman Veletha Forsythe Lil, Hunt has been as much of a part of our community and its events as the rest of us. With no openly gay people having served on the City Council since Ed Oakley left office to make his unsuccessful run for the mayor's job, we would have been lost without strong advocates such as Hunt and District 2 incumbent Pauline Medrano.

I'm sure Hunt's openly gay challenger, James Nowlin, is an admirable candidate. Otherwise, he would not have received the endorsement of Stonewall Democrats, an action that Hunt admitted "disappointed" her. An "intense" debate reportedly preceded the decision to endorse Nowlin over Hunt.

Later, the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance

threw its support behind Hunt and mayoral candidate Ron Natinsky, another strong LGBT advocate on the City Council, marking a striking split in the LGBT voting community. Stonewall Democrats endorsed former Dallas Chief of Police David Kunkle, who has also been a major LGBT advocate.

The DGLA's decision to back Hunt makes more sense to me because of the importance of remaining loyal to good political friends and also for its practicality. Hunt probably can't be beat in District 14 by any challenger.

If an openly gay challenger could have beat Hunt it would have happened when she ran for the seat the first time six years ago, when lesbian powerhouse Candy Marcum, through her reputation as a prominent psychologist and social stalwart, sought the office.

Marcum had enormous support in the community, but it could not propel her to victory.

It's more of a toss-up when it comes to whether the community should vote for Kunkle or Natinsky. They both have been good friends to the LGBT community.

In the District 7 council seat race, lesbian Casie Pierce is challenging incumbent Carolyn Davis, who to the best of my knowledge has not been an LGBT advocate.

It's true that Davis has a larger black constituency in her district to occupy her time, but that never stopped her predecessor, Leo Chaney, from giving us much of his time and consideration.

There are large numbers of LGBT people and their allies living in District 7 in the Parkdale and Pleasant Grove areas who would welcome a resident of their communities sitting on the council.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter



Angela Hunt

In addition to being a member of our community, Pierce has strong credentials and enjoys respect from many quarters. She has been involved for years in community work in neighborhood clean-up, public park improvements, economic development and work with at-risk teens.

Our best shot at getting an openly gay candidate on the City Council this year is Pierce, so I hope that the whole community will support her in every way possible so we can achieve that goal again.

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has covered LGBT issues for the mainstream and alternative media for three decades. E-mail him at davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com.

Sacrificial goats must keep fighting

The right wing scapegoats LGBTs, sacrificing our rights on their altar of power. The goats have to keep fighting back if we want equality

Land of the free and home of the brave? Maybe not. Just look at all the issues being flogged both in the legislature and in the press. All are to try to stifle the freedom of LGBT people.

• DOMA: The cynically named "Defense of Marriage Act" which has nothing to do with defending marriage and everything to do with denying rights to LGBT couples.

Worse, even though the president said it is unconstitutional, the GOP, lead by House Speaker John Boehner, wants to spend \$500,000 of our dollars to defend a bill the Department of Justice sees as indefensible.

• Special Rights for Gays: This is a catch phrase being used again and again by the right wing to somehow try to justify discrimination in just about any way possible.

For example in many states if you are a landlord, you are not allowed to deny someone the right to rent an apartment — but only if they are listed as a protected class. That's how the law works in this screwy society.

So, if I am a member of a racial minority, a woman or disabled, I can seek legal recourse against the landlord. Because LGBT people are not included in that list in most states, we have no recourse.

In the eyes of the right wing, granting us the same rights as any other minority is "special rights." Worse still is the fact that we are denied rights in our relationships that other Americans get simply because they are straight.

• Hate Crimes: The right fights tooth and nail to keep LGBT people from being included in hate crimes legislation wherever it is



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

■ GOATS, Next Page

■ GOATS

From Previous Page

proposed. Just as bad, some have even tried to dissect us and include gays and lesbians while leaving transgender folks out.

To add LGBT people to the list of victims of hate crimes apparently denies the far right their freedom to hate whoever they want.

• **Ex-Gay Therapy:** This discredited practice still gets funding and support from fundamentalist churches and right-wing organizations that are actively working to “cure” gays and lesbians. Our lives have been compared to the problem with “second-hand smoke” and devalued by rhetoric from the right.

They spread the lie that our sexual orientation is a choice, and therefore something we can change at will.

This list could go on and on, but the point is that for some reason the conservatives are spending huge piles of cash to actively deny us the rights and privileges they enjoy. Why do they spend so much of their time and energy working to take away rights from us?

Politically, it is an easy talking point. The right has found that anti-LGBT rhetoric can whip a

crowd into a frenzy faster than talking about real issues. In the world of media image, nothing is as valued by the right as a cheering crowd and a sound bite on TV or radio.

Economically, LGBT issues can make a quick buck for the right wing. Whether it is raising funds to “defeat the gay agenda” or funds to “rescue the poor sinners from the gay lifestyle,” donations flow when the anti-LGBT rhetoric rings out.

And psychologically, it’s an easy hot button. The whole existence of LGBT people makes many heterosexuals nervous. I am not a psychologist, but I would lay odds that for many there are insecurities around their own sexual orientation that drives this.

The mere fact that the “gay panic” defense works in the judicial system as an excuse for assault and murder points to this as an underlying problem.

But I suspect the real reason the right has seized on LGBT rights as their favorite topic is more troubling: It’s what I call the “bogey man” factor.

Fear is a very good motivator. Just look at how we Americans cheerfully gave up our privacy rights after 9/11. We were afraid and we were told giving up our privacy would get us security.

The results are still very much open for debate.

Meanwhile politicians, pundits and clergy have found their available list of “bogey men” dwindling. Back in the 1950s, communists were the enemy and the cause of every ill under the sun. In the ‘60s “hippies” were looked on as the root cause of problems.

In the last decade, “terrorists” became the main thing to fear, though it was a thinly disguised version of xenophobia and racism.

Now, one of the only things to fear is us, the LGBTs. We have become the bogey man for the current crop of fear mongers. We are being pointed to as the root of many of societies ills — and that is scapegoating, plain and simple.

Scapegoats are an easy way to explain complex problems, and in a world of 20-second sound bites, they are all too tempting for politicians, pundits and clergy to ignore.

Well, it’s time we goats stopped behaving like sheep and started butting our heads up against the people who would deny us our rights. If we do not continue to push back, we will continue to have our rights sacrificed on the altar of politics. And this goat is not ready for that. ■

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

Feedback

Thanks!

We want to extend a very special “thank you” to all the merchants who donated to the Round Up Saloon’s annual Easter Basket Auction this year. And thanks as well go to the generous buyers who showed up to bid on and purchase the baskets.

We especially thank our staff that worked so hard to get the baskets decorated, cataloged and presented for sale. Louis Ramos coordinated the entire event, and our auctioneer, R.D., has donated his time now for 15 years to doing our auctions.

And to all the Resource Center Dallas staff, TGRA members, The Dallas Tap Dazzlers, Michael Doughman and all our donors, buyers and entertainers: THANK YOU!

We are proud to announce that \$14,400 was donated to The Nutrition Center and TGRA as a result of the Easter Basket Auction. The economy and the crowds are returning, and this charitable event is back on the way to recovery following a couple of pretty lean years.

Again, thank you to everyone.

*Gary Miller,
Round Up Saloon*



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Should House Republicans have to pay for lawyers to defend DOMA out of their own pockets rather than using taxpayer dollars?

