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■ **INSIDE**, Page S1



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The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

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FREE | Friday, May 6, 2011

BRIDGING the GAPS in Fort Worth

Created to help drive response to the Rainbow Lounge raid, Fairness Fort Worth has evolved into Tarrant County's clearinghouse on LGBT issues. Read the full story beginning on Page 18





Angela Hunt doesn't want you to know the

FACTS

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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Fairness Fort Worth members at a City Council Meeting and in the Tarrant County Pride Parade. Photos by Tammye Nash. Cover design by Kevin Thomas.

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State reps pass redistricting map

Legislators believe congressional and legislative districts will be decided in the courts

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Although plans for new congressional and state house and senate districts are not complete, minority groups are already criticizing the plans.

Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston sent a letter to the Justice Department this week about the plan passed by the Texas House of Representatives for the state House. That plan has not yet passed the state Senate.

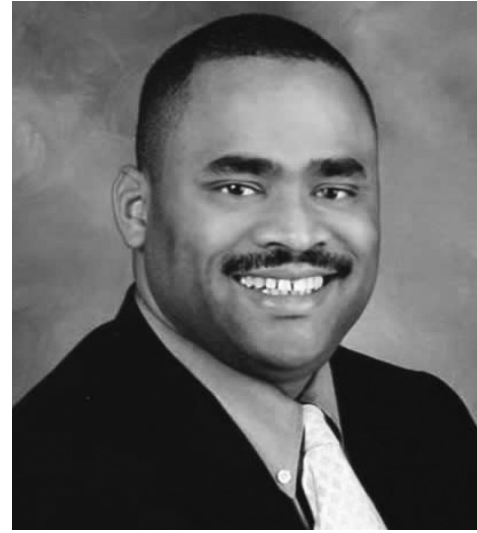
"Republicans cracked and packed communities of color into districts in order to dilute their voting rights," Coleman said in a statement. "Close to 90 percent of the population growth in Texas was non-Anglo, yet this map reduces the number of districts where communities of color can elect their candidate of choice."

Chuck Smith at Equality Texas said that his



Rep. Roberto Alonzo

organization has not been keeping a close eye on redistricting because they have to work with whoever gets elected. He said his organization's assumption was that whatever this legislature passed, it would be challenged in



Rep. Marc Veasey

court.

Every redistricting plan passed by the Texas Legislature since 1980 has been challenged in court. After the 2000 census, Speaker of the

■ STATE, Page 13

Lisa Stone case on '48 Hours'

Thursday marked 11 months since Dallas lesbian Lisa Stone's unsolved disappearance. On Saturday at 9 p.m. Central time, CBS' *48 Hours Mystery* will air an hourlong episode about the case.

The *48 Hours* episode, called "The Facebook Detectives," will focus on Stone's friends' use of the social media site to keep the search for her alive.



The episode also includes an interview with Stone's former partner, Sherry Henry, who is the only "person of interest" in her disappearance. Dallas police have long believed the then-52-year-old Stone met with foul play, but say they don't have enough evidence to make an arrest.

Sgt. Eugene Reyes, of DPD's special investigations unit, told Instant Tea that he was surprised to hear about Henry's interview with *48 Hours*, given that she hasn't been talking to other media or cooperating with police.

"We have nothing new, and some of the DNA tests that we were waiting for just didn't pan out, so we're back to square one with only one person of interest," Reyes said. "Everything's circumstantial. There are plenty of pointed fingers, but it's not going to be enough to get a conviction. ... Some of these cases go on forever and ever."

Reyes said he hopes the *48 Hours* episode leads to a break in the case, but he isn't counting on it. The show's producers have told him not to expect any major revelations, and he noted that a billboard advertising a \$10,000 reward for information about Stone's disappearance generated zero tips.

— John Wright

Mayoral candidates again pledge support for LGBTs

Natinsky, Rawlings, Kunkle recall votes on marriage amendment; Natinsky, Rawlings change positions on Human Rights Commission

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Two of the three major candidates for Dallas mayor said Monday, May 2, that they opposed Texas' 2005 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions.

During a forum at Cityplace sponsored by the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, City Councilman Ron Natinsky said he couldn't remember whether he voted when the amendment was on the ballot in November 2005. But Natinsky added that if he did vote, he voted against the amendment.

"I can't remember what I did last week," Natinsky said, after seeking clarification about the date of the election. "I'm pretty sure that I voted. Assuming that I voted, I did not vote for that, but '05 is eight years ago. I wouldn't have voted for it, let's put it that way, if I voted."

In response to the same question, former parks board chairman and mayoral candidate Mike Rawlings said he votes in every election.

"I was against the amendment if I understand

■ MAYORAL, Page 14



CANDIDATES | Dallas mayoral candidates, from left, Edward Opka, Mike Rawlings, Ron Natinsky and David Kunkle participated in the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce's mayoral forum this week. (Avi Adelman/Special to Dallas Voice)

Anti-bullying bill clears House

HB 1942, the anti-bullying bill by Rep. Diane Patrick, R-Arlington, cleared the Texas House Wednesday on its third and final reading, by a vote of 94-41. According to Equality Texas, which now lists Patrick's bill as its top priority in this year's session, no Democrats voted against the measure, which now proceeds to the Senate.

— John Wright

OutMusic Awards to be given

Last December we were pretty excited about the OutMusic awards because Dallas' own Gary Floyd was up for three of them. But the day came and without a whole lot of fanfare, the awards were postponed. Ouch. That initial sting is gone and now the awards are set for May 23, three weeks from today, and will take place at Live Nation's Irving Plaza in New York.

— Rich Lopez



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localbriefs

Bloomin' Ball is Saturday

AIDS Interfaith Network holds its fifth annual "Bloomin' Ball: Sowing Seeds of Hope" fundraiser on Saturday, May 7, in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway. The event, which raises money to help fund the agency's services for people living with HIV/AIDS, will include dinner, two auctions, live entertainment and the presentation of AIN's Crystal Hope Awards.

Event co-chairs are Andy Smith and Paul von Wupperfeld. Honorary co-chairs are Tim and Thom DeWitt and Dr. Barbara Cambridge with UT Southwestern.

Receiving the Crystal Hope Awards this year will be the James and Gayle Halperin Foundation, Gladys Brantley and the Cathedral of Hope HIV/AIDS ministry.

Tickets are available online at AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org and by phone at 214-943-4444.

TWCD performs on Mother's Day

The Women's Chorus of Dallas will present a special Mother's Day concert, Nature & Nurture, Sunday, May 8, at 3 p.m. at the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. The one-hour concert will be held on Sunday, May 8th, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., at the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. The concert will conclude with a live butterfly release.

Advance tickets are \$20, available online at

TWCD.org or by phone at 214-520-7828. Each ticket includes admission to the Texas Discovery Gardens.

AIDS Candlelight Memorial set

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will be held Sunday, May 15, in more than 1,200 cities and towns in 115 countries to commemorate the lives lost to AIDS, demonstrate support for people living with HIV/AIDS and mobilize community-based response to HIV/AIDS.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial observance in North Texas will be held at 4 p.m. at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1819 MLK Jr. Blvd. Event Chair Auntjuan Wiley said the theme for this year's event is "Touching Lives."

Special guests will include District 7 Dallas City Councilwoman Carolyn R. Davis, Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zachary Thompson, Minister Kirby Harden and Company from Dallas and keynote speakers Michelle Anderson, Terrance Gilbert and Brianna Lamar.

Leather Knights' Military Maneuvers

Leather Knights of Dallas will be conducting their annual "Military Maneuvers" fundraiser for the Nelson-Tebedo Dental Clinic on Saturday, May 21

LEATHER, Page 8

pet of the week / Sponsored by Petropolitan

Angie

Angie is a 2 1/2-year-old gray tabby with enormous gold eyes. She's one of those cats who fits in with any situation — sweet-natured, gentle and friendly. Angie is a great lap cat and will be very low-maintenance. She seems to be fine with other cats and is just a laidback, loving kitty.

Angie and many other dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are available for adoption from Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30, just minutes west of Downtown Dallas. The shelter is open Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Sundays noon-5 p.m. The cost to adopt is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats and includes spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, microchip and more. All dogs are negative for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FELV and FIV. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or call 214-671-0249.



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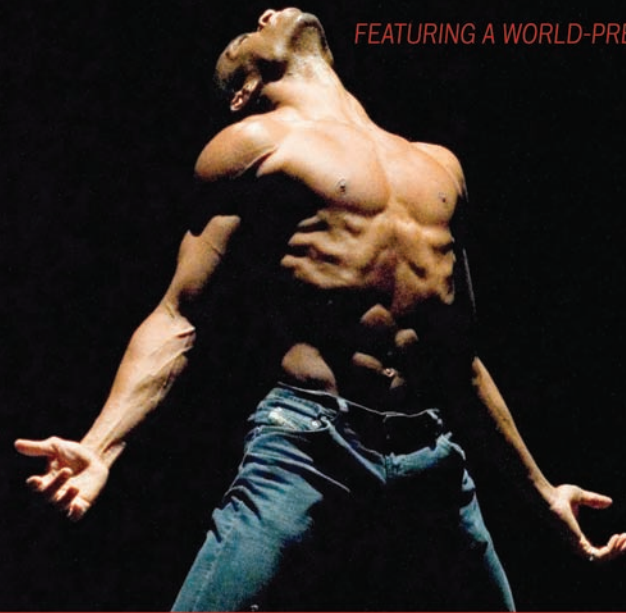
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■ texasnews

Deaths



Franklin Anthony "Frank" Martin, 65, died April 20 at his home in Mesquite.

Born July 17, 1945 to George L. and Ruth C. (May) Martin in Fondoulac, Wisc., Martin moved with his family to Clovis, N.M., during his early childhood. Martin received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army after being injured in the Vietnam War. He took early retirement in the early 1990s due to a disability, and then worked part-time at several local businesses in the Dallas and Mesquite areas, including White Rock Community Church.

Martin enjoyed visiting, eating or just having coffee with his many friends. And he also always enjoyed returning home to his two companions for the last 10 years, his Chihuahuas, Rose and Thumper.

Those who remember Martin from the years gone by will recall his very dry sense of humor; his fervor for practical jokes, his unwavering loyalty and his intense love for his family and friends.

Martin was preceded in death by his parents, George and Ruth Martin, and by his son, Michael Martin. He is survived by his sons, Allan Martin and Cody Martin and wife Mikie of Amarillo; daughter Charmin Martin and husband Phillip Skaggs of Hobbs, N.M.; his bothers, Henry Martin and wife Mickie of Lubbock and Roy Martin and wife Marjorie of Los Lunos, N.M.; his sister, Sue Fenn of Clovis, N.M.; nine grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and many friends in the Dallas area.

Funeral service arrangements are pending in Clo-

vis, N.M., under the direction of Muffley Funeral Home, Inc. To check for service times or register on the family's guestbook, go online to MuffleyFuneralHome.com. A local memorial service will be held at the White Rock Community Church Chapel in Dallas on Friday, May 13, at 3 p.m.



Bettye "Pep" Pepper, 65, died April 29 at Hearthstone Hospice in Irving following a courageous six-month battle with cancer.

Pepper was born in Mississippi and attended Delta State College there. She worked for many years as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. She later worked as a bartender for Joe Elliott at Jugs, and then for Howard Okon at Joe's Place. At the time of her death, she was employed at Home Depot on Lemmon Ave.

Pepper loved to read and could recite classic poetry she memorized in her youth. She also loved PBS Television and educational programs like the ones found on Discovery Network and Animal Planet. She also loved to tell stories from her childhood, and from her years with Delta and behind the bar at Jugs.

She was known and loved for her kind heart, her laugh and her fierce loyalty to her family and friends. She was also known for "tinkering" with things and for refusing to throw things away, even when they were broken.

Pepper is survived by her mother, Audrey Pepper, of Benton, Miss., her brother Marvin, his wife Peggy and their two sons of Mississippi; her brother Fred, his wife Kim and their daughter of Louisiana; and many, many loving friends in North Texas and around the country.

■ LEATHER

From Page 6

at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

Organizers said the goal for this year's event is to raise enough funds to directly purchase a Caviron, an ultrasonic device used in the removal of hard deposits on teeth, at an approximate cost of \$1,800.

The evening will include a silent auction from 8:30 p.m. to 10:45 p.m., boot blacking from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., military haircuts on stage from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., a raffle to include a cash prize, a uniform contest at 10:30 p.m. with case prizes for most authentic uniform and sexiest soldier, and representation from local and national organizations.

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THE BROADWAY LEAGUE



AIDS Arms breaks ground on new clinic

Agency hopes to serve many of the 6,000 people with HIV in the area not currently accessing health care

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

AIDS Arms broke ground Wednesday, May 4, on a new clinic at its former office location on Sunset Avenue in Oak Cliff. The agency held a Sledge Hammer Party to tear down walls inside the old building and begin new construction.

The clinic will be the agency's second and will target people with HIV who do not otherwise have access to medical care.

Dallas County Health and Human Services estimates 6,000 HIV-positive people in the area are not accessing medical services. The new Oak Cliff facility, scheduled to open by the end of the sum-



BREAK THROUGH | AIDS Arms held a Sledge Hammer Party to begin renovations to transform its property into a new HIV clinic. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

mer, will provide affordable care for up to 2,500 people.

"I think what's important about this is we will serve a lot of people who were underserved who have HIV," AIDS Arms board Chair John Loza said.

The new clinic will include a full-service pharmacy, laboratory, diagnostic and exam rooms and an HIV research center. A community resource center will provide space for AIDS Arms' own support services and those of several other agencies to help clients access them.

AIDS Arms Executive Director Raeline Nobles

said the resource room will offer a variety of social services in one place, including "legal services, child care, food, counseling, transportation.

"Then our clients can go home and take care of life. They won't have to spend all their time taking DART from one agency to another," she said.

Legal Hospice of Texas Executive Director Roger Weddell said his agency has an attorney at AIDS Arms once a month.

"If patient load picks up, we can schedule to have someone here more often," Weddell said.

Rx Partners will open a full service pharmacy at the facility. Corey Legendre transferred with the

company from Louisiana. He said that once clients turn in their prescriptions, their medications will be delivered.

AIDS Arms serves people from throughout North and East Texas, so the convenience of delivery using UPS or FedEx is an important service, Legendre said, adding that discretion and confidentiality are added benefits compared to buying medications in a busy chain store.

The pharmacy, which will be open to the public, will be the only private drug store in Oak Cliff.

Nobles said that the research the agency will be doing will include drug trials, new drug combinations and testing clients' levels of tolerance of medications. She said they will also be doing some work with pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, using the HIV drug Truvada with HIV-negative people to prevent them from contracting the virus.

Ephraim Garcia and Ed Amerson of Bank of America presented AIDS Arms with a donation of \$15,000.

Garcia is an AIDS Arms board member and formerly worked for Resource Center Dallas. Amerson is with the BofA Pride group and works with the bank's other affinity groups.

"This clinic is so important to the people we serve," Nobles said. "Our new clients will love this clinic."

AIDS Arms is the largest private nonprofit organization in North Texas providing HIV services. ■

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Dark horse Karger is serious about presidential bid

Openly gay candidate has Republican political experience that dates back to Gerald Ford and Reagan's '84 campaign

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Fred Karger made history when he became not only the first gay candidate to register a run for the White House with the Federal Elections Commission, but also the first Jewish person ever to pursue the Republican nomination.

While he's proud to be both, during a recent visit to Dallas Karger said he wants to "put the gay thing behind me."

He said he looks forward to an article about his run for president that identified him as simply a presidential candidate rather than the gay presidential candidate.

Karger was in Dallas for the national Log Cabin Republicans convention held at the Anatole Hotel last weekend. He addressed the group at the opening meeting on Friday, April 29.

Karger was in Dallas looking for Log Cabin support, saying he wants them "to go out on a limb for me."

While Karger understands his chances of receiving the Republican nomination are slim, he said he is running a serious campaign, and he hopes to be the first presidential candidate to receive an endorsement from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Karger said he plans to participate in the debates, hoping to use his time to temper the anti-gay rhetoric of his party's other presidential hopefuls.

And in a way, his campaign is a grand "It Gets Better" video. He said his visits to gay straight alliances and meetings with college groups around the country encouraged him to run so he could show LGBT youth that they can achieve anything. In his press release announcing his candidacy, Karger dedicated the day to the six gay teens who

took their lives last fall.

Since forming his campaign committee a few weeks ago, Karger said he has made headway in the polls. In a Fox News poll out last week, Karger got 1 percent. That's ahead of Buddy Roemer, Rudy Giuliani and Haley Barbour, all considered serious possibilities.

The poll was important to Karger, who wanted to be included in the first Republican, debate, sponsored by Fox News and held in South Carolina on Thursday night. To be included, he needed to be at 1 percent in five polls, to have a presidential committee or exploratory committee and pay a \$25,000 entrance fee.

