

FW candidates square off

Lane, Price pledge support for fairness

Forum was first of its kind in Cowtown

■ FW FORUM, Page 4



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Arnold Wayne Jones
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See Story Page 14.



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Razzle Dazzle Dallas gets off to a busy start

A 25-year tradition returns to Cedar Springs with the Main Event on Saturday

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The five-day Razzle Dazzle Dallas revival began Wednesday, June 1, with a wine walk on Cedar Springs Road.

"I think last night went really well," said Chet

Whisenant, owner of Subway at the Crossroads. "Foot traffic was way up. It was a great kickoff for Razzle Dazzle Dallas."

Thom Dance, owner of the UPS Store on the other end of the strip said, "We had more people in our store than on any similar event. The street was alive."

Skivvies owner David Richardson said, "Last night was great. For us, I haven't seen that large a crowd for a wine walk event."

Richardson, the former owner of TapeLenders and OutLines, has been a Cedar Springs mer-

chant since the early 1980s.

Several retailers said that although they stocked double the amount of wine they pour for other wine walks, they still ran out early.

Many people brought their dogs and most retailers were allowing dogs into their stores throughout the evening.

On Thursday, party express buses ran until 1 a.m. shuttling patrons to four clubs located off the main strip.

Metroball begins at 7 p.m. at Station 4 on

■ RAZZLE, Page 11

Houston bigot attacks Parker

It was only a matter of time really: Dave Wilson is sending anti-gay letters (above) to Houstonians attacking Annise Parker, who's seeking re-election in November.



Wilson, you may remember, is the homophobic electrician

Annise Parker

who sent 35,000 fliers to Houston homes during the 2009 elections with a picture of Parker's swearing in for her previous position as city comptroller, her partner Kathy Hubbard at her side. The 2009 fliers asked the question, "Is this the image Houston wants to portray?"

Wilson's latest attack is on a much smaller scale than his full color assault from 2009: It's a personal letter sent to Parker's donors and Houston Democratic precinct chairs, reprinted below:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Annise Parker and her campaign manager want you to think that sexual orientation does not matter. IT DOES.

Being homosexual is one thing, but using your position of power to promote the homosexual agenda is quite another. In her first term as Mayor, Ms. Parker has appointed a transvestite to be a municipal judge (Phyllis Frye). She has signed an executive order that allows men dressed as women to use the women's restroom (#1-8 Revised). She has carved out a new council district for homosexuals (District "C").

I have family members and friends who have been ensnared and trapped in homosexual behavior, and I know firsthand of the incredible pain and sorrow it has brought to them and their families. Religious freedom will be stifled and millions more will be trapped as the demand for legal and political approval for homosexual behavior increases.

I realize that some of you support Ms. Parker's alternative lifestyle and agree with her promoting the homosexual agenda. But to those of you who do not, I would ask you to help me stop the promoting of the homosexual lifestyle in Houston.

It is the health, or corruption, of the moral imagination that is the most important factor in determining the future of our city. If we want to save our city we must change the direction of the moral and cultural compass that guides us.

Do we lack the courage and character to pursue and implement the wisest of ideas that promote a wholesome, righteous, and godly city for our children to grow up in? I HOPE NOT!

Please join me in recruiting a capable person to challenge Ms. Parker for Mayor. Sincerely,

David B. Wilson

— Daniel Williams

Price, Lane square off at FW forum

Both candidates pledge support for LGBT initiatives, but differ in their approach to running the city

TAMMYE NASH | Senior editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Fort Worth mayoral candidates Jim Lane and Betsy Price both pledged support for LGBT initiatives undertaken in the city over the last two years, and both declared a commitment to treating all people fairly, when they spoke Wednesday night, June 1, at an LGBT community forum.

But the forum also showed subtle differences in the two candidates' familiarity with LGBT issues, and not-so-subtle differences in their leadership styles and ideas on how to run the city.

The forum, sponsored by Fairness Fort Worth and the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, was the first of its kind in Fort Worth, marking the first time that mayoral candidates had participated in a forum focusing on LGBT issues. About 75 people attended the event, held at the Four Day Weekend Theater in Sundance Square.

Price, touting her 10 years as Tarrant County's tax assessor/collector, promised to bring to the city the same business sense that she used, she said, to increase efficiency and therefore cut costs and lower taxes at the county.

"I believe we need to be running the city like a business," Price said.

Lane, however, said that being a successful mayor is less about "business sense" and more about coalition building. He said the 12 years he spent on the Fort Worth City Council gives him the experience necessary to work with council members and citizens to build the necessary coalitions and get the job done.

"I understand how things work at City Hall," Lane said.



MAKING A POINT | Jim Lane listens as Betsy Price responds to a question during the Fort Worth mayoral runoff forum on LGBT issues Wednesday at Four Day Weekend Theater. The two candidates both pledged support during the event for the city's various LGBT initiatives. (Robert Camina/Special Contributor)

Lane also noted repeatedly that he was on the Fort Worth Council when the city added sexual orientation protections to its nondiscrimination ordinance, and that he voted in favor of that amendment, which he said "had national implications." He also, throughout the evening, named LGBT community leaders that he knows personally, saying that he would ask for their input on LGBT issues.

Price, for her part, said that as a 60-year-old woman, she has, herself, been on the receiving end of discrimination and that she knows "what it's like to have to fight it out with the men" to receive fair and equal treatment.

Although Tarrant County has no statutes or policies banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, Price said that she worked diligently throughout her tenure as tax assessor/collector to increase di-

versity within her office. She said that when she first took office, employees were all "Caucasian men," and by the time she left to run for mayor, the office reflected the diversity of the county as a whole.

Both candidates declared that their answers and positions on LGBT issues would remain consistent, regardless of the audience to which they were speaking. But after the forum, an audience member gave Dallas Voice a transcript of an April 26 forum with all five original mayoral candidates, in which Price suggested the LGBT protections in the nondiscrimination ordinance were unnecessary — a very different answer from the one she gave this week.

"I haven't studied this intensely, but I really, I don't like the idea that the city is in this business at all," Price said of the ordinance during the April

■ FORUM, Page 11

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Out of the saddle, but not the Ride

Although health issues will keep Dr. Brady Allen from riding in LSR this year, he still plans to participate as part of the volunteer medical team

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

Dr. Brady Allen of the Uptown Physicians Group has tended unstintingly to medical needs of the gay community for last 30 years. And in the last two years, he's gone from casual spin and mountain bike cyclist to Lone Star Ride participant.

The transformation began in 2009.

Allen had just moved back to Dallas after a brief period of retirement in Seattle, and friends suggested he become involved in the LSR. He needed little urging: Road biking on behalf of a cause he believed in seemed the perfect way to reintegrate himself into the community.

"I'd been involved [in the fight against AIDS] since 1982," says the 57-year-old internist. "So I had memories of people who had passed on, including my best friend and a couple of favorite patients of mine. I think about [them] a lot."

Allen's 2010 LSR debut was impressive. Not only was he the third-highest fundraiser — bringing in \$6,000 for the event — he also finished second overall in the 45-mile Sunday leg of the ride after the Saturday ride was rained out.

This year, however, the good doctor has to tend to his own health. After developing a blood clot in his calf at the end of April, Allen had to withdraw from this year's ride.

His desire to participate in the event remains undiminished, though, and participants will likely see him on the medical team, doing what he does best.

"This year, I was going to do the 100- and 75-mile [ride options], because I was in much better shape," says Allen. "I had trained harder and I was healthier. I'd lost about 15 pounds this year."

He had also started his fundraising efforts earlier. In 2010, he began soliciting donations in May. This year, he began fundraising in March and already had pledges totaling \$1,200 before he had to get out of the saddle.

That money will still go to the LSR. But Allen, who also sits on the board at Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) and has actively supported other HIV/AIDS organizations, including AIDS Arms, for many years, will have to defer his dream of reaching the \$10,000 goal he'd set for this year until 2012.

"[2010 was about] trying to ride in this Texas heat on a bike," says Allen, who remains upbeat despite the temporary health issues he currently faces. "I [also] had to learn about how much to hydrate, how many salt tablets I had to take the day of the ride, what were the right foods to eat [and] just how to pace myself so I wouldn't get cramps."

He also had to learn the more technical aspects of road cycling, including how to shift gears, fix a flat and — perhaps most problematically of all — use the "pedals" of his bike.

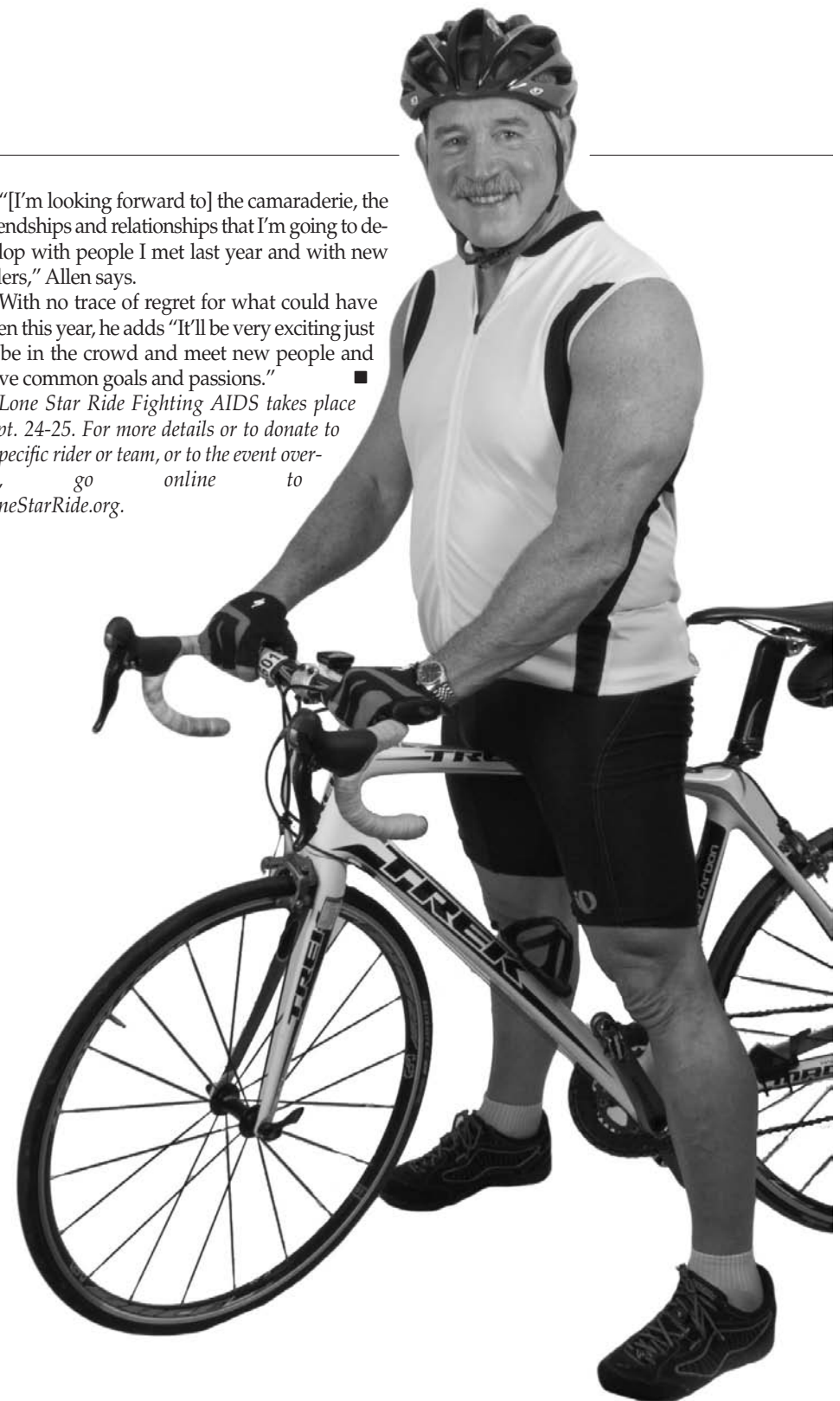
"The bike pedals are not real pedals," Allen explains. "You have these clips on the bottom of your shoes [that you use to] clip into the pedals, which gives you more stability on the bike. But you also have to clip out when you stop."

