

# King of the cross-dressing olives

Michael Godard and the art of the martini

Witty paintings of rocker-like artist come to Dallas — and raise money for LSR

■ FINE ART, Page 22



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From partisan to apolitical, from atheistic to interfaith — groups from around the state are speaking out against Gov. Perry's Houston prayer meeting

■ Read the entire story starting on page 14



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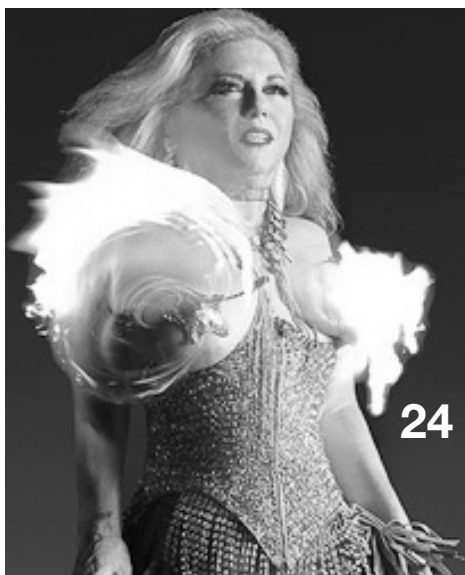
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Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks during a United For Life event organized by a Hispanic anti-abortion group at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena in Los Angeles on June 12. Photo by Richard Vogel with the Associated Press. Design by Michael Stephens.

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# Two men arrested in 2010 shooting

Tull recognized attackers when TV news broadcast their photos following their arrests for a June murder in Oak Cliff

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

As Doug Tull recovers from what he hopes will be the final surgery he will have to endure after being shot in a robbery on an Oak Lawn street on Aug. 30, 2010, he said he is happy to know that the men who attacked him have finally been apprehended.

Last month, LaMarcus Mathis, 19, Don Williams, 17, and Robert Robertson, 24, were arrested for the murder of South Dallas convenience store owner Jin Ha.

Tull said he recognized Mathis as the man who shot him when he saw the suspect's photo on television.

"I was watching the news," he said of how he learned the three had been arrested. "It sent chills down my spine."

Tull said that Williams is the person who participated in beating him during the attack last year, but he is not sure if Robertson was the getaway driver.

He said there was no doubt in his mind that Mathis and Robertson are the same two men who

attacked him a year ago, and that he has worried ever since that they would continue attacking until someone was killed.

"I knew they'd do it again," Tull said.

Tull also said that he knew the night he was shot that the suspects had committed such crimes before.

"They acted too experienced," he said. "They knew exactly what they were doing."

On Aug. 30, Tull was walking from his apartment on Throckmorton Street to Pekers, a bar on Oak Lawn Avenue. Two men stopped him on Brown Street demanding money. They took his wallet and beat him.

When Tull sprayed his attackers with mace, Mathis shot him then made his escape by running to a car driven by a third man, who had pulled into a nearby bank drive-through lane.

Tull was able to make it to Pekers about a block away. Someone in a nearby apartment who saw the incident happen had already called police. Ron Nelson and Frank Holland, owners of Pekers, were at the bar, and as soon as they realized Tull was bleeding, Nelson called 9-1-1.

Tull was rushed by ambulance to Parkland Hospital where he had emergency surgery. He remained in the hospital almost six weeks and has since had two subsequent operations.

The bullet splintered his tailbone and Tull developed osteomyelitis, a bacterial bone infection from which he spent eight months at home recovering.



Doug Tull

During that time, Tull said he heard little from Dallas police, who had no leads in the shooting. Police used a warrant to get the surveillance tapes from the nearby bank, but the tape did not clearly identify the car and the license plate on the car was unreadable.

A check from Tull's wallet was found in the parking garage at The Crescent and returned to him by mail with a note. Crescent property managers made surveillance tapes from their property

■ SHOOTING, Page 11

## instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Instant-Tea

### SMU makes LGBT-unfriendly; top 20; Baylor off list

SMU has been named the 12th most LGBT-unfriendly campus in the country by the Princeton Review. In the previous two years the Dallas school ranked 16th and 14th.

Baylor had been on the list for the past several years but does not appear this year.



The ranking is determined by students' answers to survey questions about their impression of how fairly LGBT students are treated. The Princeton Review includes 376 colleges from across the country in its annual survey.

NYU and Stanford are listed as most LGBT-friendly this year. No Texas schools made that list. Eight of the top 20 are in Massachusetts.

Of those making the homophobic campus list, SMU is the only school regularly ranked that has inclusive non-discrimination policies and actively works to not be included.

Both Baylor and SMU made the list of most conservative student bodies. Baylor was listed as 10th most religious students.

Baylor was ranked 12th for "College Town Not So Great." Dallas fared much better with SMU's No. 8 ranking for "Great College Town."

In next week's paper, we'll talk to Baylor alumni and LGBT SMU staff about why the school shouldn't be on the LGBT-unfriendly list.

— David Taffet

### 'Hair' tickets go on sale

The Lexus Broadway Series at the Winspear kicks off its new season around Dallas Pride with the local premiere of the recent B'way revival of the sexually liberated hippie musical Hair, which on Broadway starred out actor Gavin Creel (who appeared last year at the Black Tie Dinner here).

Individual tickets go on sale today at 10 a.m. Opening night is always fun, but I might suggest getting seats for the second week Tuesday performance. That's the day the Series has selected as, for want of a better word, "gay night" at the Winspear, with a special pre-show talk and reception. I'll tell you more about that later...

And just how gay is this 42-year-old show? Pretty damn gay. In fact, last week after New York officially began permitting same-sex marriage, the stage of the Broadway production of Hair was host to three ceremonies. Don't expect those on the floor of the Winspear, though...

— Arnold Wayne Jones



CeCe Cox

## Couple pledges \$2M to RCD

Donation tagged to help pay for construction of center's new facilities

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In what has been described as the second-largest gift ever given to an LGBT organization by a living donor, Dallas couple Eric V. Culbertson and David W. Carlson have pledged \$2 million to Resource Center Dallas, officials announced this week.

RCD Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox said the donation would be used to help pay for construction of a new building that will consolidate programs and double the agency's available space. Property has been purchased for the new building on the corner of Cedar Springs and Inwood roads.

Cox said that the center has already hit the 30 percent mark in its effort to raise the \$12 million needed for the new facility.

"We're aiming to break ground in 2014 and move in 2015," she said.

Cox said that the donation was a result of build-

ing a strong relationship but the money was pledged after the couple took a tour of the center's facilities.

She said they told her, "We had no idea you did all this."

Culbertson is the owner of Salon Three-Thirty located in Uptown at 2510 Cedar Springs Road. For the past several months he has offered yoga classes at Resource Center Dallas through his new non-profit group, Strength Through Yoga, which takes "the empowering aspects of yoga to organizations and individuals who can use it to heal and strengthen the mind, body and soul."

Carlson is the founding chief financial officer of GameStop. The Grapevine-based video game and entertainment software retailer has more than 6,500 stores worldwide and is ranked 255th on the Fortune 500. GameStop has been the presenting sponsor of Black Tie Dinner for several years.

Carlson retired from GameStop recently and is now co-owner of Uptown Energy Fitness in West Village.

The couple declined to be interviewed for this story but released comments in a statement.

■ RCD, Page 10

# Out & Equal Uncorked

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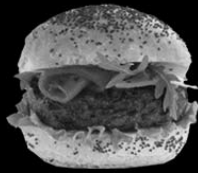
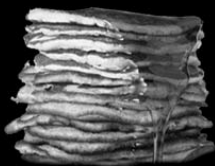
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## localbriefs

### Continuing education credit available through Hope Cottage

Hope Cottage, Dallas' oldest nonprofit, nonsectarian adoption agency, is now authorized to offer continuing education contact credits for social workers through its new Adoption 101 programming.

Director of Programs Brooks Quinlan, LMSW-AP, explained: "The goal of Infant Adoption 101 is to equip social service professionals with the skill sets needed to respond with confidence and sensitivity towards a client exploring or moving forward with an adoption plan."

Upon completion of the program, participants are awarded one contact hour.

Thanks to donations, the program is offered free of charge. Organizations interested in receiving the training should contact Heather Hussong at by email at hhussong@hopecottage.org or by phone at 214-526-8721, ext. 241.

### Mountain View College offers youth empowerment conference

"Keepin' It Real!" a free one-day youth empowerment conference, is being offered Saturday, Aug. 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Avenue in Dallas.

The conference is intended to provide teens

with "real life" solutions to problems they face and in the process help build their self-confidence as they prepare to return to school.

Teens grades 6-12 can attend. Keynote speakers are Felix A. Zamora, president of Mountain View College and a motivational speaker and author; and Cheryl Jackson with Minnie's Food Pantry and The Giving Movement.

All teens will participate in six interactive workshops which include bullycide, engineering the world, HIV/AIDS awareness and college financial aid and scholarships among others.

Musical entertainment will be provided by local artists including Rumill, Dacia Kings, Elliott Skinner accompanied by pianist, Dylan Cantu, Rachel Webb and P2 Mimes of Greater Mt. Calvary COGIC, and more.

Teens will also have an opportunity during a moderated panel discussion to meet local leaders and ask questions.

Also, Backpacking for Education returns for the eighth year. BFE is a program that supplies the attending youth with backpacks filled with school supplies. Additionally, some students will win door prizes and all will receive giveaways.

Registration is free but pre-registration is required by Aug. 10. To register for this conference or for more information, go online to TeenGraffiti.com or call 972-496-9457. ■

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# Overcoming doubts to ride for others

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

Cycling for the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS ultimately means giving people with HIV and AIDS a chance at a better quality of life. But as Dallas IT professional James Cannata can attest, saddling up on behalf of others can also offer unexpected lessons in faith and self-confidence.

Cannata had known about the LSR for a number of years prior to his official entry into it this year. But overweight as he was, Cannata never thought he could become an event participant, let alone an LSR cyclist.

"When I got my bike last year, it was the first one I'd owned since I was a teenager," a somewhat embarrassed Cannata admits. And his first efforts at a return to cycling were frankly half-hearted.

He estimates that in 2010, he rode no more than six or seven miles; and the bicycle that was to have awakened his inner athlete became little more than a two-wheeled dust-collector.

Despite the anemic mileage totals, the 41-year-old Cannata was able to follow through on a health and fitness program he'd also begun at about the same time. When he finally took the Ride plunge at the LSR kickoff party last May, he had lost 30 pounds and kicked a 25-year-plus smoking habit.

Says the IT tech, "I thought to myself, 'I'm in a little better shape now.' I had come a long way in the last year-and-a-half, so I decided I could [finally] do the Ride and help out other people."

But then Cannata had an attack of nerves. In his mind, he was a cycling newbie whose sole experience with fundraising had consisted of sell-

ing candy for his Cub Scout troop. Who was he to be doing the LSR?

"I called [event manager] Jerry [Calumn] and told him there was no way I would be able to raise my goal of \$1,200," Cannata recalls. "Besides which, we were going to be riding on real streets on our bikes, with real traffic going by. And these were real miles in real weather."

Cannata was ready to give the \$200 he had already raised back to his sponsors. Calumn, who saw more in Cannata than he could see in himself, immediately got the flustered IT tech in touch with another, more experienced rider who took him on a test ride.

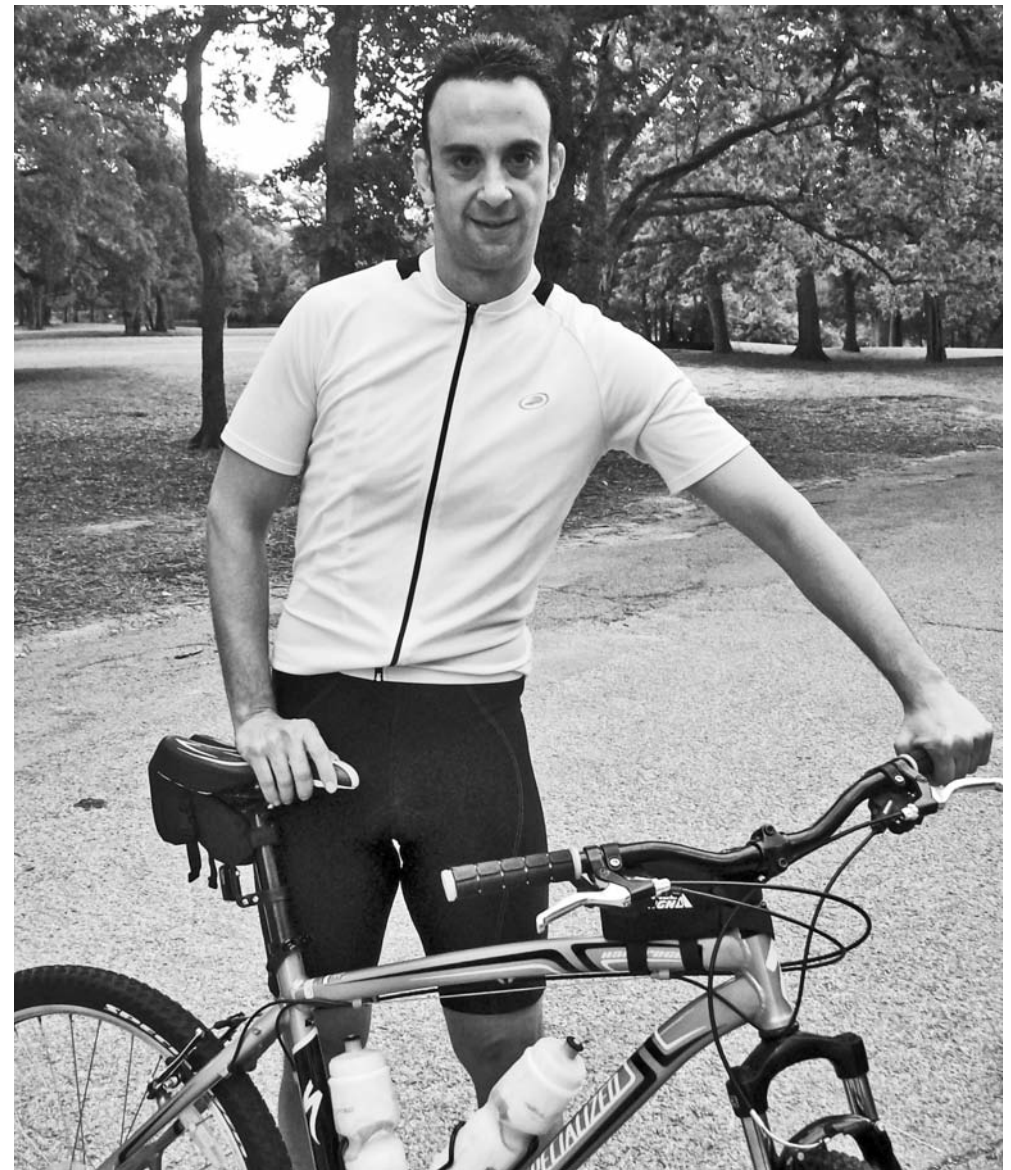
"And I just absolutely loved it," Cannata beams. "I was kind of stunned that I had done 10 or 12 miles; it was just amazing for me. I couldn't believe I'd done that, you know?"