At this point, Karger is the only Republican with a campaign committee who is registered with the FEC. Several other candidates are in the exploratory stage.

He has ranked high enough in several polls, including two by Huffington Post. In a March 31 Saint Anselm College Republicans straw poll he finished first, ahead of Mitt Romney, and with three times the votes of Donald Trump, Tim Pawlenty or Ron Paul, and 10 times the votes of Mike Huckabee.

However, the Republican Party excluded Karger while allowing candidates like Herman Cain, the former CEO of Godfather's Pizza.

Karger said the Saint Anselm poll is significant to him because that school is in New Hampshire, the state with the first primary.

Karger spent his career as a political strategist and his strategy in this election is to take the first primary and caucus states — Iowa and New Hampshire, both of which legally recognize same-sex marriage. Both are also heavily independent — 42 percent in New Hampshire and 37 percent in Iowa.

Karger said that people have left both parties in those states, but mostly the Republican Party because his party has moved too far to the right.

Karger has the background to be taken as a credible candidate by Republicans. He ran Ronald Reagan's 1984 campaign, and he worked with Lee Atwater on the Willie Horton ads that helped propel George H.W. Bush into the White House.



Fred Karger

Karger was also part of the Gerald Ford campaign committee.

Dolphin Group, Karger's political consulting firm, has worked on hundreds of local and state elections for Republicans around the country for more than 30 years, he said.

After selling Dolphin Group, Karger became a different type of political activist.

When California's Proposition 8 got on the ballot challenging same-sex marriage, Karger founded Californians Against Hate. He initiated boycotts, including one targeting the Hyatt in San Diego whose owner was a major funder of Prop 8. It cost the company \$1 million per month, according to the hotel's own estimate.

Karger investigated the power of the Mormon Church in influencing votes, and after a 19-month investigation, the church was found guilty on 13 counts of campaign reporting violations.

That was the first time the California Fair Political Practices Commission had found a religion guilty of election irregularities.

"No one has gone against NOM like I have," Karger said.

Karger noted that he battled Maggie Gallagher and the National Organization for Marriage and helped uncover their disregard for Maine's election laws. NOM was ordered to follow election

law and disclose its political contributors.

"Maggie Gallagher has blood on her hands," Karger said, blaming the hate from her organization for the deaths of gay teens. He called her disgusting and said he wonders why, if she believes in traditional marriage so much, she doesn't wear a wedding ring.

"She a walking time bomb," Karger said of Gallagher's behavior.

Karger hardly sounds like a typical Republican when he discusses LGBT equality issues and he supported Hillary Clinton in the 2008 election. So he explained why he still calls himself a Republican.

"I grew up with Nelson Rockefeller," he said. "I still believe in the principles of the Republican Party," such as "keeping government out of our lives."

And, he said, staying out of our lives includes allowing a woman the right to choose.

"I'm strong on national defense," Karger added. "I'm a strong law and order guy."

Rockefeller is best known as the governor who built New York's state university system, and education is a top priority for Karger.

Karger said he wants to bring back that GOP of yesterday.

"I know there are a lot of dissatisfied centrists," he said, and that's who he's appealing to.

He said he has planned his attack on his Republican opponents.

He's going after Romney's ties to the Mormon Church.

Just as Mike Dukakis was vulnerable on the release of Willie Horton, a prisoner who committed violent felonies after his parole, he said Huckabee should be too. Huckabee released Maurice Clemmons who later killed four police officers.

"Huckabee never showed remorse," he said.

And without fanfare, presidential candidate Karger put his birth certificate on his website. He said he figures Donald Trump would find other things to attack him on, so why give him this one.

While running, he especially wants gay youth to hear his message.

"Come out to family, friends, coworkers," he said. ■

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James Moreno, Jr.
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Suspect in assault during LCR convention identified as serviceman

Victim drops charges; Dallas police opt not to report incident as a hate crime

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

The suspect accused of assaulting a member of Log Cabin Republicans and calling him a “faggot” on Saturday, April 30, at the Hilton Anatole is a member of the military, according to Laura Martin, the Dallas Police Department’s LGBT liaison officer.

Martin said a police report from the incident indicates that the suspect, a 27-year-old male, is a supervisor or sergeant in the military who was responding to perceived sexual harassment of a subordinate. Other sources indicated they believe the suspect is a member of the Marines.

The suspect’s name is being withheld because Dallas Voice doesn’t typically identify people charged with misdemeanors.

DPD declined to release a copy of the police report from the incident, which occurred at about 1 a.m. Saturday in the lobby bar of the Hilton Anatole, where Log Cabin was holding its National Convention.

Martin said the police report indicates that someone at the victim’s table — but not the victim — “catcalled” and made sexual gestures toward someone at the suspect’s table, adding that both the suspect and the victim were intoxicated at the time of the incident.

“Someone who was at the complainant’s [victim’s] table saw someone who he thought was attractive at another table. When he pointed him out and when the guy got up to go to the restroom, at least one person catcalled him and made sexual gestures in an obvious manner,” Martin said.

“So he went back to his table and told his supervisor, who is also in the military,” she added. “The supervisor went over then to the table where the guys were to say, ‘Please stop.’ When he went over there to the table the complainant [victim] stood up as he was addressing the group, and the arrested person viewed that as aggressive toward him, so he pushed him down, and that’s how he became injured. I don’t know if the complainant was standing up because he needed to go to the restroom, or if he was standing up to stretch his legs, but the guy who was arrested said he viewed it as aggressive.”

The suspect was cited for class-C misdemeanor assault, but later that day the victim opted not to press charges after the suspect apologized for the incident and both acknowledged they were under the influence of alcohol, Martin said.

Martin also confirmed that the suspect called the victim a “faggot” during the alleged assault. The victim, who suffered a minor cut to his nose, has disputed DPD’s account of the incident, saying

the suspect smashed his face into a glass tumbler while he was seated. However, the victim declined to discuss the incident further with Instant Tea and asked that his name continue to be withheld.

Martin said Thursday that the incident won’t be classified as a hate crime for FBI reporting purposes. The suspect’s use of the word “faggot” took place in the heat of an argument between two groups that had established contact earlier in the evening, she said.

“There’s no obvious proof that it’s a hate crime, that the entire contact was based on the suspect’s hatred of gay people,” Martin said. “There’s just no evidence of it, and in fact the complainant [victim] agrees with that. ... The complainant doesn’t believe that he was targeted simply because he’s gay.”

A representative from Log Cabin Republicans National, a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the military’s ban on openly gay servicemembers, declined comment.

Rob Schlein, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, called the incident “heartbreaking” and disputed the police department’s version of events. However, Schlein said even if the police account is accurate, it doesn’t justify the suspect’s actions.

“The response was not merited under any set of circumstances!” Schlein wrote. “The fact it was a Marine being on offensive makes matters even worse because he should be better trained to have more control than the general population in that circumstance. It’s easy to sympathize with a man coming back from a tour of duty, but please don’t let that cloud your proper judgment in this particular situation.”

A police spokesman told Dallas Voice on Saturday that the suspect’s use of the word “faggot” was provoked by the whistling and the catcalling from the other table. Martin said although she wouldn’t have felt provoked in the same situation, it’s possible that the victim’s decision to stand up was perceived as offensive.

“I don’t think that any assault is ever really provoked, but I think when people have been drinking, sometimes behavior is misinterpreted,” Martin said. “All I can say is that based on the suspect’s description of events, he felt provoked. There’s never an excuse for an assault, which is why he was given the ticket.”

Martin added that she thinks the incident has been blown out of proportion.

“I think both parties agreed that they were intoxicated and it got out of hand,” she said. “I think it was just a discussion that got out of hand. If the complainant is willing to put it behind him and it’s not worth his time to come back into town and pursue criminal charges, I think what’s done is done.”

Martin said if a victim isn’t willing to testify, the department generally can’t pursue charges except in family violence cases. ■



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■ STATE

From Page 4

House Tom DeLay intervened; those maps were redrawn several times and not settled until the 2006 election.

The office of Rep. Roberto Alonzo agreed with Equality Texas. Alonzo serves on the House Redistricting Committee.

Alonzo's legislative aide, Cole Howard, said, "It looks like both sides sat back and determined the courts can decide the districts," Howard said.

He called the map retrogressive and said it does not account for growth of minority communities.

Rep. Marc Veasey of Fort Worth who serves on the redistricting committee, said there were a number of different scenarios that could happen. He said that if the Senate does not pass the House map or if the governor vetoes the map, it would be drawn by the Legislative Redistricting Board.

That group is made up of five Republicans appointed by the governor.

"The strategy is to pack districts," Veasey said.

But he said that the plans are not legal. Republicans are attacking Fort Worth's urban core especially in Senate redistricting, he said.

"They're going after Wendy Davis," Veasey said.

He said that the plan for the Senate is to divide Davis' district into as many as five pieces that would be assigned to suburban or rural districts.

"That would leave Fort Worth out in the cold," he said. In a similar move in Dallas, he said state Sen. Royce West could be the only voice in Dallas.

He said he expects congressional seats to be left to the courts.

"No one has seen any plans yet," he said.

Several maps have been drawn, but nothing discussed by the committee.

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson already serves a packed district that includes most of the city's heavily LGBT neighborhoods as well as most minority communities. Districts are supposed to be evenly divided in population but her district is one of the largest in the state. One of the four new congressional districts would have to be carved from her district.

In one plan, Johnson retains much of her district south of I-30. Oak Lawn would fall into a new district created to attempt to swing that new seat to a Republican candidate.

Veasey said that if House members do draw the map, they will attempt to carve a Republican seat from Johnson's district, but he said he wasn't sure how that would be possible or if it would even be legal.

Republican Rep. Pete Sessions' current dis-

According to the 2010 census, Texas population grew to 25,145,561. Here's the ideal population for each of the seats being redistricted.

Seat	Number of Districts	Ideal Population
U.S. House of Representatives	36	698,488
Texas Senate	31	811,147
Texas House of Representatives	150	167,637
State Board of Education	15	1,676,371

trict was created to carve up former Democratic Rep. Martin Frost's former district. The tactic worked and Frost lost re-election after 13 terms in office.

In most plans, Sessions' new district would become more safely Republican, taking the Oak Cliff portion of the area away from him.

"Our delegation should look more like Houston's," Veasey said.

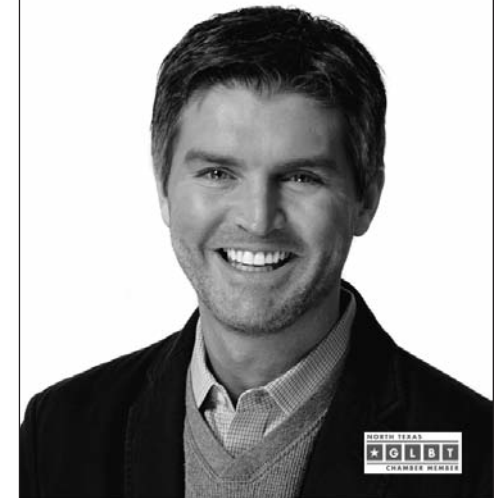
Houston has more diverse representation in Congress. He said Dallas has the fastest growing Hispanic population in the country and the second-fastest growing African-American population.

In the plan passed by the House for the state House of Representatives, adjustments

■ STATE, Page 14

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■ MAYORAL

From Page 4

the way it's all on the ballot," said Rawlings, who also sought clarification before adding, "I voted against it."

Former Police Chief David Kunkle said he recalls being at a Democratic meeting on election night in November 2005 but was unsure why he didn't vote on the amendment, which he pointed out passed by a wide margin.

"I don't know why I didn't vote," Kunkle said. "I remember it was a very rainy night and a rainy day, but I don't know about voting."

In somewhat of a departure from their previous positions, Natinsky and Rawlings also said they would now support the establishment of a council-appointed Human Relations Commission made up of representatives from the LGBT and other minority communities. Their statements in support of a Human Relations Commission came in response to a question listing several issues facing the LGBT community in Dallas, including the city's failure to prosecute discrimination complaints and high rates of violent crime in the Oak Lawn area.

Natinsky previously said he opposes an LGBT commission due to the cost of staffing it, but he said Monday that he would support a broader-based Human Relations Commission.

"We need to make sure we've got adequate methods of communicating back and forth to the citizenry, and that is a vehicle I certainly would support as long as it's put in place the right way," Natinsky said.

Rawlings previously said he opposes an LGBT commission because it would amount to needless bureaucracy.

"I said no at that time, because I felt that we don't need more commissions, and we're talking about tax dollars and where we're going to cut, and at times we get buried to death, I think," Rawlings said. "But this is an example where if a large community is feeling really disenfranchised and that's the way to make them feel enfran-

chised, I would do it, and I think it's the right thing to do."

Kunkle, meanwhile, reiterated his support for a Human Relations Commission similar to those that are in place in Austin and Fort Worth.

The candidates were also asked what they could say to convince people they won't betray the LGBT community in the same manner as former Mayor Tom Leppert. Leppert pledged to support the community during his campaign for mayor but later joined the virulently anti-gay First Baptist Church of Dallas and came out against both same-sex marriage and civil unions.

The candidates were asked what they can point to in their record that indicates they're not just reaching out to the LGBT community because they're running for mayor.

"I'm Jewish, I'm not sure that First Baptist would even want to have me down there," Natinsky said, delivering perhaps the best one-liner of the night.

He added that he has regularly attended both gay Pride and the Black Tie Dinner during his six years on the council.

"I've been a longtime friend and supporter of this community. I think that's proved by your actions," he said, also pointing to his endorsement from the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Rawlings said while it's difficult to prove that you're a "good guy," his work as the city's homeless czar indicates that he's willing to stand up for people who are marginalized.

"I just think it's an amazing thing to think about that someone can ... turn like that," Rawlings said, referring to Leppert, "But it's just tough for me to respond to, because I'd never do it."

Kunkle pointed to his endorsement from Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and mentioned that he took a lot of flack for appearing at gay Pride as police chief.

"I never anticipated I would be running for mayor," Kunkle said. "Nothing I've done in my life was done to try to present me as a certain way to a specific voting group. I've always been very supportive of the the GLBT community." ■

■ STATE

From Page 13

to the map would not seriously impact the chances of any incumbents in Dallas. State Rep. Rafael Anchia's district would push further into Oak Lawn taking away some of Rep. Dan Branch's district. Branch's area would become more safely Republican.

Seats in North Dallas that recently swung from Democrat to Republican would also become more safely Republican by pushing out further into the suburbs.

In Fort Worth, Rep. Lon Burnham's district would push into Veasey's, whose district would be packed with even more minority residents. Veasey said both he and Burnham would be safe. Both have been strong LGBT community allies.

But Veasey said he didn't think that part of the plan would be legal.

Under current Texas House rules, May 12 is the last day to pass bills, although the rules may

change before this Thursday's deadline.

The legislature adjourns on May 30. By that date, the Senate must pass its redistricting plan and reconcile their plan with the House.

However, according to the Texas Legislative Council, a nonpartisan organization that provides technical and legal support to the legislature for redistricting, a planned schedule doesn't expect the Legislature to finish its work by the end of the session.

From May 31 through Aug. 27, the Legislative Redistricting Board will meet if the House and Senate fail to agree on a plan.

Once their work is done, the governor would call a special session of the Legislature to adopt the plan.

Since Jan. 2, 2012 is the last day for candidates to file for the November 2012 elections, all challenges must be settled by the end of December.


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Trans professor denied tenure at SOSU

Despite Rachel Tudor's research credentials being questioned by the administration, the school will honor her with an award for outstanding scholarship

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Rachel Tudor, an assistant professor of English at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, was denied tenure because she is transgender, according to Tudor and her supporters.

The school is located in Durant, Okla., about 20 miles north of Denison. Tudor's employment there terminates at the end of the spring semester.

Douglas N. McMillan, interim vice president for academic affairs reportedly said that Tudor's "lifestyle" offends his Baptist beliefs.

Last year, Tudor's colleagues recommended her for tenure. But, she said, the administration's response was to contact legal council to

find out if they were required to honor the recommendation of the faculty committee.

"The dean refused to discuss it with me and the vice president refused to meet with me," Tudor said.

But the president was required to reveal his reasons. School policy states that the president must honor faculty recommendations unless there is a "compelling reason" or "exceptional circumstances."

"One reason [he gave was that] he was unable to verify I was editor of two journals," she said. "I co-edited it with a senior colleague."

Tudor said her co-editor told her no one ever contacted him.

"The journals are in our library," she said. "My name is on the cover."

Tudor said the school's president was also dismissive of her service for the Native American symposium held on campus.

"That's our main academic conference," she said. "I served on the committee several years. I gave presentations at the conference. He said my service was neither noteworthy nor

■ TENURE, Page 17



DENIED | Rachel Tudor, an assistant professor of English at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, believes she was denied tenure because of school administrators' bigotry against her identity as a transgender woman.