- Yes: 84 percent
 - No: 14 percent
 - Unsure: 2 percent
- 189 Votes cast

Gender roles

Life is a drag-aret, old chum — at least it is for Walter Lee Cunningham Jr., who gets all girly for his role in DTC's sexy, edgy 'Cabaret'

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

ONE OF THESE GIRLS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER | Walter Lee Cunningham Jr., right, plays his character Frenchie sometimes as a girl, sometimes as a cross-dresser, in Dallas Theater Center's wild and sexed-up production of 'Cabaret.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

Getting cast in *Cabaret* was a plum gig for Walter Lee Cunningham Jr. Since moving to Dallas from his native Abilene in 2007, Cunningham has been performing around town in shows like *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Caroline, or Change*. But he had taken off nearly a year before he auditioned for the Dallas Theater Center's spring musical.

So when he got that call that he'd been cast as Frenchie, "one of the dancers in the Kit Kat Klub," he was thrilled to be making his DTC debut.

Then he showed up for the first costume fitting, "That's when I found out I would be playing a girl," he says.

Yes, he *would* be in the ensemble — only not as a Kit Kat boy as he had assumed, but playing one of the female chorines.

That was a surprise for sure, but wasn't *such* a big deal for Cunningham: Since 2004, he's performed drag under the name Jada Fox at clubs around North Texas, including Station 4, the Drama Room and the Rainbow Lounge. No, it was really when he saw his costume that he had his first big *gulp!* moment — there simply wasn't that much of it.

"It kind of freaked me out a bit," he says. "When I do drag, I wear pads to give myself the physique of a girl. Without them, I have the body of a boy."

Being clad only in a bra, lace panties and sheer stockings didn't

give him much to play with — or hide behind.

As with drag, maintaining the illusion of femininity requires a man to, ummm, "tuck." That's not so hard when donning an evening gown for a 20-minute drag show; it's quite another for a two-hour musical that requires high kicks.

Let's just say Cunningham has to work harder than anyone else onstage not to let his Pride flag wave too proudly.

"I have to worry about my junk," he says frankly. "Something could very well pop out. You just have to make it work." (So far during previews, that hasn't happened, though it has occurred backstage at unexpected moments.) He also has to sing an octave above his normal range. All in all, it gives new meaning to Faith Whittlesey's dictum, "Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did — only backwards and in heels."

Performing as a female impersonator certainly prepared Cunningham for this role. As with acting, drag requires the creation of a character, and Jada Fox has been described as "a black Barbie doll — I'm not the bitchy queen, it's just not me." (When pressed, he compares his persona to Sahara Davenport, the Season 2 contestant on *RuPaul's Drag Race*.)

It's all part-and-parcel with the concept of the show, a sexed-up, wildly racy updating of "the divinely decadent Sally Bowles," a British showgirl living in Weimar Germany when everyone was sleeping around with everyone else — male, female ... even Nazi.

Joel Ferrell directs and choreographs, turning the floor of the Wyly Theatre into a real cabaret with some café-table seating. That gives Cunningham the opportunity to interact with the audience in ways neither he nor most of the attendees are quite used to.

"There's definitely a game of 'spot-the-boy,'" he says. "I can see the audience, especially the women, trying to figure me out, it's kind of funny. It gives me a bit to play with. I'm not trying to freak anyone out, but there was this number [at a preview] where I was looking at these guys and they refused to look at me." He took it as a challenge.

It becomes easier to spot-the-boy during Act 2, where *Cabaret* ventures toward *Zumanity* territory with explicit nudity — none of which bothers Cunningham.

"I personally don't care — I'm very comfortable with my body," he says. (At 25, he says he eats all he wants to and only occasionally works out and yet still maintains his lean physique.)

So, is Frenchie a real girl, or just a cross-dressing guy living the gay life in decadent interregnum Berlin? Even Cunningham's not sure.

"They never told me exactly what they wanted," he says. "It's a choice I get to make. I kind of play with it — sometimes I'm really a girl and sometimes not."

Unless, of course, he pops out of his costume during a performance. At that point, the audience pretty much gets to make the decision for him. ■

CABARET

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St.
Through May 22. \$10-\$80.
DallasTheaterCenter.org

Sex & a single girl

Love triangles and dark turns in 'Red Light Winter'



LOVE ACTUALLY | A prostitute (Natalie Young) toys with two men (Alex Organ, Drew Wall).

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

I wouldn't call *Red Light Winter* the most enjoyable 2-1/2 hours I've spent at the theater recently, but it certainly ranks among the most memorable. I mean both in the best sense: This is serious theater full of ideas and deep emotion and handled with a power and sensitivity that can be arresting. It's also a brutal mindfuck that feels borne of genuine ache.

Matt (Drew Wall) is a tortured playwright vacationing with his best friend Davis (Alex Organ) in Amsterdam. During the wordless opening sequence, we see Matt seized with such pain he makes a lame, failed attempt at suicide. Then Davis arrives with Christina (Natalie Young), a prostitute from the city's famed red light district, who agrees to sleep with Matt to get him out of his doldrums.

What is intended by all parties as a meaningless shag, though, escalates into a complex love triangle, as Matt becomes smitten with Christina (by Act 2, it has reached the point of obsession) and Christina finds she holds undeniable feelings for Davis, who is himself married to Matt's ex-fiancee. All that's missing is Jerry Springer.

On paper, *Red Light Winter* might sound like a Hollywood romantic comedy, but despite a strong thread of humor, it's a dark, fatalistic view of love.

The greatest weakness of the play is one of its essential conceits: The relationship between Matt and Davis. Davis is such an amazing prick, so effortlessly evil and self-involved, you cannot imagine the circumstances that would have led him to befriend Matt in the first place. We all have youthful friends we have outgrown, and have seen those types who bully their ways into the lives of weaker men, but those relationships, however dysfunctional, need to feel rooted in a shared past, a symbiosis where each feeds an emptiness in the other. It's basically the only rela-

tionship Neil LaBute can write.

But there's no hint of that here; when Matt describes Davis as "like a brother to me," it rings hollow — family you're born with, but why hang out with abusive assholes? Why does he keep Davis close him? And if they truly *are* so close, why is Davis surprised by Matt's fixation on Christina?

The play's own self-referentiality doesn't help. This is a play about a guy writing a play about the events of the play. It's difficult not to read a degree of autobiography into Adam Rapp's script, which basically presents us as an audience with the dilemma of the unreliable narrator: Could the real Davis be this bad? Or the real Christina this self-destructive? Or the real Matt this fragile and victimized?

As fundamental as these shortcomings are, ultimately they do not detract significantly from the skillful handling of the rest of the material. Organ is infuriatingly effective, using his insincere, Palin-esque demagoguery to emotionally rape those around him. He uses coarseness and promiscuity as badges of honor, degrading people with his insulting, reductionist language. It's a testament to Organ's performance that more than once, you wanna step out of your seat, walk on stage and kick him in the nuts.

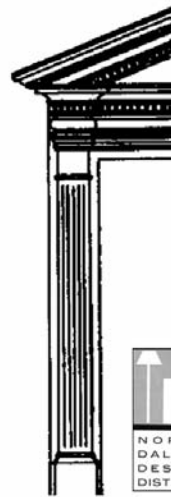
But the heavy lifting of the play is borne on the backs of Wall and Young. Wall's always felt like a tightly-wound spring on stage, his nervous energy burning off all fat until he's left with a lean,

translucent frame from which his id is ready to burst. This is his most sophisticated role, and he's excellent. Young, who resembles Maggie Gyllenhaal, has an amazing stage presence, her sadness drawing you in. Together they share a stark, naked (literally) intimacy that includes the most frank, explicit onstage sex since *Avenue Q*.