Since then, Cannata has worked up to doing 30 miles per ride. Now he fully expects to achieve his goal of doing 90 miles during the two days the Ride will take place.

The encouragement he received from other LSR members helped Cannata believe in himself and carry on towards his goal. And as Cannata has moved along his path, he's seen still other positives emerge.

"When I look at the people who have donated to this ride," he says, "it's amazing to see the level of support, especially [among] my heterosexual allies who are very close friends. They have donated quite a bit of money. It's just so amazing that these people are proud of me for doing this."

The upcoming Ride will be a challenge for Cannata, but one he's now ready to embrace with open arms. After all, all the hurdles he has — or has yet — to overcome, are nothing compared to those facing the people for whom he is



James Cannata

riding.

"There are just some people who don't have the financial means to take care of their basic day-to-day needs," says Cannata. "But I'm going to know that I took part in changing someone's life [by] putting food on someone's table for a couple of months. Or getting someone medicine [or

emotional support."

Radiant with newfound self-belief, he adds, "Whatever effort, whatever pain I [go] through [will be] so worth it."

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

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# Buice to remain in prison after parole board reverses decision

Man convicted of 1991 gay-bashing murder of Paul Broussard won't be up for parole again until next year

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

The Texas Pardons and Parole Board this week reversed its earlier decision to release convicted gay basher Jon Buice from prison.

Buice, convicted of the 1991 murder of Paul Broussard in Houston's Montrose neighborhood, was originally sentenced in May 1992 to 45 years in prison, and has served 19 years of that sentence.

He was one of 10 young men from The Woodlands, a northern suburb of Houston, convicted in the killing and is the only one of the 10 still in prison.

The parole board on July 1 this year had approved Buice for release on Oct. 1. Andy Kahan, victims' advocate for the city of Houston, said Tuesday that the board reversed its decision based on "new information that had not been introduced in his [Buice's] previous four or five parole hearings. Also the Harris County district attorney weighed in on the case, and that had not been previously done."

Kahan said he was "not at liberty to divulge" the nature of that new information. But he did say that the information "had nothing at all to do" with allegations that Buice had engaged in an illicit affair with a female prison chaplain while in prison in Huntsville in 2010.

While Texas Department of Corrections officials would not confirm that Buice and the chaplain had engaged in a sexual relationship, the chaplain was disciplined and later fired. Buice also received disciplinary action and was moved to a different prison.

Rissie Owens, presiding officer of the parole board, confirmed in a press release that the reversal was based on new information.

Buice will remain in prison for at least one more year before his request for parole can be reconsidered.

Broussard's mother, Nancy Rodriguez, speaking by phone Tuesday from her home in Georgia, said she was notified of the decision that morning when Houston's victims' services office called her.

She has traveled to Texas each time any of the men convicted in connection with her son's murder has gone to trial or had a parole hearing, and she said she will be back next year when Buice's parole request is reconsidered.

"I will start getting ready for the next one [parole hearing] as soon as I get the letter saying he's up for parole again, maybe in March or April of next year," Rodriguez said. "I just don't feel he has

changed. He's never shown any remorse. ... My son did not deserve to die that way; nobody deserves that. I am concerned he [Buice] will go out and do something else to someone else."

According to testimony during the trials, Buice and the nine other young men — all but one of whom were teenagers — had been drinking and doing drugs when they went to Montrose, the city's gay neighborhood, on the night of July 3, 1991. When they saw Broussard and two other men walking home from one of the area's gay nightclubs, the youths began to shout insults at them.

The 10 youths then got out of their vehicles and attacked the three gay men. The other two men managed to escape and run away, but Broussard was cornered by the gang. He was punched, kicked with steel-toed boots, hit with a nail-studded board and stabbed three times.

The Harris County Medical Examiner determined that it was the stab wounds — which Buice admitted in court that he had inflicted — that killed Broussard.

Ray Hill of Houston, an advocate on gay rights and prisoners rights, was one of the activists who organized rallies and protest in the days following Broussard's murder, intending to focus public attention on the anti-gay hate aspects of the killing and prompt authorities to investigate thoroughly.

In the years since, however, Hill has become friends with Buice and is one of his most vocal supporters in his efforts to get parole. Hill said this week he is "very disappointed" in the parole board's decision.

He described Buice as a "model prisoner" who has earned two bachelor's degrees and hours toward a master's degree while behind bars, and he said he believes it was "political interference" that prompted the parole board to reverse its decision.

State Sen. John Whitmire and state Rep. Garnet Coleman, Houston Democrats, both spoke out against Buice's parole, sending letters to and calling the parole board. Hill said this week that the legislators' actions were unethical and that he intends to file a complaint against them both.

But Kahan, who has worked with Rodriguez on the case for the last 19 years, said that Hill is wrong. "Frankly, he's made Nancy's [Rodriguez's] life a living hell," Kahan said of Hill.

"Nancy has always maintained that Jon Buice should serve a minimum of 27 years behind bars, because that's how long Paul [Broussard] lived," Kahan said. "If he [Buice] had not taken out his knife and stabbed Paul, Paul would have been injured but he would still be alive. That's what it all boils down to. He took Paul Broussard's life, and the only recourse we have to punish him for that is to keep him in prison." ■

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# Transgender woman running for Houston council

Jenifer Rene Pool hopes to follow in the steps of another former Houston GLBT Political Caucus president, Mayor Annise Parker

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Jenifer Rene Pool is running for an at-large position on the Houston city council. Sue Lovell, who reached her term limit, is vacating the seat. Before Lovell joined the council, Mayor Annise Parker also served on the council at large.

Unlike her two predecessors who are lesbian, Pool is transgender.

Pool explained that in Houston, the at-large seat, rather than the single member district that includes Montrose, is the LGBT seat. She said that Houston's LGBT community has always been even more spread out than that in Dallas. To put together the LGBT vote, a candidate needs to run citywide, she said.

Pool said her goal has always been to run for public office. But when she began to transition in the 1990s, she set her political ambitions aside.

Then Parker was elected to the City Council, and Pool took notice. When Parker was elected mayor in 2009, Pool decided the atmosphere in Houston was right.

Pool works in the construction industry. When she began transitioning in the '90s, she was fired from her job. "I went from being one of the top project managers in the city to unemployable," she said.

Since then, she has been self-employed as a consultant in construction management and permitting. She has served as a member of the Buildings and Standards and the Police Advisory commissions and was appointed by Parker to a special blue ribbon task force on buildings and standards. And like Lovell and Parker, Pool has been president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus. She served three terms in that position.

She's worked with other LGBT community organizations including the Houston Transgender Unity Committee and PRIDE Houston and several AIDS groups. But she's also volunteered with groups such as the Houston Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Walk for the Cure.

In addition, for the past six years Pool has co-hosted Queer Voices, a two-hour weekly LGBT talk show on KPFT, Houston's Pacifica station.



Jenifer Pool

She said there's no hiding who she is. She and her co-hosts talk about their lives on the air each week.

Because of FCC rules, she will be leaving the show temporarily during the campaign. Her last show is on Labor Day, since she officially will be on the ballot later that week. After the election, she can return to the air, whether she wins or loses.

Pool said she is fashioning her campaign after Parker's and using what she learned at Victory Fund candidate training.

She said that begins with earning endorsements from LGBT and progressive organizations. She has already gotten four including Houston Stonewall Young Democrats, Houston Stonewall Democrats and Democracy for Houston. On Aug. 4, she also was endorsed by the Houston GLBT Political Caucus.

She said that she'll be trying to energize the LGBT community, progressives and friends to vote. "I'll outreach to organizations to let them know I'm here," she said, "Then go into the com-

munity knocking on doors.

"The race is going well," she added. "I'm in parity with all but one of the candidates."

Five people have entered the race, including a gay candidate. That could affect an endorsement from the Victory Fund.

"Generally, when there are two LGBT candidates, we stay out of the race," said Denis Dison of Victory Fund.

He said that there are exceptions, especially when one candidate is viable and the other isn't. But he confirmed that no endorsement had been made in this race so far.

Houston's City Council is made up of five at-large seats and nine local-district seats. Two local seats will be added in the November election because of population increase.

Council members are elected for two years and may serve three consecutive terms. Unlike most Texas cities, municipal elections in Houston are held on Election Day in November.

If elected, Pool won't be the first transgender public official in Houston. Earlier this year, Parker appointed Phyllis Frye as a municipal court judge.

Nor will she be the first transgender candidate for city council. In the late '80s, another transgender woman ran but was not elected. ■

## ■ RCD

From Page 4

"The driving force for our donation was the center's staff," Culbertson said. "They make [the center] what it is, working so hard and doing so much."

"After touring all the facilities, and understanding the full scope of services, we knew that the center needed to have a new building, and very soon," Carlson said.

Cox said she wanted others in the community who are not familiar with Resource Center Dallas to come tour the facilities.

"I want people to come meet our staff. They're so passionate and do so great at what they do," Cox

said. "We are the only organization who does what we do. We started in this community and are still in this community."

She said that in Dallas two-thirds of new HIV infections are in the LGBT community, higher than the national average.

"People are living longer so we're caring for them longer. And our dental program is one of only two in Dallas," that is providing care to people with HIV who cannot access care elsewhere, Cox said.

Although the Nelson Tebedo Clinic recently added a new dental room, the new building will allow the agency to increase services.

In addition to HIV services, RCD runs a number of programs for the LGBT community, Cox said,

adding, "There's more and more demand for our cultural competency training."

The center recently completed sensitivity training for 700 Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission employees statewide, and Communications and Programs Manager Rafael McDonnell, who has participated in most of the TABC training classes, said that the last class included TABC Administrator Alan Steen.

Cox said that the state agency recently signed a new contract with Resource Center to continue services. She also pointed out the counseling program RCD provides in conjunction with Southern Methodist University.

David Chard, dean of the SMU School of Education that administers the program, said that

when he began the program he was told that no one would want to participate in it. He said there has been a waiting list of counseling students who want to work at RCD.

Cox said that the program is currently limited by lack of space. She said that the lunch program is one of the center's great successes. United Way representatives told her that they saw a real sense of community among those who participated.


"They could go elsewhere for a meal," Cox said, but they come to the Resource Center where they are welcomed.

To expand programs, Cox said RCD needs its new building. She is looking to develop more relationships like that with Culbertson and Carlson. "Donors are relationships," she said. ■

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LaMarcus Mathis, left, and Don Williams

## SHOOTING

From Page 4

available to police when they learned that the check had been stolen in an armed robbery. But those tapes offered no evidence.

Jin Ha was murdered July 3 in her convenience store, located at the intersection of Illinois and Overton avenues in South Dallas. Robertson, who was driving the car seen in surveillance video, was arrested in Dallas three days later and charged with capital murder.

Robertson then tipped off police that Williams and Mathis had fled to Connecticut.

The two fugitives were arrested July 22 in Bridgeport, Conn., and both were extradited to Texas.

Williams and Mathis are being held in the Dallas County jail, with bail set at \$1 million each, and both have been charged with capital murder.

Robertson told police that the two teenagers had been looking for someone to drive them around. A different car was involved in Tull's shooting.

After Mathis and Williams were captured, Tull saw their pictures on TV news.

"My heart was racing," he said. "I was so excited."

Tull tried to contact the detective who investigated his case but didn't receive a return phone call because that officer was out for knee surgery. Tull then contacted Dallas Voice who put the Dallas Police Department's LGBT Liaison Officer Laura Martin in touch with him.

Martin contacted the detectives working on the Jin Ha case.

On Tuesday, Aug. 2, detectives visited Tull at home to have him identify Mathis and Williams as his attackers through pictures. He will be asked to pick them out of a police line up at a later time.