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☆ Dallas Sierra Club ☆ Dallas AFL-CIO

As a former elected official, I appreciate the qualities of effective leadership that I strongly see in so many ways in Angela Hunt. We must keep her in office. Please join Jack and me in re-electing Angela.

Harryette Ehrhardt, former Texas State Representative

"My partner, Steven and I have lived in District 14's M-streets for 10 years. Angela has served our community well as a member of the council but also as a community leader long before being elected. Our diverse district requires someone capable of performing sometimes insurmountable balancing acts. Angela has represented our interests beautifully and I fully believe she has earned the right to be re-elected"

David Hardt, Former President, Young Democrats of America

We need Angela's valuable leadership at City Hall to continue. She has always been, and continues to be, a staunch ally of our community and a bold and intelligent voice on the city council.

Steve Atkinson & Pam Gerber, Community Leaders



L-R: Mark Sadlek, Bruce Chemel, Enrique MacGregor, Laurie Foley, Linda Moore, Mike Lo Vuolo, Buddy Mullino, Angela Hunt, Steve Atkinson, Mark Niermann, Pam Gerber, Jay Narey, Jeff Strater, Ron Guillard. Help us re-elect Angela, join the growing list of supporters!

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- ☆ Stan Aten
- ☆ Steve Atkinson & Ted Kincaid
- ☆ Keith Bernardo & Rob Farrell
- ☆ Reed Bogle
- ☆ Mike Birrer
- ☆ Denise Blessing
- ☆ Trey Bounds
- ☆ Bill Brosius & Ron Guillard
- ☆ Pam Buchmeyer & Shellie Crandall
- ☆ Deidra Burns & Sandra Howell
- ☆ Stephanie Carreon
- ☆ Bruce Chemel
- ☆ Charles Cox & Pete Smith
- ☆ Neil Emmons
- ☆ Jack Evans & George Harris

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- ☆ Jenni Stolarski & Val Haskell
- ☆ Jeff Strater & Felix Gaytan
- ☆ Clint Thomson
- ☆ Jesse Vallejo
- ☆ Dante Walkup & Mark Reed-Walkup
- ☆ Samuel Wenning
- ☆ Kay Wilkinson
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■ **TENURE**

From Page 15

exceptional.”

She called his statement insulting to the conference.

Tudor said that another reason the school’s president gave for denying her tenure was that the tenure and promotion committee didn’t justify their reasons for the recommendation. However, she said committee members told her that they were required to make an up-or-down vote only and were not allowed to back up their recommendation.

After being denied tenure during their sixth year at the school, faculty members are allowed to reapply during the seventh and final year of their initial contracts.

Tudor said she knows of three faculty members in her building who were granted tenure after initially being denied. She was set to re-submit her portfolio when McMillan issued a memo that he would not allow her to apply this year.

“He said it would be a waste of the faculty’s time — although they were on board,” she said. “And it would enflame tensions between faculty and administration.”

She filed a grievance and the faculty committee voted unanimously to recommend her for tenure.

“Someone who works in the business office

who was designated by the president to take the recommendation to the president,” she said decided he was opposed to her tenure and decided not to take the recommendation to the president. Tudor wondered if that was legal.

The president said she could not reapply because of policy and precedent, but Tudor said she knows of three who successfully reapplied.

The administration began claiming that her scholarship was flawed.

“In the past two years, I’ve have 10 peer-reviewed publications,” she said. “This is a teaching university. The department chair doesn’t have 10.”

The faculty senate passed a resolution supporting her.

“It was an act of courage for them to vote for me,” she said.

When Tudor transitioned four years ago, McMillan questioned whether she could just be summarily dismissed. He was told that would be gender discrimination. She said that gender is included under the Department of Education’s Title IX.

In addition, the faculty senate voted to add gender identity to the school’s nondiscrimination policy, although she is not sure if the administration has recognized that vote.

Oddly, on April 26, the school issued a press release announcing that Tudor would receive

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support for Rachel Tudor, especially from SOSU alumni, can be sent to:

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Alan Burton, director of university communications for SOSU, said, “Southeastern Oklahoma State University does not discriminate in its employment practices. The university will not discuss or comment on specific personnel issues.”


Once the semester is over, Tudor said, she plans to fight.

“I’m focused on correcting this injustice,” she said. “If that means staying here in Durant, that’s what I’ll do. I’m committed to seeing justice done here.”

She’s been in touch with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission.

An online petition has been started and she is appealing to the executive director of the Regional University System of Oklahoma that oversees Southeastern State. ■

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

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coverstory

Doing things the Fort Worth way

Formed to meet the immediate needs of Tarrant County's LGBT community in the wake of the Rainbow Lounge raid, Fairness Fort Worth is evolving into a cornerstone in building a stronger community

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Even though Fort Worth in 2001 became one of the first Texas cities to include sexual orientation in its citywide nondiscrimination ordinance, the city known as “Cowtown” and the place “where the West begins” was never known for having an especially active LGBT community.

There were gay bars here, sure, and plenty of LGBT citizens in Cowtown. But there was no recognizable “gayborhood,” no active LGBT organizations. Fort Worth’s LGBT churches got lost in the shadow of Cathedral of Hope, “the largest

LGBT congregation in the world” located just east in Dallas. And the city’s annual gay Pride parade, while older than Dallas’, had in recent years dwindled away to nearly nothing.

But then came July 29, 2009 — the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York and the night that Fort Worth police and agents with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission raided a newly-opened gay bar called the Rainbow Lounge.

In the tumultuous days and weeks after the raid made headlines across the country, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief insisted the city would handle the uproar in “the Fort Worth way.”

Some angry activists, many of them younger and more radical folks who didn’t actually live in Fort Worth, responded with jeers. To them, “the Fort Worth way” was just code for ignoring the problem and looking for some way to sweep it all under the rug.

But a group of stalwart Fort Worth LGBTs took a different tack. They decided to take Moncrief and other city leaders at their word and opted for a more low-key, although no less insistent, ap-

proach.

Moncrief said “the Fort Worth way” was to talk things out and work together to find ways to solve problems, and these Fort Worth LGBT leaders stepped up and said, “OK. Let’s talk. But you’d better be ready to do more than just talk. We want solutions.”

And that was the birth of a new day in Fort Worth.

Fairness Fort Worth is formed

Less than two weeks after the raid, a group of LGBT business, civic and religious leaders held a press conference to announce the formation of a new organization called Fairness Fort Worth. Attorney Jon Nelson explained that the group’s initial priority was to help locate witnesses to the Rainbow Lounge raid, providing those individuals with legal advice while also coordinating with TABC and Fort Worth police to get their testimony recorded as part of the several investigations into what actually happened that night.

■ FORT WORTH, Page 21



ANNOUNCING A NEW DAY | On July 8, 2009, Fort Worth attorney Jon Nelson announced at a press conference the formation of Fairness Fort Worth, a new organization that would initially focus on helping coordinate between law enforcement agencies to gather the testimony of witnesses to the Rainbow Lounge raid. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)



THE DIFFERENCE 18 MONTHS CAN MAKE | Fairness Fort Worth President Tom Anable says that with the initial issues of the Rainbow Lounge raid addressed, FFW can move forward toward its goal of being an LGBT clearinghouse that works to match those with needs with those who have the resources to meet those needs. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

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FAIRNESS FORT WORTH TIMELINE

- June 28, 2009 Rainbow Lounge Raid (TABC report says 1:28am).
- June 28, 2009 Protest Rally on Tarrant County Courthouse steps.
- June 28, 2009 Press release from FWPD (mentioning 3 sexual advances).
- July 1, 2009 Candlelight vigil for Chad Gibson.
- July 2, 2009 Chief Halstead announces suspension of joint operations with TABC.
- July 2, 2009 First gathering at Celebration Community Church to form Fairness Fort Worth.
- July 8, 2009 Press conference announcing FFW.
- July 8, 2009 FFW begins coordinating Rainbow Lounge witness interviews.
- July 14, 2009 Officer Sara Straten appointed as interim liaison to the LGBT community.
- July 14, 2009 City Council meeting, more than 450 LGBT citizens and allies attend.
- July 21, 2009 City Council votes on resolution calling for independent federal investigation.
- July 21, 2009 Council votes to establish the City Manager's Diversity Task Force.
- July 23, 2009 First meeting of City Manager's Diversity Task Force.
- July 28, 2009 The FW Human Relations Commission votes for resolution trans protections.
- Aug. 6, 2009 Press release of Phase 1 of TABC report.
- Aug. 6, 2009 FWST reports that U.S. Attorney won't investigate Rainbow Lounge raid.
- Aug. 17, 2009 FFW leaders meet privately with Halstead to hammer out differences.
- Aug. 18, 2009 Halstead tells city council that investigation will require more time.
- Aug 28, 2009 TABC announces it has fired three agents involved in Rainbow Lounge raid.
- Oct 11, 2009 Chief Halstead attends the Tarrant County Gay Pride Picnic.
- Nov 3, 2009 Crime Control Prevention District measure passes with support of FFW.
- Nov 5, 2009 FWPD holds press conference releasing report on investigation into raid.
- Nov 5, 2009 TABC releases excessive force findings.
- Nov 10, 2009 Diversity Task Force recommendations presented at City Council meeting.
- April/May, 2010 Volunteers train to teach GLBT Diversity Training Class to city employees.
- May, 2010 GLBT Diversity Classes commence with Mayor Moncrief in the first class.
- June 28, 2010 BBQ Anniversary with police and city officials invited to Rainbow Lounge.
- April 27, 2011 Final Diversity Task Force Meeting. More than 1,200 city employees trained to date.
- May 3, 2011 Assistant city manager and FFW members address council on progress to date.

FORT WORTH

From Page 18

But even then, FFW founders knew they wanted to do more.

"Even though our city strives to be open, equal and caring, we have much more work to do," Nelson said at the time.

Over the next several months, FFW continued to coordinate the LGBT community's response to the raid. The organization marshaled hundreds of citizens to turn out in support of a new ordinance protecting transgenders from discrimination, offering measured, reasonable responses to the bigoted rants of those who opposed the change.

FFW members volunteered for the City Manager's Diversity Task Force that created a list of policy changes and new initiatives to make Cowtown a more LGBT-friendly place to live and work. And they met frequently with Police Chief Jeff Halstead and other city officials, making sure that those officials followed through on promises they made.

On Sept. 15 that year, FFW incorporated. The organization's first board meeting followed in January 2010. Lee Zolinger was elected as the first FFW president, but he soon realized that his job was keeping him from being as active in FFW as he wanted. That's when Thomas Anable stepped up and offered to run for the office, and in June that year, he was elected as FFW's new leader.

Anable, a CPA, was new to the world of LGBT activism. He readily admits now that he had always relied on his status in the business world and his ability to "pass," and had never felt the need to be active in the LGBT community.

But Anable was the accountant for Rainbow Lounge, and he was in the bar the night of the

raid. What he saw then made him realize that no one is immune to anti-LGBT bigotry. And he was determined that FFW and its opportunity to be a force for change would not fade away.

A new focus

Under Anable's leadership, FFW members decided to focus on two specific areas where they felt they could help enact that change: bullying in schools and LGBT issues within Fort Worth's hospitals.

Anable said that the hospitals in the area had never participated in the Human Rights Campaign's annual report on policies regarding LGBT issues "because they knew they wouldn't meet the criteria to get good scores. So we decided to take a new approach. We decided we would encourage them to take the HRC survey, but instead of submitting it, they could use that as a guideline on how to improve."

Anable said shortly afterward, the federal Health and Human Services department came out with new guidelines on how hospitals should deal with LGBT people and access to health care services. And with approval from the FFW board, Anable talked with Resource Center Dallas' executive director and associate director of community programs, Cece Cox and Lee Taft, about working together to approach the hospitals.

According to FFW treasurer David Mack Henderson, that partnership is in full swing now as the two organizations develop a strategy in approaching the hospitals on those issues.

On the issue of bullying in the schools, FFW worked behind the scenes to provide the Fort Worth Independent School District with the

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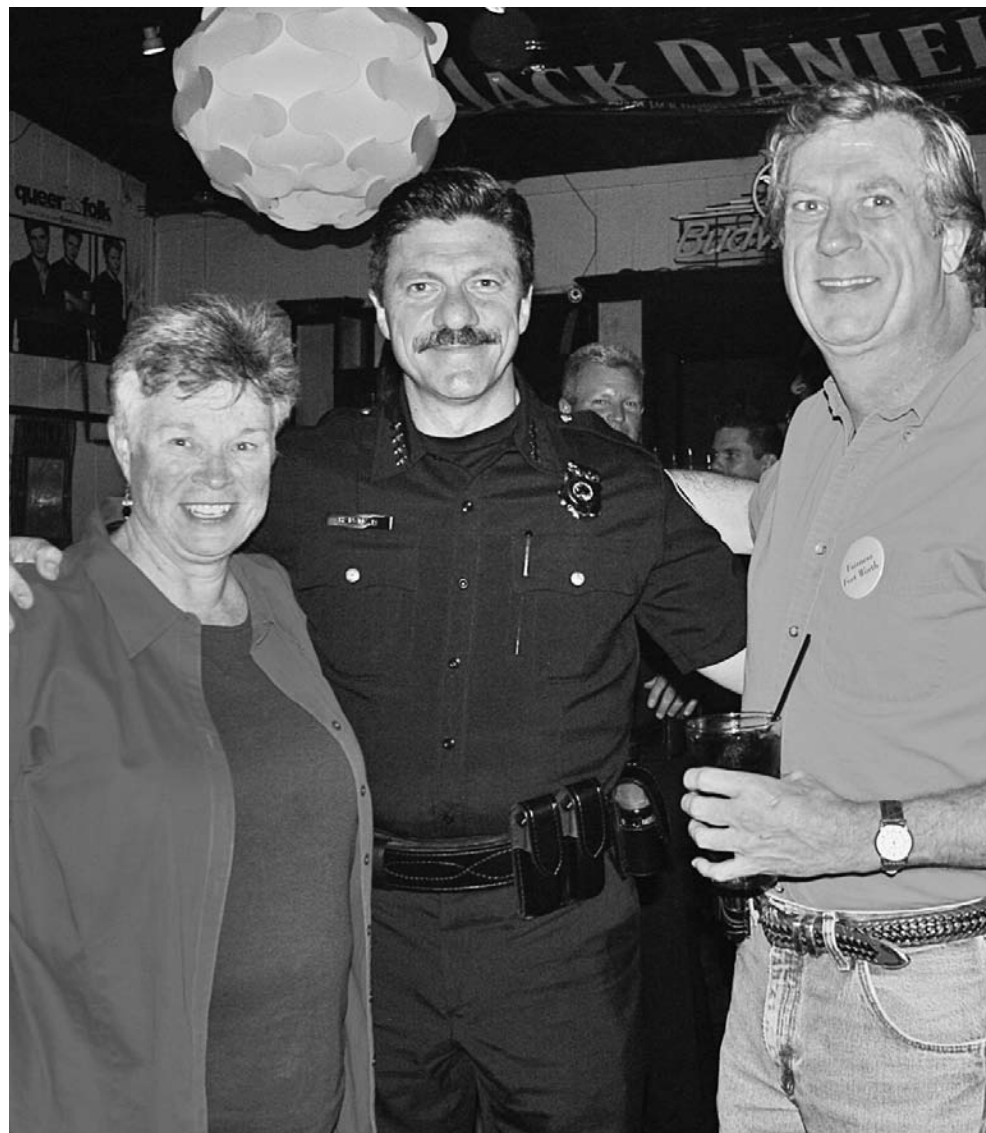
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A YEAR LATER | Fairness Fort Worth board members Carol West, left, and David Mack Henderson, right, talk with Police Chief Jeff Halstead at a 2010 Gay Pride Month event at Rainbow Lounge marking a year since the raid and celebrating improvements in the relationship between the city's police force and the LGBT community. (Tammie Nash/Dallas Voice)

■ **FORT WORTH**

From Page 21

information and resources it needed to enact comprehensive anti-bullying policies.

The district has already adopted such a policy for faculty and administrators, and Nelson said this week he is "fully confident you will see a comprehensive anti-bullying policy [pertaining to students] in place by the beginning of the next school year, as well as a mindset that will exist on cooperation and treating people fairly with respect, and not just in the LGBT community."

Plus, Anable noted, FFW was instrumental in helping secure the assistance of the Human Rights Campaign, which created a new staff position for someone to work with school districts to implement anti-bullying policies and programs. The first person hired, Rhonda Thomasson, is already working with schools in Dallas and Fort Worth, Anable said.

The Tarrant County College system also recently adopted anti-bullying policies specifically including protections based on sexual

orientation. And Anable has spoken to the system's board members on including protections based on gender and gender identity, as well.