Regan Adair's direction is unrushed and visceral, letting the action build and play out silently but with a stinging sense of desperation. *Red Light Winter* isn't easy to watch, but you can't look away. ■

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L+S comedy

Leaner & meaner

Insult comic Lisa Lampanelli loves the gays despite her slurs. And she thinks Bill Maher was right about Sarah Palin. Gotta love that

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

Since she was last in Dallas almost two years ago, shock comic Lisa Lampanelli has become a changed person. She's slimmer and no longer wears frilly petticoats. She settled down and married her boyfriend, and he's — get this — *not* black. She's adopted a Yorkshire terrier mix puppy. She appears on the way to blissful domesticity. In fact the last time we talked, she called me a "big dirty homo." This time, she was *nice*.

All of which led us to wonder: Has Lisa Lampanelli gone soft?

No fuckin' way.

In her latest comedy special, *Tough Love*, Lampanelli rails on the gays in her audience, calling them bun splitters, tush ticklers, fudge nudgers, semen demons and "David Archuleta."

But the truth is, she is a softie — in her own way.

"I love the cornholers," she says. "If you hate gays, get out — you're not allowed to be my friend anymore. Without the gays, who would watch Bravo TV? Without the gays, who would *run* Bravo TV? Without the gays, who would *say* 'Bravo!'"

But married life — and quasi-parenthood (she adopted a puppy) — have brought out a different side to her.

"It's hard to justify being 'I was edgy and suddenly I'm transformed.' But there's enough crap that pisses me off every single day. What *has* softened me a little is we adopted this 7-lb. Yorkie. Jimmy brings him on stage and I turn into the biggest fag in the world. We named him Parker, after Sarah Jessica Parker because they're both ugly-cute."

One other thing: She's beginning to develop a (*gulp!*) conscience.

"I don't know what it is about aging, but I've begun to think, 'Maybe I hurt her feelings—I

hope not.' I feel terrible if I make a joke about someone, like Sarah Jessica Parker, whose not an asshole but a really nice person." She even met the Kardashians after mocking them for years, only to be charmed by them in person.

"They were so goddamn nice to me, it took me four years to work up the nerve to do jokes about them again," she says.

Some celebs, though, she doesn't worry about pissing off, as the closing "roast" on her comedy special will attest.

"I loved doing that," Lampanelli says. "I had all these great jokes about all these idiots in the entertainment field — and I use

that term loosely — that I would never get to do, so I just let loose."

She had one of her most surreal experiences when she recently did *The Comedy Central Roast of Donald Trump* with *Jersey Shore*'s Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, whose routine was such a bomb, you could hear crickets chirping.

"Did you see that train wreck?" she squeals. "You thought it was painful for *you* guys to watch? Imagine being there. It wasn't fun to watch. It's weird to watch somebody bomb, even if you don't like that person. But what is stupid about him is, he's so delusional he comes up to me after and says, 'That went pretty well, right?'"

Lampanelli has been on the receiving end of barbs for herself, and she admits the jokes can get brutal.

"It's always a struggle. You get made fun of for certain categories — they never say unfunny or dumb because I'm clearly funny and really smart. For me, it's fat and ugly. They will be like 'that fat cunt' unless I am a size 6. My favorite one ever was when Artie Lange was at his obese, ugliest worst and he said, 'Someone came up to me and said, 'Aren't you Lisa Lampanelli?'"

LISA LAMPANELLI

The Majestic Theatre,
1926 Elm St.
April 29, 8 p.m. \$40.



Lisa Lampanelli

THE BITCH IS BACK | Lisa Lampanelli slimmed down, married up, adopted a dog and released an new DVD, 'Tough Love,' left. It's almost enough to make her nice nah.

It's one reason she has no sympathy for Sarah Palin when Bill Maher called her a cunt. "People are so fucking stupid," she says with the decorum that has made

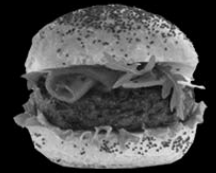
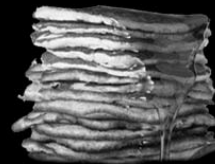
her a hit at christenings and golden wedding anniversaries. "Choice of words is the most ridiculous thing to attack when we have freedom of speech. I hate the Westboro Baptist Church, but letting them have GodHatesFags.com allows me to do what I do. And Sarah Palin is a cunt, by the way. I'm just sad I didn't get in more trouble

when I called her a 'retard producer.'"

The reason Lampanelli's acts works is *because* she's an equal opportunity offender. And *that* only works when people laugh at themselves.

"Hispanics in general are very much more open with a sense of humor about themselves than other groups. Gays are great, of course. A few Asians will laugh it up at gay and black jokes and then I say 'chink' and they say, 'No, that's going too far.' The jokes I get in trouble for are autism and retarded kid jokes. But people have come to me to say, 'My kid is autistic; thanks for including us.' It's the least form of prejudice. If you're gonna make fun of blacks, Asians and gays, you gotta laugh at everybody."

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age children and older. Pictured: the cast and orchestra of Cabaret. Photo by Karen Almond.

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L+S concerts

Arrestingly good

With queer cred to spare, Joan as Police Woman cops to experimental pop on her new album

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Cazwell isn't the only artist who can put beefcake in his videos. Joan as Police Woman can do it just as fiercely ... and she doesn't even mind if the gay boys aren't looking at her. In fact, she's glad for it. "Good!" she laughs when asked about the stable of muscle daddies in her music video "The Magic." "Why would you want to?" It is hard to concentrate on the singer in front of you when she's flanked by hot studs working out and washing cars — that is, if you're into that sort of thing. Joan Wasser (her everyday



GET CUFFED | Joan as Police Woman will show off her confident, new edge at Dada this Friday.

name) had no input on this concept, but loved the absurdist art of it against her song. "The person that did it obviously is a total genius," she says. "They gave me a bunch of treatments for it that were kinda fashion-y or too involved, but when I got to that one, it was a no-brainer. Videos are so ridiculous anyway and I don't think of the visual, just the music. But

when I read that treatment, I thought, 'How wonderful.'" Anyway, she digs the irony of it: Scantily clad men surrounding a female lead are the antithesis of hip-hop. And although she didn't think it would be overtly gay and didn't know the body-builders would be wearing "tiny scraps of fabric" (for real, girl?), she cannot gush enough over

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the final product.

The video hasn't been seen too much in local gay bars, but she had a tearful moment when it played in, of all places, Pontiac, Mich. After a gig in the drabby city, Wasser and her band went to eat at a bistro called Liberty Bar.

"We very quickly realized we were in a gay bar," she recalls. "They were playing Gaga and Pink videos, so we explained that we just played a show and I have this video. I got to watch these guys appreciating the video and clapping. It was the most beautiful moment! I almost started crying."

Joan as Police Woman plays Friday at club Dada, bringing her indie sensibilities to town, but not without some major queer cred behind her. Having worked with Antony Hegarty in 1999 and then with Rufus Wainwright on his 2003 tour, she came out of her shell as a solo artist. Shattered by her boyfriend Jeff Buckley's death in 1997, she and a new band tried to release an album, but it was a scary time for her and the songs were kept to themselves.

Then she joined Antony and the Johnsons. With some budding confidence, she eventually dipped her foot in the waters of going solo. Then Rufus happened.