Though unable to ride this year, Allen does expect to fully immerse himself in the social aspect of the 2011 ride.

"[I'm looking forward to] the camaraderie, the friendships and relationships that I'm going to develop with people I met last year and with new riders," Allen says.

With no trace of regret for what could have been this year, he adds "It'll be very exciting just to be in the crowd and meet new people and have common goals and passions."

Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS takes place Sept. 24-25. For more details or to donate to a specific rider or team, or to the event overall, go online to LoneStarRide.org.



Dr. Brady Allen



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WEDDING



HOWARD-HARTIS | Craig Howard and Kevin Hartis were married May 6 at the Washington, D.C., courthouse before a small group of family and friends. Howard works as a Realtor with Keller Williams Elite, and Hartis is a vendor relationship manager at Bank of America. The two met through mutual friends in 2007. The couple plans to celebrate their recent nuptials with a reception for family and friends in the upcoming months.

Gay couple attacked in south FW

Hate crimes unit declines to investigate but FWPD is requesting video that may identify attackers

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Jason Sanches was walking with his partner and sister from his apartment off South Hulen Street in Fort Worth to a convenience store across the street at about 2 a.m. on Monday, May 23, when he heard someone call out “mother-fucking faggot” before they entered the store.

When they left the store, Sanches said, “Six people came running after us and shouted ‘fucking queer.’”

The three reached the front of their apartment complex on South Hulen Street before their pursuers caught up with them.

“I was tazed, hit in the face and had teeth knocked out,” Sanches said.

He said his partner was hit with the tazer three times but wasn’t punched.

Before Sanches’ sister was attacked, a security guard from their complex heard the noise and flashed a light in their direction, causing the six attackers to flee.

Sanches thinks that one of the attackers is related to the owner of the Shell convenience store across from his apartment.

They called 911 who dispatched police. Emergency Medical Services responded as well.

Sanches said in addition to losing teeth, he sustained a fracture near his eye.

He said his treatment by the police and EMS was not what he would have expected.

“The police didn’t care what I was talking about,” he said. “They had an ‘I don’t give a shit’ attitude.”

But they did take a report, he said.

When emergency medical services arrived, Sanches said the EMS told them they “didn’t have all day.” He said he was disoriented after the attack, and instead of getting into the ambulance, he told the medics he would take himself to the hospital.

Sanches drove himself to the Southwest Fort Worth Baylor hospital, a few blocks from his house, where he was treated for his injuries.

After calling Dallas Voice, Sanches contacted Fort Worth Police’s LGBT liaison Officer Sara Straton because he thought the patrol officers who took the report were ignoring his description of the attack as a hate crime.

The hate crime division has declined to investigate the case but has passed it to a detective in the South Division who spoke to Sanches, his partner and sister on Saturday, May 28.

Sanches said that Det. Ruben Towns told him that he was surprised the hate crimes unit turned the case down but that he was investigating.

Sanches believes that a woman in the group is related to the owner of the convenience store.

Towns is requesting video from the convenience store hoping to make an identification among the group of attackers. ■

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■ texasnews

Resounding Harmony begins Chapter Two

Russ Rieger conducts the mixed-voice chorus for the first time as the new artistic director with June 8 concert

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resounding Harmony begins a new chapter in its life when the chorus performs at the Meyerson Symphony Center on June 8 with new artistic director Russ Rieger conducting for the first time.

The mixed-voice group last performed in the fall before founder and original artistic director Tim Seelig left Dallas to conduct the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Rieger was hired Jan. 1 to replace Seelig. Before his first rehearsal as director, he worried about how he would fill Seelig's shoes.

"There's no way anyone could fill those shoes," he said. "The chorus presented me with a pair of new shoes so I didn't have to fill Tim's."

Board Chair Mark Knight said they're calling this Chapter Two for Resounding Harmony, but the transition has been an easy one.

Rieger, who has been the music minister of Oak Lawn United Methodist Church for 21 years, served as the principal accompanist for the Turtle Creek Chorale and Women's Chorus of Dallas. He accompanied Resounding Harmony when they performed *Sing for the Cure* at Carnegie Hall last year.

"He's played the organ for all of our concerts at the Meyerson," Knight said.

Each of Resounding Harmony's concerts is a benefit performance, which Knight calls musical philanthropy. This concert will support the Palliative Care program at Children's Medical Center.

The concert is titled *Born for Greatness*, in honor of the children in the palliative care program, Rieger said.

"Greatness isn't measured by the length of a child's life, but by the impact the child makes on others," Rieger said doctors who work in Children's Hospital's palliative care unit told him.

Performing with Resounding Harmony at the



Russ Rieger

June 8 concert is Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Jana Stanfield. She has done programs for palliative care programs elsewhere and will perform her song, "Born for Greatness."

Also appearing are dancers from the Academy of Dance from Allen who will accompany two of the songs.

Rieger said most of the music in the show will be inspirational. The first half closes with "You'll Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel*. Another piece they'll do is "He Ain't Heavy ... He's My Brother."

He said plans already are forming for the next two seasons. Next year, Seelig will be conducting *Sing for the Cure* in Atlanta and he has invited Resounding Harmony to join them.

Beneficiaries for next season's concerts have been set. The November performance is for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the spring concert will benefit the American Heart Association.

Knight said they are working on a tour for the 2012-13 season. ■

Resounding Harmony performs at the Meyerson Symphony Center, June 8 at 8 p.m. \$30-50. Tickets available on line at ResoundingHarmony.org.



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■ RAZZLE

From Page 4

Friday, June 3. Raffles and a silent auction as well as admission tickets benefit the Greg Doll-gener Memorial AIDS Fund. Deborah Cox performs. VIP ticket holders are invited to a catered reception after the show to meet Cox.

On Saturday, the Cedar Springs Merchants Association will stage a sidewalk sale and classic car show during the day. More than 50 members of Classic Chassis Car Club plan to display their antique and classic cars along Cedar Springs Road.

Sale tents, food booths, an artist pavilion and activities will be set up along the sidewalk. The street will remain open to car traffic during the day.

The Main Event begins Saturday night at 7 p.m. Cedar Springs Road will close to traffic at 4 p.m. to set up the stages and booths.

Sales from The Midway, community booths, art vendors and food and beer vendors all benefit Razzle Dazzle's eight beneficiaries.

Jenna Skyy and Michael Doughman will host the live entertainment stage. Performers include Cazwell, Chaz Marie, Dallas Pride Cheer, Billy Halliday, The Bright, Uptown Players, the Gary Floyd Trio, Anton Shaw and Something Fabu-

lous!!!

On the dance stage near Cedar Springs Road and Knight Street, Dallas DJ Mickey Briggs will trade off with DJ Tim Pflueger from Oz in New Orleans. BJ's NXS will provide the go-go boys and girls.

For VIP ticket holders there will be two VIP-only areas. At the north area, Axiom and Dish will serve samplings. At the south area, Al Biernat and Doug Boster Catering will host a food tasting.

Free valet parking at ilume will be provided to VIP ticket holders on Saturday night.

Admission to the street party is free.

On Sunday, closing parties begin at TMC: The Mining Company with an afternoon tea dance.

The Mr. and Miss Razzle Dazzle Dallas contest takes pace at the Brick at 10 p.m.

Richardson said he was looking forward to the rest of the Razzle Dazzle weekend.

"It looks like we're going to see a lot of new faces," he said, "and a lot of people we haven't seen around for awhile."

He offered special recognition to Jimmy Bartlett, the Razzle Dazzle board member who first pulled the idea to revive the event together.

"I greatly appreciate Jimmy and all of his efforts to bring Razzle back," Richardson said. "I think this is going to be a bigger and more exciting Razzle than any I remember." ■

that Price opposed city advertising in the LGBT press. On Wednesday, however, Price said that Clough's voters guide misrepresented her response on that question, repeating what she told Dallas Voice the previous week.

Price said she believes that because of the current budget situation, the city shouldn't advertise in any niche publications because it is too expensive. But, she added, if the city advertises in any publication targeting a specific readership, the city should advertise in all such publications, including the LGBT press.

Both candidates said that when it comes to employment ads, the city should advertise wherever necessary to attract the most qualified applicants.

Price and Lane both said that if confronted with a Texas law nullifying LGBT protections and benefits enacted at the city level, they would consult with attorneys to find ways around the prohibition.

Lane said the first thing he would do would be call gay attorney Jon Nelson to help find away to fight such a law.

"I'd hope the Texas Legislature wouldn't be that stupid," Lane said, but after pausing, he added, "I take that back. They might be. I'd do everything I knew to do to get out of that."

Price, chuckling at Lane's remark, said, "I would hope that the people of Texas would rise up against such a law. I would consult with attorneys to see if we couldn't get around it."

The candidates agreed that current diversity training on LGBT issues mandated for all city employees should continue, and both said they would attend such classes if elected as mayor, even though elected officials are not required to attend.

The two took different tacks, however, in answering a question on whether city health benefits

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■ FORUM

From Page 4

26 forum. This week, however, Price and Lane both said the ordinance, complete with LGBT protections, should be maintained. Both candidates stressed that they believe everyone should be given equal and fair treatment.

Lane's answer this week was consistent with his reply at the April 26 event, where he said, "If you believe in the Constitution and you will not accept discrimination, then you would have voted with the Council the way they did [in 2009 by adding gender identity and expression protections], and I would have done that."

Both candidates said they support maintaining the LGBT liaison position Police Chief Jeff Halstead created in 2009 in the wake of the Rainbow Lounge raid. Lane said he knows liaison Officer Sara Straten well and would "absolutely maintain" that position, while Price called Straten's position — and other community liaison officer positions — "crucial to the gains we've made as a city. They all must be maintained."

The two agreed on the necessity of continuing to promote Fort Worth as a tourist and convention destination, and both said they believe the city should reach out specifically to LGBT tourists and conventions.

They also agreed that LGBT-owned businesses should be given the same considerations that other minority-owned businesses get in awarding city contracts.

The question of whether the candidates believe the city should advertise in the LGBT press became an issue following Richard Clough's publication of his "Texans for Faith and Family voters' guide."

Lane did not respond to Clough's questionaire, but the published voters' guide indicated

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■ **FORUM**

From Page 11

should cover gender reassignment surgery for transgender employees.