Collaboration

Anable said that as FFW president, another of his priorities was to make sure FFW worked with other LGBT organizations in North Texas and at the state and national levels. With that in mind, he said, he asked all FFW board members to get involved with those organizations as volunteers and board members.

The reason, Anable said, is that FFW can be most beneficial by acting as a kind of "clearing-house" for LGBT issues in Tarrant County, helping to identify needs and then matching those needs to the resources that already exist.

"We want to be a coordinator," Anable said. "We won't really do programs ourselves. We will identify the needs that are out there, and then match them with the providers who have the resources already to meet those needs."

So far, the strategy seems to be working. In

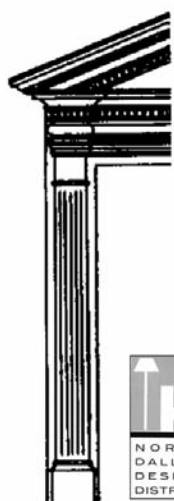
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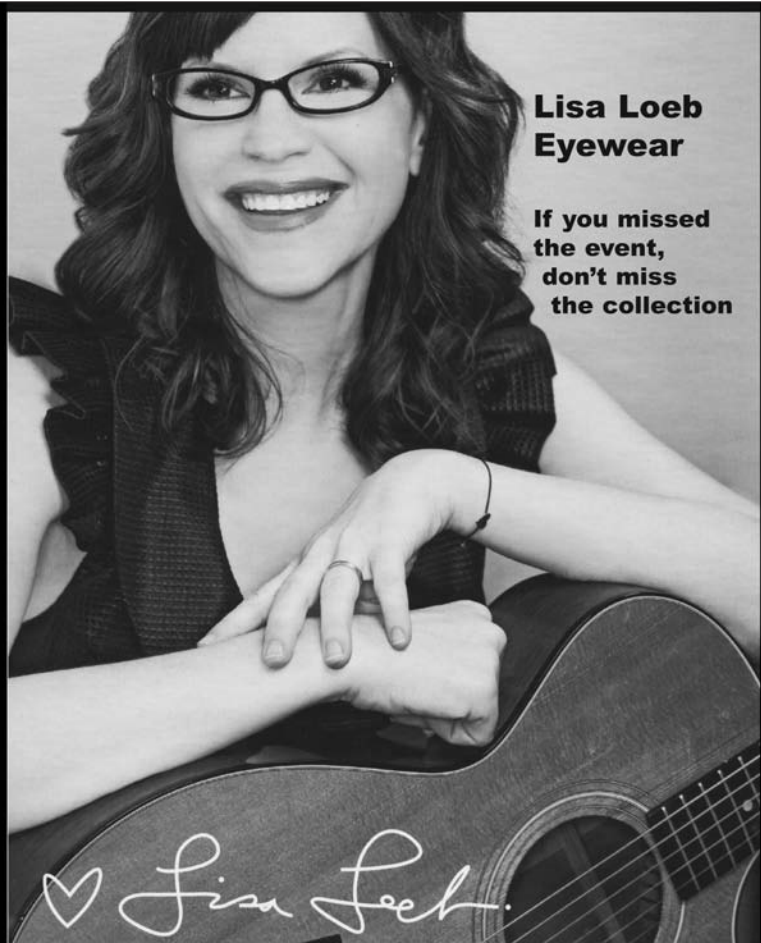
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■ FORT WORTH

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just 20 months, Anable said, FFW has played a role in making changes that in other cities have taken years to accomplish.

Carol West agreed.

"This organization has had a tremendously positive impact," West said. "In those early days after the raid, things could have gone either way. I think it was absolutely necessary to have Fairness Fort Worth there doing what we did, and doing it in a very positive way.

"Now, more and more people are getting involved and becoming aware," she said, adding that diversity training for all city employees is a "direct result of the work of Fairness Fort Worth. ... We've got a lot of good things happening here."

West, who is herself on Chief Halstead's citizens advisory board, said those good things include a focus on improving services for LGBT youth in Tarrant County, developing an LGBT archive for the county that will be housed at Celebration Community Church, and establishing an LGBT hotline that will also be housed at the church.

"Fairness Fort Worth has become a really tremendous organization that really is the face of LGBT politics in Fort Worth, the face of justice in Fort Worth. I think we have really made a difference for the better," West said.

Nelson said that impact dates back to the first city council meeting after the Rainbow Lounge raid.

"I think it really had quite a sobering effect on the city council and the mayor and the city manager to sit there at that table and look out into the crowd and see hundreds of people there wearing our yellow Fairness Fort Worth buttons," Nelson said.

"Even then, in its infancy, Fairness Fort Worth was able to do something few had been able to do before: marshal enough people to come to City Hall and really have an impact. When those elected officials saw more than 450 people wearing those yellow buttons that said Fairness Fort Worth, something was different, and they knew it. That perception could easily have dissipated, but because of Fairness Fort Worth, we didn't let that happen," Nelson said.

With FFW, Nelson said, LGBT people in Tarrant County now know "they have somewhere to turn if they have questions or concerns. They know we aren't just focused on one issue. We are broad based and we can be that clearinghouse they need.

"And those in the straight community know we exist and that we have the ability to take their concerns out into our community. That has never existed before," he said.

The existence of FFW, Nelson said, gives the LGBT community and the individuals within that community a tangible presence to the community at large, "both the perception and the reality of an organization and a community that can make a difference. That has never existed before in Fort Worth," Nelson said.

ON THE HORIZON FOR FAIRNESS FORT WORTH:

- Fort Worth mayoral runoff election forum, June 1, 5:30-7:30, place TBA. FFW is co-sponsoring with the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce. All four major candidates have agreed to participate if they make runoff. To be moderated by Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Bud Kennedy and Dallas Voice Senior Editor Tammye Nash.

- Foster anti-bullying programs in area school districts by connecting state and federal resources with local administrators.

- Continually monitor Diversity Task Force implementation. All but one of the task force's recommendations have already been implemented.

- Provide volunteers to teach LGBT diversity training to city employees.

- Host downtown community educational forum during Tarrant County Pride's 30th anniversary week in October.

- Continue strategic partnership with Resource Center Dallas on regional LGBT healthcare access issues.

The Fort Worth way

Some in Fort Worth reacted angrily to activists who converged on Fort Worth after the Rainbow Lounge raid, taking to the streets with chants and placards and bullhorns, and standing up in council meetings to make demands until the mayor had them removed.

But both Nelson and Anable were quick to point out those protesters played a necessary role in the progress that's been made in Fort Worth.

"I don't think any right we have today was garnered without protests like that," Nelson said. "But protests alone get nothing done. At some point you have to sit down with both sides and discuss things. Both sides have to be able to understand each other and trust each other. You can't do that with placards and bullhorns. And that's what Fairness Fort Worth has brought to the table."

That, Anable said, "is what we mean when we say 'the Fort Worth way.' It means, let's sit down and talk about it. Let's be reasonable and act like adults and have a real conversation that can come up with real solutions. That's what happened here."

Anable, who said that before the Rainbow Lounge raid never felt the need to be involved in LGBT political issues or to even make a point about being openly gay, decided at the beginning of this year that he has a new calling in his life.

So he sold his CPA practice to his business partner and now plans to devote himself fulltime to LGBT activism.

He said, "It's been a really strange 20 months. If you had told me a year and a half ago that I would be where I am today, I never would have believed you. My whole life has changed.

"In one night, my life changed. This city changed. And it's still changing. And Fairness Fort Worth is going to help make it happen." ■

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New York likely next to recognize gay marriage



Evan Wolfson

Rhode Island considering civil unions; efforts underway in 6 states to ban gay marriage

DANA RUDOLPH | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

The openly gay sponsor of a marriage equality bill in Rhode Island said last week he would push for a civil unions bill instead, setting off a slew of criticism from LGBT groups.

Six states are considering legislation that would ask voters to amend their state constitutions to ban recognition of any legal relationships for same-sex couples. And all this was on the heels of a dramatic loss for a marriage equality bill in Maryland in March.

Has the state legislative fight for marriage equality lost momentum?

Not according to Evan Wolfson, executive director of the national Freedom to Marry group.

"Both Rhode Island and Maryland are very much still in play," said Wolfson. "... The fact that we don't win it exactly on the day we want ... doesn't change the overall momentum that is strongly in our direction."

The "highest priority" right now, said Wolfson, is New York. He said he is "very hopeful" a marriage bill that is expected to pass the New York State Assembly, which is under Democratic control, will also pass the Senate, where Republicans hold a 32-to-26 majority.

Wolfson acknowledges the Senate may be more

difficult. While a marriage equality bill passed the Assembly three times in the past four years, an attempt to pass it in the Senate in 2009 failed by 14 votes.

New York Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, a Republican who opposes marriage equality, has nevertheless said he would let a marriage equality bill come to the floor.

And several recent polls show that a majority of voters in the state support marriage equality. A Siena College poll April 11 showed that 58 percent of New Yorkers support it, with 36 percent opposed. An April 14 Quinnipiac poll showed 56 percent support, with 38 percent opposed, and a New York Times estimated projection on the same date also showed 58 percent support.

Additionally, two dozen New York business leaders, including Lloyd C. Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, and John Mack, chairman of the board of Morgan Stanley, on April 28 issued an open letter arguing that legalizing marriage for same-sex couples would help the state attract talent and remain competitive.

"Winning New York would really be transformative," said Wolfson, "because New York has enormous cultural and political leadership in the United States and in the world."

Freedom to Marry and several other LGBT advocacy groups — the Empire State Pride Agenda, the Human Rights Campaign, the League of Women Voters, the Log Cabin Republicans and Marriage Equality New York — have formed the New Yorkers United for Marriage coalition, which is coordinating efforts to lobby

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■ NEW YORK

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for the marriage equality bill this session, which adjourns in June.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has expressed strong support for passing such a bill this year, has asked members of his staff to work with the coalition.

In Rhode Island, openly gay Democratic House Speaker Gordon Fox, a sponsor of that state's marriage bill, said in a statement April 27 that "there is no realistic chance for passage of the bill in the Senate," and that he will not move forward with a vote in the House.

But the Providence Journal newspaper also reported that Fox said he did not have the votes to pass the bill even in the House, where Democrats hold 65 seats to Republicans' 10.

Fox instead introduced a bill for civil unions on Tuesday, May 3, and said he is "optimistic" that the bill could pass both chambers this session.

But Fox's decision has not gone over well with LGBT groups.

Marriage Equality Rhode Island, which supports full marriage, held a rally at the State House to protest Fox's decision to drop the marriage equality bill. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and others, issued statements criticizing Fox's decision and calling it "completely unac-

ceptable."

"Nothing short of marriage is equality for Rhode Island's gay and lesbian citizens and their children," said Karen Loewy, a GLAD senior staff attorney. "More to the point, civil unions tell gay people and their kids that they are second-class citizens and that their families matter less than other families."

Wolfson called Fox's decision a "miscalculation." He noted that polls show a majority of support among voters, that Rhode Island already recognizes marriages of same-sex couples performed elsewhere, and that nearby Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont all began with civil unions and have moved to full equality.

Similar to Rhode Island, marriage equality supporters never had a clear majority in Maryland either, even with the support of Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat. The bill passed the Senate in Maryland, but on March 11, the House voted unanimously to send the bill back to committee.

But in Maryland, several LGBT groups, including Equality Maryland, the leading state organization behind the bill, expressed approval for the move.

Wolfson noted, however, that Maryland was "within a couple of votes" of passage. With "a little more time to make the case and organize," he thinks achieving equality could happen in early 2012.

Meanwhile, three states have enacted civil union laws this year — Delaware, Hawaii and Illinois. Wolfson said that, while civil unions are not the true goal, they still "sometimes can be a stepping stone."

Camilla Taylor, marriage project director for Lambda Legal, agreed, saying that civil unions "are an important step forward" in states where same-sex couples have no benefits or protections. She added that Lambda is "often very involved," as it was in Illinois, in drafting such legislation.

But Lambda also brought a suit before the New Jersey state Supreme Court claiming the state's civil union law did not provide full equality. The court last June refused to hear the case, saying it must first go through the trial court process.

Taylor said she could not say whether Lambda would be filing any further cases to contest civil unions, noting that it is important in each state to first "develop a record of the ways in which it harms people to deny them equal access to marriage."

Six states — Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Washington — also have active legislation that would ask voters to amend the state constitutions to ban marriage, and in some cases, recognition of any legal relationships, such as civil unions for same-sex couples.

New Mexico and Wyoming both considered but did not pass such bills this year. Wyoming also rejected a bill that sought to prevent the state from recognizing marriages and civil unions of same-sex couples from other jurisdictions.

Washington state has seen a mish-mash of marriage-related bills. The state already allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners and, on Feb. 14, bills were introduced in both chambers of the legislature for marriage equality.

On April 5, Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, a Democrat, signed a bill to recognize legal relationships of same-sex couples from other jurisdictions as domestic partnerships. But there is also a bill in the House that would ask voters to ban marriage for same-sex couples under the state constitution.

Democrats have a majority in both chambers.

The situation in New Hampshire is also mixed. A House committee voted March 3 to table a bill that would repeal the state's existing marriage equality law, thus postponing further consideration until January 2012.

But opponents of marriage equality have said they will also introduce a bill next year seeking to ask voters in November 2012 to approve amending the state constitution to ban marriage for same-sex couples. ■

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A lesson learned

We may never know for sure what happened between the gay man and the Marine during the LGR convention, but we can't overlook the situation's 1 clear lesson

It's hard to understand exactly what happened at a Dallas Hilton Anatole hotel bar last weekend when a Log Cabin Republican conventioner was allegedly called a "faggot" and assaulted. Everyone involved seems to be engaging in high-gear damage control.

Although police cited the suspect for an alleged Class C misdemeanor assault at the scene, the victim reportedly advised police the next day he would not be pressing charges after the suspect apologized to him. That in effect gave the suspect a pass for allegedly slamming the victim's face on a bar table.

What is extraordinary about this development is that the police apparently acted as mediators between the victim and the suspect the day after the incident. The negotiations reportedly involved the Dallas Police Department's liaison to the LGBT community, Laura Martin, who described the suspect as 27-year-old member of the U.S. Armed Services.

Dallas police spokesman Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse claimed that the alleged crime did not rise to the level of a hate crime — even though the suspect used the slur "faggot" during the attack — because either the victim or one of his friends allegedly provoked the assault by either whistling or making a catcall at the suspect and his friends. He described both the victim and the suspect as being intoxicated, and dismissed it as a bar fight.

After the charges were dropped, police considered reporting the incident as a hate crime for statistical purposes, but decided not to, according to

Martin.

The victim and his friends, who do not want their identities revealed, have disputed the official police report, calling it "misleading." The victim, who is from out of town, said he decided not to press charges because pursuing it would be time consuming and "arduous."

What's more, we learned that the suspect might be a member of the U.S. Marines who was staying over at the Anatole after a tour in the Middle East. Ironically, all of this began coming to light just as reports circulated about the Marine Corps conducting seminars aimed at smoothing the way for gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. Armed Services.

What a mess. If all that's true, no wonder the Dallas Police Department found time to negotiate a cease-fire between the victim and the suspect.

On top of all that, we learned during the same weekend that U.S. Navy Seals had finally managed to take out Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind behind the al-Qaida attacks on the U.S. in 2001. It's not exactly the best time to be criticizing a member of the military.

Still, there are troubling aspects to this story. From decades of covering crime, I know that the most common defenses in crimes involving everything from assaults to murders of LGBT people is for the suspect to claim the victims made sexual advances. The suspect reportedly also told the police the next day that he didn't remember much about the incident, another common excuse for attempting to shirk responsibility.

Likewise, the victim acknowledged being intoxicated.

Astonishingly, the victim took a real verbal beating in the comments sections of the Dallas Voice's blog, Instant Tea, where the alleged assault was reported. It was interesting that so many LGBT people took the position that the vic-



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

tim deserved to not only be viciously assaulted, but to be humiliated in public as well.

As a member of the U.S. military, the consequences for the suspect would be far more severe than a mere hefty fine. A conviction would mean a nasty stain on his military record. Even if the victim or someone else at the table whistled or made a comment about someone "looking good," it hardly merits a physical attack from someone who has sworn to protect U.S. citizens.

On the other hand, members of the LGBT community need to be respectful of heterosexuals and be on guard not to offend anyone through their actions or words. With all of the gains the community has made in recent years, we are more recognizable and subject to more scrutiny and criticism.

With the end of the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy quickly approaching, members of the U.S. Armed Services are likely to be more on edge and prone to taking offense.

We saw a similar event occur in 1993 when three Marines stationed at Camp LeJeune allegedly attacked a gay man in a Wilmington, N.C., gay bar, when then President Clinton was vowing to end the ban on gay and lesbians serving in the U.S. Armed Services. That led to a high-profile lawsuit by the Southern Poverty Law Center on the behalf of the victim. The lawsuit was later settled for a token amount. The Marines in that incident also claimed they were provoked by the bar patrons.