Police will do ballistics tests to link the bullet to Mathis' gun.

Whether or not the same gun was used, Tull has no doubt about the identity of his attackers.

Aggravated assault will probably be added to the murder charges already pending against the two suspects, and Tull said he looked forward to facing them and testifying against them in court.

Tull will remain home to recover from his final surgery for two months. After taking eight months off from his job at Texas Instruments, he returned to work for just eight weeks before his final operation on July 28.

"My misery is ending," Tull said, "But theirs is just beginning." ■

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## ■ nationalnews

# Congress raises debt ceiling, avoids default

But agreement on spending cuts without more revenue splits Dems, worries LGBT and AIDS groups

**LISA KEEN** | Keen News Service  
lisakeen@mac.com

The U.S. Senate gave final Congressional approval Tuesday, Aug. 2, to a bill raising the nation's current \$14.3 trillion debt ceiling by \$2 trillion. But the bill also calls for \$2 trillion in federal spending cuts, that worries LGBT and AIDS organizations concerned about the survival of safety nets and programs of specific interest to the LGBT community.

"When I hear these numbers, I worry what it will mean for the social services safety net all over the nation, including LGBT organizations that are serving the most needy in our community," said Lorri Jean, executive director of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, the largest LGBT community center in the country.

"And when I hear talk of striking a deal that includes no new taxes, at a time when taxes are al-

ready at their lowest, it seems clear that poor and vulnerable Americans of all sexual orientations and gender identities are being sacrificed," Jean said.

That has been the reaction of many to the debt ceiling agreement this week, including two of the four openly gay members of Congress.

The final agreement, called the Budget Control Act of 2011, raises the nation's debt ceiling enough to enable the government to borrow the money it needs to pay its obligations through 2012. But it also requires the government to cut its deficit by that same amount — \$2.1 trillion — over the next 10 years.

The legislation also places caps on discretionary spending and allows "adjustments" to those caps only for "emergency appropriations, appropriations for the global war on terrorism and appropriations for major disasters."

Funding to fight bullying in schools, to prosecute hate-motivated crimes or to increase research to fight breast cancer or AIDS would not seem to fall in the categories allowing for adjustments.

The legislation does not specify where the cuts are to occur but rather sets up a special 12-mem-



Rep. Tammy Baldwin

ber bipartisan joint Congressional committee to propose them. If that committee fails to identify cuts of at least \$1.2 trillion by Nov. 23, then a "trig-

■ **DEBT**, Next Page

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■ **DEBT**, From Previous Page

ger" kicks in and across-the-board cuts are made in all programs to the tune of \$1.5 trillion.

Various political analysts say the legislation is addressing the immediate, urgent need to fund the government. The debt ceiling issue has been an urgent focus of Congress and the White House for the past several weeks, with a looming threat that the government might not be able to send out checks to Social Security recipients, military personnel and creditors.

"Our country was literally on the verge of a disaster," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., Tuesday, just before the Senate voted 74 to 26 on the measure.

The president signed the measure into law within hours.

But many political analysts this week were also saying the agreement's proposed cuts in spending could stall economic recovery from the three-year-old recession. Among other things, the cuts will likely mean no efforts to relieve the 9.2 percent unemployment rate and it will mean reduced federal funding to already-strapped state and local budgets.

Although treated as a routine procedure by previous administrations — including that of Republican President George W. Bush — raising the ceiling on how much the nation can borrow to pay for its expenses became a volatile political struggle for Democratic President Barack Obama.

Republicans have largely pushed for cuts in spending, while Democrats have largely pushed for increasing revenues. Most analysts say the agreement — which identifies no increased revenues — is largely a political victory for Tea Party Republicans whose mantra is "Taxed Enough Already."

Sen. Reid criticized Tea Party members, saying their insistence on no new taxes — also referred to as revenues — was "disconcerting."

"The richest of the rich have contributed nothing to this," said Reid. "The burden of what has taken place is on the middle class and the poor."

Even the four openly gay members of the House were split on the agreement this week. Veteran Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., voted no, and newcomer Reps. Jared Polis, D-Colo., and David Cicilline, D-R.I., voted yes.

Baldwin issued a statement saying the bill amounts to playing "political games" that "threaten to set back our fragile economic recovery." While the bill needs to lower the deficit, said Baldwin, it also needs to create jobs and protect the middle class "through shared sacrifice."

Frank said he opposed the bill primarily because it did not include cuts in war spending. As for harm to funding for LGBT-related concerns, Frank said funding to enforce hate crimes and bullying programs is relatively small and unlikely to be affected, but he said cuts would hurt funding for bigger expenditures, such as research to fight breast cancer.

Cicilline issued a statement following his vote for the agreement, saying he did so "to prevent a first-ever default on our nation's obligations, and

to avoid the very real potential of an economic catastrophe."

"To be clear," added Cicilline, "there's a lot about this bill I don't like, but my prerequisite for voting in favor of this bill was that we avoid a default and we protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, which this bill does.

"There's no question that the single biggest job killer for our country would have been a default," said Cicilline. "In the coming months Congress must build off of this compromise legislation to pursue a balanced approach to reduce our nation's debt and redouble our focus on putting people back to work."

AIDS United, a coalition of hundreds of local groups working to help people with HIV and AIDS, says the agreement is not a balanced approach and does "little to remove the cloud of potential, devastating funding cuts to non-defense domestic programs, including HIV-related programs, funding to implement health care reform, and low-income safety net programs."

AIDS United said it fears programs for people with HIV "could be affected adversely by the harsh spending caps in FY 2012 and following years."

And groups serving LGBT youth are worried, too.

Eliza Byard, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), said she thinks it's too early to know the specific impact.

But "there is no doubt," she said, "that the hard spending caps created by the agreement will have a serious impact on K-12 education and youth services, effecting all LGBT youth in this country.

"Advocates for youth, LGBT and otherwise, will need to be extremely vigilant about the emerging details of the initial cuts and the further reductions to spending to be recommended by the Congressional panel," said Byard. "As a member of the National Collaboration for Youth, the America's Promise Alliance, and the Whole Child Initiative of ASCD, GLSEN will continue to advocate for LGBT youth in the context of protecting the interests of all children in on-going budget debates."

R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of the national gay Republican group Log Cabin Republicans, credited Republican leaders with setting "a clear goal" and refusing to give President Obama "a blank check" for spending.

But he added, "Nobody should believe that this is more than a stopgap measure."

"The culture of spending in Washington must fundamentally change going forward," said Cooper. "This is only the first step in a course that will dramatically alter how our government approaches the budget and will provide fiscal stability for Wall Street and Main Street."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force warned last year that deficit reduction measures would almost certainly mean "key safety-net programs [would] be caught in the political crossfire...."

The Human Rights Campaign had no comment on the debt ceiling bill by deadline. ■

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**Rev. Terence Keane, 51,** died on July 20, 2011 at Methodist Medical Center of heart failure. He leaves behind his partner of 11 years, Tony Hurst; mother, Rita Keane; siblings Anne Van Lone, Martin Keane and Jimmy Keane; and nephew John Keane. He also leaves behind his church family at Sanctuary of Love as well as the members of sister churches Promise MCC and Living Faith Covenant Church.

Rev. Keane was instrumental in keeping Sanctuary of Love Church open and operational after the founding pastor suddenly left in 2006.

He will be very missed by the Christian gay community.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 2:00 pm at the Promise Worship and Community Center located at 2527 W. Colorado Blvd., Dallas, Texas.



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# RESPONDING TO "THE RESPONSE"

From partisan to apolitical, from atheistic to interfaith — groups from around the state are speaking out against Gov. Perry's Houston prayer meeting



DANIEL WILLIAMS | Contributing Writer  
editor@dallasvoice.com

HOUSTON — Texas Gov. Rick Perry has partnered with the American Family Association to present a day of prayer and fasting they have dubbed "The Response" on Saturday, Aug. 6, at Houston's Reliant Stadium.

Organizers are calling the event "a call to prayer for a nation in crises."

But opponents have a different take. They are calling the event everything from a political ma-

neuver pandering to the right wing intended to kick off Perry's 2012 presidential bid to an unconstitutional confluence of church and state.

And those opponents from around the state have been hard at work in recent weeks, planning their own response to the Perry prayer meeting.

Perry's choice to partner with the American Family Association, which is paying for the Saturday event, quickly raised eyebrows in the

LGBT community, where AFA is considered one of the country's leading anti-gay groups. In fact, the Southern Poverty Law Center has classified AFA as an anti-gay hate group.

AFA's contention that homosexuality is sinful according to the Bible is not enough, in and of itself, to put AFA on the SPLC hate group list.

But the AFA's "propagation of known falsehoods — claims about LGBT people that have

been thoroughly discredited by scientific authorities — and repeated, groundless name-calling" was more than enough to earn a place on the list.

To bring attention to their concerns over "The Response," opponents have planned a variety of events in Houston and around the state: from partisan to apolitical, from atheist to interfaith.

Each event, organizers say, strives to stand in contrast to what they see as the blurring of church/state separation and the promotion of hate against LGBT people fostered by "The Response."

## Houston GLBT Caucus

For Noel Freeman, president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, "The Response" is just the latest in a long line of anti-LGBT events the caucus has encountered.

The caucus is spearheading an event highlighting the LGBT community's response at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 5. State Rep. Garnet Coleman, a Houston Democrat and longtime LGBT ally in the Texas Legislature, will deliver the keynote address for the event at Tranquility Park at 400 Rusk St., in downtown Houston.

The Friday night LGBT event is being staged just one block from the site of a 1977 rally the caucus held to oppose Anita Bryant, who at the time was one of the most visible and most vocal foes of LGBT equality.

Fresh off her successful campaign to repeal a Dade County, Fla., ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, Bryant brought her "Save The Children" campaign to Houston. And the GLBT Caucus responded.

"The caucus has always stood up against the forces of hate. Look at our response in '77," said Freeman.

The caucus organized a massive counter-protest when Bryant came to town. And among those participating was a 22-year-old student and activist named Annise Parker.

Parker later became as the caucus' eighth president before beginning her political career. She now serves as Houston's mayor, becoming the first out LGBT mayor of a major American city when she was elected in 2009.

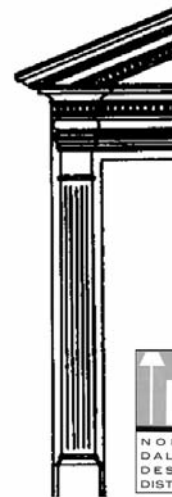
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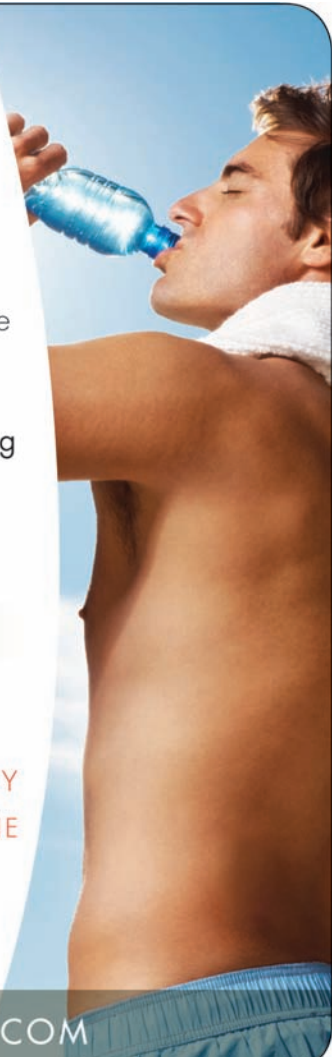
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## coverstory



**FIGHTING HATE** | In 1977, Anita Bryant brought her "Save the Children" campaign to Houston and the LGBT community responded.

■ **RESPONSE**, From Page 14

Freeman says responding to Perry's rally is a duty for LGBT activists, a continuation of the caucus' legacy of fighting hate and fostering young leadership.

"We have to support our community and say that hate is not acceptable in any capacity," he said.

### GetEQUAL

Dallasite Daniel Cates, North Texas regional coordinator for GetEQUAL, is heading to Houston on Friday to participate in the caucus' rally. But the main reason for his trip is a protest planned by GetEQUAL outside Reliant Stadium on Saturday as "The Response" takes place inside.

Cates said the national attention paid to the fact that Perry is partnering with a hate group to stage "The Response" has helped galvanize activism in Texas.

"For a while we've been pretty quiet. I think that with events like this and events like the [June 2009] Rainbow Lounge [raid in Fort Worth], people are waking up," Cates said.

"What's interesting about the reaction to 'The Response' is that it's been statewide," he continued. "You're seeing all these cities — Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas — all these different cities coming together."

GetEqual's protest will be at the corner of Kirby Drive and McNee Road, starting at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Michael Divesti with GetEQUAL said that the protesters will remain at Reliant Stadium throughout the day. He urged participants to bring water and drink it often to fight the heat.

"We don't want anyone getting heat stroke out there," Divesti said.

GetEQUAL is partnering with the American Atheists for the protest, but GetEQUAL leaders stressed that the event is not anti-prayer.

"We're not at all anti-prayer or anti-religion," said Cates. "We're anti-the-state-getting-involved-in-religion."

"I pray; my faith is very important to me," he added.

CNN reported last month that Perry may not even speak at the rally, although it was his idea to stage the event. The possibility doesn't surprise Divesti, who believes "The Response" has always been more about political pandering than sincere prayer.