Lane said that although he has studied the issue a bit, he still doesn't completely understand all the specifics. He did note, however, that "a very smart lawyer" had recently compared gender variance issues to post-traumatic stress syndrome, saying that when Vietnam veterans first began complaining of PTSD, no one took those complaints seriously because no one understood the syndrome. Now, however, such diagnoses are more common and better understood, and no one questions the necessity of treatment.

Similarly, few people really understand transsexualism now, but there will come a day when people do understand the necessity of such treatments, Lane continued.

Price, too, said that while she needs to study the issue further, for her the question of whether city health benefits should cover such treatments comes down to a question of "fiscal responsibility." She said she expects city staff currently studying the issue to "have a recommendation shortly."

Price noted that when her daughter underwent fertility treatments to have a child, her insurance considered the procedures to be elective and did not cover the costs.

Some LGBT advocates in Fort Worth have been critical of the city's police and firefighters associations for not playing a more active role in trying to secure pension benefits for LGBT officers and firefighters and their domestic partners.

When Lane was questioned Wednesday night about his ties to those associations, he offered a lengthy explanation of how pension negotiations work, saying that the process allowed no undue influence, regardless of the fact that those associations have endorsed him and contributed heavily to his mayoral campaign.

He also said that it would be no more difficult for him to negotiate with the associations on pension issues than it would be for Price to deal with Chesapeake Energy on issues of oil and gas drilling in the city. Chesapeake has endorsed Price in the race.

Price, however, noted that the police and firefighter associations never spoke to other candidates before endorsing Lane, whereas Chesapeake interviewed all five of the candidates. And, she added, while the police and firefighter associations had donated heavily to Lane's campaign, Chesapeake has never made donations to her campaign.

Price, for her part, has come under fire from some in the LGBT community for her ties to the Republican Party. She said Wednesday night that while she "makes no bones" about being a conservative Republican, she supports fairness and equality for everyone and has been endorsed by

Republicans and Democrats alike.

And, she added, partisan politics have no place in city elections. "If we start getting into partisan politics in our city races and in running our city, we're going to end up with the same kind of mess we have now in Austin and Washington, D.C.," Price said.

Much of the LGBT community's current active role in city politics began after the June, 2009, raid on the Rainbow Lounge by Fort Worth police officers and agents with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Both Price and Lane agreed that the raid never should have happened in the first place.

"There's just no excuse for what happened that night at the Rainbow Lounge," Lane said, adding, "Isn't it a shame that it took something like that for educated people to be willing to sit down and talk about these issues?"

Price said the raid was "an extremely unfortunate incident," but added that it served as a catalyst for change and that the city has "made tremendous strides forward" since.

"I hope that in 10 years, our children and our grandchildren will look back at this and wonder how something like the raid could have happened, and why we had so many problems" with equal treatment for everyone, Price said.

The runoff that will determine whether Price or Lane will succeed Mike Moncrief as mayor of Fort Worth is June 18. Early voting begins Monday, June 6. ■

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Gays defy stereotypes by communing with nature, cowboy style, at Circle J

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style editor
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It's Mike's 50th birthday, and so the usual Saturday night dinner bash at the Circle J Ranch is more of a celebration than usual. Not just because of the milestone birthday, either.

Mike, one of the four co-owners of this gay campground, had been in the hospital until earlier that week after a bad turn following chemo treatments, and it was touch-and-go for a while. Today, though, Mike appears to be the picture of health.

It's hard to say how much of the promise of the outdoors contributed to his recovery, but you won't find anyone here who doesn't find something therapeutic about being out in the fresh Texas air.

Don't expect log cabins and Conestoga wagons, though. Dinner here isn't served out of a chuck wagon by a toothless cowpoke named Cookie slinging hash. The "farmhouse" (if you wanna call it that) is a rambling '70s ranch-style with an enclosed porch, swimming pool and air-conditioning; across a field, a spacious but spartanly serviceable bunkhouse holds a dozen or so beds for campers who have neither RVs nor tents.

If it looks less like camping than you recall from John Wayne westerns, it's still something different from what you expect of the gay community.

Horses are available to rent, and you can see some longhorns grazing in the pasture (though one of the owners says they are "more for ambience"). There are hiking trails, and at night, without light pollution from neighboring cities, the darkness of the primeval, with the starry sky



SADDLE UP | Mitch, right, one of the co-owners of Circle J Ranch, and a camper take the horses out for a ride around the ranch. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

ablaze with twinkling lights is beautiful.

There's an undeniable connection to the land, a camaraderie borne in the dry winds and piney landscape of East Texas.

This weekend they expect about 40 guests (that's average, though it's hard to predict), but on a holiday weekend like Memorial Day, attendance shoots up to 200 or more. It doesn't feel too busy, though; plenty of folks stake their camp out in the woods, away from the farmhouse, for some commune-with-nature time.

None of the guys who prefer to linger around the bunkhouse seems to mind; it's not like anyone judges anyone else.

"It's a different kind of experience within the gay community," says Randy, another one of the owners. "People come here from the city, escaping stress and work. It really brings the stress level down being out here; you can see it an hour after they arrive."

Randy is one of six children — the only gay one, but also the only one of his siblings to produce a grandchild for his parents (a daughter, co-raised with a lesbian couple) and the only one to go into the family business of ranching (albeit with a detour as a mortgage banker for a spell).

Circle J is a working ranch of 101 acres in Van Zandt County, about an hour's drive southeast of downtown Dallas. Gun Barrel City, which for a rural area boasts an astonishing two gay bars (including Friends, deemed one of the friendliest gay joints in the nation by a national gay publication), is the nearest town of note, though about a mile from the ranch is where Ozarka bottles its water from the local aquifer. (The locals all agree that Ozarka is clean, fresh water — but they get it from their taps, and don't much appreciate the company taking it from them.)

There's a definite Texas sensibility here, even if almost everyone at the Circle J is gay. Walk by the cars parked outside, you'll see pickup trucks with

■ **CAMP**, Page 16

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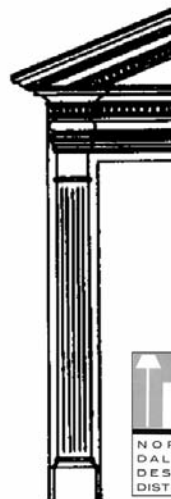
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coverstory



GOOD EATS | Circle J co-owner Paul, right, pours out pounds of mudbugs for the ranch's Saturday crawfish boil. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

CAMP

From Page 14

"McCain/Palin '08" bumper stickers alongside rainbow flags and HRC "=" decals.

The men here tend not to fit into the metrosexual stereotype of a gay man; they seem more like the stereotype of a Texas cowboy: Resistol hats, tight-fitting blue jeans, handlebar moustaches and western shirts with mother-of-pearl snap buttons. Except, of course, they are gay.

Which means they don't fit any stereotype at all.

"We get people from all over. And we are conservative," says Randy, who fits exactly the physical description of a cowboy. "And by conservative, I mean Sarah-Palin-Tea-Party-supporter conservative. Lots of gay people live rural lives and come from rural roots."

But that hardly matters. Politics aren't the main topic of conversation around the campfire.

The campfire, in fact, is one of the highpoints of a weekend here. Located on the upside of a hill just across a pond from the ranch house, it's nestled in a clearing surrounded by a natural outcropping of rocks — a kind of organic henge around which guests commune over beer.

The men — and it's all men; the Rainbow Ranch a few hours away is co-ed and family-friendly — come from all walks. Gary, the straight brother of one of the owners, is visiting from Chicago; he seems unfazed by what he jokingly refers to as the "overt homosexuality" of the guests.

Although the average age of guests skews toward the 40s, this weekend there are several men in their 20s here as well, out to enjoy what Circle J has to offer.

"We come here a lot," says one guest, who lives in Allen with his longtime partner. "Being from Kentucky, I like being outdoors. We started with

■ **CAMP**, Next Page

WHERE TO CAMP

The Circle J Ranch and Cattle Company: Located between Gun Barrel City and Ma-bank in Van Zandt County, (about 70 miles from Dallas). 903-479-4189. CampCircleJ.com.

Rainbow Ranch: Located near Groesbeck in Central Texas (about 95 miles from Dallas). RainbowRanch.net.

■ **CAMP,** From Previous Page

tent camping, then got a pop-up [camper]. Now we have a 34-foot RV," with all the perks of home (a/c, a kitchen, roomy accommodations).

They go to Rainbow Ranch, too (there are about a half-dozen gay campgrounds throughout Texas, all of which are supportive of each other), but what brings them back to Circle J time and again is the people.

Circle J, which has been around for about seven years, was clothing-optional until last year. That's when a disgruntled former guest complained to the local authorities and the sheriff came out, telling them they would have to register as a "sexually-oriented business" if they wanted to keep the policy. They decided it wasn't worth the hassle and canceled it (although, when you're out in the woods, who's to know?) The result has actually been an uptick in business.

"Those who had been intimidated by nudity decided to check it out," says Mitch, one of the co-owners. (It is not a cruisy place, really, though certainly that happens.)

Mitch himself was new to camping — and to gay life — until relatively recently. Originally from Milwaukee, he was in the military and married to a woman for much of his life. He came out with a vengeance in 1996, leaving the service, divorcing his wife and moving to New Orleans; within a year, he was competing as Mr. Louisiana Leather at IML.

That's where he met Randy; they opened a gay bed and breakfast in NOLA before buying the Circle J eight years ago.

Mitch bristles at the use of the term "resort" to describe the Circle J, almost to the point of taking offense. He doesn't want anyone getting the wrong idea.

"This is rustic camping," he corrects. The best place to pee, newcomers are informed, is the nearest tree.

But there are some trappings of civilization. Cocktail hour is a nightly ritual, and guys play bocce ball to entertain themselves.

For Mike's birthday bash, he and his partner Paul drove about 45 miles to pick up 20 pounds of crawfish for an old-fashioned mudbug boil. While Mike cooks — and everyone acknowledges, Mike has a way with Cajun food — many of the others chip in, taping down butcher paper and newsprint over picnic tables, drinking beer out of the complimentary tap.

All the while, the jukebox plays — everything from AC/DC to classical music to Madonna.

Hey, even in the country, gay men still like some Madonna. Some things just don't change, no matter where you are. ■

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Porn industry health regs needed

After 3 decades, California's workplace safety officials are finally considering mandates in the porn industry, and it's about time

After three decades of devastation wrought by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the state of California's workplace safety officials are now pondering whether safe sex practices by the porn industry should be mandated in state code.

California's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board recently released a 17-page proposal to the Associated Press that details all of the dangers porn stars and other workers on the set face from body fluids and waste matter produced during the course of the filming. The proposed mandate, which includes the required use of condoms and the utilization of other safety measures to prevent genital and oral contact with blood and other body fluids, will be discussed at a public meeting June 7 in Los Angeles.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

In addition to the use of condoms, porn producers would be required to make sure condoms are not reused with multiple partners, make sure razors are not used by multiple people, make sure sex toys are sterile, showers are taken between scenes, medical services including tests and vaccines are employed and soiled laundry is handled properly.

All of this comes on the heels of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation lobbying for the state to require condoms be used on porn sets and the advocacy group's filing of a formal complaint to the state in 2009.