We may never know exactly what happened at the Anatole Hilton in Dallas that night, but maybe we can learn a lesson from it anyway: We probably all need to monitor ourselves a little more closely when we are in predominantly straight venues to make sure we aren't pushing our luck. What is appropriate in a gay bar just doesn't work well in most other places. ■

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

Why Planned Parenthood funding is an LGBT issue

Agency under attack by right wing, is about more than abortions

Bernard Baruch said it first in the 1940s; Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger shortened it in the 1970s, and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan phrased it most succinctly in the 1980s: "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not

his own facts."

Apparently, many Americans have not heard — or have not agreed with — that simple statement.

Consider, for example, current efforts in Washington, D.C., and nationwide to defund Planned Parenthood.

The efforts made news when, on April 8, Arizona Republican Jon Kyle announced on the floor of the Senate that abortions comprise "well over

90 percent of what Planned Parenthood does."

The organization countered that abortions are only 3 percent of the organization's services. Kyle's staff asserted that his remark "was not intended to be a factual statement" and then edited the Congressional Record to say that abortion is simply "what Planned Parenthood does."

Back in Austin for Easter recess, Republican

■ FUNDING, Next Page

FUNDING

From Previous Page

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas picked up Kyle's theme. On April 20, Cornyn assured The Texas Tribune's Emily Ramshaw that "he's been told 98 percent of the services Planned Parenthood offers to pregnant women are abortion-related." His staff added that the senator would not join "the nickel tour at any Planned Parenthood centers."

Take that, you sinners.

In fact, the latest figures — from 2010 — show that Planned Parenthood of North Texas provided 6,000 abortions, 43,000 pap smears and many more thousands of low-cost screenings for cancer and other deadly ailments.

In addition, PPNT provides sexual and general health services for men and women for modest, fixed charges.

So why should any of this interest those of us in the local LGBTQA community? Think children's well-being, sex education and tax rates. All are intertwined.

Start with the well-being of children. On April 7, State Attorney General Greg Abbott and former first lady Laura Bush announced an effort to recruit more volunteers for the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. Their plea is urgent — because Texas now has 42,000 children in its foster care system. Those 42,000 children were unwanted at birth or have been abused or abandoned since.



Phyllis Guest
Contributing Columnist

Many Texas politicians consider members of our community who might like to foster or adopt them unworthy. Yet few if any of our oh-so-righteous pols have stepped up to adopt or even advocate for these children.

Next, consider sex — sex education, that is.

In Texas, most notably in the public schools, sex ed is either all about abstinence or altogether absent. Thus, countless Texans lack basic information on contraceptive options. They cannot choose the best protection for themselves and their partners.

Small wonder Texas has so many teenage

mothers and leads the nation in teens with two or more offspring. Rates of sexually transmitted diseases among young Texans also are startlingly high — and even higher among some minority groups.

Our state's macho tradition may even encourage unprotected sex.

Finally, take the issue of how tax dollars are spent in Texas.

Unless conservatives come up with enlightened ways to lift "the least of these our brethren" out of poverty, which they seem disinclined to do, some tax dollars will go towards basic services for the poor.

An estimated 60 percent of Texas mothers are so impoverished that physicians and hospitals must compete for scarce Medicaid dollars to fund prenatal care and delivery. Many families rely on the state's meager Temporary Assistance to Needy Families — about \$260 a month — for basic foodstuffs. Texas public schools provide lunch and often breakfast so children will not spend the day hungry and go home ill.

Keep in mind that Planned Parenthood, now almost a century old:

- Is prohibited by law from using tax dollars to fund abortions. Of course, money is fungible,

but Congress never provides more than one-third of the dollars needed to give all low-income and uninsured persons access to contraceptives and sexual health care. There is no tax money to free up for abortions. Support for Planned Parenthood Surgical Health Services, the separate entity that performs abortions in North Texas, comes entirely from patient fees and private donations.

- Provides services without discrimination to persons of all races and ethnicities, young and old, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Here in North Texas, Planned Parenthood works with other nonprofits, including those most closely associated with the LGBT community, to assure the availability of confidential, low-cost testing and expert counseling for HIV/AIDS as well as all other STDs.

- Furnishes important support to LGBTs who are parents, parents of LGBT children, and LGBT children of all ages. For example, a recent workshop in Fort Worth was entitled "LGBT Issues — You've Got Questions, We've Got Answers." Leading the workshop was a facilitator with an master's degree in social work and years of experience spent teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on sexual health.

So an argument in support of Planned Parenthood is not an argument for abortion. It is simply an argument against ignorance. ■

Phyllis Guest lives in Dallas and is an activist on LGBT and other progressive issues.



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Speak **out** poll

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Should marriage equality advocates in some states accept civil unions for the time being, or hold out for full marriage rights?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Should the LGBT community boycott Dickey's Barbecue?

- Yes: 53 percent
- No: 30 percent
- Unsure: 17 percent

139 Votes Cast

Hi, Mom!

Gay siblings Brian and Erica Felicella give their mom props for... well, for pretty much everything

When a mother hears the words “I’m gay,” from her child, there is likely an initial shock, maybe followed by dying dreams of grandchildren. But when that happens twice — well, it might take an extra special mom to work that all out.

Photographer Erica Felicella and her brother Brian, an executive chef at the Dallas Museum of Art Cafe, recall that moment with Mom when they learned just how awesome she is.

Mom and baby sis Tara, who is straight, got in a few words as well.

Happy Mother’s Day!

— Rich Lopez

First born: Erica

Dallas Voice: What makes your mom unique? Wow, there really is no short way to answer that. That mom of mine still can run circles around me. There was no challenge too big if it involved fighting for what was right for her children. If I was to say one trait that makes my mom unique, boundless acceptance and support no matter what comes along.

How was she when you came out? I came out in high school. My mother was my mother. She has always taught me to treat everything and everyone with respect. So as in her own teachings she was there in a time when other friends of mine were being kicked out of their homes or disowned by their family. I am eternally grateful to have the mother that I do. The bottom line has always been to love unconditionally.

Do you ever share “girly” moments with her? [Laughs] Most mothers and daughters do girly things I suppose, but that was not how my mom and I spend time together. It is not a bizarre sight to drive up to my parents house and see my mom in the front yard with a jackhammer doing some gardening, covered in mud doing a quick sprinkler repair or watching a Red Sox game — after all, we are transplanted Yanks.

What are you going to do for Mother’s Day? I will be in Dallas as will my brother and my sister. However, we did a surprise photo shoot and the photo should arrive at my parents’ doorstep in time for Mother’s Day.

What’s the best thing about her? My mother is a 5-foot-2 Irish-Leo. She is the one we all turn to in moments of sadness, feats of personal victory and times of new discovery. She is the root that things can grow off of.

Supportive? I am a multimedia fine-artist, mentor to young artists and I work in production and post-production in the commercial world of still photography and video. My mother has been there every step of the way. I have always had her support even when she did not know what the heck I was working on. She has been on set with me, worked as an agent and advocate for me when I was starting. She was the bartender at my first solo show. She is a real life superhero to me and I am one lucky gal to have her.

The son also rises: Brian

What is your mother’s best feature? Her compassion and ability to love endlessly even when it could be hard to love someone she still finds it in her.

How did she react when you came out? If I remember correctly she said, “OK.” I was in college between sophomore and junior year and was freaking out about the call. When I finally got the courage to call, both my mom and dad were on the phone and the main thing that was said was, “We don’t love you any less.”

What is your favorite mom memory? Recently I called and asked how she knew she was in love with my father. That was conversation that I will remember for the rest of my life.

What was your best Mother’s Day experience? Talking her out to lunch back in 2006. I drove down to San Antonio early in the morning to surprise her on Mother’s Day. Just having time with her these days is a gift.

How did she react to your most rebellious moment? Which one? I have never been one to go with the norm so my tattooed and pierced friends were never a shock. In my darkest place, she never turned her back on me. Drugs and alcohol can tear a family apart but she never lost hope in me. For more normal rebellious moments, she never asked me to change my hair color if it was blue or green, but at times did request a hat when we went to dinner as a family.

Supportive? I am currently an executive chef at the DMA, which is the second major career path I have taken. She has always been supportive on the choices in my life concerning work. She was helpful getting me on track and offering to send me back to school to study the culinary arts. I have been blessed with a family that has my back no matter and a mother that will pull out the boxing gloves when someone messes with her kids. She really has put herself out on the line to raise my sisters and me.

The baby: Tara

What was it like when they came out to you? When my brother came out I found he was getting harassed at college. This was the same college I graduated from and that really disappointed me. It wasn’t really a shock, it was more of “glad you’re comfortable enough to say it.”

How is the family dynamic? I don’t feel she treats any of us differently based on orientation. If you do something stupid, you do something stupid. If someone broke your heart, someone broke your heart. If whoever your dating or engaged to is being an pain, your partner is being a pain. If she doesn’t like who you are dating, she won’t ever tell you. I don’t really think she bases her advice on that. She gives us the same advice.

Do you feel pressure to produce grandchildren? She doesn’t need grand-



SIBLING UN-RIVALRY | Thanks to Mom (and Dad), Brian Felicella, left, and sister Erica thrive in their creative pursuits as chef and photographer. (Photo courtesy Erica Felicella)

kids — she has three granddogs.

Mother’s turn: Maggie

What does Mother’s Day mean to you? It reminds me how lucky I am to be a mom. There are highs and lows that come along with that job but I remember the highs.

So, a proud mama. My children are very kind and caring individuals. They have grown into adulthood nicely. I have always been proud of them as human beings and continue to be. They see all people as equals and treat all people as they wish to be treated. They are good kids!

What was it like when they came out to you? As parents, we have the dreams of weddings and grandchildren. We had to digest how things would be different. As parents, you want to shield your children from hurt and harm. We didn’t know how we were going to do that but we figured it out along the way. In the end, they are our children and that is all that matters.

Was it at the same time or different? Erica was the first to tell us she was a lesbian. She was still in high school. She came down the stairs, sat on the coffee table, started spinning around and announced, “I am a lesbian.” Then she got up off the table and went back upstairs to her friends. Brian called from college and left a message, “Mom, I need to speak with you and Daddy.” I told my husband, he is calling to tell us he is gay. When he called, he was stumbling over his words. I finally said, “Brian are you trying to tell us you are gay?” He was shocked and relieved at the same time.

OK, so what about the grandchildren issue? I don’t dwell on grandchildren. If they happen, they will; if not, they won’t. I have three grand dogs and they have their own stockings at Christmas. I know I won’t have to help pay for college. I always look for the bright side over every issue!

Just like a mom.

Vocal adrenaline

Ventriloquists are a queer bunch, as 'Dumbstruck' lovingly revels in

An episode of *Family Guy* once laid out the hierarchy of the performing art as follows: "Legitimate theater, musical theater, standup, ventriloquism, magic, mime." I'd tack on juggling, stilt-walking and swallowing flaming arrows, so I guess ventriloquism *could* have done worse. The point is, beyond the top 3, the list gets into novelty-act territory. Which is exactly what the documentary **Dumbstruck** explores.

I bet you've never heard of a sex scandal involving a "vent" (as they call themselves) because the work it takes to become proficient at throwing your voice aren't exactly the height of social skills. Vents fall easily into the cliché of awkward nerds who have managed to turn their imaginary friends into careers.

Well, careers of sorts. Until Mesquite man

Terry Fator won *America's Got Talent* a few seasons back, the last vent you probably thought

about was Waylon Flowers. He gave loveable losers hope. Fator is one of those profiled here, as well as Wilma, a woman (apparently trans, though it's never said outright) whose life is a shambles, but who finds uncommon strength and support from her vent family.



There's no denying the occasionally heart-warming, human moments of victory and pain, but there's a slight sadness that creeps in as well. Director Mark Goffman is aiming for mockumentarian Christopher Guest's tone only with real people, but the fit seems forced. (We may have to

keep waiting for Goffman... to hit his stride.)

Still, it's a quirky and at times delightful look at a fringe of entertainment that takes a lot of skill to master. You want to like these people — they need all the friends

— Arnold Wayne Jones



WOODEN YOU LIKE TO KNOW | Wilma, left, has a sad story related to her orientation, but finds odd comfort among vents in 'Dumbstruck.'



The electric Norseman

When I was a kid, all I knew about Thor was he had long blond hair and big muscles and he carried a huge hammer and he was a god. My fantasy life took over from there. To be honest, I had just as big a crush on his nemesis,

brother Loki, whose horns and lackadaisical villain were seductive.

Those roles are almost reversed in **Thor**, the new live action film that kicks off the summer movie season. One look at bearded, impossibly over-muscled Aussie Chris Hemsworth as Thor and you'll believe in at least one god.

Some mythologies are inherently more receptive to cinematic expression than others, and it was a stroke of genius to hire Kenneth Branagh to direct this. He gives the story a Shakespearean scope, with Loki playing Iago to Thor's Othello. He also knows something of character development, humanizing Loki and making the bigger-than-life characters relatable.

There are some slow parts, and the opening is a visual muddle that doesn't benefit from the 3-D add-on, especially when the special effects themselves are so impressive. The penultimate battle, with a hulking robot called The Destroyer, has a primal urgency that sneaks up on you. And the art direction is a glorious fantasia of otherworldly grandeur. It's almost as pretty to look at as Thor himself. Almost.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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A photograph of two women in white wedding dresses sitting on a light-colored leather couch and kissing. The woman on the left has short dark hair, and the woman on the right has short reddish hair. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

Pride Weddings
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Rethinking tradition

From 'broomsmen' to choice of wedding planner, newlyweds **Hal Wallace** and **Johnathon DeJarnett** made their nuptials their own

BY JEF TINGLEY

A straight friend of mine once said, "I am totally against gay weddings. I've seen the extravagant lengths the gays go to for theme parties and Halloween, and, quite frankly, I think you're going to raise the bar too high."

Clearly she was speaking tongue-in-cheek, but there was also a kernel of truth in her statement: We gays do love to do it up for memorable occasions ... or even simple Sunday brunches. Need proof? Look no further than the bearded bears wearing leather and lavish feather bonnets with LED lights at Easter in Lee Park. Or how about that couple who makes a custom Carmen Miranda outfit for their Jack Russell terrier? You know the type.

Yes, with great gayness comes great responsibility. And when



BOYS TO MEN | DeJarnett and Wallace partake in the tradition of feeding each other cake, but they mixed up the ceremony in other ways to reflect their own gay sensibilities.

Dallas couple Johnathon DeJarnett and Hal Wallace decided to get married, they made sure to keep up some time-honored traditions common to most straight unions ... but added a touch of excess (and glitter) to mark it with a trace of fabulosity.

First was the proposal — an unlikely but successful stealth mission.

"Hal proposed to me on Dec. 19, 2009, at our friend's holiday party," says DeJarnett. "I was so surprised. He can't do anything without me hearing about it, so for the entire party to know and

●●● TRADITION, Page S4



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WHEN KIDS PARTAKE IN SAME-SEX WEDDINGS

I love children's books, especially those with an affirming message for alternative families, and Leslea Newman's *Heather Has Two Mommies* is one of my favorites. Whenever friends have babies, I make sure it's in their library. *Heather* and *And Tango Makes Three* — that's the one about the gay penguins that made this year's list of most complained-about book at libraries — are must-have literature for gay or lesbian parents.

Newman's latest book, *Donovan's Big Day*, is one more to add to the list. Not only does Donovan have two mommies, but they're getting married.

Donovan is taking his role as ring bearer very seriously. He can't oversleep. He has to remember to wash and dress in his new clothes. And he can't forget that white satin box. At the church, he must walk down the aisle very seriously. And he can't fidget while that poem is being read or the piano is played.

His grandfather wakes him. His aunt meets him at the church. His cousin

will be there. Of course the entire family is attending. It's a wedding — why wouldn't the whole family be proudly involved?

These are subtle touches, to be sure, but Newman is a master of telling children a simple story and making them feel included. We don't know that it's two moms who are getting married until the last few pages when Donovan kisses the brides. The story could have ended with a husband and wife. After all, illustrator Mike Dutton is married — to a woman.

That's Newman's point. It's all about families and it's all the same.

— David Taffet



TRADITION, From Page S3

me not to was absolutely phenomenal."

The couple has been together five years, but has known each other much longer. They grew up in the same small town; Wallace was in the same grade as DeJarnett's older sister.

They cleaved to tradition with a legal, official wedding ceremony in Boston on Aug. 13, but the real fête came on Nov. 20, when they hosted a Dallas wedding dinner and reception for 135 of their closest family and friends.

In keeping with the uniqueness of the event, DeJarnett's first step was to establish a new member of the wedding party: the "broom."

"The 'broom' started out as a joke," he explains. "Since I am the obviously more, umm, colorful of the pair, people were playfully calling me the bride. That would be fine if I were a woman. Instead, I started calling myself a hybrid of the bride and groom. I was the 'broom.'"