"Perry was a Democrat until he figured out he would be more popular as a Republican. He was Methodist until he figured out he would be more popular as an evangelical," Divesti said. "He believed in state's rights until he figured out he would be more popular as a DOMA supporter. So now that his support of the AFA is proving unpopular on the national stage, is anyone surprised he's scrambling to distance himself?"

### FW First Congregational Church

Also planning to protest outside of Reliant Stadium on Saturday is a group from Fort Worth's First Congregational Church.

Marvin Van, who is organizing the group, said he expects 15 to 20 people to make the trek to Houston on Friday night to participate in an interfaith service at Mount Ararat Baptist Church before spending Saturday at Reliant Stadium.

Van said that as representatives of a mainstream Christian church, his group is in a unique

■ **RESPONSE**, Page 18



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## coverstory

■ RESPONSE, From Page 16

position to respond to "The Response."

"We are very specifically protesting the misuse of the gospel to promote hate speech," Van said.

"We know we're not going to convince the governor or the AFA. That's not why we're going. We're going for that gay or lesbian teenager or that Muslim teenager who thinks Christianity is only about hate," he said.

### Harris County Democratic Party

While Cates, Divesti and the people of First Congregational Church are protesting at Reliant Stadium Saturday, the Harris County Democratic Party will hold its fourth "Trailblazers Luncheon" downtown at the Hyatt Regency Hotel — ironically, the same hotel that was the venue for Anita Bryant's 1977 event.

The traditional luncheon is the Harris County party's way of highlighting contributions by members of historically oppressed communities. Previous luncheons have honored women, African-Americans and Latinos. According to the event's co-chairs, Brad Pritchett and Robert Shipman, the party had already planned to honor members of the LGBT community at this year's luncheon before learning of "The Response."

"We hadn't decided on a date for the event yet. But when Perry's event was announced, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to counter-program," Pritchett said.

Shipman added, "I think the tag line of the luncheon says it best: 'A Celebration of Diversity.' We're focusing on the positive."

Pritchett said while he sees parallels between Saturday's "Response" and Anita Bryant's 1977 "Save the Children" event in Houston, he believes Perry's rally is worse.

"We should feel even more attacked because it's our own governor bringing a hate group here," he said. "He was elected to represent all Texans, but instead decided to align himself with the most extreme fringe."

Pritchett also said he isn't surprised Perry has refused so far to confirm whether he will speak at "The Response" event on Saturday, because the governor has "seen a negative push-back from his association with the AFA. He doesn't know how that's going to affect him when he's trying to court moderate voters in a presidential election."

Tickets for the Trailblazer's Luncheon are available at the door and on-line at HCDP.org. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.

### First UU Church of Houston

Another — uniquely apropos — response to "The Response" is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday: an interfaith prayer service.

The Rev. Adam Robinson of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, who is organizing the event, said that it's sometimes difficult for people of faith to oppose events like "The Response" for fear of appearing anti-prayer.

"It's hard for faith leaders to take a stand and not make it look like they oppose praying to God to make the country better," Robinson acknowledged. But, he said, he felt he had a responsibility

### Texans responds to 'The Response'

- The Houston GLBT Caucus will hold a rally Friday, Aug. 5, at 7 p.m., at Tranquility Park, 400 Rusk St. in downtown Houston. State Rep. Garnet Coleman will be keynote speaker.

- GetEQUAL will hold a day-long protest outside Reliant Stadium, at the corner of Kirby Drive and McNee Road, beginning at 8 p.m. and lasting as long as "The Response." Participants are urged to bring plenty of water.

- Members of Fort Worth First Congregational Church, 4201 Trail Lake Drive, will be leaving for Houston on Friday night and will be holding a rally outside Reliant Stadium on Saturday. Call the church at 817-923-2990 for details.

- The Harris County Democratic Party will hold its fourth annual "Trailblazers Luncheon" Saturday at Houston's Hyatt Regency Hotel. Tickets for the Trailblazer's Luncheon are available at the door and on-line at HCDP.org. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Go online for more information.

- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, led by the Rev. Adam Robinson, will hold an interfaith prayer service Saturday at 2 p.m. to offer a faith-based alternative to "The Response." The church is located at 5200 Fannin St. For more information call the church at 713-526-5200.

to do something.

"I despise that our governor has aligned himself with a hate group. I feel called to provide people with an alternative," Robinson said.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston is located at 5200 Fannin St.

### The aftermath?

Dennis Coleman, executive director of the statewide LGBT advocacy organization Equality Texas, said he believes "The Response" has already backfired on Perry.

"There's been a galvanization of the community around the state," Coleman said. "Texans are taken aback by the people our governor has aligned himself with."

But Coleman said he suspects Perry's attempt to distance himself from the prayer meeting has more to do with fears of low turnout at the event rather than concerns over being associated with a hate group.

"I think he's backpeddling because his event's a flop, not because of the association with the AFA," Coleman said. "The AFA is controversial, but Perry is controversial. He wants this to be a success. He doesn't want 7,500 people in a 75,000 seat arena. But I think that's what he's going to

■ RESPONSE, Page 19



The Rev. Adam Robinson

Daniel Scott Cates

Noel Freeman

Brad Pritchett and Robert Shipman

■ **RESPONSE**, From Page 18

get.”

Coleman is traveling to Houston to speak at the GLBT Caucus’ Friday night rally and to present the keynote address at the Trailblazer’s Luncheon on Saturday. The legacy of “The Response” remains to be determined and will depend largely on whether Perry decides to finally announce his much-hinted-at presidential bid.

But for those organizing the responses to “The Response,” the event has created a unique flash-

point, a moment in time to focus and unite the people of Texas in opposition to hate.

“We’ve had so many victories lately — in local government, in the state legislatures and nationally,” Coleman said. “But it’s sometimes hard for people to find a single, concrete issue that they can wrap their hands around and participate in.”

“Gov. Perry, by aligning himself with the AFA and other hate groups, has provided that moment, and LGBT Texans and their allies have responded unanimously: “There is no room for hate in our state.” ■

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viewpoints

# Texas: A not-so-great state

As Perry eyes the presidency and Dewhurst makes a bid for the Senate, let's look at the story the numbers really tell

It seems that while David Dewhurst is running for the U.S. Senate, Rick Perry — otherwise known as Gov. Goodhair — is planning to run for president. I wonder what numbers they will use to show how well they have run Texas.

Could they cite \$16 million? That's the sum Perry distributed from our state's Emerging Technology Fund to his campaign contributors.

Or maybe it is \$4.1 billion. That's the best estimate of the fees and taxes our state collects for dedicated purposes — but diverts to other uses.

Then again, it could be \$28 billion. That's the last published number for the state's budget deficit, although Perry denied any deficit during his last campaign.

But let's not get bogged down with dollar amounts. Let's consider some of the state's other numbers.

There's the fact that Texas ranks worst in at least three key measures:

We are the most illiterate, with more than 10 percent of our state's population unable to read a word. LIFT — Literacy Instruction for Texas — recently reported that half of Dallas residents cannot read a newspaper.

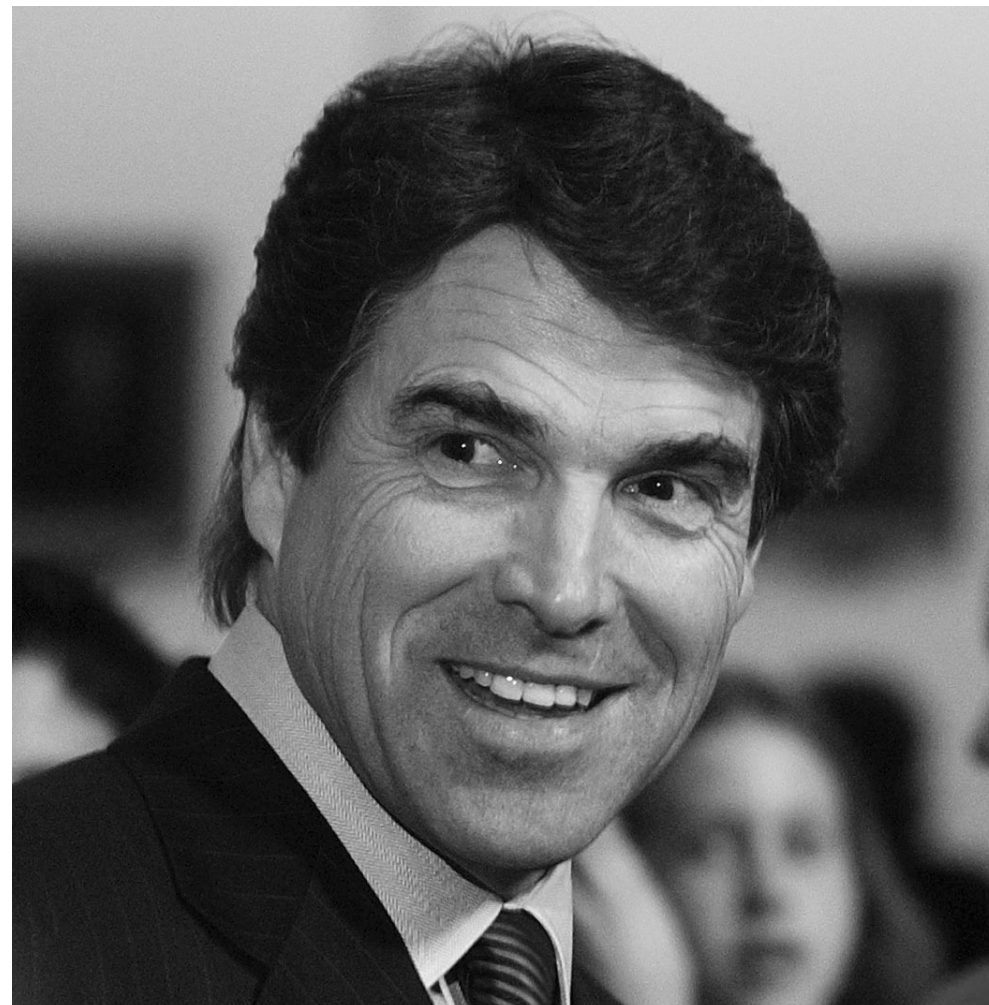
We also have the lowest percentage of persons covered by health insurance and the highest number of teenage repeat pregnancies.

Not to mention that 12,000 children have spent at least three years in the state welfare system, waiting for a foster parent. That's the number reported in the Texas-loving Dallas Morning News.

Meanwhile, the Legislature has agreed to put several amendments to the Texas Constitution before the voters. HJR 63, HJR 109 plus SJR 4, SJR 16, and SJR 50 all appear to either authorize the shifting of discretionary funds or the issuance of bonds to cover expenses.

Duh. As if we did not know that bonds represent debt, and that we will be paying interest on those bonds long after Dewhurst and Perry leave office.

Further, this spring, the Lege decided that all voters — except, I believe, the elderly — must show proof of citizenship to obtain a state ID or to get or renew a driver's license. As they did not provide any funds for the issuance of those ID cards or for updating computer systems to accom-



Gov. Rick Perry

modate the new requirement, it seems those IDs will be far from free.

Also far from free is Perry's travel. The Lege decided that the governor does not have to report what he and his entourage spend on travel, which is convenient for him because we taxpayers foot the bill for his security — even when he is making obviously political trips. Or taking along his wife and his golf clubs.

And surely neither Rick Perry nor David Dewhurst will mention the fact that a big portion of our state's money comes from the federal government. One report I saw stated that our state received \$17 billion in stimulus money, although the gov and his lieutenant berated the Democratic president for providing the stimulus.

And the gov turned down \$6 billion in education funds, then accepted the funds but did not use them to educate Texans.

The whole thing — Dewhurst's campaign and Perry's possible campaign, the 2012-2013 budget, the recent biannual session of the Texas Legislature — seems like something Mark Twain might have written at his tongue-in-cheek best.

We have huge problems in public school education, higher education, health care, air pollution

and water resources, to mention just a few of our more notable failures.

Yet our elected officials are defunding public education and thus punishing children, parents, and teachers. They are limiting women's health care so drastically that our own Parkland Hospital will be unable to provide appropriate care to 30,000 women.

They are seeking a Medicaid "pilot program" that will pave the way for privatized medical services, which will erode health care for all but the wealthiest among us. They are fighting tooth and nail to keep the EPA from dealing with our polluted environment. They are doing absolutely nothing to ensure that Texas continues to have plenty of safe drinking water.

They are most certainly not creating good jobs.

So David Dewhurst and his wife Tricia prayed together and apparently learned that he should run for Kay Bailey Hutchison's Senate seat. Now Rick Perry is planning a huge prayer rally Saturday, Aug. 6, at Houston's Reliant Stadium.

God help us. ■  
*Phyllis Guest is a longtime activist on political and LGBT issues and a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.*



Phyllis Guest  
Taking Note

# The lost art of cruising

'Electro-tricks' may be quicker and easier, but half the fun of the hook-up was working at it

I don't get out much — at least to the bars. First of all I don't drink anymore, and second, I am not really looking to hook up with anyone since I am in a very nice relationship.

I do, however, occasionally meet friends out for the evening or for a special event.

When I do go out, it is most often to our local

leather bar, the Dallas Eagle, and I often indulge in a little people watching. I like to watch the crowd, the way people interact with one another, the ebb and flow of what was once a favorite past time of gay men: cruising.