"He had asked me to join his band to tour

with and also open as a solo artist," she says. "I had to take the chance at some point and opening in front of his crowd — a crowd of music lovers would be amazing."

Four albums later, her latest release *The Deep Field* finds Wasser at her most confident. The package of experimental indie pop is challenging yet accessible. She's mellow without being boring and she can rock without trying to prove something. But mostly *Field* reflects a newfound fortitude and poise.

"This record was like a declaration of freedom for myself," she explains. "I spent a lot of my life up confused, fearful. Once I made the choice to be happy, things fell into place. I hate to make it sound

oversimplified, but if you wish to feel good, happy, and free from worry, you can if you just decide."

But for the record — and despite her hanging around muscled men and queer artists like Hegarty and Wainwright (oh and living with Scissor Sisters' Del Marquis) — the one thing Wasser is *not* is a fag hag.

"Oh, I wouldn't call myself that! I'm just comfortable around *gay*," she laughs out loud. "I definitely cannot call myself straight, but I make no distinction. Those guys and I are all in the same game and get along. But I do appreciate anything homo. I heart gay." ■

JOAN AS POLICE WOMAN

With The New Mary Jane and Jessie Frye. **Dada**, 2720 Elm St. April 29 at 10 p.m. \$10. Spune.FrontgateTickets.com



***It Gets Better*, edited by Dan Savage and Terry Miller. Dutton (2011), \$21.95, 339 pp.**

One thing seems certain about the way high school's are designed: Mean Girls, jocks, cheerleaders, geeks, and bullies cannot co-exist in peace. And therein lies a problem if you're on the receiving end of bullying. It makes life so unpleasant that you can sometimes see only one way to stop it.

Sex columnist Dan Savage and his husband Terry Miller decided to do something about that. In *It Gets Better*, they explain how their un-splashy video became a tidal wave of support.

One video begat two, then a hundred, then a movement. The respondents came from around the world with ministers, dancers, soldiers and teachers weighing in. They were gay, straight, parents and friends. Despite different backgrounds, the message is the same: Don't suffer in silence; we need you to live.

It Gets Better immediately packs an emotional punch. The only caveat is that it's (somewhat) targeted to teens, but the messages are often profane, so caution before giving this to a kid who isn't ready for it yet.

Still, if you know someone that needs this book, you'll feel compelled to act. After you've read it yourself, you'll know that *It Gets Better* gives him or her a better chance of surviving.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

SUSAN M. DIAMOND, M.D., P.A.

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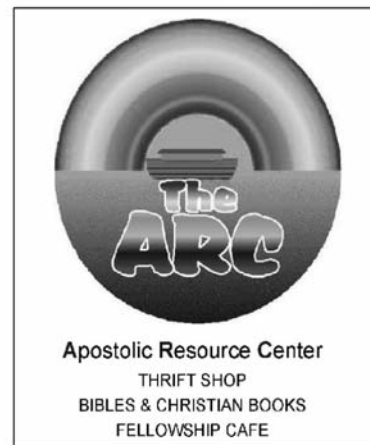
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Spinderella

Out DJ **Alyson Calagna** travels the world, but spinning at Dallas' Purple Party — which starts Friday — is still one of her favorite gigs

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Alyson Calagna has truly earned her spot as one of the most prominent DJs in today's dance music scene, whether she's spinning at her homebase of Miami or touring in Asia. What makes Calagna distinctive from other DJs isn't that she's a woman in a male-dominated field, or that she's an out lesbian. It's that she's developed a specific style and grown that into marquee status. She doesn't want to be one of the boys, but she *does* have them opening for *her*.

Before her headlining set at the Purple Party Weekend Tea Dance at Plush this weekend, Calagna took a break from her duties in China to offer some insight to today's DJ scene. She approaches both her music and the industry with a certain amount of spirituality — and balls. ■

Dallas Voice: You said recently it's a lot easier to be a girl DJ. Has that worked to your advantage in your career? Calagna: I'm sure I said it's easier nowadays compared to what it was like coming up. It used to be very tough to try and break into a male dominated scene, but now it's not unusual to see a girl in the booth.

Where do you see DJ culture is now, at the level you're in? I think it has become a bit pop-driven, meaning it's the "cool" thing to do and be now. I was looking at a SkyMall in-flight magazine and there was an ad for a tiny mixer attached to a laptop with a header that says "Be A DJ!" It's pretty funny when you think about it.

Does that bug you, minimizing the talent it takes to do your job? I still believe that it takes a certain type of DJ to really break through and stay through. A true DJ can stand the test of time, play for different audiences and adapt and evolve in the moment.

How do you tweak your style for Dallas audiences? The great thing about Dallas is there *is* no tweaking. I have been very fortunate in Texas and I absolutely adore my Texas tribe. They have heard me for years and they know and trust me. It's truly one of my favorite cities to play in.

So it's fair to you say you like playing the Purple Party? I feel that Purple is part of my family, they are

really good to me and in return I'm good to them. It's a give-and-take relationship between the board, the boys and the music. I am always so excited to play for them!

You always seem to be playing "for the boys." Being a lesbian, do the ladies ever try to pull you back in? I have played for girl events before! But I prefer to be with crowds that are more dance-driven. I find the lesbian audiences are more into hip-hop and pop and that really isn't my thing.

Yeah, the ladies at Sue Ellen's love them some Jay-Z. So, not to bum you out, but do you ever think about what you'll be doing when perhaps you're not DJing anymore? Sure, all the time. I know music and sound will be in my life forever. Music truly is my dharma and I know it will evolve as it should. I do a lot of studio work that is non-dance related. I create music for TV and I would love to do some film.

Any type of film in particular? I like creating really epic, cinematic and dramatic music. I imagine I will eventually head down that road when the club thing doesn't fulfill me anymore.

Please tell me you don't listen to dance music when not DJing? I usually don't listen to dance music unless I'm in work mode or the gym. I tend to listen to everything from indie pop, jazz, chillout, downtempo, mantras — and of course, country. A Southern girl is always a Southern girl.



LIFE+STYLE

music

THE RIGHT TRACK | Alyson Calagna gladly comes back to Dallas to spin out the beats for this weekend's Purple Party. She headlines the Sunday night tea dance where the boys are opening for her.

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You travel all over the world. How is it having a relationship while doing this? I believe if you are with someone who is secure enough in the relationship then there is nothing to really be feared. When I'm on the road, I'm working and even if I wasn't, I wouldn't be out playing — it's not my style. I have enough past karma to deal with from past lives; I need to create good karma in this one.

Oooh girl, dish. [Silence.]

So let's just end this all right now. Do women make better DJs? I don't think it's a better or worse [thing], I think it's a different story. It's like mom and dad: Neither is better or worse, they both parent differently — but love remains. I don't think I play like a woman but I am able to tap into a feminine energy that is nurturing and natural. In the same breath, who I am is very masculine and it shows up in my music.

What makes you a great DJ? My sound is very balanced and it's something that comes very natural to me. Does that make me a better DJ? That is a matter of opinion. I am just striving to be my best self at all times and take people someplace that they may have not gone before.

Any advice for the club DJs trying to get to where you are? Be persistent. If this is your calling, go for it. Don't stop until you've reached it.

Sweet. OK, now where was that magazine ad you mentioned again?



Purple Party breakdown

Dallas goes purple this weekend hosting an impressive roster of internationally known DJs. Locals get in on the action too, rounding out one of the biggest circuit parties Big D has to offer. Here's your breakdown of the different parties.