Finding a venue was easy — DeJarnett has worked for the InterContinental Hotel in Addison for four years. But finding time to plan the affair was another issue — even the best of "brooms" can get overloaded. DeJarnett's boss, Tamara, served as interim wedding coordinator and assistant to the "broom," tackling details ranging from cake toppers to toasting flutes.

"Hal works full-time and is a part-time student. I am the exact opposite, working only part-time and I'm a full-time student. Our wedding was right in the middle of my semester. I would receive phone calls with [wedding] questions, and I would just say, 'ask Tamara,'" laughs DeJarnett.

When not employing the services of Tamara, the couple worked together on the details of their wedding, even designing their own invitations. As DeJarnett tells it, "Hal actually recovered from our duel bachelor party by arranging our flowers with our friends Don and Judy."

In keeping with their theme of unique combinations, the duo also had a mixture of men and women in their bridal party. "Hal and I had our best friends Kit and Jeff, respectively, as our best men, and they accompanied each other down the aisle. Luckily, they are a couple so no one was uncomfortable," says DeJarnett. "Then I had my best friends Holly, Vanessa, and Mytzi as my 'broomsmails.' They were escorted through the ceremony by Hal's groomsmen, Chris, Tim and Josh. And to round off the queen's court, as it were, were our friends David and Don, who so graciously allowed their holiday party to be high-jacked for our engagement."

With the wedding ceremony itself nearly five months passed, DeJarnett and Wallace still treasure the photos and memories of their friends and families at their side. But be it brides, grooms, or "brooms," DeJarnett is quick to point out one common theme lifelong commitment:

"Marriage is not easy. We didn't start out as Ward and June Cleaver. And we kinda, foolishly, thought that we would just ride off into the sunset," he says. "Even though the horse left without us, we are still very much committed to our relationship and still very much in love."



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Gilding *the* rainbow

Invitations can be tricky for gay couples, but they don't have to be

BY HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL

Face it: The day *after* the wedding, no guest ever recalls clear *de-tails* about the event, except (possibly) that the bride managed to meet her goal weight by aisle date and even look halfway virtuous for once, and that the cake afterward at the reception was worth the calorie splurge (despite having been only served the barest micro-slicer of a slice). Nobody remembers what kind of out-of-season floral exotica draped the nuptial knot gazebo, or whether it was sea bass, steak kabobs or free-range organic chicken satays impaled upon plastic pink flamingo skewers. And certainly nobody in a zillion years ever recollects with lucid rapture the cleverly elegant invitation mailed them, or what even happened after they dropped off the gift.

The agony of indecision same-sex couples endure, sighing over their invitations' border-edging of whimsically esprit "Lilacs in the Sun" versus majestically ceremonial "Winter Palace Mist," or the slightly "naughty" font type of "Roman

Bacchanalia" over the cursively sedate and proper "Mrs. Astor Regrets . . ." goes *completely* unappreciated by wedding guests the morning after — if it ever didn't when they first opened an ornately faboo envelope in their snail-mail pile stone sober six weeks earlier.

Such beautiful, laboriously detailed ornamentation engraved upon 70 percent Egyptian pima cotton rag with raised, natural-dye embossing (never tested on animals) *should* be a cherished keepsake treasured by every guest forever rather than yet-another piece of cardboard detritus blankly thrown into a recycler the next day. And yet a hand-scribbled invite Xeroxed on canary yellow doesn't capture the gravity of the event ... and seems downright tacky.



WRITE IT RIGHT | Pay attention to details on invitations and make an elegant first impression.

Therein lies the crux in this new age of austerity: Where to spend the bucks for the biggest bang at one's betrothal of fabulosity?

Invitations may seem the most natural area in which to trim wedding-cost corners. But since it will be the first swanky entrée for your guests to see, it sets the *tone* of whether this ceremony is actually worth RSVPing to.

So why not have things both ways — simultaneously saving needed money (and face) *and* blowing your guests' lavender carnation boutonnières off? If you can't gild the rainbow

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a bit on your wedding day, then when should you?

All that glisters *can* be gold, gay and even groovy; plus, at least where wedding expenses are concerned, you won't have to hock your ring two weeks back from that splendiferous Puerto Vallarta or P'town honeymoon simply to pay for the invitations.

Of course, you can use an online resource like GayWeddings.com, which offers a revelatory "Simply Sensible Line" of any and all *essential* stationary options, while the "Essentials Package" starts at only \$114, for 100 invites, and includes extras like blank outer envelopes, response cards and a pre-printed return envelope.

For those of you lovebirds wishing to hands-on peruse in advance your options at literal bricks-and-mortar businesses specializing *specifically* in custom-printed gay and lesbian invitations, there are, sad to say, *no* such stationary stores located in Dallas. Not one.

However, for the personal touch, Write Selection at Royal and Preston *is* delighted to customize a same-sex wedding ceremony's invitations.

"There are literally *thousands* of invitation choices to select from," says Terry Cummings of Write Selection. "Most usually take only a week to produce; for specialized custom orders, around two weeks."

Packages come in increments of 25: This consists of the invitation itself, with an outer envelope — formal if you like — and an inner envelope to the addressee, plus a RSVP set which includes a RSVP card with an envelope addressed back to you." Cummings adds, "Always remember to put stamps on the RSVP envelopes before mailing out your invitations, excepting when guests live out of the country — in which case they are expected to provide the appropriate postage themselves."

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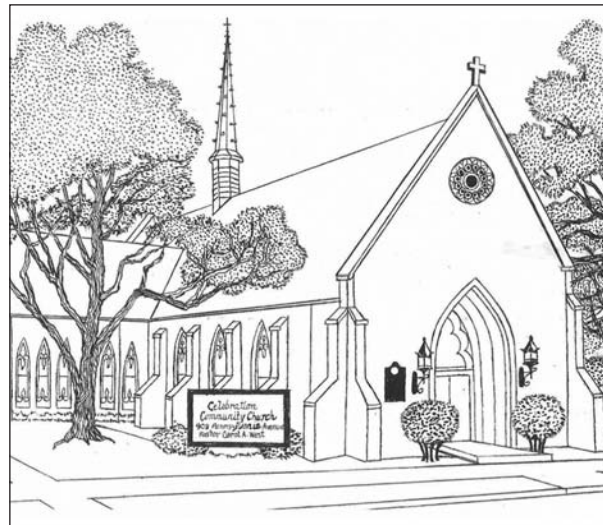


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GAYING UP THE BLAH ANNIVERSARY GIFT FOR YOUR SPOUSE

There have always been symbolic gifts couples are supposed to bestow on each other for landmark anniversaries — both traditional and modern. Two things we've noticed about those gift ideas, though: first, the modern gifts seem to have gotten greedier (how do you go from china to platinum?!); and second, these were obviously not conceived of with gay couples in mind.

We are here to correct that, specifying which kind of gift would be good for your significant other while keeping the spirit of the symbolism in mind.



— Arnold Wayne Jones and Rich Lopez

Anniv. year	Traditional	Modern	Gay
First	Paper	Clocks	Glitter each other up with sparkly body paint
Second	Cotton	China	Dance music (who doesn't enjoy a techno mix-tape?)
Third	Leather	Crystal/glass	 We like the leather idea — a harness and jock strap says "I love you! Now service me!!"
Fourth	Linen/silk	Appliances	Vibrator — hey, it's <i>kind of</i> an appliance
Fifth	Wood	Silverware	We are <i>all</i> about giving our baby wood
Tenth	Tin, aluminum	Jewelry	Tech — might we suggest an iPad 2 preloaded with the Grindr Xtra app
Twentieth	China	Platinum	Botox
Thirtieth	Pearl	Diamond	A pearl necklace sounds great — if you know what we mean
Fiftieth	Gold	Gold	We were gonna say golden shower, but after 50 years, incontinence might already be a problem... how about a sling instead?
Sixtieth	Diamond	Diamond	After 60 years with your sorry ass, a diamond is the least you can do



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Seasons of LOVE

Couples who have been together a while celebrate anniversaries in many ways

BY JEFF TINGLEY

At the risk of sounding like a song from *Rent*: How does a couple measure a year? It's the question many same-sex partners are faced with when they make it past 365 days together and seek to fix that elusive date they call their "anniversary." Was it the first glance? First date? First, uhh, encounter? Or how about the day they loaded the cats in the U-Haul and moved in together?

The answer, it seems, is *yes* to all of the above. But whether grand or subtle, these couples had their own reasons and ways for making their anniversaries an affair to remember.

Jack Evans and George Harris met each other on Jan. 19, 1961 at the Taboo Room, a long-defunct gay bar located on Lomo Alto Drive off Lemmon Avenue. Earlier this year, they decided to mark their golden anniversary.

"Fifty years and still goin' strong!" Harris crows.

To celebrate, they invited a group of 16 friends to fly to Los Angeles in early April. The couple spend a day touring the city, including a trip to the Getty Museum, before they all boarded the Princess Sapphire for a one-week Mexican Riviera cruise. The adventure included stopovers in

ON HIGH SEAS | George Harris, left of the man in the New York City shirt, and his partner Jack Evans, flanking on the right, marked their golden anniversary with a week-long cruise to Mexico with more than a dozen close friends.



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Puerto Vallarta and San Jose del Cabo.

"It was wonderful," says Evans. "A great, harmonious, no-drama group."

Lakewood residents David Wood and Don Hendershot met 25 years ago at a tea dance at the infamous Parliament House in Orlando, Fla.; however, it was just this year that they took their relationship to the next level, getting legally married in Boston on March 25.

It was certainly a day they'll never forget. Taking the marriage advice of "something blue" too literally, Hendershot fell from a ladder the day before the wedding, leaving him with a broken hand and bruised ribs going into the ceremony. Major body trauma aside, the intimate wedding came off without a hitch — "except for my unexpected explosion of tears when we exchanged vows," says Wood.

The duo credit the wedding of a younger couple they are friends with for prompting them to make the move from longtime live-ins to actual husband status. "We had been discussing how we were going to celebrate 25 years and seeing such a young couple tie the knot actually inspired us to do the same," Wood says.

Oak Cliff residents Kathy Jack and Susie Buck also celebrated one of their anniversaries (year seven) with a wedding. As a result, the couple, now together 15 years, claims *two* anniversary dates for their very own. "Our anniversary is Feb. 14, which was not planned," says Jack of the Valentine's Day milestone. "But our wedding anniversary is Feb. 15, which was planned." The date change was apparently made to best accommodate the schedule of the couple and their friends as they traveled to Hawaii for a destination wedding.

It was a trip they will both remember for years to come. "Maui on your wedding night. Waves crashing. Champagne. How much better can it get?" says Buck. "[We are] hoping to get away for our 20th to Greece."

For Oak Cliff couple Todd Johnson and Tom Caraway, who will celebrate their 12-year anniversary on Nov. 3, the special day wasn't about rushing to the altar — it was about traveling the world together.

"For our 10-year anniversary, we wanted to go someplace special," says Johnson. "Paris kept popping up, but it seemed like such a cliché. Surely, we could be more original than that. But neither of us had ever been and it was the best decision. Paris is a very special place, my favorite city on the planet. Just strolling the streets of St. Germain, the Marais. The beauty of the city is so inspiring. I now understand why you see people making out on practically every street corner."

He's quick to add that Parisian dining was equally as appealing a part of the trip for the self-proclaimed foodies. "[We] decided to eat our way across the city. All the bistros and patisseries offered one delicious bite after another. For our official anniversary dinner, we went to Alain Ducasse at the Hotel Plaza Athenee, considered one of the finest restaurants in the world. It was like something out of a movie: crystal chandeliers, haute couture decor, formal service but happily not stuffy. We couldn't get over the food: guinea fowl with truffle pie, steamed langoustines, asparagus with black truffles."

However, it's how the couple ended the anniversary excursion that really stands out. "We visited Pere Lachaise, the largest cemetery in Paris. It's the one where Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison are buried. I know. A cemetery? Romantic?" says Johnson. "But there we were in this perfectly still, quiet place amid the bustle of Paris. The sun was close to setting. The gravestones cast long shadows across the lawn. There was something about the moment that was magical. You focus on the beauty and fragility of life, and it makes you thankful for everything that you have — especially the love that you have. We took each other's hands and strolled along the cemetery. It's my favorite moment of the trip."

So perhaps the folks in *Rent* have it right. Maybe you do measure a year in cups of coffee and sunsets? Or, maybe it's wedding rings and graveyard strolls? Regardless of what it takes, it seems each couple has their own way of making the phrase "happy anniversary" truly mean something.

— Additional reporting by David Taffet

PARIS WHEN IT SIZZLES | Tom Caraway, pictured, and his partner Todd Johnson decided to mark their 10th anniversary with a trip to Paris, where neither had ever been. The trip included touristy things like visiting the Louvre, pictured, but also fine dining and a stop at Pere Lachaise cemetery to visit the grave of Oscar Wilde.



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Letting it REGISTER

Gift registries can be intimidating.
Dean Driver makes them easy

BY RICH LOPEZ

Perhaps the one wedding tradition same-sex couples might waffle on is signing up for that beg-a-thon, the gift registry. Forget *whether* to do so (you should); the real question is, where can you find that particular china pattern you once saw in a magazine?

The answer to that question is probably Dean Driver. With his new company, Consilium Lifestyle Collections, Driver makes what could be a daunting (even intimidating) task for same-sex couples possibly the easiest job out of all the wedding planning.

"I don't know if the average gay couple feels comfortable going into stores," Driver says. "They may, but many retailers just aren't reaching out to gay couples."

Teaming up with Consilium Creative Marketing, Driver created what may be the first by-appointment source of its kind in Dallas to provide a wedding gift registry for same-sex couples. While the services are for everyone, Driver believes that this personal touch can bring comfort to any gay newlyweds hesitant about how to sign up for gifts. It also gives them a home field advantage when looking for fine tabletop products and more.

"The way we do business is changing, and this has afforded me the ability to do in-home consultations and also wedding registries," Driver says. "I come to the client with samples to get an idea of their lifestyle and suggest products and can see what will work with what's already in the home."

The affable Driver knows his stuff. After working with tabletop industries for years in large markets like New York, he has access to many luxury brands and even unique home products. The usual china and crystal items are no problem, but items like linens and household accessories are more easily available through him.

Driver's first piece of advice on getting started with a registry: Don't be intimidated.

"I demystify all that for you," he says. "That's what I'm here for. I'll make it easier for you. And people shouldn't think that everything offered in a registry costs so much. We do have some unique options that are moderately priced."

Consilium has only been around for a few months, but it has burst out of the gate with a selection of up to 50 brands, some exclusive to them. And with Driver's knowledge and background, he can pretty much get anybody anything they want.

"I'm a sort of an expert in tabletops, and I have my finger on the pulse of the industry," he



FASHION. PLATE. | Dean Driver knows how to make a tabletop pop — and how to make it easy on you to choose your gifts. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

says. "I go to Paris, to Milan and see all the new patterns. And if you saw a plate in a magazine and brought it to me, I could pinpoint what it is. When I say anything, I mean *anything* — and you may be only person in the country to have it."

Something his company can guarantee is the death of that most dreaded wedding tradition: The return. Once items are selected for the registry, gift givers don't have to worry about buying an item that's already been purchased. Instead, the company does gift cards only, which are beautifully packaged for the giver to present.

"This prevents exchanges or duplicates," he says. "Plus, clients may change their minds and gift cards give them an opportunity to get something else. And it's a little more green without all that wrapping paper and shipping to worry about."

Driver and company seems to have gotten rid of all the excuses couples can make to partake in registering for gifts. Being that a wedding is a life-changing event, Driver mostly wonders why not go all out?

"Couples shouldn't shy away from getting nice things," he says. "This is the one time to get the nice stuff, so why not? Anything you want, I can get."

The only caveat — Driver encourages people to use the nice stuff everyday.

"Yeah, don't pack it away in a cabinet like our parents did," he says.

Of course, if there's one thing gays know how to do it's merchandise.

For more information, visit ConsiliumLifestyleCollections.com.

Where to wed

Many local gay-affirming churches are happy to help couples jump the broom

Some folks are happy with a private ceremony expressing their love, but others appreciate the sanctity of an officiant declaring their union in the eyes of God. Here are some churches that embrace same-sex couples.

— M.M. Adjarian

AGAPE MCC — 4615 E. California Parkway (SE Loop 820), Fort Worth. 817-535-5002. Agapemcc.com.

Revs. S. David Wynn, Sr., Teri Lubbers and Robert Myers. Require pre-service counseling.

Ascension

Lutheran Church — 4230 Buckingham Road, Garland. 972-276-0023. Ascensiontexas.org. Pastor Kurt Friederich.

Blessing service for church members; no weddings for non-members.

Bethany Presbyterian Church — 4523 Cedar Springs Road. 214-528-4084. Called “an open, caring, inclusive, multicultural ‘More Light’ congregation.”