What surprised me was the lack of that particular gay art going on.

First, let me say this is not a reflection on the Eagle; it's a fine, first-class leather bar. What I noticed is something I have seen in other cities as well, and it bothers me a bit.

Now for those who might not know, cruising is a delicate dance men used to perform when looking for a partner, playmate or just trick *du jour*. It usually began with some long, slow looks, occasional subtle signals like a nod, the touch of the brim of a cap, a purposeful second glance or even just a slight change in body language.

If two people read the signals, and actually respond, it might proceed to sending over a drink — or a more direct approach. Often before actually making contact, you would ask a few friends if they knew the man in question, and for the

leather scene that would also entail asking if anyone knew more intimate details: Was he a safe player? What was he into?

Of course, we also had the hanky code. It was a more direct and cut to the chase way to let folks know what you were seeking.

I won't go into the details here, but the basics were: Hanky in the left pocket meant you were a top, and hanky in the right pocket meant you were a bottom.

Still, even with outward signs, there was an art to the whole endeavor. If done correctly, it had an element of seduction in it and all the sexual energy that went with it.

Sadly, I don't see much of that going on anymore.

What I do see is guys checking their smart phones. Looking a little closer, I see them using Grindr, checking Recon and texting.

That's when I realized what happened to cruising: It has gone the way of the dodo.

What was once a face-to-face encounter that actually took some time and energy is now a fast, down-and-dirty, "check a few profiles and text



Hardy Haberman  
Flagging Left

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enough contacts until you pull a winning number" routine.

The whole cruising experience has become an electronic booty call with no mystery, no romance and no effort.

Oh yes, it is much more efficient. You can select from the variety of "neck-down pictures" and body statistics, like you were choosing a download on Amazon.

Find Mr. Right or at least Mr. Right Enough for Now, text a few lines, set a time and bingo! Insta-trick!

All very high tech and painless. No face-to-face rejections, no appallingly awkward moments. Just on-line chat and, essentially, "booking."

It would seem to me that applications like Grindr and sites like Recon and CraigsList have replaced the whole cruising experience, and though it might be much more efficient, it really changes to atmosphere in the bars.

The heady sexual tension that used to permeate gay bars has given way to guys and gals on their smart phones texting or cruising — the web. One bar in Florida even has a screen where patrons can text directly to the screen, sort of a visual "shout out" for all to see.

Inevitably, the whole electro-trick phenomenon has spawned something totally unexpected. My partner commented on the subject of this column and suggested there should be an Angie's List for Grindr.

I was surprised this morning when, while researching this piece, I found something very much like that.

Douchebagsogrindr.com may just be a parody, but if not it offers some insight into the whole process. Personally, I find it kind of crass, but then I find the whole "electro-trick-speed-dating-booty-call" app thing crass.

It makes me long for the days of actually having to spend a little time to pursue and attract and seduce someone you were interested in. Try that now and I suspect you'd just get accused of being a stalker.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).

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Does Gov. Perry's day of prayer violate the separation of church and state?

- Yes: 93 percent
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  - Unsure: 1 percent
- 1,248 Votes cast

# The Pimentois

Michael Godard, rock star of the art world, brings his martini-soaked (and sometimes subversively gay) painting to Dallas

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer  
stevenraiglindsey@me.com

Long hair, black nail polish, colorful tattoos, a soul patch, a bandana: It's a look common to hard-living rockers ... and maybe *should* be one you'd expect from an artist. Yet Michael Godard, sometimes criticized for creating work that is too commercial, still considers himself a rebellious outsider. He sees truth in the world around him and puts that truth on canvas. So what if the citizens of his universe are anthropomorphized olives, dancing strawberries and drunken grapes? Through his martini goggles, we are able to see life as a constant party — complete with its share of mornings after.

"I always say that I'm more of a storyteller than I am a painter. I like to tell stories with the paintings," Godard says. "I like to mix a lot of humor into them. For me, rather than try to create something funny, it's a lot easier to take life as it happens and turn it into a painting. To me, they're like a giant diary and they have all kinds of things going on. No two are the same, that's for sure."

For somebody whose first book was titled *Don't Drink and Draw*, and whose paintings almost exclusively deal with some form of alcoholic libation, it would be an easy assumption to peg this guy as a heavy drinker. But nothing could be further from the sober truth.

"It's funny, I really don't drink at all," he laughs. "People ask if I'm a

recovering alcoholic, but it's not that. I was in junior high and my mom always had Kool-Aid in the fridge. I grabbed what I thought was Kool-Aid and drank a bunch of wine by mistake and got so, so sick. Ever since, the smell of alcohol sort of just turns me off. It's really kind of ironic."

His teetotaling even has the occasional professional drawback.

"Because I am so illiterate about alcohol, I'll do a painting of a margarita and a gallery will call me up and say, 'Mr. Godard, the painting is wonderful but actually it's a salt shaker not a sugar shaker that goes with a margarita,'" he says.

But he continues to use the metaphor of martinis because of what it represents.

"The wonderful thing about alcohol is, it's such a social magnet with people. We have a drink at a wedding and it's a toast of good wishes; it calms the nerves on a first date; buddies share a beer together while playing poker. It's a great thing that pulls people together when they're stopping life momentarily to relax and enjoy themselves. And that's why I think I chose to paint alcohol because there are so many situations that come from that. Humor is quite often there."

His signature subject matter came about almost by accident, as a fulfilled promise to a friend who begged for a painting every year for five years for his birthday. Godard eventually asked the friend what he'd like to see.

"My friend said, 'I love your sense of humor, I like to drink, martinis are my favorite, just have fun with it.'" And so, the world of mobster olives, stripper olives and yes, even gay olives came to life.



**OLIVE THE ABOVE** | Rocker-like painter Michael Godard (who, ironically, is a teetotaler) specializes in cocktail art, often with witty images — including the occasional cross-dressing garnish.



"If you look at the painting I did from Fantasy Fest in Key West, which is a gay celebration, I have a cross-dressing olive standing on the street corner," Godard, who is straight, proudly notes. "There's one particular bouncer across from the place where I do my shows, the guy must be 6-foot-5. He loves to cross-dress and he's one of the funniest people I know. There are gay people walking down the street holding hands. And, of course, in my world you know that a male olive has a pimento on top and a female has it strategically placed at the bottom."

So naturally, if you ever see an olive with a pimento on top and a feather boa and high heels, you now know that's an olive in drag.

Godard acknowledges that his work is popular with gay audiences, a relationship he cultivates; it's easy to see why.

His work is filled with subtle humor and witty observations (not to mention that some of the legs on those dancing strawberries can be pretty damned sexy).

"I have a lot of gay friends," he says. "One of the neat things is that my gay friends seem to have a better and a more sophisticated sense of humor I must say, than a lot of my straight friends. Any time we can get together and do something for the greater good, that's what it's about. When you think about people that have lost their lives and wonderful people that we've lost to AIDS, it's overwhelming. You realize it can happen to



#### MICHAEL GODARD

**Wisby-Smith Fine Art Gallery,**  
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On Aug. 18, from 6-8 p.m., Godard will attend at an artist's reception, Pedaling Olives, a fundraiser for the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS. [Wisby-Smith.com](http://Wisby-Smith.com)

anybody, gay or straight."

Godard, who recently lost his 16-year-old daughter to brain cancer, has always been dedicated to giving back through a variety of charitable organizations.

"There's a lot of artists out there that are a lot more talented

than I am, but I think the guy upstairs knew what I was going to do with my success," he says. "I'm so about giving back and doing things for someone else. I'm in a very unique position where I have an opportunity to help a lot of people."

Now *that's* a true rock star. ■

#### Conover in sync



We're used to seeing the bold and colorful Pop art of Robb Conover depicting comic book icons of late. Whether he's giving his take on Wonder Woman or exploring a queer element to Batman and Robin as they kiss, Conover adds a definite punch to the local arts scene. His work has been seen in the gayborhood at Buli, Drama Room and Lucky's.

He goes in a different direction, above, in Ro2 Art's exhibit *Synclines*. Conover joins local artists Cabe Booth and Kevin Obregon, to present, what the gallery calls, new and unexpected works.

— Rich Lopez

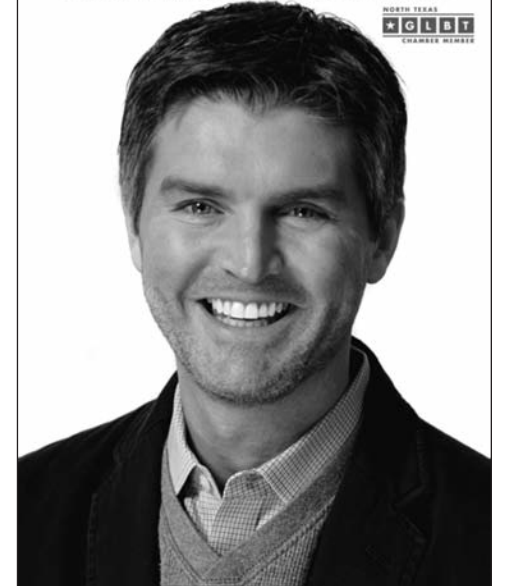
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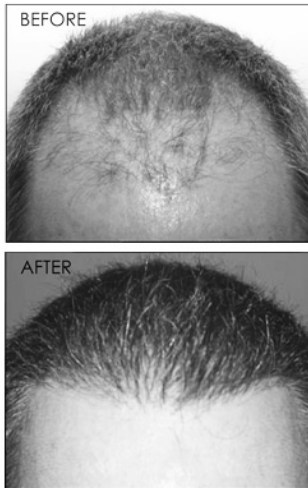
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# Strip tease

Out burlesque legend Satan's Angel last performed in Dallas at Jack Ruby's club in late 1963. And that's not the only thing that has changed in the last 50 years

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

## HOTTER THAN HELL

The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St.  
Aug. 6 at 9 p.m. \$22.  
TheKessler.org.

Although she liked the film, Satan's Angel thought the movie *Burlesque* was more about a lounge act than the actual art of the tease.

She should know. Satan's Angel — a stage name, of course — is a legend who has a few healthy decades under her belt and she doesn't want today's generation to forget what burlesque should really mean to performers and audiences.

"Burlesque is about sexuality, being sensual and teasing," she says by phone in a gravelly voice. "It's getting the audience worked up and then letting them go home all fired up. It really is about the *journey* of titillation, not the destination."

As part of Saturday's Hotter Than Hell show at The Kessler, Ms. Angel doesn't perform like she used to, but she still headlines this show that will include "boylesque" artist Jett Adore. Now 67, Ms. Angel has seen it all and welcomes the diversity in burlesque now, but she was in a class all her own back in the day.

"Well, I *am* the big lesbian legend of burlesque that probably paved the way for every queer there," she laughs. "It was a terrible time. No one could really be open and lots of places were owned by the mob. If they found out, they'd throw you out the door."

But she was defiantly queer in a pre-Stonewall era — even when she traveled in the South. She always "had a woman" and when a fellow dancer outed her to a club owner, she didn't back down.

"Oh, he grabbed me by the hair and was hitting me in the face asking if I was gay," she recalls. "Other dancers were telling me to just say I wasn't, but I just told him to piss off. It was really hard then."

Ironically, burlesque now is very fluid in its sexuality. Lesbianism could almost be looked at as a selling point. But Ms. Angel says many of today's performers have replaced the tradition with shock art. She intends to keep the classical nature of it alive.

"People do this variety, bizarre stuff and it's very offensive to me," she says. "They need to put the truth of this out there. Don't try to shock. That's not burlesque; that's bullshit. This Latina dancer had these donkey piñatas in her act and she's fist-fucking the donkey's ass. I mean, what the shit is *that*?"

Today's performers haven't all strayed from the traditional values. She cites Dita von Teese (who was in Dallas last week) and Ginger Valentine as staying true to the form, and commends the work of Jett Adore, who also performs Saturday.

Boylesque isn't new to Angel — as she saw it decades ago in Canada and Europe. It's just new to America.

"They were way ahead of us. Everyone was doing nudity outside of America and we were just trying to go topless," she says. "What I like about Jett is he's extremely masculine on stage and his Zorro makes Antonio Banderas' a zero."

Her appearance this weekend is something of a homecoming for Ms. Angel. She worked the Texas circuit back in the day, land-



**THE FACE, AND BODY, OF BURLESQUE** Satan's Angel, center, continues in a profession that has welcomed such newcomers as Dita von Teese, left, and Jett Adore, right.

ing a gig in the fall of 1963 at Abe Weinstein's Colony Club on Commerce Street. But then her agent found an offer for more money at a place called Carousel Club owned by some guy named Jack Ruby. Ruby wasn't thrilled with the lesbian idea, either, but she was the featured performer.

Of course, a few weeks later, Ruby became more infamous than she could ever hope to be.

"He was a weird dude, very Jekyll and Hyde and a big talker but not much

else," she says. "He treated me well but I worked my week and was out of there and on to Kansas City. Next thing I knew, he's on TV for shooting Oswald. He was strange, but I really never thought he was a killer."

Life is a calmer these days. She does the occasional performance, live readings and burlesque classes, but finds her haven in Palm Springs. She calls her life partner of 14 years her "poor little butch" who has to sell merch, be her dresser, drive her to the airport and act generally as an assistant.