In March of this year, the state board fined porn king Larry Flynt's Hustler company \$14,175 for three instances of failing to require condoms and of other health risks on the set. A lesser-known company, Forsaken Pictures, was fined \$12,150 for similar violations.

The state cited the same laws that require hospitals to provide nurses and other technicians with protective tools, such as plastic gloves, to make its case against the porn producers.

And if the length of time it has taken for the governor-appointed, seven-member safety board to come up with a set of laws specifically addressing the porn industry isn't amazing enough, the Associated Press reports that two straight porn industry hotshots are not too happy with

the idea.

Flynt said porn viewers don't want to see condoms on actors because it interferes with their fantasies. Vivid Entertainment founder Steven Hirsch warned the laws would drive California's multi-billion dollar porn industry to other states to produce videos.

Hirsch's comments are interesting because the queen of gay porn, DJ drag diva Chi Chi LaRue — who, in addition to directing and producing porn videos owns a sex shop on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood — once produced movies for a Vivid Entertainment company. She reportedly abandoned her three-year successful career in producing straight sex porn videos for Vivid Video,



Chi Chi LaRue

a division of Hirsch's company, in 2006 because the company refused to require the use of condoms.

It seems that LaRue was reacting to what she witnessed in the late 1980s when she worked for gay porn company Catalina Video and saw many members of the gay porn industry dropping dead left and right.

I encountered LaRue in a West Hollywood gay bar about a year ago, and it was a memorable event. I was trying to get a picture of her and a few tidbits of information to write something about the experience — but she was having none of it. We parted with her thinking I was an annoying pest and my thinking she was an uppity bitch. I'm sure we were both right.

But I've got to commend LaRue for the stand she took about safe sex. Like LaRue, I've watched countless friends and other associates over the years suffer and die from HIV infections. I've also seen attitudes in recent years relax about the danger of HIV infections.

Too many young people simply don't think it can happen to them, and the epidemic continues to rage.

There reportedly are still many gay porn videos being produced that do not include the use of condoms, especially now that there are so many amateurs out there with personal video

cameras. Some of them are billed as "bareback" productions in an effort to entice viewers, as a scan of Internet gay porn sites recently revealed.

That's just about the last message we need to be sending to young LGBT people, and I would like to think that porn producers would want to take a similar stand as LaRue. Of course, that's not going to happen because we are talking about people who want to make lots of money, and some of them don't care who gets hurt in the process.

That's why I think the regulations in California are necessary, and I applaud the AIDS advocacy group for taking the initiative to see it happen. Actually, I think porn videos should require warnings about the mind-boggling array of infections that can be contracted during unprotected sex.

And if California's porn producers start flocking to Texas or whatever state to avoid the regulations, I hope AIDS advocacy groups in those states follow the California group's lead and demand the same safety regulations.

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

Progress in the fight against bullying

Laws passed by Texas Legislature this session aren't perfect, but they are progress in the battle

Last month, clinical psychologist Mark Hatzenbuehler of Columbia University published a study in the journal *Pediatrics* entitled "The social environment and suicide attempts in lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth." The article uses information on 32,000 high school juniors in Oregon.

Why Oregon? Because it is the only state reporting to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control the three-part data set Hatzenbuehler chose to consider: sexual orientation, self-reported suicide attempts and personal contacts by county health professionals.

Maybe the findings are predictable to mental health professionals who work with teens on a day-to-day basis. But to me and to others with whom I've spoken, they are startling.

Taking the proportion of voting Democrats as a proxy for a liberal county environment, Hatzenbuehler found that LGBT teens living in politically conservative locales are significantly more depressed and suicidal than teens living in politically progressive areas.



Phyllis Guest
Contributing Columnist

Even straight kids in conservative areas — areas in which no programs supporting gay rights exist — are more likely to report depression or to say they've attempted suicide.

What are the numbers? In the most conservative Oregon counties, some 25 percent of LGBT teens have attempted suicide, and 9 percent of straight teens have made similar attempts.

In the liberal counties, 20 percent of LGBT teens have tried to kill themselves, and 4 percent of straight teens have done so.

Hatzenbuehler has published a number of studies on the mental health of LGBTs, and in this case he is considering how "structural forms of discrimination affect socially disadvantaged groups" — structural meaning, in this case, the ways in which conservative communities refuse to accept LGBTs.

His findings coincide with those of other researchers, who have reported that — along with strong family ties — caring teachers and safe schools can sharply reduce teens' suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts.

In a brief phone interview, Hatzenbuehler said he hopes community groups and, in particular, school districts, will use his research as a "road map for how we can reduce suicide ideation and suicide attempts by creating a safe, supportive school environment."

Hatzenbuehler points out that last summer, the

New York Senate passed the Dignity for All Students Act (only three of 61 legislators voted no). Signed into law by then-Gov. David Patterson on Sept. 8, 2010, the act "prohibits harassment against students based on, among other attributes, "sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) and sex...and further prohibits discrimination based on these characteristics."

The law applies to all New York State public schools.

Now back to Texas, which despite a supermajority of Republicans in the Legislature, is making progress against school bullying and for teen suicide prevention — though not specifically against the bullying or suicide attempts of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual students.

The Legislature in May passed two bills backed by Equality Texas. The first is an anti-bullying bill originally named in honor of Asher Brown, the gay 13-year-old who committed suicide after being bullied at his school. The second instructs the Department of State Health Services to "develop resources designed to prevent teen suicide, including mental health counseling, crisis prevention tools and suicide prevention education."

So here's the takeaway: How protective the new Texas laws will be for LGBT youth remains to be seen. For one thing, unlike in New York, schools in Texas would have "the option of implementing the programs" developed because of the new law and thus could very well opt out.

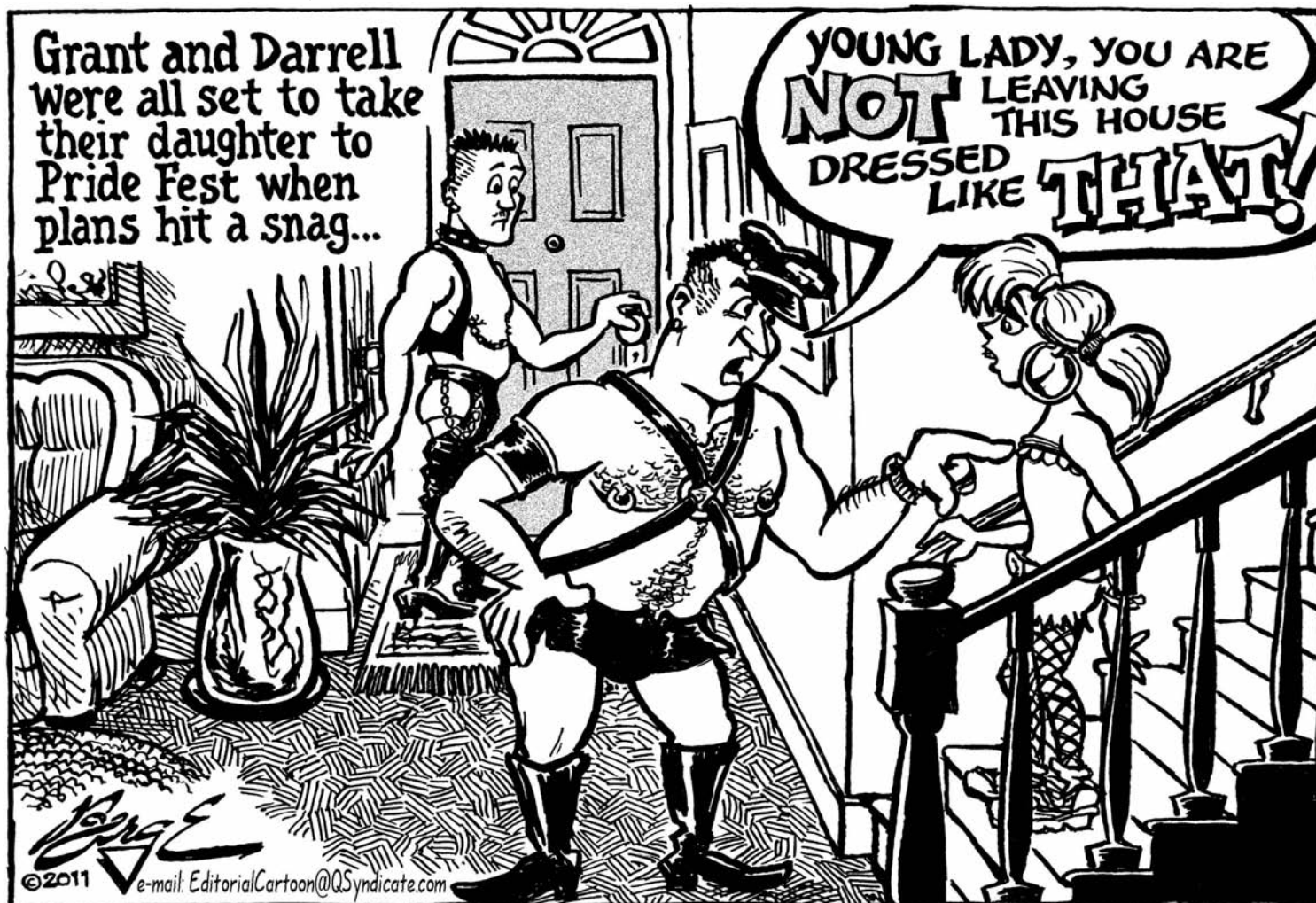
For another, on that same bill, the Senate Education committee added some provisions, including one that prohibits a student from seeking counseling without a parent's knowledge.

So these pieces of legislation are not perfect. But they are progress.

As of June 1, Gov. Perry had not signed either anti-bullying bill into law. But there is hope in Texas that we are finally doing something to keep our children safe — or at least safer — from bullying and its all-too-often deadly consequences.

Phyllis Guest is a longtime activist and member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Email her at editor@dallasvoice.com.

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On his toes

From 'Black Swan' to 'Billy Elliot,' Fort Worth's Kurt Froman lives to dance

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



When you step into a room with Kurt Froman, you're so struck just by this gay man's boyishly handsome face, it crosses your mind the only thing better than chatting with him is if there were two of him. And, to an extent, there are.

Froman, a Fort Worth native, is an accomplished dancer and choreographer. And so is his twin brother. They even pursued the same dream: Leaving Cowtown as teenagers to attend the School of American Ballet in New York.

But for *this* Froman at least, the similarities end there. Even though they used to dance together, Froman has never felt competition with his twin — "I always think we are so obviously different," he says — though he admits having a doppelganger who was equally proficient at the same endeavor put him through "a delayed adolescence. We did everything together."

At least until 2002. That's when Kurt "left school to do *Movin' Out* on Broadway."

The dance musical, directed and choreographed by Twyla Tharp, was a huge hit and helped Froman establish his break out. Since then, he's done more Broadway (*Pal Joey*), TV (*Saturday Night Live* — he played a Versace boy) and, most notably, the film *Black Swan*, in which he played the male dancer's understudy and served, behind the scenes, as associate choreographer. His principal responsibility: Teaching Oscar winner Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis how to move like ballerinas.

"I am a huge fan of Darren Aronofsky," he says of *Black Swan's* director. "To get to work alongside him and [Portman and Kunis] was an amazing undertaking." (He even had input into the script, developing a dancer who is losing their grip.)