Friday

The Freemasons, top right, are one of the biggest remix teams on the planet and have produced dance gems for the likes of Beyonce, Kylie and Rihanna. The U.K. duo headlines Amethyst with Dallas' own Blaine Soileau and San Francisco's Luke Johnstone on the bill.

Lizard Lounge, 2424 Swiss Ave. 9 p.m. \$25.

Saturday

Michael Tank, bottom right, returns to Texas to throw it down at Rise, the Purple Party weekend pool party. Somehow we think you'll get to see those abs up close and personal.

Crowne Plaza, 1015 Elm St. Noon. \$10.

The Main Event is in reliable hands with the superstar DJ team The Perry Twins, top left. Doug and Derek are also pretty easy on the eyes. Dallas' DJ Moses opens the night.

Palladium Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar St. 9 p.m. \$65.

Sunday

This is going to be a long night, so take a major disco nap. Alyson Calagna gets it going with the weekend tea dance Glow. DJ Justin Ryan, bottom left, and Ronnie Bruno open.

Plush, 1400 Main St. 6 p.m. \$25.

Texas DJs highlight the *Afterglow* party with Austin's Bryan Konrad and Adam Metts from Dallas.

Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 10 p.m. \$15.

Need a little more dancing before Monday? L.A.'s Alexander headlines the afterhours party, *Resurrection* with Dallas' Troy Sands.

One, 3025 Main St. 2 a.m. \$25.

For more information, visit DallasPurpleParty.org.



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Lady Raja

'Drag Race' winner Raja had to keep a poker face for 8 months, but now she welcomes the papa, paparazzi

RuPaul's Drag Race crossed the finish line this week, and the best woman won. Sutan Amrull, better known as Raja Gemini, kept her eye on the prize since the first episode and ended up being crowned the next drag superstar.

This 6-foot-3 Los Angelo, who is part Dutch and part Indonesian, is no stranger to reality television, having appeared on *America's Next Top Model* as the show's principal make-up artist and serving as Adam Lambert's face painter for his tour. In short, Raja knows glam and glitter on the road.

After winning a close race, Raj was crowned the winner and rose early the day after to chat about his experience on the show.

— Jerry Nunn

Dallas Voice: How do you feel now that the experience is over? Raja

Gemini: I don't think it has really hit me. I have been keeping the secret since August, even from my parents. I didn't even talk to my mom about it. She seems to have known, though. She said, "A mother always knows..."

Do you think the judges were fair? I think for the most part the judges were fair. I think Delta Work should have stayed longer. I don't think they really understood her humor.

Did you have a favorite celebrity judge? There were a few of them. I couldn't believe that my season had two of my greatest idols: Vanessa Williams and Jody Watley. Jody Watley was a style icon for me since I was a boy in junior high. I wanted to wear giant earrings when I saw her. For her to be there as one of the judges, and Vanessa Williams as well, was a really huge deal for me.

How old were you when you first did drag? Experimenting with it, probably about 15. I have been doing drag all of my life. I was that kid that played dress up all the time, wearing different sheets and dishtowels. I made costumes. I was really getting into it by 16 years old.

People are saying you were friends with Ru-Paul before the show. People have made a lot more [out of it] than it really is. I have been a makeup artist for a very long time and have crossed paths with a lot of people. Ru at one point lived in L.A. and was a big fan of the L.A. drag scene. She went to all of the shows and I would see her quite often. We weren't friends where we would call each other up and talk about boy, financial or family problems — we were just aware of each other's presence. That's inevitable when you work within an industry. I wouldn't even say that Ru and I were acquaintances.

Where did you learn makeup? I was actually an art student and went to University of Orange County in California. I tried to be a student and hated it. I decided to be a makeup artist and then a female impersonator!

What are your plans for the prize money? Actually, I am going to spend it wisely. I am going to pay off all of my bills No. 1, and clean my plate. I will be able to focus on working now. I will be elaborating and creating a brand, if you will.

Some of the money must go back into your act and the latest outfit. You know, it really does.



SHANTAY, SHE STAYED

Raja Gemini was announced this week as winner of Season 3 of 'RuPaul's Drag Race.'

It is very true when they say, "You have to spend money to make money." Drag is expensive. But it doesn't have to be. I am a pretty frugal drag queen and I love a bargain. I am definitely a thrift shopper. I love going to flea markets. It doesn't always have to be that expensive.

Do you regret fighting with Shangela on the show? No, I love it. I love watching *Drag Race* and love, love, love watching *Untucked* as well. That's my favorite thing! I watch it with all of my friends. We totally laugh and cackled at everything Shangela says. She is brilliant and super smart. She is a really great person. She has a bright future ahead of her.

So you don't have beef with anyone on the show then? Not at all, not that I can think of...

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It's not easy being 'Green'

First-time filmmaker Steve Williford teams with the Verizon Guy (seriously!) for 'The Green,' a movie about homophobia and suspicion



IDYLLS OF THE QUEENS | A quiet couple (Dallas theater veteran Jason Butler Harner and '30 Rock's' Cheyenne Jackson) becomes immersed in controversy when one is accused of an affair with a teen in the USA Film Festival entry 'The Green.'

MARK LOWRY | Special Contributor
marklowry@theaterjones.com

Although Steve Williford never felt any homophobia directed at him when he lived in south-western Indiana, his perception of what others thought of him as a gay man was something that stuck with him for many years.

At dinner parties and social events, his sexuality was a subject that came up often, usually as a result of others' curiosity.

"Months went by and I started to wonder if I was the poster boy for gay," he says. "I always wondered what would happen if something in my life happened that brought my sexuality to the forefront, like if I was at a party and kissed my partner."

That question would eventually lead him to his first feature film as a director, *The Green*, currently on the festival circuit and screening at USA Film Festival Saturday. The screenplay is written by Paul Marcarelli, best known as Verizon's "can you hear me now?" guy, who recently came out publicly.

The story they ended up with concerns a high school teacher, played by Jason Butler Harner, who is accused of an inappropriate relationship with a male student. It causes tension with the teacher's partner, played by out Broadway hunk Cheyenne Jackson (also known for his recurring roles on *30 Rock* and *Glee*), and in the community.

Williford directed nearly 150 episodes of the recently axed soap opera *All My Children* from 2004 to 2011, but his background is in theater (he directed a production of *Driving Miss Daisy* in the early 1990s at Dallas' Park Cities Playhouse, back when it was called the Plaza Theatre). So

it's not surprising that his cast is filled with actors who come from the theater world, too — not just Jackson, but Harner, who played Hamlet at the Dallas Theater Center in 2003. That may explain why Williford's film has something in common with several plays, notably Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour*, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt*.

"We're a proud cousin of all of those works," Williford says. "We are trying to examine a situation that can illustrate to us how slippery truth and clarity really is and how quickly it can slip away from us."

"Paul and I are both big lovers of ambiguity to a certain degree," he adds. "I had always modeled this story in my heart and mind on what I love about the Chekhov short stories: We leave certain things open and free to be interpreted. For the bulk of the story, you're really not sure if he has done what he's being accused of, but there are some significant issues that do get resolved, quite clearly I think."

And of course, he knows the audience won't trust if they don't believe in the relationship as portrayed by Harner and Jackson, and takes a dramatic turn from the comic roles he has done on TV.

"I completely believe in Jason and Cheyenne as a couple. That's one of my complaints when I see LGBT couples represented in film: I feel like there's a link missing a little bit. I don't feel that way about them, in the work environment or what has come together for the film."