"If I didn't just bring her along, I'd have to hire somebody," she jokes. "She's got bad knees. What is she going to do for a job?" Of course, she's just teasing. ■



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First day of play

# Serkis act

Andy Serkis' masterful monkey business is the 800-lb. gorilla in the room making 'Apes' worth a look

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

The 1968 film *Planet of the Apes* was sci-fi at its low-tech best: A human astronaut crash-lands on a world run by talking monkeys in the Iron Age of their society — brutal, feudal, violent. It's like a Roman sword-and-sandal movie that begins on a spaceship. It's grimly futuristic and innately visceral, and even today, long after you've learned the Big Reveal (the planet is Earth in the future, post nuclear winter), addictively watchable nonsense.

Well, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* got the nonsense part right, but a few things else as well, though those seem lucked upon. Unlike its progenitor, it's a Science Gone Mad sci-fi extravaganza, Frankensteinian in its concept of good intentions unregulated by consequences. (To be fair, it's a fitting update: During the Cold War, we worried about The Bomb; today, anthrax and genetically engineered chemical warfare are far more frightening.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES**  
James Franco, John Lithgow,  
Andy Serkis.  
Rated PG-13. 105 mins.  
Now playing in wide release.

A scientist (James Franco) hopes to develop a drug to cure Alzheimer's (from which, coincidentally, his dad, John Lithgow, suffers!) but his soulless big pharma employer won't back him.

So James experiments on his own with a genetically superior chimp named Caesar, inventing a miracle drug which contains a supervirus the human body can't kill off and ruin its therapeutic benefits. (Let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.)

The science scenes, complete with the money-grubbing boss, are about as bad as lazy sci-fi gets (think *Splice*), and much of the plotting feels recycled from every primate-loving movie from *King Kong* to *Project X*. (There are also more chimps in one facility in this movie than are probably in every zoo in North America.) But you soon realize how little all that matters when Andy Serkis gets to do his thing.

Serkis played Gollum in the *Lord of the Rings* films, and Kong in the remake of *King Kong* —



**TALKIN' 'BOUT A (R)EVOLUTION** | Bears may be common to in the Castro, but chimps take over the Golden Gate bridge in 'Rise of the Planet of the Apes.'

not in a costume, but in a motion-capture suit that precisely reflects his movements, including facial expressions, and converts them into CGI reality. (All the apes in the film are digital.) That means the chimps seem far more human than their masters, with genuine emotions and personalities that rarely register on the cookie-cutter villains. It's weird to realize you're rooting for the species that will eventually enslave us.

The result is that Franco eventually becomes

irrelevant plot-wise, as *Rise* moves from the category of beauty-of-nature film to *Scarface Meets X-Men*: Caesar's so smart, he methodically develops an army of chimps to follow him. (I kept expecting him to say to Franco, "Never ask me about my business.")

*Rise* isn't great, but it is entertaining and will probably piss off creationists to no end. That, along with Serkis' remarkable FX-enhanced performance, is reason enough to see it. ■

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# Queen lantern



Texas native Zimmer Barnes is a real-life crime-fighter, bringing gay bashers to justice in the HBO doc 'Superheroes'

Last year's film *Kick-Ass* saw a high school comic book nerd don an improvised superhero outfit and take to the streets to fight crime (albeit, as the title indicates, getting his ass kicked plenty in the process). This year's satirical movie comedy *Super* also saw an ordinary schlub take matters (and a wrench) into his own home-made costumed hands, playing heroic vigilante Crimson Bolt, with a psychotic Ellen Page as sidekick to boot.

However, director Michael Barnett and openly gay producer Theodore James learned that the concept of everyday folk taking to the streets as real-life crime fighters and altruistic guardians of justice isn't altogether fictitious: There are several hundred real-life superheroes registered in online communities, almost a dozen of whom are profiled in the documentary, *Superheroes*, which debuts on HBO Monday.

One of the crime-fighters profiled is openly gay Zimmer Barnes, aka Zimmer, a member of the Brooklyn-based "fantastic foursome" New York Initiative (NYI), which is seen in the documentary attempting to bait and get righteous on local homophobes, helping patch up accident victims (Zimmer's day job is as an EMT) and stop a would-be drunk—and we're talking seriously wasted — driver from getting behind the wheel.

Born in Victoria, Texas, in 1988, and having attended high school in Austin between 2003–06, Zimmer moved to Brooklyn in 2009 to form the NYI with roommates T.S.A.F, Z, and Lucid.

Zimmer spoke by phone about being part of the documentary, how this real-life superhero movement started (it was a group of LGBTs!), and whether "it gets better" when you fight back with a costumed alter-ego.

—Lawrence Ferber

**Dallas Voice:** When did you first get inspired to become Zimmer the superhero? What triggered the epiphany? Zimmer: I read a news article in 2003 or so about another crime fighter, Terrifica. She'd been date-raped and didn't want any woman to suffer that ordeal, so she would go into bars and interfere with guys trying to pick up drunk girls. She would get in the way and tell the guy, "This girl isn't going home with you," and

she would do this in a gold sequined mask and red cape. She'd give that woman every chance she could to get away and in one interview, she said a lot of times girls would say, "I'm not being taken advantage of, I want to do this," and then she would give them a condom and say, "At least make a bad decision not be a worse decision," and leave them alone. That was amazing to me. In her spare time she was doing this in-



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**FETISH FOR JUSTICE** | Zimmer, left, teams with other members of New York Initiative, though he refuses to wear a mask — he's out of the closet, he says, why go back in by pretending to be someone else?

credible thing and that really resonated with me, and there were a lot of people doing their own thing in every corner of the world and it was something I wanted to be a part of.

**How did you and the NYI become part of *Superheroes*?** We were getting some media requests and turned down a lot of them. But I agreed to sit down with [the producers, Theodore James and Mike Barnett] and they convinced me they had good intentions. We met at a coffee shop in Brooklyn and at one point I left Mike and T.J. to talk amongst themselves, but what they didn't know was that my NYI colleagues were sitting behind them listening to what they were saying. We learned that even when they had the opportunity to talk behind my back they didn't say anything negative. So that's the reason we decided to do the documentary.

**What was the actual shooting process like, and what sort of accommodations did you have to make to let them bring cameras along on patrols and fag basher-baiting operations?** We weren't always patient with that process, but Mike was really innovative. His approach and how he was going to shoot these un-shootable scenes, it worked out for the best. There's something actually called a HeroCam — it's a waterproof HD cam — I had that on a chest strap for a lot of missions. It's just about the size of a pager or cell phone. It was a unique experience.

**What sorts of things didn't make it into the documentary and what else is NYI up to these days?** A lot of stuff ended up on the editing room floor. We do a lot of outreach to homeless organizations — there's a tunnel people live underneath in the Bronx and we brought supplies to them, but that didn't make it in. Because in New York it gets freezing during winter, we try to collect and hoard blankets and medical supplies throughout spring and fall and when it gets cold we try to hand out all that stuff. Today the NYI is undergoing several missions protecting the West Village from muggers and providing self-defense information and outreach to sex workers. We've got exciting stuff in the works but I can't talk about it yet.

**How does your being gay fit in to your being a superhero? In the documentary you say something to the tune of you choose not to wear a mask because you don't want to be closeted.** I don't think it fits in a huge way. It's never been a secret. I came out in high school. I didn't necessarily want to be an embodiment or speak for an entire community but it's something I've never made a secret of.

**How would you feel about a gay teen who takes on school bullies and fag bashers a la *Kick-Ass* instead of just the pacifistic 'It Gets Better' approach?** While everyone's situation is different, I strongly recommend to anyone who might be a victim of violence to have a strong education in self-defense. I've broken up dozens of fights and defended myself from blows without ever having to throw a punch — so far, anyway. But that doesn't mean I don't practice. Speak respectfully and pack a knock-out punch.

**Which comic book superhero do you feel is the most inspiring for LGBTs?** Chris Claremont's 1970–80s run on X-Men is a great read for anyone feeling different or an outcast. There's a lot to be said for geek culture being ahead of the curve, and Claremont really nails it on diversity as a strength, not a weakness. If you want to read greatly written LGBT characters, I highly recommend Ed Brubaker's and Will Pfeifer's run on Catwoman as well as Gail Simone's Secret Six.

**Are other LGBT people doing what you're doing?** Yeah, there are. The earliest [superhero group] we know of was actually a gay and lesbian group in

San Francisco, the Lavender Panthers. There was a lot of gay bashing going on, and [a gay Pentecostal Evangelist named] Rev. Ray Broshears was being harassed. The police didn't do anything so they formed their own group and looked around for gay-bashings and handled it. It's not something I would believe, it sounds like a comic book, but Time Magazine did an article on these guys in 1973. They were around before the Guardian Angels. As far as I know they were the original group.

**Do your friends and family know about your alter-ego?** I don't have an alter-ego: Zimmer is my real first name. I don't have a lot of secrets with friends. My friends are pretty weird. My mother is an attorney and her mother was a police officer, so criminal justice as a career is part of the family. I think my mom was supportive of it.

**And boyfriends?** I was dating during the course of making the documentary. We broke up and [my work as a superhero] was one of the reasons why. They were really worried about what I was doing and the more dangerous aspects.

**And what do you want people who watch *Superheroes* to come away from the experience with?** I want people to realize that even a single person's effort and passion can make a huge impact. There's something exciting about using your time and energy to help other people.

#### SUPERHEROES

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# Yes I can!



**DECISIONS, DECISIONS**  
Life coach Tim Kincaid helps with those needed a-ha moments when gay men can't figure things out on their own. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

The Gay Coaches Alliance isn't what it sounds like — members like Tim Kincaid just want to make gay men more fabulous

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

When I first heard of the Gay Coaches Alliance, my mind flashed back to my high school coach's gloriously thick thighs in tight grey Bike shorts. Man, those were some nice thighs. Alas, this groups isn't a GSA for queer whistle-wearers. None of these coaches were going to improve my running time. Rather, GCA is an organization of life coaches that want to get gay men on the path to a better self.

And local coach Tim Kincaid had his sights set on me.

First I had to figure out if I needed coaching. I'm pretty relaxed about everything around me. When the office is insane, the boyfriend's in a mood and the traffic won't let up, I can Zen myself into a chill zone. I have freakouts, but mostly, I'm good.

Then I discovered that's not what gay coaching is about; it may even be holding me back. Chill isn't bad, but it doesn't put me in motion.

Prior to our laser session (translation: a roughly 20-minute abbreviated rap), Kincaid

sent me the Wheel of Life exercise in which I rate key segments of life like career, relationships and personal growth from one to ten on a pie diagram. Then I connect the dots to see how unround my wheel is. Even cavemen would've thought mine was a hot mess.

"That's not unusual," Kincaid says. "Let's take a look at some of these."

We discussed safe ones like "physical environment" and "career." I didn't want to get into specifics about my "erotic fulfillment" or "significant other/romance" channels in just a few minutes. That stuff is too juicy and will wait for my memoirs.

The idea behind coaching works to help people build stronger lives through deep listening, compassion and empathy. Ultimately, the client (here, *me*) comes with his or her own answers.

"We help them think through situations by asking powerful questions," Kincaid says. "Coaching is more present- and future-oriented with a bias for action."

As it turns out, my bias for action involves

clearing out the dining room and looking for advice on a potential side business. After moving into the boyfriend's house, I've wanted to make my stamp on the place. My ingrained laziness at moving heavy things and unpacking forgotten boxes is my biggest opponent. Only no longer! Thanks, Tim Kincaid!

"Part of coaching is to deep dive into your values and see what makes you tick," he says. "If that value isn't being honored, we have to get to what will resonate with who you are."

To make me accountable, he finally asked if I'll do it. I learned that when a coach asks something, a simple "yes" or "no" suffices, but with a nay comes a counteroffer and I did not have time for that. I mean, *Project Runway* is back on.

Thus, by Labor Day, that room will be (notice I didn't say *should*) edited down to the necessities before making a den out of it. As for the side business, he assigned me to contact a peer I knew in the field to pick their brain and get some basic advice. That was done by the end of the day. Score! Man, progress felt good.

Kincaid discovered his passions have altered over the years. He dreamed of working for American Airlines, which he did for 16 years. At 50, that changed. He took an early retirement package, earned his doctorate, received coach training and now he makes lives better — or gives them direction rather. Although the focus of him and the GCA is geared toward gay men, he's not opposed to expanding his services to the other letters of the LGBT communities.


"The alliance figured there were a lot of gay men who needed a coach to get past unquestioned beliefs or things told to them by culture and society," he says. "I would love to see other groups form and coach all people in the community. This is just the starting point."

I told Kincaid I felt guilty for wanting more since dreams of mine have come true. He told me something I never considered.

"Just dream some more," he says.


That's some good Oprah-stuff right there. ■

For more information, visit [KincaidCoaching.com](http://KincaidCoaching.com) or [TheGayCoaches.com](http://TheGayCoaches.com).