But *Billy Elliot*, which opens next week at the Winspear as part of the Lexus Broadway Series, represents something new for him: His first national tour.

"When I heard it was coming to Broadway, I sent [them] a reel," Fro-

man says. "I said, 'This is a show I definitely want to be a part of.'"

Based on the 2000 film, it tells the story of a working-class British boy who, at the height of unease during the Thatcher regime, makes the unpopular decision to study ballet — something that does not sit well with the men in his community, and gets him labeled a sissy. Elton John co-wrote the songs, including "Expressing Yourself," an anthem to individuality. The show won 10 Tony Awards in 2009, including the first-ever threerfer, with all the boys who alternated playing Billy sharing the best actor trophy.

As resident choreographer, Froman's job is a daunting one. Most people who travel with shows as a director or choreographer merely keep the vision accurate and help replace the occasional actor whose contract

ends. (Froman also understudies the Older Billy role.) But this *Billy* has *five* Billys. It's not just that the role is physically demanding; it's that all of the boys are at incipient puberty and grow out of the role quickly. Still, teaching the kids is sometimes easier than the adults.

"There's no ego there," he says. "They have everything to learn and nothing to *un*learn. They need me to make them look the best they can."

Even if the kids are easier to work with, Froman is still tickled to be touring with Broadway diva Faith Prince in a featured role.

The one-two punch of *Billy* and *Swan* this year, though, has been eye-opening for Froman. He sees the depth to both, from "the neverending mindfuck of being a great dancer always subject to being replaced by someone younger [in *Swan*]" to the passion that drives Billy, Froman can personally relate to what's being portrayed. Now that he's in his 30s, many dancers younger than he are coming up the ranks. So, his work with Billy aside, he's looking forward.

There's still a lot more he'd like to do: "I'm excited for the next phase of my life, what's next on the horizon," he says. "I'd like to have kids." And maybe, like Billy, they'd be as interested in dance as Dad. ■

BILLY ELLIOT

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DANCE 10 LOOKS... 10 | Fort Worth native Kurt Froman, above at the Winspear, has the daunting task of keeping the ever-pubescent cast of Billys, left, in tip-top dance form. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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POWER of the pyramid

Kitchen Dog debuts 'Ponzi,' a financial horror story

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



NOUVEAU POOR | An heiress (Christina Vela, left) flirts with a man (Max Hartman) and his wife (Diane Casey-Box) in the economic meltdown play 'Ponzi.' (Photo by Matt Mrozek)

"The rich are different from you and me," Scott Fitzgerald waxed, to which Hemingway allegedly responded, "Yes — they have more money." But they *are* different. Money is never a big deal to people who have it, so they stand above it all. They don't talk about how much they have, or how much things cost because, at some point, what difference does it make? If you don't have to work to earn it, its value is fungible.

Then again, *losing* money — losing a great deal of it — is something *everyone* can understand. It becomes a source of ego, of pride. How would you feel if you pissed away \$20 mil you didn't deserve in the first place?

That is the situation posed to Catherine (Christina Vela), the regal heiress in **Ponzi**, the world premiere mainstage production at Kitchen Dog Theater's New Works Festival. Catherine's father was a legendary up-from-his-bootstraps self-made man who left Catherine two things: A solid fiscal philosophy and millions in cash to execute it.

She's honored him by not being as showy and shallow as Allison (Diane Casey-Box), the quintessential nouveau riche Real Housewife, a woman with more cents than sense. Allison and hubby Bryce (Max Hartman) are enraptured by the get-rich-quick scheme of a flashy money manager, and their enthusiasm — plus Bryce's unabashed flirtation with Catherine, driven in part by his lust for her balance sheet — leads to a series of bad mistakes.

Ponzi should frighten you more than it does, the way the Oscar winning documentary *Inside Job* did. There's so much techno-talk — about the gold standard, how Social Security is a classic ex-

ample of a Ponzi scheme that no one will touch, about how greed feeds pyramid schemes, about the lemming mentality that can cause sensible people to behave irrationally — that it needs to chill you. Like the financial meltdown, it's not that *some* people didn't see it coming; it's that none of these so-called experts had any idea how reckless they were being. (The use of tarot cards to emphasize the randomness of life and fortune is a witty touch.)

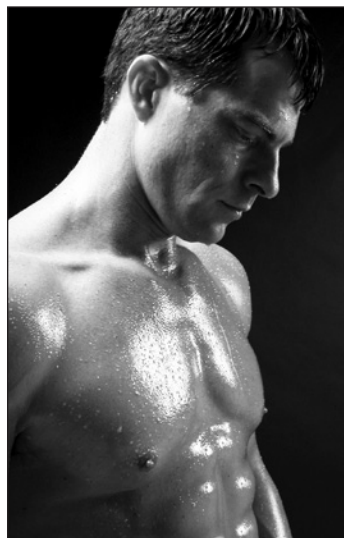
Such horror is a ripe fruit that playwright Elaine Romero should have picked. Instead, she removes some of the universality of the tale by making it so specific to these characters.

That's not entirely a bad thing. Instead of getting lost in the esoterica of money, she concentrates on the personality traits that drive people to make bad decisions. An undercurrent of sexual tension — between Catherine and Bryce, but just as electric (though more subtly expressed) between Catherine and Allison — makes the seductive power of the purse all the more visceral. Money is the new toy — and it's a sex toy, at that.

Casey-Box plays the betrayed wife better than just about any actress in town; she's always quick to turn on the ravenously uncensored switch in her characters' brains, the one that makes people both pitiable and annoying. It's delicious fun to watch. Vela is good as Catherine, but her final arc strikes a false note; it seems literary, not realistic.

Even still, the actors ply all these twists in one the KDT's best-looking plays in years, with lush costumes from Tina Parker and a sleek set by Bryan Wofford. Amid such glam, the seduction of money begins to work on us, too. Maybe more *is* more, even if we hate to admit it. ■

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Log cabin Republican

In 'Big Gay Dance Party,' Level Ground portrays Lincoln as never before

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevenlindsey@me.com

Was the 16th president of the United States really *Gay*braham Lincoln? That question is posed in the most unlikely of places — a fourth-grade Christmas pageant — in the play, *Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party*, a new production from Level Ground Arts Theater.

It's not just the outrageous theme that makes this show stand head and stovepipe hat above the rest. Each of three acts portrays the story from a different character's viewpoint, and at each performance the audience chooses which order the acts are performed. Democracy in action, and all that jazz.

The theater company, which has only been around since 2009, got its start with what artistic director Billy Fountain describes as a "minimalist, very raw and gritty traveling production" of *Julius Caesar*. "We really just wanted to do shows that we were excited about working on and it didn't seem like anyone around town was doing the shows we wanted to do."

They started off in Deep Ellum before moving to

KD Studio Theater last July. "Technically we are in our third season, even though we had a bunch of shows before the start of our first season and I'm so proud of what we have been able to accomplish and look forward to what is coming."

With *A Samurai Nosferatu* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame: A Musical* on this season's roster, it's clear this company dares to be different. Hence *Gay Dance Party*.

"We approach all of our projects with an open mind, a dedicated spirit and a clear vision and process," says Fountain. In the case of this play, the title is what piqued Fountain's curiosity.

"I saw it and thought, 'Man, I have to read this.' The first time I read it, I cried. I couldn't believe how much the characters grabbed me and the way the story moved. I fell in love with it almost immediately and knew it was really an LGA show I had to do," Fountain says. "It's a brilliant, amazing script and so painfully silly and loving and honest. It's rare to find a script that accomplishes everything that it does. It's beautiful in so many ways. How could I not do this show?"

So just how *gay* is this show?

"The focus is gay, but the story is about truth, fair-

ness, and the power of each of our individual voices," says Lloyd Chambers, who portrays three characters, including Honest Abe himself.

Taking a moment to rattle off a quote worthy of a Playbill cover, Chambers calls it "a roller coaster ride that swerves wildly and then descends into black hole, only to reappear wearing a stovepipe hat. It's a real story that finds absurdity and reality sharing the same bill. I think it has a great sense of humor with big laughs and lots of dancing, both straight and gay."

Fellow actor Collin Duwe describes the play more simply: "It's gayer than Peter Pan on a pair of ice skates."

Lincoln isn't Level Ground Arts' first foray into gay. Their *Poseidon! The Upside-Down Musical* had its share of gay characters, and most everyone knows how ultra-queer their upcoming production of *Xanadu* is.

"I think *Lincoln* is probably one that really, boldly addresses many issues and does so in such a cool, direct way. I am thrilled we got to do it first here in DFW," Fountain says. "I love getting to work on shows that are not afraid to present more sincere and honest voices. So often those voices get buried or hidden or silenced."

Or shot in the head while watching a play. ■

HONEST, ABE

Collin Duwe calls Lincoln play 'Gayer than Peter Pan on ice skates.' (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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Tasteful endeavors

'Chopped' host Ted Allen still keeps his queer eyes on the prize

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

Ted Allen wants people to enjoy their food and enjoy their wine. He just wants to make sure they are doing it the *right* way.

"If you're a white zinfandel person, we're not gonna be mean to you," he says to a roomful of gourmards gathered for the kickoff of Taste Addison last month. Not mean, huh? Well, not *too* mean.

But Allen can be fussy in that oh-so-gay way we all enjoy. He emphasizes that "bruschetta" is properly pronounced "broo-SKET-uh" ("some people pronounce it 'broo-shet-uh' ... and they are wrong" he chastises) and he defends "arugula, which sounds like a fancy east coast lettuce, but it's not — it's very peppery."

He's composing his own chimichurri, dressing a "Texas sized" piece of flank steak and pairing it with a California cab. He leaves nothing to chance.

Allen has a sense of humor, too. He's doing a cooking demonstration alongside Dallas restaurateur Richard Chamberlain, who hands him a giant peppermill. Allen brandishes the unit like a pro.

"You are aware of how I got my start in television, right?" Allen jokes. The room laughs, Chamberlain included. "This is supposed to be a family show."

Actually, everyone *does* know how Allen got his start in TV.

Unlike a lot of TV culinary experts, Allen was never a chef or caterer — "the only cooking I've ever done is for my family and friends," he says. Rather, he was a journalist, best known as a restaurant critic and food writer for Esquire and other publications, when he was tapped, in 2003, to join a new Bravo series where gay men give metrosexual makeovers to hopeless heteros. *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* exploded on the pop culture scene, winning Allen and his co-hosts an Emmy Award and, it's safe to say, giving a fun, friendly face of gay to middle America.

Queer Eye went off the air in 2007, and, despite its influence, ran only 99 episodes ("They thought it was 100 but somebody miscounted"). Yet there are still "people who only know me from that," Allen says.

Top Chef, on which he served as a judge for four seasons after *Queer Eye* went off the air,

WHAT A GRIND | Ted Allen used to run from 'Queer Eye.' But now he jokes about it with a signature campy twinkle. (Arnold Wayne Jones./Dallas Voice)

doubled *QE's* ratings, but still his moniker as "the Food Guy" became his inescapable short-hand. It used to bother him, but not anymore.

"When [the show] was starting to tail off, I thought, 'I need to get away from this.' But you can't. It was futile. It opened all these doors for me."