THE GREEN

Screens April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the **Angelika Film Center** as part of the USA Film Festival, director and cast members in attendance.

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L+S profile

Postcards from the edge

Screen legend **Shirley MacLaine** talks about everything under the sun and a few things beyond it

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Maybe Shirley MacLaine is onto something with all her talk of other-worldly topics. When I asked the screen legend about her iconic status in the gay community — due to appearances in such films as *Steel Magnolias*, *The Children's*



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'EVENING' STAR | Shirley MacLaine, left, gives audiences the dish on her films in her one-woman show at Bass Hall Saturday. She'll also talk up her life, possibly her past lives and anything the audience asks.

Hour and even *Postcards from the Edge* — her phone cuts out. She doesn't skip a beat on the return call.

"See how it went dead when you said the word 'iconic?' That's a sign!" she says with a true guffaw.

At 77, MacLaine is still a spitfire who can quickly turn a question back on the interviewer. She's a veteran at talking about her work and life, but admits that there are some things she doesn't know about herself.

"I don't know why the gays might think of me that way. What do you think?" she asks. The humor for one thing, I say — and how gays can't resist a good, strong-willed woman.

"I'm curious what strikes me and what doesn't," she says. "Oh, and I think *Madame Sousatzka* is also popular. It's the humor and that's what I loved about those parts. There's nothing more sophisticated than the gays' sense of humor."

So true — especially when it comes to Broadway. MacLaine raves enthusiastically over *The Book of Mormon* by *South Park* creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker and the musical version of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Both show an irreverence as well as artistic merit, which MacLaine thinks is just what art needs right now.

"I just got back from New York and the audiences were so receptive," she says. "*Mormon* is quite astonishing. You've just got to see it. You know, the world is in such bad trouble that [artists] don't give a shit anymore. The feeling is, 'We'll make humor out of it.' And *Priscilla* was moving and well done and over the top. It was such an exercise in imaginative clothing and shoes and humor. I had no idea."

She has less to say about *Promises, Promises*, the musical revival based on her famed film, *The Apartment*. "Everyone keeps asking me that, but I just haven't seen it," she says.

MacLaine is onstage in North Texas with her show *An Evening with Shirley MacLaine*, which stops at Bass Hall Saturday. Despite her musical theater cred (she was Sweet Charity, after all), don't expect singing and dancing — she's over

all that. Instead, the Oscar winner will talk about her movies, her life and her loves.

She's been doing that a lot lately. She's been making the media rounds lately for her 13th book, *I'm Over All That: And Other Confessions*, including a spot on *Oprah*. But the show isn't necessarily the live version of her latest autobio.

"The show is really fun and just a retrospective of my life — I tell stories about my films and Broadway, television, travels, love affairs," she says. "It's just me and a remote control up there."

Hopefully that will include anecdotes about another screen legend, her late friend Elizabeth Taylor.

MacLaine was part of the Golden Age that introduced the world to the likes of Paul Newman, Jack Lemmon and Taylor. But Liz's passing (from

this world, at least) struck MacLaine the hardest.

"That affected me more than I thought it would, to tell you the truth," she says. "I met her when I was 20. I knew how she was feeling and I knew this would happen. I've been calling her and am talking to her still, but I don't like to think of a world without her in it."

Umm, still talking to Taylor? Well, MacLaine is almost as famous for her new age beliefs as for her acting prowess. She has written books that cover topics such as reincarnation, spiritual exploration and transcendentalism. So when she says she's talking with Elizabeth Taylor ... well, who can doubt her? A headline in a British tabloid recently labeled her "kooky," but that's nothing new to her. For years, she's been mocked about her beliefs, but she uses the same thick skin needed for her acting career and she never let the media get to her.

Even having reached living legend status, MacLaine says that there is one thing she still hopes to accomplish in *this* lifetime.

"I'd like to go into space," she says. "But not with an astronaut — an extraterrestrial spacecraft. I know a lot of people who've been taken aboard one. I haven't done that yet in this lifetime."

Of course, there's always the next one. ■

SHIRLEY MACLAINE

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Friday 04.29

These kings wanna get rocked

The peeps behind this show are pretty brilliant — not to mention a kick-ass flyer. Drag kings and local bands make up Mustaches & Music hosted by Christina Love. After Julian 4Play and the rest of the kings perform, Screaming Red and Electro-Shock Machine bring the rock out to finish the night. Sweet.

DEETS: Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 9 p.m. PartyAtTheBlock.com.



Saturday 04.30

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pinata party @ 9:30 THE MEN, THE MUSIC, THE MINE

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FRIDAY 04.29

COMMUNITY

Royally Hitched. Celebrate the Royal Wedding with a watching party. White Rock Church, 9353 Garland Road. 7 p.m. Free. WhiteRockChurch.org.

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

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

SATURDAY 04.30

COMMUNITY

OLUMC Blessing of the Animals. The annual event celebrates pets as pastors offer a special blessing. Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. 11 a.m. OLUMC.org.

DFW Prime Timers Prime Brunch at The Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd. Following the meal, the group visits the Sixth Floor Museum downtown via DART (or by car). These can be done separately. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

Young Femme Professionals Speed Networking event. Take your business cards to network and meet new people. Business attire requests. Jack's Backyard, 2303 Pittman St. 4 p.m. \$10. Call 214-741-3131 for more information.

Khush LGBT South Asian Social. support group meets every last Saturday. Meetings are restricted to members and their partners and location is disclosed to those attending to protect members' privacy. For information call 469-454-8741 or email khushstexas@gmail.com. KhushTexas.org.

SUNDAY 05.01

COMMUNITY

Lone Star Ride 2011 Launch Party featuring tools for training, fundraising, schedule for orientations, training rides, volunteer opportunities and events. Cash bar and snacks available. Wyly Theater, 2400 Flora St. 3 p.m. LoneStarRide.org.

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

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

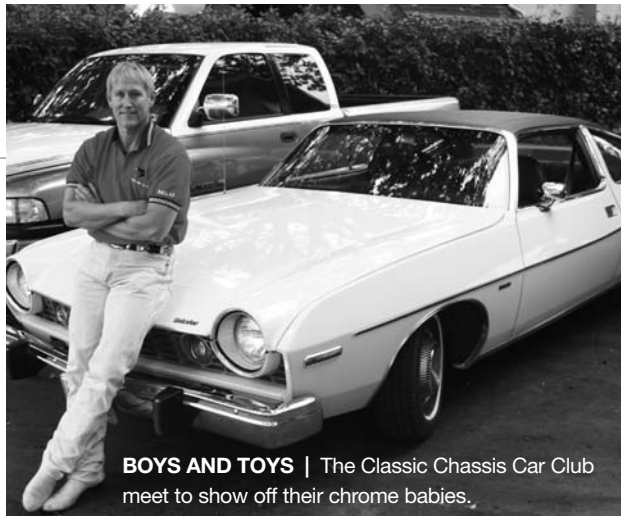
MONDAY 05.02

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. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

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



BOYS AND TOYS | The Classic Chassis Car Club meet to show off their chrome babies.

TUESDAY 05.03

COMMUNITY

QLive! Open Mic Night. Would-be comics get their shot every week at Percussions, Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave., Fort Worth. 9 p.m. QCinema.com.

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

National Leather Association-Dallas meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org

WEDNESDAY 05.04

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

THURSDAY 05.05

COMMUNITY

PFLAG Fort Worth meets first Thursdays of each month. First Jefferson UUC, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. Pflagfortworth.org.