Cathedral of Hope/Interfaith Peace Chapel — 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 214-351-1901, ext 109. Cathedralofhope.com. Senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson. Contact Brian Parman, director of the Interfaith Peace Chapel, for information. The Sanctuary of the Cathedral of Hope, United Church of Christ features beautiful faceted glass windows and can accommodate up to 750 guests. Reception accommodations are also available.

Celebration Community Church — 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, 817-335-3222. Celebration-community-church.com. Pastor Carol West; ask for wedding/holy union coordinator. Non-denominational Christian congregation.

Center for Spiritual Living — 4801 Spring Valley Road, Suite 115. 972-866-9988; CSLDallas.org. Senior minister Rev. Petra Weldes; Rev. Dr. Marsha Meghadpour. Marriage or commitment ceremony. United Centers for Spiritual Living.

Community Unitarian Universalist Church — 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano, 972-424-8989. Community-uuchurch.org. Rev. Patrick D. Price. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

Congregation Beth El Binah — Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 214-521-5342, ext. 1784. Bethelbinah.org. Email Sandy Horwitz, shorwitz@bethelbinah.info or Diane Litke, dlitke@bethelbinah.info. Reform Jewish congregation. Reform Judaism recognizes marriage between two Jewish men or women; however the rabbi will perform an interfaith service.

First Unitarian Church of Dallas — 4015 Normandy Ave. 214-528-3990. Dallasuu.org. Rev. Dr. Daniel Chesney Kanter; Associate Minister, Rev. Aaron White. The



A NEW IDEA | The new Interfaith Peace Chapel at the Cathedral of Hope, designed by gay architect Phillip Johnson, performs same-sex ceremonies.

Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus — 411 S. Westmoreland Road. 214-333-9779. Pastor Tony Hoult. Perform holy unions.

Harvest MCC — 3916 E. McKinney St., Suite B, Denton. 940-484-6159. Harvestmcc.org. Performs weddings or holy unions.

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas — 1840 Hutton, Suite 100, Carrollton. 972-243-0761. Mccgd.org. Revs. Colleen Darraugh, Steven Pace, Kay Seitz. Provides pre-marital counseling and performs weddings or holy unions. The church facility is available for non-members to rent. The MCC can also connect couples with musicians, photographers and caterers.

Midway Hills Christian Church — 11001 Midway Road. 214-352-4841. Midwayhills.org. Rev. Terry L. Zimmerman. Performs union ceremonies.

Promise MCC — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. 214-623-8400. Promisemcc.org. Senior pastor Rev. Jon Haack. Performs weddings or holy unions.

Trinity MCC — 1846 W. Division St. Suite 305, Arlington. 817-265-5454. Trinitymcc.org. Performs weddings or holy unions.

Unity Church of Christianity — 3425 Greenville Ave. 214-826-5683. Dallasunity.org. Rev. Steve Colladay. Performs holy unions, commitment ceremonies. The minister is openly gay and supported by the congregation.

White Rock Community Church — 9353 Garland Road. 214-320-0043. Whiterockchurch.org. Pastor Douglas Shaffer. Contact wedding coordinator Mary Marshall for information. Performs holy unions, commitment ceremonies or weddings — “whichever the couple is comfortable with.” Activities center for receptions.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff — 3839 W. Kiest Blvd. 214-337-2429. Oakcliffuu.org. Rev. Mark Walz. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.



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Mr. Nice Guy

Gay musician Tom Goss stays defiant about his squeaky-clean image

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Once upon a time, Tom Goss was a wounded, angry man. He alludes to his parents' marriage leaving scars when he was younger, and at one point even believed he wouldn't live to see 30. But Goss hit that milestone birthday this week, so *some* things must be going right.

"You know, I kept waiting for my tragic death," he admits. "When I turned 30 a few days ago, I used it as an excuse to give myself a new perspective on things."

Goss performs Thursday at Opening Bell in support of *Turn it Around*, an album that heralds an optimism not heard on his early releases. Now married to his partner of five years, Goss is in love and he wants the world to know.

"I got married to the man I'm madly in love with and I want to convey that in this album," he says.

Everything about *Around* is feel-good, maybe overly sentimental, but it does offer a refreshing perspective. Goss dissolves the idea that uplifting songs equate to Christian music. Instead, he brings a level of cheer without being annoying. And with such a blatant overtone of romance, he resonates with gay listeners who might also want to celebrate their love.

"As an artist, I want my music to connect with everyone," he says. "I don't specify 'he' or 'she' in my lyrics, because I want to focus on everybody. I like the things people share instead of divide. At the same time, I can bring a kind of normalcy to gay relationships."

TOM GOSS

With Brant Croucher. **Opening Bell Coffee**, 1409 S. Lamar St.
May 12 at 8 p.m. \$5.
OpeningBellCoffee.com

He does that to full effect in videos such as "Till the End," "You Don't Question Love" and most notably in "Lover," from his 2009 album *Back to Love*. Depicting the relationship between two men — one a soldier hurt in battle, the other waiting at home — the video has gotten heavy rotation on Logo. While portraying gay relationships, Goss also makes political statements ... even if he doesn't mean to.

"I wasn't trying to shock anybody with the video — I'm not that political," he says. "I started getting emails and meeting soldiers telling me about their involvement with 'don't ask, don't tell' and the video was a result of that even though the song wasn't originally written with that in mind."

Goss says that his evolution as an artist is most apparent with



PINING UPSIDE DOWN BEEFCAKE | Tom Goss just turned 30, and love has softened his musical heart.

this album. His songwriting is crisper and he felt like he let loose with a strong positive energy all in an effort to make a "really great pop album." He's fine without trying to have an edge that music sometimes requires.

"You can go back to first album and hear the hurt, but I don't feel like I have that anymore," he says. "As for an edge or dark side, I don't really have one. I'm supposed to be edgy and all these things but for the most part, I'm nice. I left my anger and violence in my past."

He laughs at himself for being a "bad artist" because he thinks more about songwriting than branding or marketing, but he also knows his look, sound and tone are bright and what his fans want — something that's wholesome.

"So much of the world, especially in the gay world, is bitter," he says. "Although I'm not sure I ever set out to be anything particular, I want to turn people emotionally. I want to show them there is something beyond that bitterness." ■

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Feminist mystique

Lovers' Carolyn Berk finds zero limits as an out musician — but gets a little nervous coming back to Texas

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Smilla might have had a sense of snow, but Carolyn Berk — frontwoman for the Portland-based trio Lovers — has a sense of sex. And it makes her a bit nervous to be coming to the Metroplex.

"Portland is a very feminine city, but when I'm in Texas, I feel it's a very masculine place," she says. "There is an energy that I don't quite get. I can experience masculinity in myself but when it's used in a certain way, I start feeling uncomfortable. I've never been to Dallas because, honestly, I'm intimidated by it. I don't feel particularly safe in Texas."

Berk doesn't mean to sound like she's railing against the state, but she wants to be up-front how her feminist roots may feel challenged next Friday, when Lovers plays at

Andy's Bar in Denton. It's no surprise that she loves Austin, but she doesn't say whether the band intentionally sidestepped Dallas in favor of Denton. But we choose not to see it that way — anyway, fringe bands thrive in college towns.

"One of the interesting things about going back to the same towns again is seeing the people you met last time," she says of touring. "Hopefully we'll see that some of the seeds are growing and more people come out. I always hope that each tour is better than the last."

Lovers has five albums under its belt, and through rotating members, the touchstone has always been Berk. But this current incarnation of the band seems to find Lovers at its best self. Berk, Kerby Ferris and Emily Kingan have produced a confident album with *Dark Light*, and after a decade of doing this, Berk feels this is the band at its strongest.

"When we came together, it felt very egalitarian and feminist and comfortable," she says. "I hadn't experienced that level of confidence and there are a lot of benefits to having our kind of connection. I felt like this was a really great place

to be creatively."

This confidence has taken Berk to new levels, as an artist and a person. All three members identify as queer, and for Berk, that offers a comfort in writing her music. Although she starts the song on her acoustic guitar, the others chime in for a group dynamic.

At 32, her personal growth over these 10 years has manifested differently in *Dark Light* than it has on any of the previous releases. She's out of the closet, but this album shows Berk coming out of her shell.

"I feel like I sort of went from being an artist who was working mostly to exorcise personal demons to someone who, with time, is able to looking more outward," she says. "This is the most extroverted album Lovers has ever had."

Those demons stemmed from losing her mother at 15, as well as growing up surrounded by death. Seeing it up close at an early age was just a "weird way to start life." But it shaped her knack for some pretty epic lyrics. In *Light's* "Shepherd of the Stray Hearts," she says volumes in the line *Just like a shepherd of the stray hear / leaving you whale bones in your front yard and a basket of spearmint on the gate behind your swing / and a white scarf around the cello cart you're always pushing.*

"The song is about having a secret romance and those images come from a some very romantic places in my life," Berk says.

And while the object of affection may be to a woman by a woman, Berk and company have faith that their music will transcend labels.

"At this point in my career, I just feel limitless," she says. "I feel very visible through the music and at the same time anybody else can insert their experiences into a song. I'm very open in my music, but I don't think that means its closed for everyone else." ■

LOVERS
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Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust Road, Denton.
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THREE WAY | Carolyn Berk, center, and Lovers return to the masculine state of Texas with feminist pop.

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

A haunting, exhilarating, unforgettable 'Cabaret'

It's no exaggeration to say that *Cabaret* is the best thing the Dallas Theater Center has done since moving into its new digs at the Wyly Theatre almost two years ago. When they took over the space, artistic director Kevin Moriarty said it would take a few years before the artists working there fully assessed what the theater *could* be. With back-to-back stagings by Joel Ferrell — *Dividing the Estate* in March, now this — it's clear that at least one artist has staked his claim on understanding that potential.

Ferrell's decision to turn the floor of the theater into a nightclub — with cocktail service and café tables and the actors interacting with the audience as they might inside the Rose Room — both gives some attendees respite from the notoriously hard green chairs of the Wyly and a sense for the intimacy and humanity of a musical that, at its heart, is about sweeping ideas and man's inhumanity.

It's 1931 Berlin, and the Nazis are rising to power, but for the staff and patrons of the Kit Kat Klub, it's hard to see that the party's almost over. They *should* know it — in Clint Ramos' tattered costumes, ghastly makeup and walking through Bob Lavalley's skeletal set, everyone looks hung over and slightly diseased. (So intense is the sexual energy in the buoyant opening number, I had a strong desire to leave immediately and get tested for Chlamydia.)

Cliff Bradshaw (Lee Trull) is late to the party. A stand-in for the gay writer Christopher Isherwood, Cliff hopes the decadence of the city will inspire his next novel. He settles into a boarding house that's a microcosm for the diversity of the city — and a hotbed of what will rip Germany apart.

Of course there's Kander and Ebb's potent score, but Ferrell's direction is stand-out. His deftness with political subtext, foreshadowing the horrors of the Holocaust and conveying the allure of institutionalized hatred as a rallying point for a defeated and scared proletariat, echoes realities of our own politically divisive society with haunting poignancy. (Sally Vahle, who transforms from street whore to *grande dame* of the Fatherland, is the starkest metaphor for its appeal. It's fun while it lasts; *après-vous, le déluge*.)

Wade McCollum dominates the cast as the Emcee. In red eyeliner, low-slung hip-huggers that barely conceal his junk and a demonic grin that creeps you out and seduces you at the same time, his characterization is equal parts Alice Cooper, Dr. Frank-N-Furter and Alex from *A Clockwork Orange*. Surrounded by his Droogs — the chorus boys, a raucous bunch of muscled hooligans — he presides over the festivities with a flirtatious recklessness (during the Nazi anthem "Tomorrow Belongs to Me," he hyperventilates at the notion of watching the world end), he's practically the *raison-d'être* of the piece.

Practically, but not entirely — *no one* disappoints. As Sally Bowles, the headliner at the cabaret, Kate Wetherhead is physically delicate but convincingly flighty and self-destructive with a great performance style. Her delivery on "Maybe This Time" lingers. David Coffee and Julie Johnson as the middle-aged couple tentatively staking out a romance form the core of the play's emotional life. Their doom resonates and the irony of the show's most famous lyric — "Life is a cabaret, old chum — come to the cabaret" — leaves you breathless by the end. ■

LIFE IS A ... WELL, YOU KNOW | The Emcee (Wade McCollum, center) presides over the last days of a doomed society in DTC's excellent staging of 'Cabaret.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

CABARET
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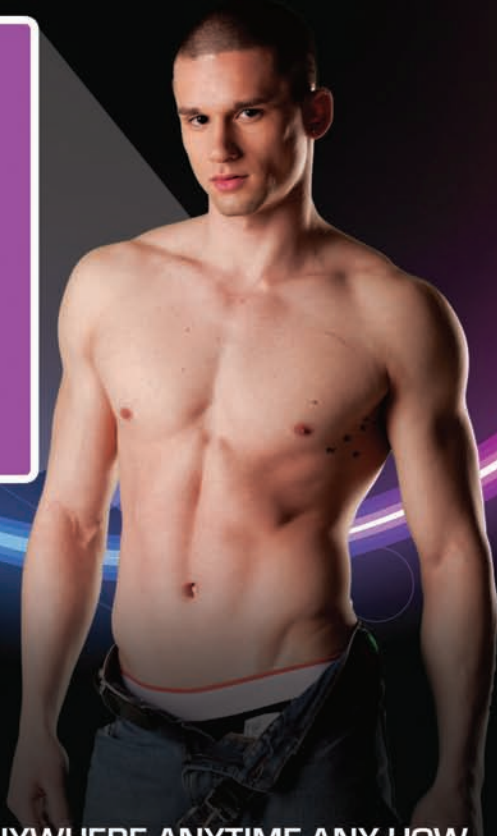
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L+S dining

Getting schooled

There's not much of a church school left at Saint Ann — other than a heavenly way with comfort food

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

I went to Catholic school, so I can tell you from personal knowledge the food in the cafeteria there was nothing like it is at Saint Ann. Although located in a renovated church school opened in 1927 to serve Hispanic kids, it feels more hipster-chic than institutional drab. A Plexiglas floor reveals a gravel substrate two feet below; comfy stuffed chairs and sofas in the bar area make waiting for your table seem less like sitting outside the principal's office and more like Friday afternoon in the teacher's lounge. And a decent-if-unexceptional, but inexpensive, by-the-glass wine selection gives you more drinking options than we had hanging outside the senior's parking lot after class.

The vibe of the place has moved from whack-your-knuckles nuns to slap-yo'-mama good food. Saints preserve us!

At essence, Saint Ann is more sophisticated pub-grub with a cool atmosphere than schmancy fine dining destination. But it is a destination nonetheless: Nuzzling its front patio away from a one-way street and facing the distaff side of the Crescent, it takes a bit of navigating to find, but is well worth a trip.

The kitchen sexes up many of the dishes with indulgent ideas. The unmissable app is the grilled sizzlers (\$8.50) — bacon-wrapped chicken nuggets that get a kick from jalapeño and garlic.

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★



Saint Ann, 2501 N. Harwood St. Open daily for lunch and dinner; Sunday brunch. 214-782-9807.

A hipster vibe in this converted schoolhouse undergirds some enjoyable American classics and thoughtful bar food. And the garden dining is great.

Food: ★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★
Service: ★★★★★
Price: Moderate



SIZZLE | Bacon-wrapped chicken and jalapeño? We are so there. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Ignore the sports bar pedigree and revel only in the execution: potent, fatty, flavorful blackened nuggets dipped in a soothing ranch. The quesadillas (\$8) are more like cheesy crepes with a pico-tang from the chipotle crema and cilantro.

The centerpieces of the menu, even at dinner, are sandwiches, soups and meal-sized salads (there are as many to choose from as dinner entrées). The onion soup (\$5.50) was only average, but the diced vegetables floating around the lentil soup-du-jour imbued a hearty warmth that was especially welcome on the chilly day we sampled it.

The au jus ribeye French dip (\$12), sliced thin and baked with cheese on a baguette scored with its bite from horseradish. But it's hard to resist ordering something called a "dirty burger" (that's where my mind goes), so I didn't. A half-pound gourmet patty dressed with thin, crisp planks of bacon and gooey white Vermont cheddar came on a bun that seemed tailor-made to hold all the flavor. (Over- or under-sized buns, or limp ones that break apart when you pick them up, are Kryptonite to a super burger.) The waffle fries outshone the sweet potato fries, which were underwhelming.

Spaghetti is the cuisine of the church school, and this version (\$10.50), served with an oily Bolognese sauce, wasn't too traditional — it lacked comfort-food cred, even as I respect the effort. The bold flavor of pesto on the linguini (\$14.50) was well to my liking, and the medallions of chicken conveyed an herbal freshness.