His gig for the last few years has been hosting *Chopped* on the Food Network, which he describes as a "completely self-contained culinary game show" where, round-robin style, chefs go head-to-head in cooking a full meal, with one emerging victorious. "Those are 12-hour days," Allen says, "and I am standing the *whole fucking day!*" It's even worse for the contestants, he asserts. (The seventh season of 39 new episodes launches at the end of July.)

Then there's his role as spokesman for the Robert Mondavi Discovery Wine Tour, which is what brought him to Taste Addison for the third time. And a new cookbook coming out. And ... Well, let's just say life did not end with *Queer Eye*.

It's not only sweet for Allen, it's something he savors. Especially with a Thai fish stew and three-layer cake. ■



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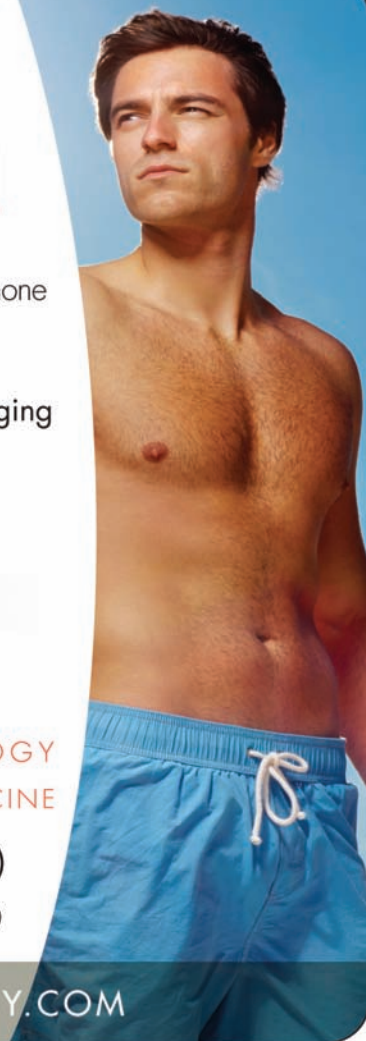
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Travel diary

The Crescent celebrates 25; gays pick Sydney as fave destination

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

The **Rosewood Crescent Hotel** celebrates its 25th year with some sweet deals that will make for a luxe vacation or staycation. The "25 Offers for 25 Years" includes specials throughout the hotel including **The Spa at the Crescent, Beau's Lounge, The Conservatory** restaurant and even **Starbucks**. They celebrate with the original 1986 room rate of \$100 and booking is now available through April 6, 2012. The hotel will book at this rate for select rooms for the upcoming July 4 and Labor Day weekends. CrescentCourt.com.

If your vacay requires major gay flair, read the **Out Now Global LGBT2020 Study** first. The study recently revealed the best spots around the world for LGBT tourism. The results are a culmination of information from six continents which help paint a picture of LGBT travelers and their destinations for the next three years.

"Out Now is delighted to be dramatically expanding the global knowledge base of tourism data with the LGBT2020 research study project," said Out Now CEO Ian Johnson. "We sample in 10 languages and in 2011 we will reach people living in 25 countries around the world. There has never been an LGBT market research project with the scale and true global reach of LGBT2020."

So which spots were tops?

New York ranked one for global travelers. **London** was a fave for Europeans, Australians and North Americans while South Americans favored **Paris**. But **Sydney** was a popular choice for all travelers. The U.S. narrowly beat out France as the top country to visit. To see the entire study, visit OutNowConsulting.com.

LGBT travelers can connect with others thanks to the new **IGLTA Tripping Network**. The social network encourages gay travelers to engage in conversation and "to make the world a better place through cultural exchange."

Think of it as part Facebook, part Yelp, but with a personal touch. Travelers could connect with local gays for guiding them through neighborhoods, meeting up or even providing a spare room. The site also helps to connect with gay and gay-friendly businesses.

The network hasn't forgotten safety concerns and protects travelers with the TripSafe Program which includes references, ratings, videos and emergency hotlines.

"This is all about facilitating cross-cultural connections and we're excited to offer members of the LGBT community a safe way to connect with each other all around the globe," says Jen O'Neal, Tripping.com's cofounder and CEO. For more information, visit Tripping.com. ■

SYDNEY TOPS | A recent study shows Sydney is an across-the-board fave destination among international gay travelers. (Photo courtesy New Mardi Gras)




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Mutants-as-metaphors? The pro-gay message is unmistakable in 'X-Men'

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

2011 is becoming the summer of supers. And it is a Marvel.

We've already had *Thor*, and before July is over, we'll have *Green Lantern* and *Captain America*. But it will be remarkable if any manage to outdo *X-Men: First Class*. More than a kiddie version of an established franchise, this prequel has the scope of a Bond film and touches on serious issues like Nazi camps, nuclear annihilation and homophobia. *First Class* is that rarest of summer movies: A socially conscious superhero comic.

In 1944, pre-teens Erik Lensherr and Charles Xavier are leading vastly different lives. Charles lives in a castle on Long Island with his wealthy family, using his psychic powers to carve out an academic career. Meanwhile, Erik finds his ability to control metal with his mind is put to sick use by a Nazi doctor Sebastian Shaw (Kevin Bacon) while his family is butchered in a concentration camp.

Eighteen years later, Charles (James McAvoy) and Erik (Michael Fassbender) team up, united in their efforts to stop Shaw (himself a mutant of intimidating power) from starting WWII, in a sophisticated good cop/bad cop routine where they recruit new young mutants to join their cause.

The X-Men have been about outsiders not fitting in since the comics debuted in the 1960s, but it has been since the film series started in 2000 that the obvious parallels between *mutant* and *gay* have been most apparent. That's true even in *First Class*, set long before the gay rights movement began.

"I didn't mean to out you," one character says to a secret mutant, who justifies not telling his boss by saying, "You didn't ask, I didn't tell." "I'm not the only one who is different," one confesses tearfully. There's just no way that's a coincidence.

VIRTUALLY NORMAL | Xavier (James McAvoy, top) and Magneto (Michael Fassbender) team up to fight a common enemy in the smart, savvy prequel 'X-Men: First Class.'

Especially not with Matthew Vaughn directing. The last four X-Men movies have been directed by capable but quick-to-go-commercial directors, but Vaughn is a savvy, thoughtful director who composes more than he stages. Vaughn has an artist's ethos, as he proved with his debut feature, *Layer Cake*, and demonstrated subsequently with the smart, edgy actioner *Kick-Ass* last year. His style oozes classic craftsmanship (one scene, set in a bar, generates incredible tension as Tarantino did in a similar set piece in *Inglourious Basterds*, though in an abbreviated version).

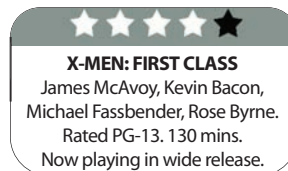
There's an efficiency of storytelling, couched within the conventions of the superhero "origins" format, that's admirable. It took George Lucas three

full films to explain what circumstances made Darth Vader who he was; Vaughn does it in two hours. Of course, Lucas was hamstrung by having to use Hayden Christensen as the conduit for telling that story; *First Class* benefits from Fassbender's sexy bravado as Magneto.

For the film — for the series — to work, you need to like Magneto a little to understand how he became a villain. Fassbender is sympathetic and reckless, and when he finally begins to believe in how the cause of mutants must supersede those of humanity, it's difficult not to detect traces of Larry Kramer and ACT UP! in his passionate, separatist radicalism. It's enough to make you wanna hold up a sign saying "Mutant and proud."

Bacon is an unusual but effective choice as the supervillain, though January Jones, in a sexy, Bond-Girl-with-Balls cheesecake performance, more than holds her own.

Ultimately, it's the message of being virtually normal — that is, redefining the baseline for what normal is — that makes the entire X-Men franchise resonate so strongly with modern, enlightened audiences. That's especially true here. *First Class* is just that ... in every sense. ■



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Chaz Marie brings country rock to Razzle Dazzle, but it's a Jeep that brings *her* there

Razzle Dazzle Days will pump up the jams big time over the weekend with lots of music: "Ice Cream Truck" rapper Cazwell headlines Saturday's street festival, but he's got a strong line of supporting acts. Among them, local singer Chaz Marie, who brings some Texas flavor to the bill with her country rock.

The Irving-based singer may not have to travel far to this gig, but she still needs the roominess of her car. With enough space for her gear and guitars, Marie talks up the easy ride of her set of wheels.

— Rich Lopez



Name: Chaz Marie

Occupation: Singer/entertainer

How might we know you? I sing all over the DFW area!

What kind of car do you have? 2002 Jeep Cherokee Laredo Sport.

Have you named her? Yes — her name is Meerie.

Why this car? Simple: I love Jeeps!

Good gas mileage? Meh... depends. It's 20 city, 22 highway.

What are the rules of your car? You mess it, you clean it. And no complaining about the loud music.

Speed Racer or grandma? Speed. Racer. Definitely.

Best car memory: It's a pretty simple one, but I just loved that feeling when I first got it and drove it off the lot, all shiny and new.

Funniest road trip story? One time, I drove off with my gig book on top! Fortunately, it enjoyed the ride. It stayed on because it got caught in the luggage rack.

What's in your player right now? Lately I've been playing a lot of Deftones, Jack Johnson, Beth Hart, Janis Joplin and Maroon 5.

How do you rate this to previous cars you've owned? Seriously, this is the best car I have ever had. It's classy and it's fun, but it's still sporty.

Sexiest thing about your car? Well, me driving it, of course.

Where is one place you would like to drive your car? I would love to take it through the mountains in Colorado to Manitou Springs.

How many gallons does it take to fill? 15.

Gas is a burden on the wallet now. How many gigs do you need to afford one fill-up? Thankfully, just one gig. At least for now.

Ever write a song in your car? Not yet.

So if we see the Jeep at Razzle Dazzle, can we shoe polish it like in high school? Absolutely!

Is this your touring bus? Oh, yes.

How big is your band and how many cars are needed for a gig? We are a five- to six-piece band, but we all usually drive our own cars.

Razzle Dazzle is super gay. How are your LGBT audiences different than your straight or mixed ones? Oh my gosh, gay crowds are so uninhibited. They know how to have a party and enjoy one! Non-gay crowds do too, but, you know, they just need a little push to get the party started sometimes.

Where can we check your music out? Thanks for asking! You can find me on iTunes, YouTube and at ChazMarie.com.



Bunny hop

Lady Bunny comes out! (as more than a drag queen DJ)

The Lady Bunny is most recognizable as that funny queen who created Wigstock, or as the DJ spinning at a circuit party in full drag. But the lady has a lot on her mind that's not all fun and games. Though she's never far from the sass.

"I really like to talk about issues because there is a lot of fluff on TV," she says. "How great would it be if a gay channel would take on gay issues? I'd love that. Hear that, Logo?"

Bunny, who has practically made Dallas a second home lately, returns for a double gig this weekend: On Saturday, she shares the bill with Tony-nominee Kelli O'Hara as the DJ for the Dallas Theater Center's Center-stage benefit. But Friday she returns to her performing roots for a birthday dinner and roast at Axiom Sushi Lounge at the ilume. And she knows the fish jokes should be easy that night.

"I am that tacky," she laughs. "For me, I love sushi but drag and dinner only mix if there's a girdle handy."