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

First Thursday Gallery Walk Showrooms and galleries along Dragon Street in the Design District will remain open until 8 p.m. each month.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Lesley Gore turns 65 on Monday. Much has changed in music since singer Lesley Gore recorded her biggest hit "It's My Party" back in 1963. But maybe it was Gore who "changed" the most. The iconic singer came out as lesbian in 2005 and stated she knew in her late teens that she was attracted to women. Now we have to go back and listen to all her lyrics again.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Life's tough blows have been piling up, but don't let it give you piles. Much as people depend on the solid, reliable you, you need to be able to let it out and lean on someone else.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your friends are only human. Don't take disappointments to heart. Cutting off communications is a big mistake, but so is over-talking the problem. A short break may be best.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your friends' ideas fare too much from the heart, not enough from the brains. Going along with them could hurt your rep and your wallet. Thank them for their ideas and change the subject.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

In your ideal relationship you're the star married to your agent or manager. That means you can't always be the boss! Arguments are normal but listening remains more important than speaking.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Novel sex techniques are a blast but require some safety. They also open up a lot of suppressed feelings. How well do you know your partner? Just be sure that he or she can be trusted.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You and your mate have a great time exploring kinky new fun. Anything from silk scarf bondage to cattle prods is open to testing. Slow, careful and easy is the best approach, at first anyway.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You are part of a team and everyone else is as important as you. As much as your special talents do contribute to the team, cultivate humility as one of those talents.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Argue about movie, art, sports, anything fun or creative; you're sure to find amazing new ideas. Keep your mind and ears open and respectful of other notions. Be polite with the idiots.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Livening up your home life should be a fun creative challenge, not a painful economic one. Unleash your dark side in planning changes, but not in how you treat housemates.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Criticism of family, housemates or your community is surprising in its harshness. If you can't be kind, give your loved ones a break and look for schmucks who deserve your wrath.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Financial surprises work your nerves. You need a break. Try something new and different even if it's just a quiet stroll in a park or country road you've never trod before.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

The cost of living force some choices in how you unwind. Look ahead 10 years and imagine what friendships, talents and skills you'd like to have developed through your hobbies.

THIS WEEK

Uranus, newly in Aries, cranks up spontaneous individualism and assertion. The sun is in Taurus, semi-square to Uranus provoking a lot of stubbornness. Don't challenge others with an uppity, obstinate attitude; look for creative new ways to show loyalty and resilience.

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

JANE'S WORLD



JaneComics.com

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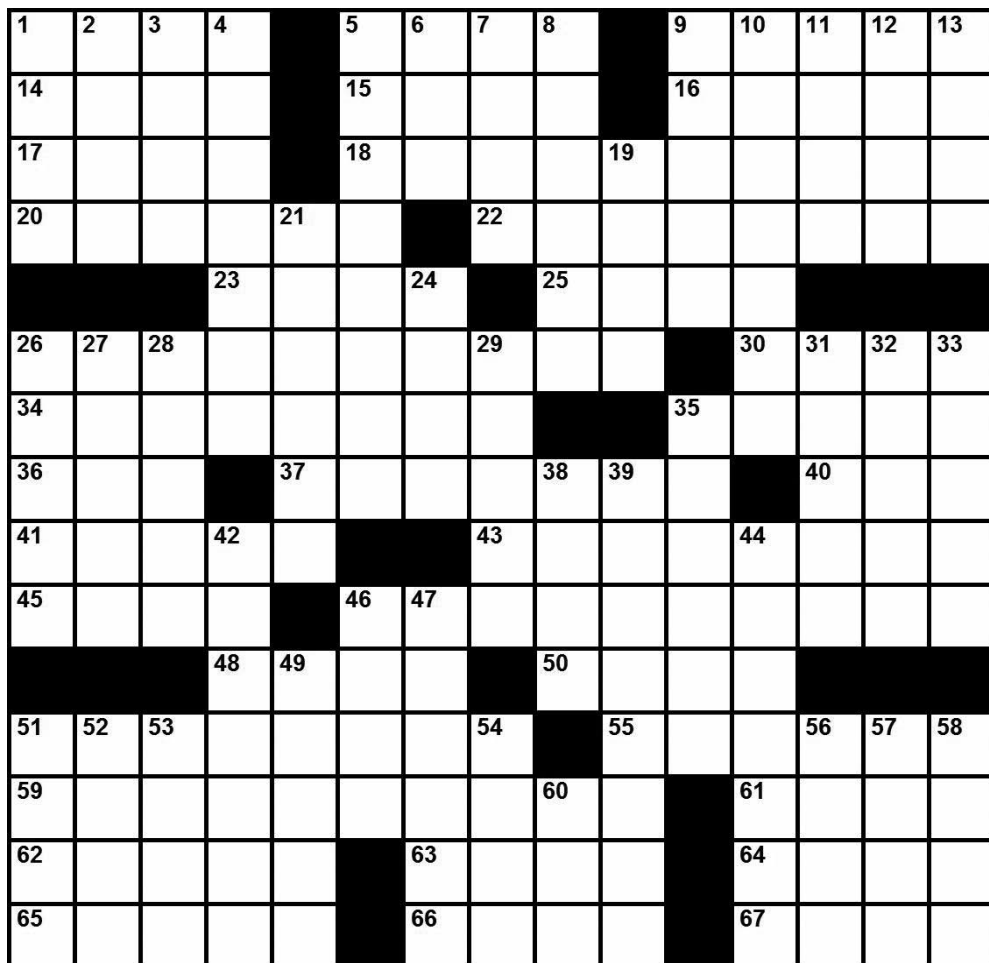
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Was That Our Fault?

Solution on page 37

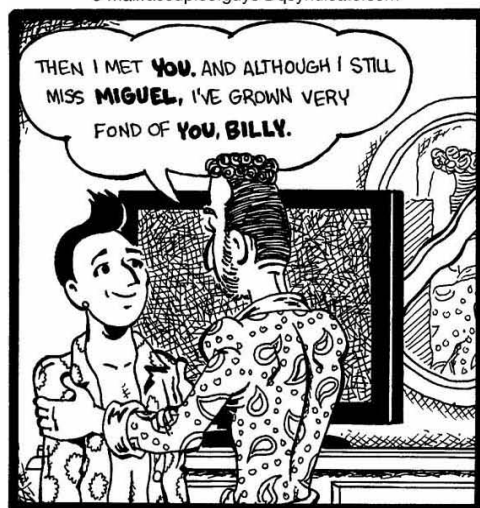
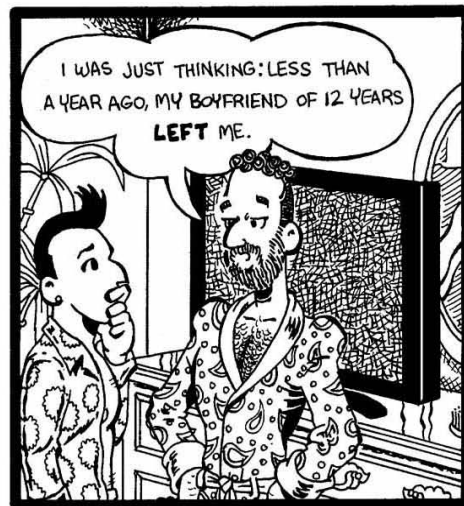
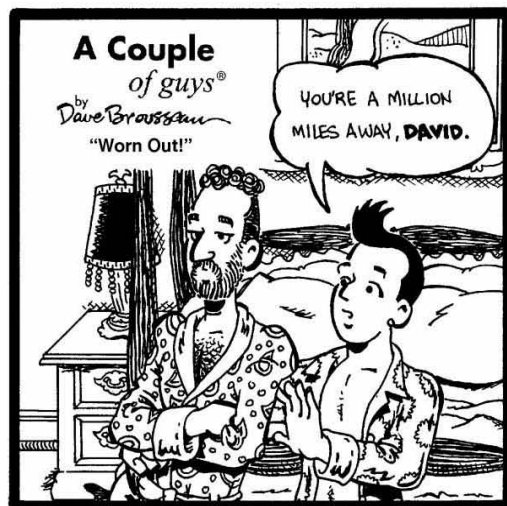
Across