I wanted more of a sear on the scallops (\$15), though they tasted great with cilantro lime crema, despite resting on a bed of slight undercooked grits. By the time I got to the dessert — a chocolate croissant bread pudding rich enough to run for president — all other minor sins were forgiven.

Saint Ann's charms carry it a long way, from the menu on lined grammar-school (complete with grade and corrected spelling), but I wouldn't go back if the food didn't draw me. School may almost be out for the summer, but Saint Ann has class to spare.

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Friday 05.06

Time to light a fire under people

When a group of friends came together to take a stance against bullying, Light a Fire was born. Now they hope to encourage many others to continue to raise awareness and educate on the issue. Fort Worth councilman Joel Burns guest speaks at the Light a Fire inaugural event, with donations given to Youth First Texas.

DEETS: The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. 6:30 p.m. \$25. The-Mac.org.

Friday 05.06

A theater queen's heaven

Uptown Players is begging for money again, but that's good news because it means the return of *Broadway Our Way*. A star-studded night of local theater peeps combine their talents to bring an evening of fab showtunes, but with some major twists. Because we all know Uptown Players isn't gonna play it straight — and that's a good thing.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 15. \$40. UptownPlayers.org.

Saturday 05.07

What's the Bloomin' deal?

AIDS Interfaith Network celebrates 25 years of service at this year's Bloomin' Ball. With spring flowers, live music and silent auction, the affair is more than just a special event — it's set to inspire people to become involved with the agency.

DEETS: Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. 6 p.m. \$125. AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org.



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FRIDAY 05.06

COMMUNITY

Eye Candy. El Centro student fashion show is the school's 37th annual event highlighting the fashion programs and students' designs. Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Blvd. 7 p.m. \$10. ElCentroCollege.edu.

National Public Gardens Day. National day of celebration to raise awareness of America's public gardens and their role in promoting environmental awareness. Dallas Arboretum, 8617 Garland Road. 9 a.m. \$12. DallasArboretum.org.

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 05.07

COMMUNITY

Young Femme Professionals meeting. YFP is a networking event for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s-30s. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m. Meetup.com/Young-Femme-Professionals-Of-DFW.

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

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

SUNDAY 05.08

COMMUNITY

Cinco de Mayo Pride Fiesta featuring mariachis, folklorico performances, drag queens and live DJ. The event benefits AIDS Arms and DISD graduates through LULAC 4871 Dallas Rainbow Council. Exclusive, 4207 Maple Ave. 10 a.m. Lulac4871.org.

Prime Timers play Uno at private residence. 2 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

Expressions, free gender support group sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

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

MONDAY 05.09

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County. Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

PFLAG Mesquite. St. Stephen United Methodist Church. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

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

TUESDAY 05.10

COMMUNITY

Prime Timers Prime Diner at la Calle Doce, 415 W. 12th St. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

WEDNESDAY 05.11

COMMUNITY

Lambda Legal Monthly Mixer. Open to the public. Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. LambdaLegal.org.

Cathedral Business Network monthly lunch. Avalon at Kessler Park, 2522 Fort Worth Ave. 11:30 a.m. \$15. RSVP to cbn.info@cathedralofhope.com.

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY 05.12

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Rick Santorum turns 53 on Tuesday. The former Republican senator from Pennsylvania was a vocal opponent to LGBT issues. However, sex columnist and gay advocate Dan Savage turned the tables on him by coining his last name as a sexual term — and not a good one. It ended up Google bombing the politician and tops the list when searching his name.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Too much time alone is bad for your health. Some dark erotic adventure channels that energy toward your betterment and helps unlock self-destructive secrets so you are free of them.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Host one hell of a party, but don't set the house on fire. Map out the future with your partner. Your plans are extravagant, but your sweetheart will help you get a clear focus.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Focus more on work than your career. Quality and effectiveness speak better for you than aggressive self-promotion. Being noticed is inevitable. The question is: What will they see?

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

The best arguments don't depend on winning, but rather help you to understand broader perspectives. You can also learn a lot from the art, film and music of other cultures.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Challenges at work aren't severe as they seem. The lessons of childhood make a good starting point. Your partner, family and tribe can be more helpful than you expect.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

If there's any doubt that your partner is on your side it is probably a problem in communications. Discuss your approaches to the tasks at hand. If it's about love, solutions are in the bedroom.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Work problems build to a crisis that will make everything clearer, but there's too much going on. It boils down to priorities. Tough choices could anger some friends; keep communications open.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Too many strategies are buzzing in your head. Rule No. 1: Be true to yourself. No. 2: Remember where you come from. Start there and you will succeed.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Are you a storm tearing through or the eye of the hurricane? It's easy to get sucked into the maelstrom thinking you can fix the problems. Find your inner peace and operate from there.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your tongue gets ahead of your brain. Reel it in, listen and think ahead before speaking. In all the babble that surrounds you, there are some brilliant ideas. Listen, discern and be inspired.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Know what you're worth and what you can do. Both are probably a lot more than you realize. Focus and work; you will succeed! Having a plan helps, even if things never go as planned.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

You're filled with energy and charm to conquer most worlds. Even if world domination isn't feasible, you're clever enough to plot reasonable victories. New perspectives will help.

THIS WEEK

Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Eris are aligned in Aries. Take care of yourself while remembering it's not all about you. While the North Node is in Sagittarius trining this pile-up, philosophical discussions can help you get clear focus on needed lessons.

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

JANE'S WORLD



JaneComics.com

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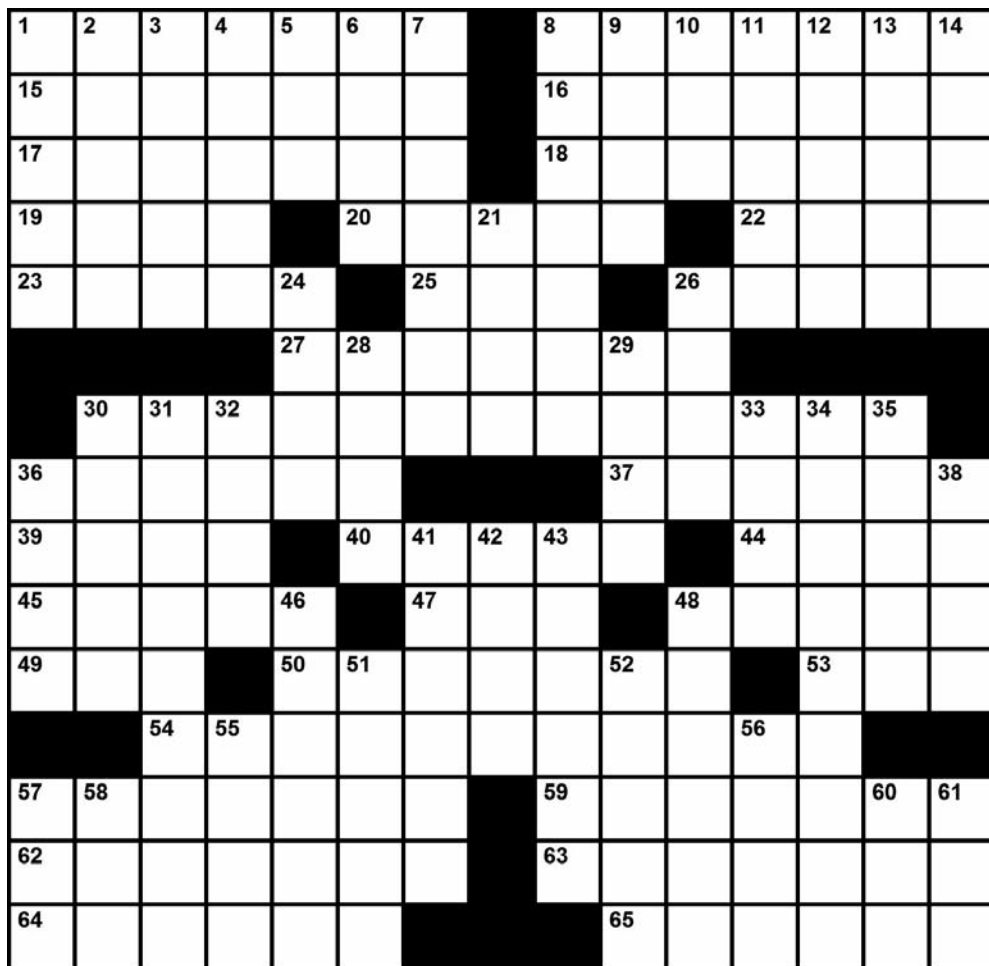
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Korean Creed

Solution on page 51

Across

- 1 NG: Take the essentials of
- 8 Discrimination lawsuit reward
- 15 South Pacific setting, broadly
- 16 NG: Subject for civic improvement
- 17 Start of a quote about the deity
- 18 More of the quote
- 19 Guy under Hoover
- 20 They have foamy heads
- 22 NG: Least bit
- 23 Streisand's cross-dressing movie
- 25 NG: Louis XIV, par exemple
- 26 Flamboyant Flynn
- 27 NG: Allowing for future revision
- 30 End of the quote
- 36 Mychal Judge, e.g.
- 37 Took off one's togs
- 39 NG: Stew veggie
- 40 Love-making sounds
- 44 NG: Sheltered on the sea
- 45 NG: Orchestral conductor Zubin
- 47 R. Mapplethorpe supporter
- 48 NG: Wipe away
- 49 NG: Palm Pilot, e.g.

50 Bianchi's tools

- 53 Food and wine expert Allen
- 54 Source of the quote
- 57 Vidal's Season of ____
- 59 Moon of Uranus
- 62 NG: Be in charge of
- 63 NG: Toy racer
- 64 Having been dumped, e.g.
- 65 Coarse clothing from Barrie's land

Down

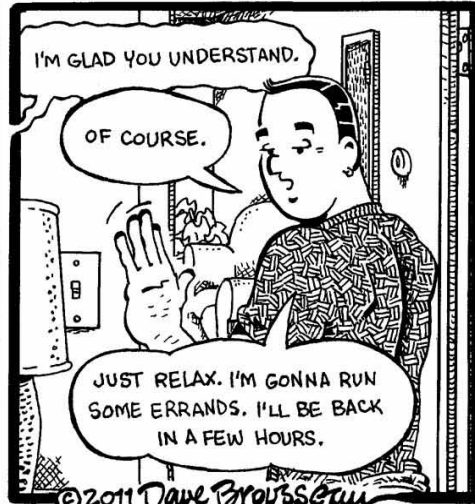
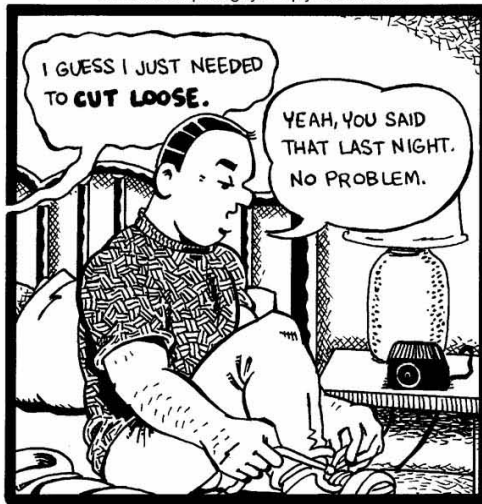
- 1 Intercourse style
- 2 "____ to bury Caesar ..."
- 3 Hardtop
- 4 Perineum, in slang
- 5 Senatorial seat holders, e.g.
- 6 Life partner
- 7 NG: Like lasagna
- 8 Take off your shorts?
- 9 First mate's pair
- 10 NG: Month in Madrid
- 11 No longer lying with one's partner
- 12 Be attracted to
- 13 Muse for Millay
- 14 George of It's My Party
- 21 NG: Years on end
- 24 Woody pile
- 26 NG: Slight advantage
- 28 Honey holders
- 29 Breaks for Heather's mummies
- 30 NG: Hot under the collar
- 31 Tool on a hose that blows
- 32 NG: Nitty-gritty
- 33 Enjoy phone sex
- 34 NG: Out of the blue
- 35 They go down south for the winter
- 36 NG: Splendid display
- 38 NG: Title document
- 41 Man in the can
- 42 Will of The Waltons
- 43 NG: Ladies' rooms?
- 46 Straddling
- 48 NG: Third-party holding
- 51 Go together
- 52 Not erect
- 55 Bushy do
- 56 Ill will, or lack of grace
- 57 NG: End of many a web address
- 58 NG: Ab ____ (from the beginning)
- 60 Sonny, to Chaz
- 61 Caesar's arts



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Jonathan and Chris at BJ's NXS!



Kyle and Scott at the Brick.



Robert and Bruce at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Steven, Rob and Steven at the Hidden Door.

Go out all you want, just don't forget **Mother's Day** on Sunday. You'll never live it down Sunday night, **the Rainbow Lounge** in Fort Worth brings out the cake for the **Whitney Paige Birthday Celebration** with a special appearance by **Ka'Aliyah McKim-Diamond** Rock it out all weekend at **Sue Ellen's**. **Nothing Strikes Back** plays Friday and are followed by the **Kat Moore Band** on Saturday. Not enough? Good. **Lizzy Pitch**, **Billy Halliday** and **Lori McCracken** take the stage on Sunday **Percussions Lounge** searches for the next top comedian at the **QLive! Open Mic** every Tuesday Every Monday at **Club Reflection**, dance lessons are offered for newbie boot scooters **The Dallas Eagle** has a busy Sunday this weekend. They day starts off with the **AIDS Interfaith Network Charity Poker Tournament**. That's followed by the **Extra Innings** show hosted by **Itchy Kitty** and then it's the **T-Dance for Men** with **DJ Perry** Get your **All-Star Drag Show** fix Fridays and Saturdays at **1851 Club**. Drop an ace at **Poker Night** on Monday with **Dino Clark** Hit up the **Leather and Lace** party on Saturday at **Best Friends**. On Wednesday, the club hosts the **Miss QCinema 2011** pageant Cop a feel at **Frisky Fridays** at **the Brick**. **DJ Mickey** spins Saturday night away. Check out the guy candy at the **Amateur Strip Off** on Thursday How about treating Mom to an outdoor burger and show? **BeBe Le Strange** performs Friday night at **Jack's Backyard**. **Ciao Bella** plays Saturday night Speaking of live shows, don't miss out on **Immigrant Punk's** show at **Banter** in Denton on Friday Kick it at the **5 de Mayo Pride Fiesta** Sunday at **Exklusive** all day long. ■

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Kim and Kevin at Alexandre's.



Ed and Will at Zippers.



Mark and Chris at the Dallas Eagle.

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EVENT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

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6:00 - 10:00 PM
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WINE SAMPLING
PET ACTIVITIES
ARTISTS & VENDORS
FOOD, DRINKS, FUN
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FREE TO THE PUBLIC
A FAMILY FUN EVENT

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DAYTIME STREET FAIR
ARTISTS | VENDORS**

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
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TEA DANCES**

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entertainment, adult

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entertainment, general

***ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART** — 201 W. Main St., Arlington; 817-275-4600; arlingtonmuseum.org.

ARTES DE LA ROSS — 1440 N. Main St; Ft. Worth; 76164; 817-624-8333.

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CITY PERFORMANCE HALL — 2700 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformingarts.org.

DALLAS ARBORETUM — 8525 Garland Rd.; 214-515-6500; dallasarboretum.org.

***DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART** — 1717 N. Harwood; 214-922-1204.

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DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — 2301 Flora St.; 75201; 214-871-4038; dallassymphony.com.

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TITAS — 2403 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; titas.org.

UPTOWN PLAYERS — P.O. Box 192264; 214-219-2718; uptownplayers.org.

WATERTOWER THEATRE — 15650 Addison Rd.; 972-450-6232; watertowertheatre.org.

WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE — (Margaret McDermott Performance Hall & Nancy Hamon Rectal Hall); 2403 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformingarts.org.

WYLY THEATRE — (Potter Rose Performance Hall); 2400 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformingarts.org.

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AUTUMN JOUNREY HOSPICE — 5347 Spring Valley Rd.; Dallas 75254; 972-233-0525; autumnjourneyhospice.com.

BELLOS, NICHOLAS C., M.D. — (Infectious Disease); 2909 Lemmon Ave.; 214-828-4702.

BECKMAN, DEBORAH, M.S., L.P.C., N.C.C. — 214-824-2009; uptownpsychotherapy.com.

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CORE HEALTH WELLNESS CENTER — Eric Peay, D.C.; 3131 Turtle Creek Blvd., #820; 214-219-3300; corehealthwellness.com.

DALLAS DENTAL CARE — 4323 Lemmon Ave.; 214-522-4444; ddcsmile.com

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FLOSS — 3131 Lemmon Ave.; 214-978-0101; flossdental.com.

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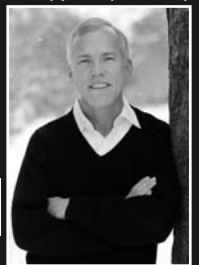
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