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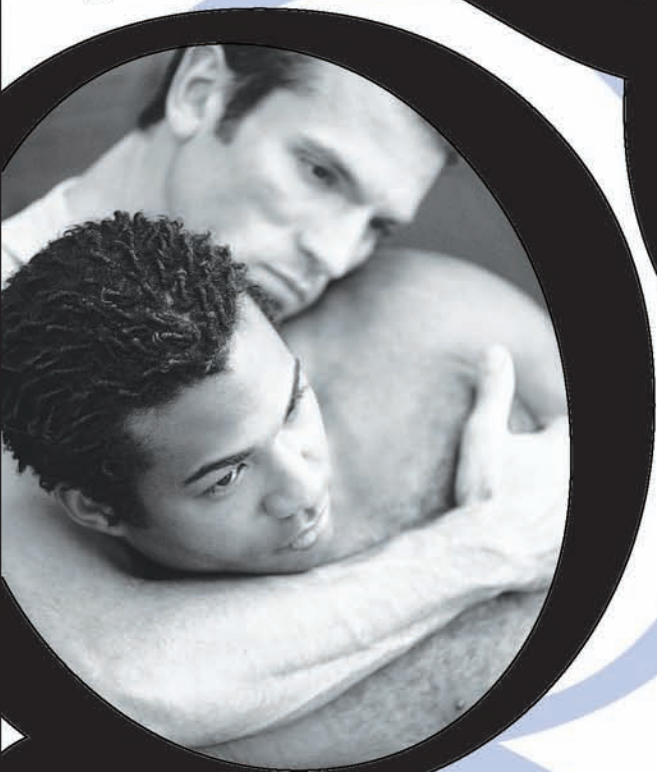
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# Clouseau, but no cigar

There's pink but no panther in Blake Edwards' drag musical 'Victor/Victoria'

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

I have to confess: I am not fully convinced Wendy Williams is really a woman. The first time I saw a promo for her talk show, I assumed it was on Bravo or Logo, and meant as a joke — an African-American Dame Edna.

That kind of gender confusion is at the heart of **Victor/Victoria**, the 1982 Blake Edwards movie later adapted into a 1995 stage musical about a Jazz Age British singer who becomes a Paris sensation only because everyone thinks she's a he.

It's really nothing much different than *My Fair Lady*, where a Svengali-esque linguist crafts a guttersnipe into a lady, passing her off to society as something she isn't. (Interestingly, both originally starred Julie Andrews.)

Here, boozy gay lounge singer Toddy (Paul Taylor) takes wannabe cabaret act Victoria (Ashley Puckett Gonzales), creates a back-story for her as Victor, Poland's greatest female impersonator, and wows everyone astonished that a man is so convincingly feminine. Along the way, there are questions of mistaken identity as American mobster King Marchand (G. Shane Peterman) finds himself uncomfortably attracted to "Victor."

In many ways, it's a cutting-edge comedy of contemporary mores, with the film well ahead of its time, dealing with gender-bending in a surprisingly tolerant and off-handed (if slapstick-heavy) manner. In the

post-*Queer Eye*, post-*Drag Race* era, it's perhaps less edgy, but there's some poignancy about acceptance underneath all the French farce door-slamming and bed-hopping.

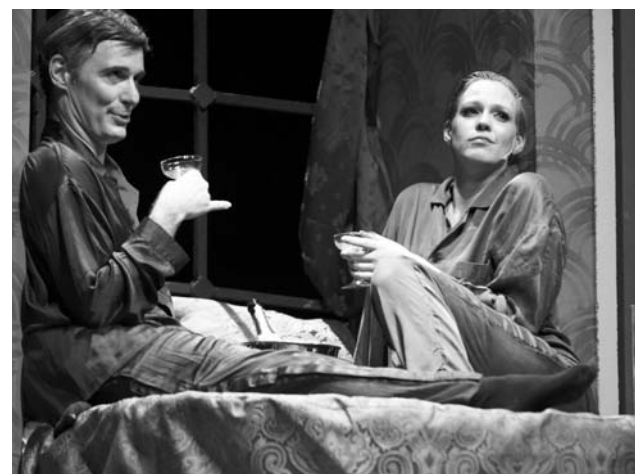
Which is not to say the script is well written. I doubt you'll find many people who will defend its structure. It's messy, with few good buttons to end scenes, some parts that drag (not the good kind of drag) and a few puzzlingly-placed moments best abandoned altogether.

In Uptown Players' production currently at the Kalita Humphreys, some — not all — of those weaknesses are less obvious. The score, a pastiche of 1930s-style jazz with Broadway flash layered on top, has few memorable hits (the best, "Le Jazz Hot," was composed for the movie 30 years ago), but the band plays and the cast sings it all well, all on a fabulous and mobile set that makes great uses of the Kalita's space.

What it doesn't do especially well is conjure up both the glamour of Old Paris and the camp extravagance of the drag world. It would be hard to over-play the flamboyance of a Parisian nightclub in interbellum, but this one does. The "Victor-as-drag-queen" scenes don't fully work because Victoria doesn't *look* like a drag queen. She may be meant to be convincingly female, but RuPaul accomplishes that with

## LA CAGE AUX FOOLS

A mobster (G. Shane Peterman, right) rejects his girlfriend (Whitney Hennen, far right) because of his feelings for 'Victor' (Ashley Puckett Gonzales, below right) in the cross-dressing musical. (Photos courtesy Mike Morgan)



## VICTOR/VICTORIA

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glamazon femininity that still leaves you asking, "Could she be...?" Gonzales, in ill-fitting costumes and too-tasteful makeup, has no panache as Victor. Androgyny is one thing, but Victor needs dazzle to make King's obsession with her seem authentic.

She could learn a move or five from Whitney Hennen, who steals the show as King's ditzzy platinum blonde moll Norma. Bubbly and empty-headed as Lina Lamont, she turns eating a piece of chocolate from throw-away stage business into comic art, all with an excess that rises to

the level of farce Edwards established in his Pink Panther movies. (The best scene, in fact, may be the dance of characters sneaking in and out of the bedrooms, which director Cheryl Denson choreographs beautifully.)

In the wake of Dallas Theater Center's recent awesome production of *Cabaret* — and Uptown's own high-bar-setting *Next to Normal* — *Victor/Victoria* seems incidental, though considered on its own, there's much to enjoy, especially as a respite from the August heat. Here life is a cabargay, old chum. Come to the cabargay. ■

## Uptown Players sets line-up for 2012 season

Uptown Players begins its third season at the Kalita Humphreys Theater next year, with a lineup that numbers among its gayest ever.

"I don't wanna say it's *more* gay, but I definitely feel it has more gay aspects than some recent seasons," said co-founder Craig Lynch.

As usual, the season includes a drama, a comedy and two musicals, plus several bonus shows.

The 11th season kicks off Feb. 3, 2012, with **Take Me Out**, gay playwright Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winner about the reaction when a professional baseball player comes out of the closet. WaterTower Theatre last produced the show locally in 2006.

That's immediately followed by **Broadway Our Way** on March 16, the annual fundraiser that showcases musical numbers traditionally sung by men being sung by women and vice versa.

As with this season, Uptown will clear out of the Kalita for a few months while the Dallas Theater Center, which still holds the lease on the building, mounts two shows in the space: *God of Carnage* and *Next Fall*. In the meantime, the troupe will return to the stage of the Rose Room for **The Silence of the Clams**, another of its comic spoofs, again written by Jamie Morris (*The Fact of Life: The Lost Episode*). It opens April 27.

On July 13, Coy Covington returns to his wheelhouse performing in drag in the most recent Charles Busch comedy, **The Divine Sister**. This will be Covington's fourth go as Busch's surrogate for Uptown. "We saw it off-Broadway and met with Busch," Lynch said. "His production of the play is touring but is not coming to Dallas, so we snatched up the rights."

Uptown will then attempt what is arguably its biggest production to date when it tackles Mel Brooks' mega musical **The Producers**. It also happens to be one of the gayest mainstream smashes in the history of Broadway. National tours have come to North Texas, but this will be the first major local production. It opens Aug. 24.

The season will end on Oct. 5 with **Hello Again**, gay composer Michael John LaChuisa's musical play about relationships through the



**AM BUSCH** | Coy Covington (in 'Die Mommie, Die!') returns to his roots in drag acting by once again serving as Charles Busch's surrogate in 'The Divine Sister.'

decades. John de los Santos will direct.

It's an ambitious season for the company that began soon after 9/11 in a 120-seat space off Stemmons but is now only the second troupe to be a resident company at the historic Kalita Humphreys. When they started, did they ever think they'd mount something as big as *The Producers*?

"Heck, no!" said Lynch. "We were debating whether to do *The Producers* for a year now but after doing research I see how it can work. We've learned some valuable lessons in the space. We know we need to scale back here and be more abstract there. We were used to a small space and small-scale thinking; now we times that by a hundred."

— A.W.J.

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← SCAN ME

# EVERYBODY Wang fun TONIGHT

Howard Wang's has the look, and almost the flavor, of classic Szechuan cuisine

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

The last time I was in San Francisco, I ate out at two restaurants. One was Chez Panisse, Alice Waters' Berkeley bistro that ushered in California cuisine. It was delicious and set us back \$180. The other was a Chinese dive in the Haight. It cost \$18. It was the better meal — authentic, fiery, unique.

The fact is, great Chinese food is hard to find in America (at least at reasonable prices). Pan-Asian-fusion? Sure. Kobe beef from Japan, or fluffy tempura? Yep. Thai and Vietnamese? You can find it. But the spice and kick of China is as rare as a unicorn. There's good, even delightful versions of traditional classics, but greatness eludes us. It's the one form of cuisine where I recalibrate my expectations ... though I always hope for the best.

Howard Wang's Uptown, which opened next to the new Gloria's at Cole and Lemmon, looked promising. For first impressions, you could hardly do better: Brush-stained white pine floors, soothing rich walls, shiny black lacquers and pops of color from paper lanterns and a wall of ceramic masks in bas-relief. It sidles up to cliché with its traditional — some might say predictable — palette, but it never crosses the line, as abstract window panels and an eye-catching bar area lend a modern, social feeling.

The other senses are stimulated as well, with the aroma of fresh wood wafting among the faint hint of peppers. If ever a restaurant's décor got me in the mood for the kind of food I was anticipating, this was it.

And it almost made it. While the food at Howard Wang's isn't at the level it was at that hole-in-the-wall in San Francisco, it makes an admirable foray into the Dallas Chinese cuisine scene. (This ain't Wang's first time at the rodeo; he also owns China Grill in North Dallas.)

The menu, in typical brasserie fashion, is large and diverse without overwhelming. Like Pei

**SZECHUAN SPICE** | Howard Wang's boasts evocative decor and the best version of Chinese food in the Uptown area. (Photo courtesy Robert Hart Studio)



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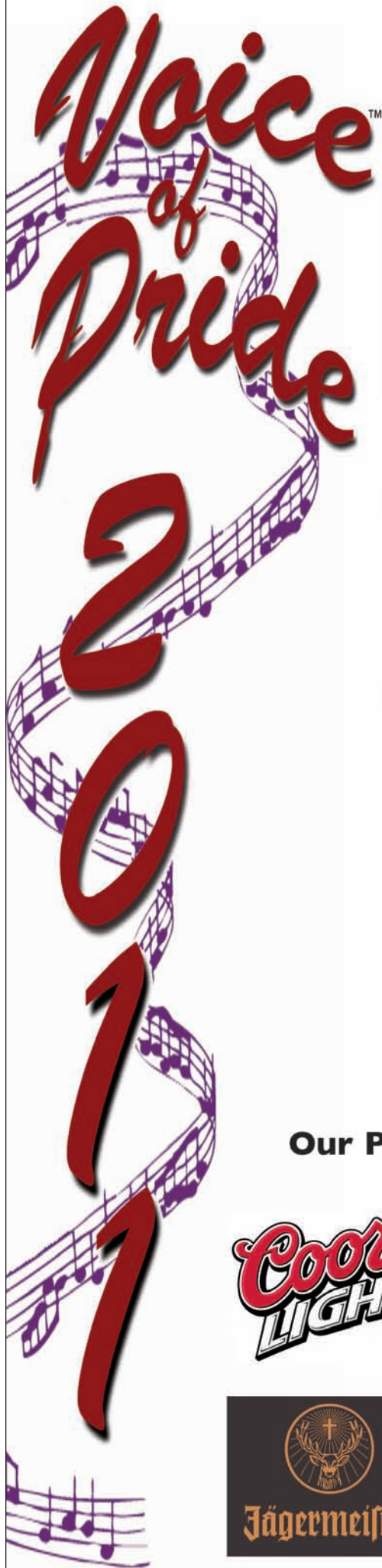
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## Sunday 08.07

### Strike it up

Bring out your bell bottoms and flared collars for this year's Fruit Bowl as the Human Rights Campaign goes disco. The annual event raises funds for the HRC, but really, it puts our Wii talents to the test. But if you're gonna dress up disco, reconsider those platforms for the slick lanes.

**DEETS:** 300 Dallas, 3805 Beltline Road, Addison. Noon and 3 p.m. Individuals \$25-\$30, teams \$100-\$160. HRC.org/FruitBowl.

## Sunday 08.07

### 'Clap your Hands' and say yeah

Even though Sia hasn't quite made into the big time on the pop charts, she's developed a strong following. The lez singer recalls the vein of Robyn, with smart pop music that keeps us coming back. She's sold out here, but the venue has been releasing tickets so keep an eye out.

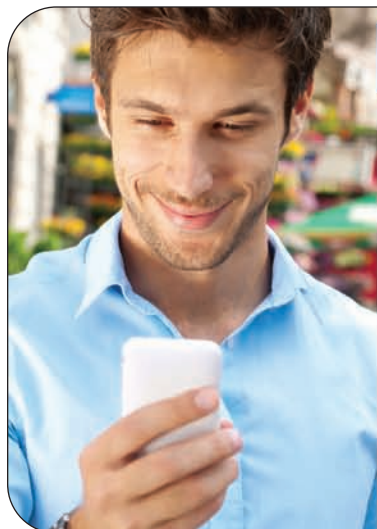
**DEETS:** With Oh Land and Ximena Sarinana. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 8 p.m. \$24. GranadaTheater.com.