Bunny is deeper than she usually gets credit for. Seeing Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* on Broadway forced her to recall activism then vs. now. Minus the makeup and music, Bunny is

impassioned about that which affects LGBT people today.

"I think that gay people have to a large extent lost their fight," she says. "I don't really know how putting 'Equality' as your middle name on Facebook, or a piece of tape over your mouth, helps. I can't see how these trendy campaigns substitute for hard work."

She's also inspired by her work as the Dean of Drag on the upcoming season of *RuPaul's Drag U*. With an increased role this time out, Bunny still keeps the camp but adds heart for her makeovers. Real life women get makeovers, but also come with dramatic back-stories.

"These women, they give up everything for their kids and their man," she says. "I cried a few times. It made me appreciate that nurturing vibe that mothers have. I don't think gay men know that kind of sacrifice. This season has been a real eye opener."

For now, she snarkily warns of her own eye opener Friday.

"Well, I have this delightful tribute to *Burlesque*," she says. "Did you see the movie? Ugh." ■

— Rich Lopez

LADY BUNNY

Axiom Sushi Lounge,
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Friday 06.03

All the Cox you could want

Could there be any better timing for this year's 6th Annual MetroBall? The AIDS fundraiser is smack dab in the middle of Razzle Dazzle Dallas. We'd go no matter what since dance diva Deborah Cox is headlining. You know she'll sing her signature hit "Nobody's Supposed To Be Here," to a packed house. Ironic, huh?

DEETS: Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. \$30. GDMAF.org.

Saturday 06.04

This ain't the Pink Floyd version

Musical accompaniment to *The Wizard of Oz* will not be a classic rock album this night. Instead, the DSO pays homage in *Oz with Orchestra* by performing the original soundtrack as the movie plays. And extra bonuses to the people who dress up as their favorite character.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. \$30-\$70. DallasSymphony.com.

Tuesday 06.07

Now these cats can recycle

We wonder if the *Stomp* people throw anything away. Clearly everything, even trash, can be turned into a musical instrument or noisemaker, but these guys know how to do it the right way.

DEETS: Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave. Through June 12. \$15-\$75. Ticketmaster.com.



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FRIDAY 06.03

COMMUNITY

Women's International Leather Fest I This inaugural three-day event is presented by Women in Leather International. Keynote speakers are Ultra Domme Karen Crecelius and Lady Caro. Visit the website for schedule information. Sterling Hotel, 1055 Regal Row. Through Sunday. \$75-\$95. WIL-International.org.

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

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

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays-Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWfuse.com.

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

CODA, codependents support group at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

THEATER

bare. Ohlook Performing Arts' musical focuses on two gay high school students and their struggles at their private, Catholic boarding school. Ohlook's

READY TO RUMBLE |

Well, it may not look quite like this, but BJ's NXS! Hot Oil Wrestling event Sunday should grab some attention.



Black Box. 316 S. Barton St., Grapevine. Through Saturday. OhlookPerform.com.

Late Night Double Feature: Psycho Beach Party and Vampire Lesbians of Sodom. A double dose of Charles Busch's campy plays. Ohlook's Black Box. 316 S. Barton St., Grapevine. 10:30 p.m. OhlookPerform.com.

Outrageous Sexy (nekkid) Romp. Comedy happens when half of a gay couple thinks he might be straight. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road. 8 p.m. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

FILM

QCinema 13. Fort Worth's Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival is underway. All screenings at the Rose Marine Theater, 1140 N. Main St. Through Sunday. QCinema.org.

ART

Statuesque, a collective exhibition of contemporary sculpture by six artists. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Aug. 21. 11 a.m. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

SATURDAY 06.04

COMMUNITY

Cirque! Anything Goes! Turtle Creek Chorale's fundraiser and party in a classic 1940s era motif. VIP tickets are sold out. Edison's, 1724 Cockrell Ave. 6 p.m. \$50. TurtleCreek.org.

Texas TurtlePalooza. Nature event featuring a look at different species of Texas turtles. Trinity River Audobon Center, 6500 S. Loop 12. 10 a.m. TrinityRiverAudobon.org.

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling monthly program helps those who have lost an animal cope with their loss. Dealey Animal Care Center, 362 S. Industrial Blvd. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3-6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

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

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

Rainbow Ministries International. Meets weekly. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m. 469-222-3400.

THEATER

The Difference Engine. This Steampunk event is part murder mystery, part multimedia experience, part all-day summit which previews the bigger New Year's Eve event later. Radisson Hotel Fort Worth, 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth. 10 a.m. \$20. The-Difference-Engine.info.

BROADCAST

Cathedral of Hope worship service. Ch. 8 at 12:35 a.m. (Friday after midnight).



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calendar

SUNDAY 06.05

COMMUNITY

Hot Oil Wrestling. Beef and oil mix this weekend at this "sporting" event. BJ's NXSI, 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave. 9:30 p.m. bjsnxs.com.

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

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

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

MONDAY 06.06

COMMUNITY

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

Self esteem support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. AOC.org.

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

BROADCAST

The Rick Vanderslice Show streams Monday-Friday from noon-2 p.m. on RationalRadio.org.

CABARET

Mama's Party. Amy Stevenson hosts the weekly cabaret featuring local stage actors and musicians. Contemporary Theater of Dallas, 5601 Sears St. 7 p.m. MamasParty.com.

TUESDAY 06.07

COMMUNITY

QLive! Open Mic. The weekly event is for would-be comics only. Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave., Fort Worth. 9 p.m. QCinema.org.

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

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

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

BROADCAST

The 10% with Israel Luna and Richard Curtin streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 06.08

COMMUNITY

Cathedral Business Network second Wednesday meeting. Location to be determined. 11:30 a.m.



CLASSIC STYLE | Join Jonathan Palant and the rest of the Turtle Creek Chorale at Cirque! on Saturday.

Contact Anity Haddy at Cathedral of Hope for more information. 214-351-1901. CathedralOfHope.com.

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m. Lone Star Veterans Chapter meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCpres@aol.com.

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Tony Vedda from the GLBT Chamber of Commerce. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 06.09

COMMUNITY

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

PFLAG Dallas. Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

THEATER

Billy Elliot: The Musical. The movie comes to life in this stage adaptation with music by Elton John. Winspear Opera house, 2403 Flora St. \$30-\$150. Through June 19. ATTPAC.org.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Joan Rivers turns 78 on Thursday. The comedian and TV show host seems to be more famous now for her plastic surgery than her punchlines. She scored a hit with the gays though, with her newest show *The Fashion Police*. She leads a panel of B-listers in catty talk about celebrity fashions and faux pas.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your friends wear you down. Maybe you're trying too hard to be the star of the party? Enjoy being on the sidelines now and then, or just take some time out. Your real friends will understand.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Friends and colleagues are eager to see you succeed, but they push you a little too hard. Keep an eye open to your larger goal, but the trick is still to stay focused on the job at hand.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Use your indoor voice. The smart actor knows that whispers can get attention where screaming gets ignored. You will be noticed no matter what, but what do they see?

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Long, hard and deep is how you should think about sex. How does it serve in your life? To pursue satisfaction? To forge a deeper bond? The real question: How does it bring you home?

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You don't win or keep a lover by being the best in bed. Open communication keeps love alive. Focus on the small details. Being the best mate you can be is not a competitive sport.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Pace yourself with your colleagues, don't drag it out so far ahead that you pull the team efforts out of whack. Pushing too hard can also be bad for your health.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Pushing too hard at sports or exercise is asking to get hurt. The trick in pushing for a personal best is to expand your limits, not to ignore them. Yes, even you have limits.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Getting involved helps you clarify where you really belong in the world, what you've learned from elders to pass on to future generations, and what you could be doing for the kids.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Arguments with your family help you plan better for your future. Don't be shy about speaking up. Sibling rivalry can spur you to better work, but don't let it affect you too deeply.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Spending and arguments get out of control. Old habits mire you down, interfering with your success. Keep a clear focus on your goals and act as if your next boss is watching you.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

You make a lot or spend a lot. The competitive urge drags you either way and even making money is more strain than it's worth. Work as hard as you reasonably can.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

It's not easy being the strong, reliable one. All the more reason why you need to take care of yourself. Take a break. Relax. You'll hold up better and accomplish more in the long run.

THIS WEEK

Mars in Taurus aspecting Eris in Aries cranks up competitive urges. Be open and flexible. Goals may need adjusting as conditions change.

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

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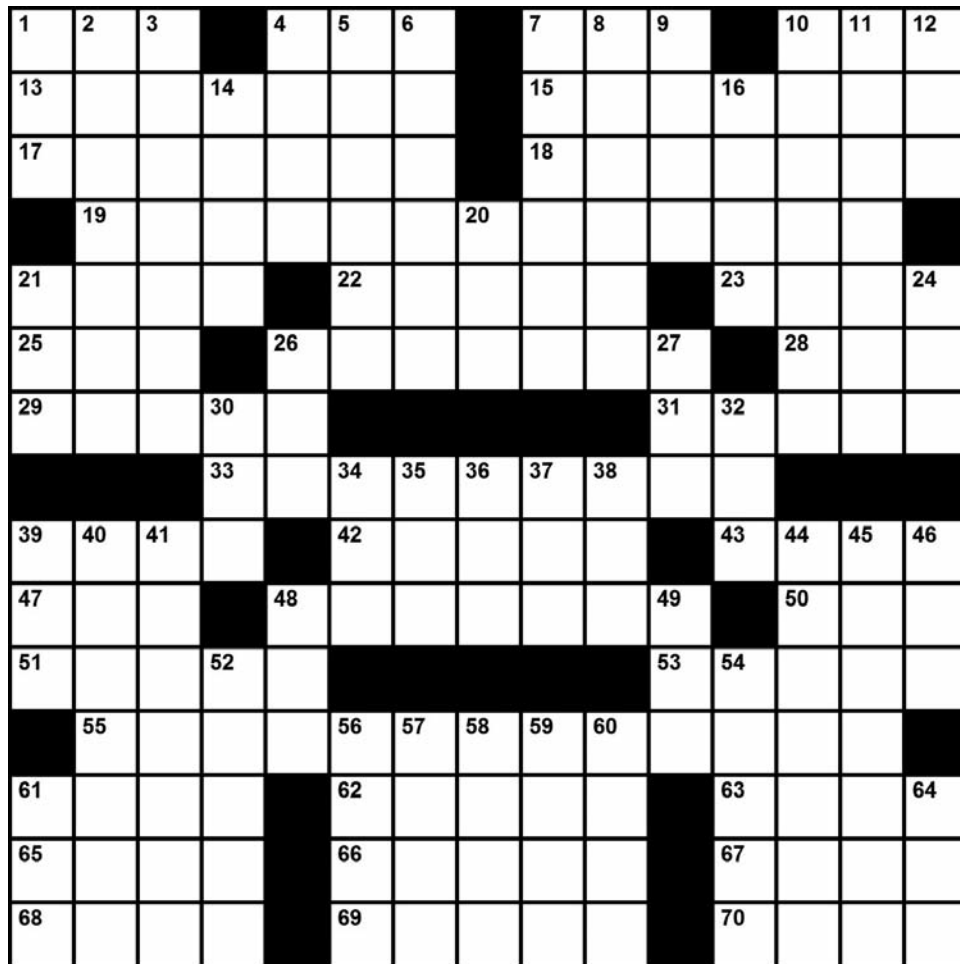
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The Voice