- 1 Cause of the fall of 67-Across, in a recent interview
- 5 Estimator's phrase
- 9 Acceptance of LGBT life style, hopefully
- 14 "While ___ it ..."
- 15 Where a sailor may hit bottom
- 16 Average booster
- 17 Richard of And the Band Played On
- 18 Lust for Roddy in a sci-fi flick?
- 20 Behind with the bucks
- 22 Quarters for porkers
- 23 Plunk down your rear
- 25 Literary adverb
- 26 Wise old fruit?
- 30 Ready and willing partner
- 34 Playwright Hansberry
- 35 Former Minnesota state senator Allan
- 36 Mined-over matter
- 37 Gets the bottom line
- 40 Beebo Brinker creator Bannon
- 41 Great balls of fire
- 43 Sheepskins
- 45 Type of crime
- 46 Rides for male prostitutes?
- 48 Ill humor

- 50 Catherine ___-Jones
- 51 One who comes
- 55 To the rear, when cruising
- 59 Where Margaret sleeps?
- 61 Slangy suffix
- 62 Fosse field
- 63 Diggs of Rent
- 64 In a bit, to the bard
- 65 It blows up in your mouth, in a gag
- 66 Lacking depth and height
- 67 Letters that "fall" from 4 answers in this puzzle

Down

- 1 Leslie Caron role
- 2 Baldwin's The ___ Corner
- 3 Barbecue site
- 4 Like more pricey items at Barneys
- 5 Handel's _Messiah_, e.g.
- 6 Weight training unit
- 7 Penetrate the cracks
- 8 Near future
- 9 In need of a backrub
- 10 Digs in ruins
- 11 Morales of movies
- 12 Org. that may include bears
- 13 Week parts
- 19 The African Queen author
- 21 Puffs up
- 24 Blow hard, in and out
- 26 Move in mire
- 27 One from the heart
- 28 Alexander, with "the"
- 29 Cries out for
- 31 Looks tinkled pink
- 32 Hawaiian isle
- 33 Adolf's intimate Rohm
- 35 Pie fight soundtrack
- 38 Type of bath
- 39 Raised
- 42 Gifts of the Body author Brown
- 44 Running wild
- 46 Alan of And the Band Played On
- 47 Apparently do
- 49 ___ Shoes (Toni Collette movie)
- 51 Band from Sydney
- 52 Asian cuisine
- 53 Half of a pair for grabbing
- 54 Meir contemporary
- 56 Cube designer Rubik
- 57 Panic place for Jodie
- 58 Zilch
- 60 Queer body part on TV





Lo-Lo and Bradie at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Texas bonnet wearers at Lee Park on Easter Sunday.

You got your Easter park fun out of the way, now prepare for another busy week If you've been under a rock, the **Dallas Purple Party** blows up this weekend all over town featuring **Alyson Calagna**, **The Freemasons** and more. Read our breakdown on page 29 **Sue Ellen's** gets some major groove on with **Mustaches and Music** drag king show on Friday. **Chris Miller Band** plays Saturday and **Little Chalupa Karaoke** has returned to Thursdays. **Cassie Nova** hosts **Date Our Gay** that auctions off their hunky male bartender for a good cause For our **Denton** gays, hit up **Andy's Bar** on Saturday for the **Fly Times Showcase** including homo hip-hopper **Infidelix** **The Brick** hosts the **Miss Silver Star** pageant Saturday. Stick around for the **All White Party** after Who doesn't wanna get '70s retro? **The Lollipop Shoppe** returns with DJ **Dr. Funkenstein** and **Patty Love** spinning out the vinyl at the **Fallout Lounge** Saturday Are you're peccs up to par? Get judged as **Whitney Paige** hosts the **Monday Night Best Chest** contest at **Level Bar & Grill** **The Tin Room** never fails to bring sexy back. Porn stars **Austin**, **Gavin**, **Brandon**, **Phenix** and **Jeremy** highlight Friday and Saturday for the **Fabscout Weekend Party** **TMC: The Mining Company** amped up Thursdays with **Vid-Oh! Bar** featuring **Chad Ickert** and **Ambassador Monster Steven** Go now and party. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. SEE MORE AT DALLASVOICE.COM



Roman, Walter and Craig at Level.



Juan at TMC: The Mining Company.



Richard and Steve at the Hidden Door.



Nicole and Angie at Sue Ellen's.



Drew and K. at the Grapevine Bar.

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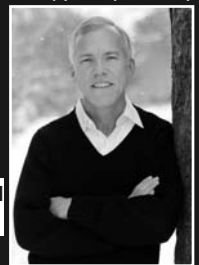
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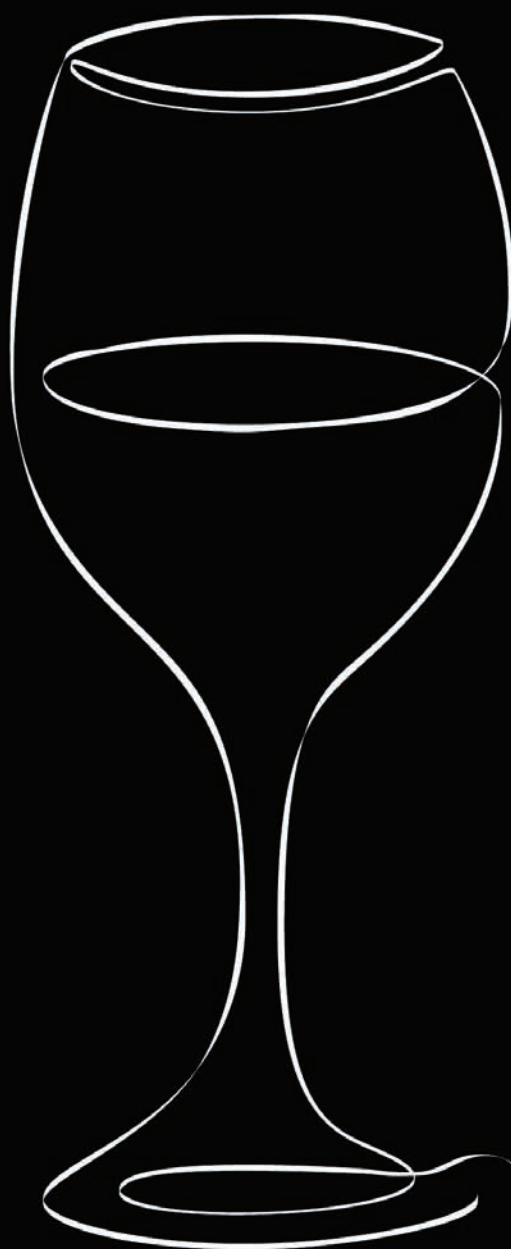
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