Solution on page 36

Across

- 1 "Horny" animal
- 4 CBS forensic drama
- 7 DeLuise who was in drag in Haunted Honey-moon
- 10 "Suzie Q" band, for short
- 13 Where they say "Ooh! Long!"
- 15 Behind, financially
- 17 Supported an org. for ending AIDS?
- 18 Kahlo and others
- 19 The Voice contestant
- 21 Liza's mother
- 22 Reef buildup
- 23 It's Not the Size That Counts star Sommer
- 25 Sitcom actress Meyers
- 26 With 33-Across, The Voice contestant
- 28 Matthew in The Producers
- 29 ___-wip topping
- 31 "Good grief!"
- 33 See 26-Across
- 39 Winkler role, with "the"
- 42 Triangle-shaped peninsula
- 43 A little, to Leonard Bernstein
- 47 The Crimson Tide's st.
- 48 Broadway title woman of 1925
- 50 In Cold Blood writer, to pals

Down

- 1 JFK info
- 2 Tongue-lashing
- 3 Tiny chirper
- 4 Ian McKellen's The Da Vinci ___
- 5 Reporter's need
- 6 Cho activity
- 7 Bounce from Hung Jury?
- 8 The Iceman Cometh writer Eugene
- 9 Death in Venice author Thomas
- 10 Toyota model
- 11 Sounded like the Tin Man, maybe
- 12 Hi-___ graphics
- 14 Bank (on)
- 16 Part of a vacuum cleaner that sucks
- 20 Vein contents
- 21 Canning container
- 24 Shooter in Bruce Weber's field
- 26 Something to flick
- 27 Vote of support
- 30 Buffer area in a war, briefly
- 32 Total U.S. output, e.g.
- 34 Stonewall Jackson's land (abbr.)
- 35 Memorial designer Maya ___
- 36 WSW opposite
- 37 Caesar's lang.
- 38 Eng. class about Wilde
- 39 "Terrif!"
- 40 Lover of Kaye, some say
- 41 Mead studied them on Samoa
- 44 Moor green with jealousy
- 45 Less rational
- 46 Wilder's ___ Town
- 48 B'way locale
- 49 Giant ball-handler Manning
- 52 Public spectacle
- 54 Seminal computer
- 56 Hedwig and the Angry ___
- 57 Romantic island for gay weddings
- 58 Of the same sort
- 59 Fruit cover
- 60 Puts out, like Billy Bean
- 61 Road atlas abbr.
- 64 Gaydar, for example

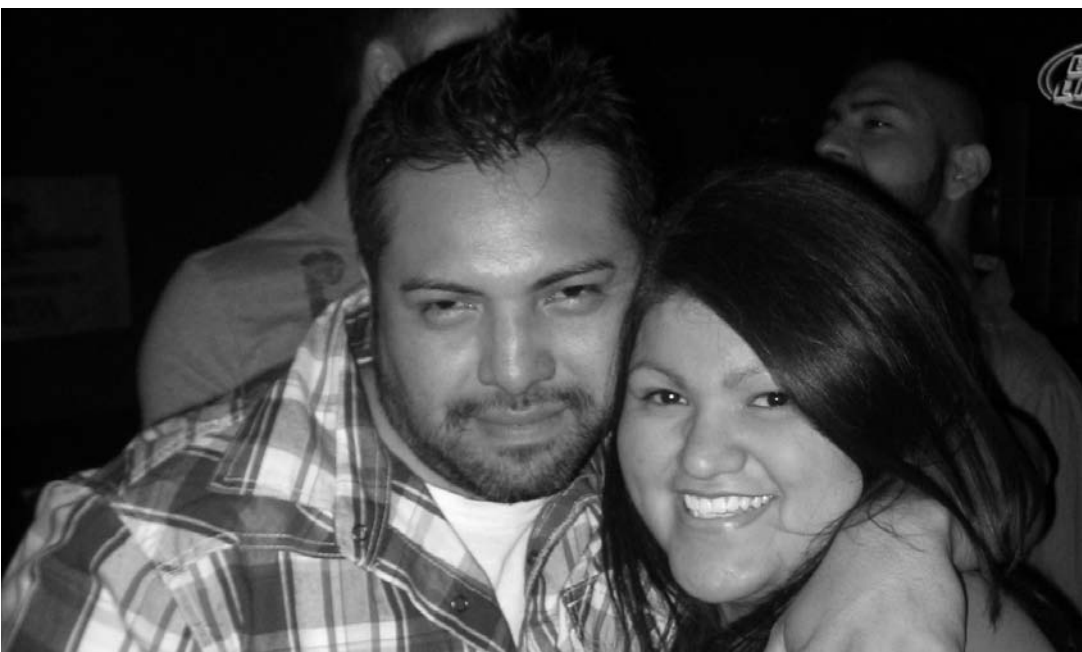


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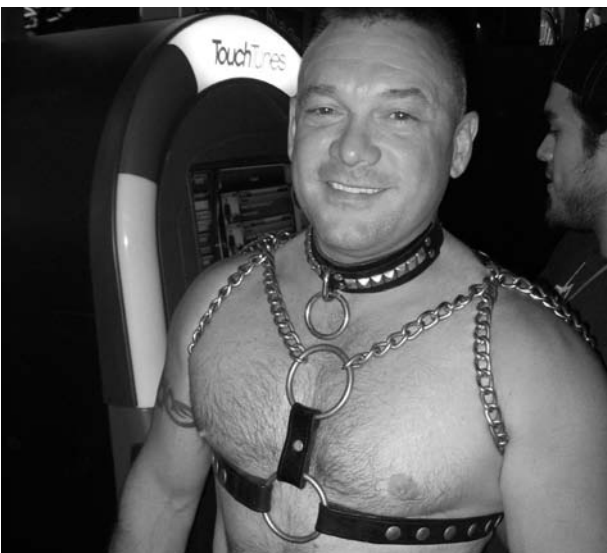




Carlos and Birdie at Pekers.

Happy **Razzle Dazzle Days**. By now you've pub crawled and wine walked, so get ready for Friday's **MetroBall at Station 4** with the ultra-fab **Deborah Cox**. The **Saturday Night Street Festival** on the strip brings **Cazwell** back to Dallas to headline the main stage concert. Sunday night is double the fun. **TMC: The Mining Company** hosts the **Tea Dance** and **Mr. and Miss Razzle Dallas** will be crowned at **the Brick** **BJ's NXSI** gets down and dirty — er, greasy, rather — with **Hot Oil Wrestling** on Sunday. This brings a tear to our eyes. The bar continues **Trashy Tuesdays** every week with **DJ Mickey** doling out the music and videos **Team Dallas Voice** and **Pocket Rockets Dallas** is in week three of the **P-P-P-Poker Tournament** which benefits the **Lone Star Ride**. This week, the tourney moves to **the Brick** on Wednesday Hopefully the weather won't be too hot to hang out in **Jack's Backyard**. Either way, **The Coppertones** will help the time go by when they perform Friday night. **Ciao Bella** churns out the music on Saturday and **Kathy & Bella** continue their Sunday afternoon residency **The Dallas Eagle** hosts the **Leather & Lace** charity event Saturday benefiting the **United Court** and celebrating the **Women's International Leather Fest**. **The Dirty Birds** softball team hosts **Extra Innings** Sunday night. Every Thursday, bears, cubs and other furry animals get their due at **Growl** night **Sue Ellen's** brings the **Mojo Dolls** out of the toy box for Friday night. It's a double header with **Bandmates** and **Kickback** both hitting the stage on Saturday. The **Andrea Moore Band** rounds out the weekend at Sue's on Sunday. Try your voice at **Little Chalupa Karaoke** on Thursdays. ■

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



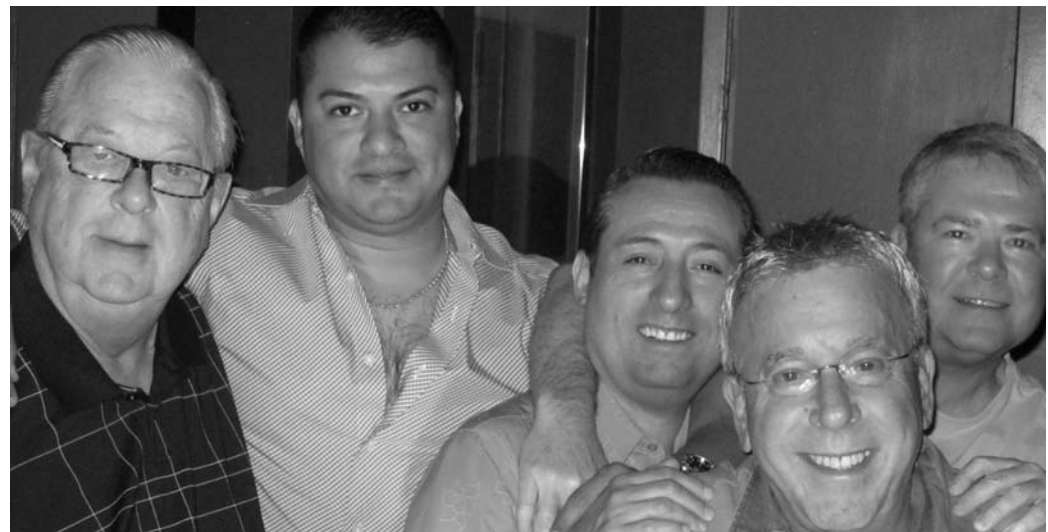
Joey at the Hidden Door.



Biana and Luis at Exklusive Lounge.



Justin and Krystal at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Doug, Ben, Ray, Bud and Bob at Wet.



Jessica and Kim at Alexandre's.



Tony and Ahmed at Havana.

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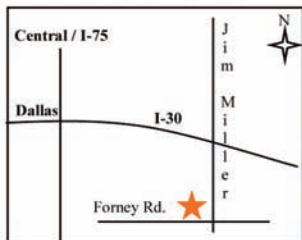
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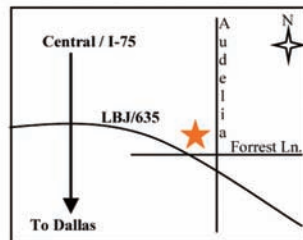
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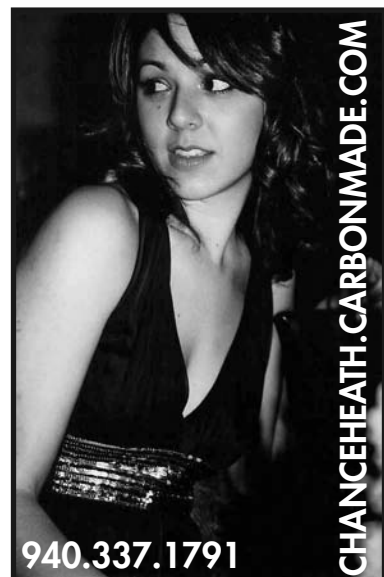
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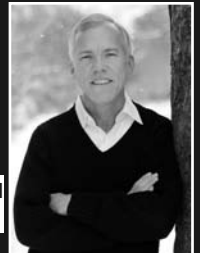
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