## Thursday 08.11

### Poetic license

Local poet and author Christopher Stephen Soden reads from his newest collection *Closer* that is touted as "an existential look at same-gender sexuality and queer virility." A Q&A will follow.

**DEETS:** McKinney Avenue Contemporary, 3120 McKinney Ave. 7 p.m. The-Mac.org.



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## FRIDAY 08.05

## COMMUNITY

**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. YouthFirst-Texas.org.

**Unwired Dallas.** Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets for those wishing to quit using meth. Also meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

**Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous.** Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., Ste. 108.

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

## THEATER

**The Final Adventure of Hercules.** Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Aug. 20. \$10-\$18. PocketSandwich.com.

**Satyricon.** Adapted by Mark-Brian Sonna, the scandalous comedy tells the story of a broke Roman soldier, his slave and the people they con to get by. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Aug. 13. 8 p.m. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

**The Wiz.** In collaboration with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, the Dallas Theater Center presents this urban retelling of *The Wizard of Oz*. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Sunday. \$10-\$80. DallasTheaterCenter.org.



**UP AND COMING** | Country pop trio The Band Perry performs a free concert for the Samsung AT&T Summer Krush series Monday at Gilley's. Since their 2010 debut self-titled album, they earned a Grammy nomination and ACM's best new artist.

## ART

**Statuesque.** Exhibit of six international artists (Pawel Althamer, Huma Bhabha, Aaron Curry, Thomas Houseago, Matthew Monahan and Rebecca Warren) whose work "reveals a renewed significance of the figure in contemporary sculpture." This marks the Nasher's first exhibition outdoors. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Aug. 21. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

**Synclines** features new work by Cabe Booth, Kevin Obregon and out Pop artist Robb Conover whose works have appeared at Buli and Drama Room. Ro2 Art, 110 N. Akard St. (in the Kirby Building.) July 23-Aug. 13. Opening reception at 7 p.m. Ro2Art.com/Synclines

## SATURDAY 08.06

## COMMUNITY

**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 meeting. Half Price Books, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

## BROADCAST

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

## SUNDAY 08.07

## COMMUNITY

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

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

**Men's Medicine Wheel Gathering** discussion and ceremony at a private residence in East Dallas. 3 p.m. 214-908-6261.

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

**Friends Associating and Relating,** LGBT social group, meets twice a month for potluck dinners, game nights, and more in the evenings. Newcomers welcome and there are no dues. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

**Youth First Texas Collin County.** Group for LGBTQ youth and allies up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection - Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road, Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

**Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship.** LGBT-friendly "meditation and more" event. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality, all faiths welcome. Deaf interpretation provided. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson. 5 p.m. Donations accepted. InterMindful.com.

**The ONE Church,** 2515 Inwood Road, Ste 213. Services at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

**Dignity Dallas** sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

**Resounding Harmony** holds weekly rehearsals at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. 7 p.m. ResoundingHarmony.org.

**30/40Something** social group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

**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.

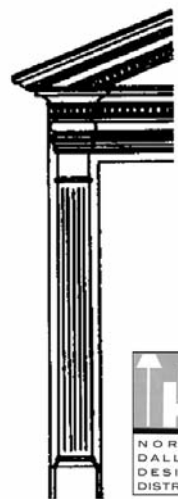
**Dallas FrontRunners** fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio of the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

**Fuse: Core Group** for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

**DFW Prime Timers** play bingo at private residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

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

**Late Great Chevy Car Show.** Guests can not only see a selection of vintage cars, but can also dress to participate in the sock hop costume contest. The event is hosted by Norma's Café Trinity Mills and continues every second Saturday through October. Norma's Café, 17721 N. Dallas Tollway. 8 a.m. Free.



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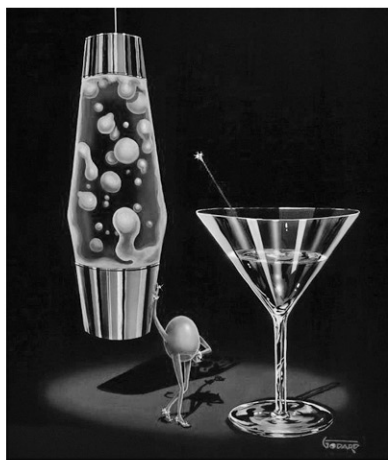
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## calendar

### MONDAY 08.08

#### 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.

**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 weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

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

**The Women's Chorus of Dallas** holds rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7-10 p.m. 214-520-7828.

#### CONCERT

**The Band Perry.** The country band has made huge strides with its self-titled debut album last year. They perform a free concert as part of the Samsung AT&T Summer Krush concert series across the nation. Gilley's, 1135 S. Lamar St. 10 p.m. Free. SamsungSummerKrush2011.com.

### TUESDAY 08.09

#### COMMUNITY

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

**Lambda Pride Toastmasters.** Regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.FreeToastHost.us.

**GLSEN Tarrant County.** Bennigan's, 5751 Bridge St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-294-5101.

**Q's Day Potluck.** Friendly casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-446-3395.

**Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture** meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

**FUSE Movie Night** every week. For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. GetYourFuseOn.com.

**Cathedral Ringers** handbell rehearsal. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:45 p.m. Contact Jeremy.crosswhite@gmail.com for information.

**Stop Smoking** psycho-educational group by the AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m.

#### BROADCAST

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



**LAST STRAW** | Dallas Theater Center's 'The Wiz' continues this week at the Wylly Theatre.

### WEDNESDAY 08.10

#### COMMUNITY

**Cathedral Business Network** second Wednesday meeting. Location to be determined. Contact Anity Haddy at Cathedral of Hope for more information. 214-351-1901. 11:30 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

**American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas** Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m.

**American Veterans for Equal Rights Lone Star Veterans Chapter.** LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCPres@aol.com.

#### BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Raeline Nobles, executive director of AIDS Arms. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m.

### THURSDAY 08.11

#### COMMUNITY

**Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association** monthly lunch 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 HIV- positive black men. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

## this week's solution

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Michael Urie** turns 30 on Monday. The actor became a hallmark queer TV character as Mark St. James in *Ugly Betty*. The Plano High School and Julliard grad has kept up his theater roots. He received the Lucille Lortel Award for lead actor as Mattachine Society founder Rudi Gernreich in *The Temperamentals*.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

A few well-chosen words stimulate discussions you'll learn a lot from. Opening up to challenging new ideas can dramatically change the ways you work and play.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Creative angst is a good thing. You are trying too hard for something entirely new and different. Go back to your roots and see what neglected treasures inspire you to innovation.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Friendly advice about your home and relationship is malicious japery, but is there anything in it? Whatever the source, dissect it for seeds of truth and opportunities for self-improvement.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Speaking out of turn at work ruffles feathers. Open up new ideas. Irritating (or irritated) as your boss may be, keep calm, respectful and focused on your company's success.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Your impulses for adventure tests your resourcefulness. You're clever enough to do what's necessary more economically than it first appears. Trust your instincts and go it alone if you have to.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

If parental voices chime in at the worst times, relax. Take time to meditate and listen to those voices, if only to get where they're coming from, to talk back and dismiss them.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

It's no news that your mouth makes trouble. Just keep your brain ahead of it and do not reveal your partner's secrets. Thinking ahead is what you do best. Apply that foresight in the present.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Worries about health and money are exaggerated. The future looks tough for everyone, but don't let your imagination make it worse. You can still thrive. Hard work is the answer, but don't burn out. Set a goal and do your best.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

What you think is brilliant and clever is threatening to authorities. Think ahead: What battles can you win? Who are your real friends? What do you need to learn to succeed?

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Fights at home are displaced frustration. Be careful not to say something you'll regret later. Whether to head off the fight or to heal the wounds, open up to your partner about your anxieties.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Dare to be shocking and bold, but don't be surprised if you scare off friends. Are you stronger with fewer friends who agree with you or more friends with more diverse thoughts?

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Feeling underappreciated is more about you misunderstanding what your virtues really are. Job reviews and criticism from your partner hurt, but take them as cues to clarify your strengths.

**THIS WEEK**

The sun makes hard aspects to Uranus and Pluto, bringing ego and power struggles to a dangerous head; but Sol moves quickly into a grand trine with Eris and the North Node, offering routes to reconciliation.

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

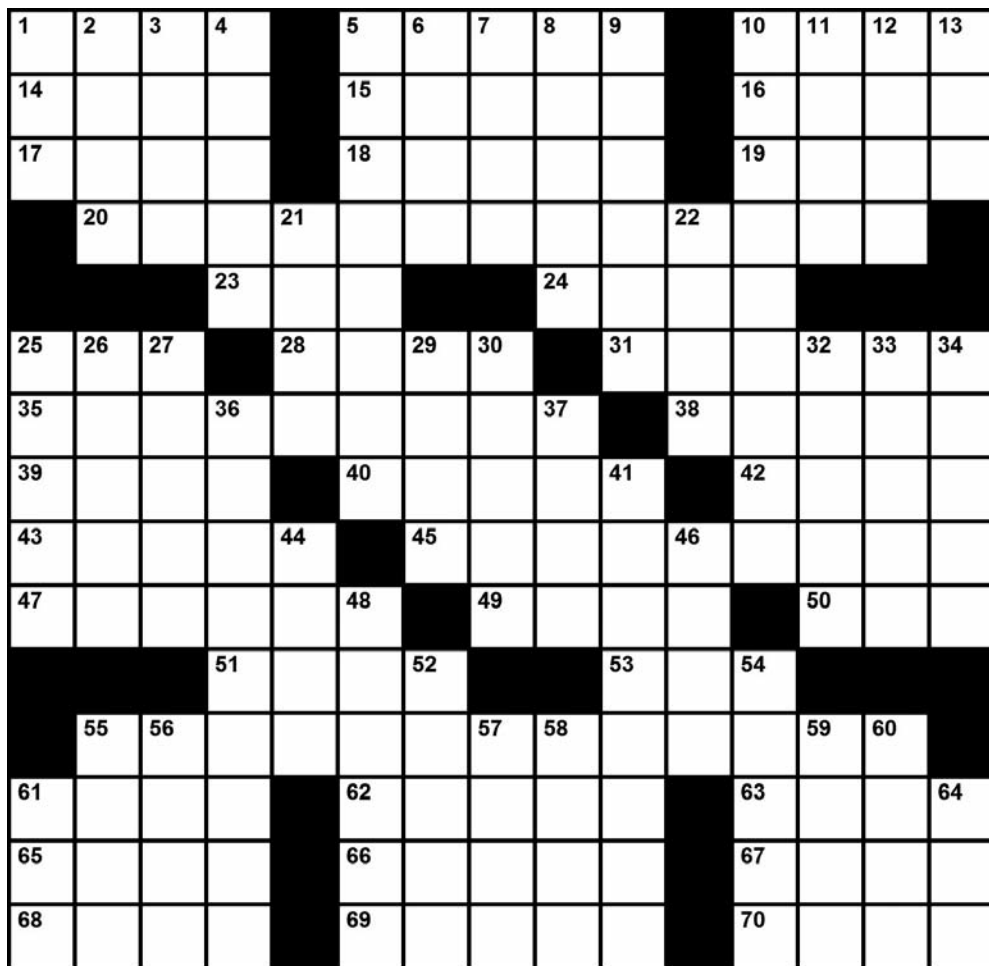
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# Oscar Speech

Solution on page 40

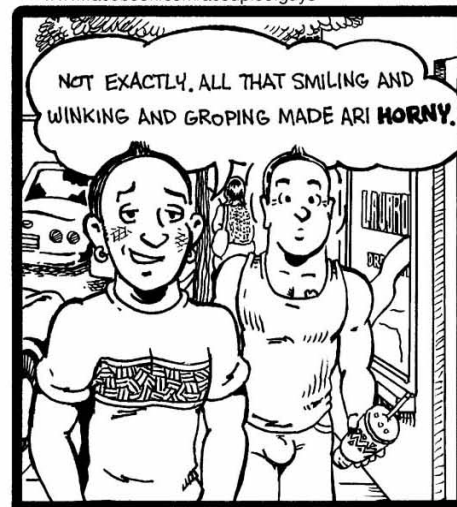
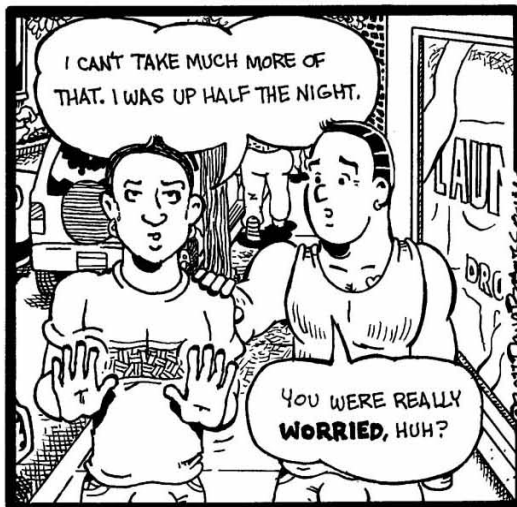
**Across**

- 1 They get laid only once
- 5 Flat tops
- 10 Barneys event
- 14 Hide a mike on
- 15 Off to one side
- 16 What Israelis may shoot off
- 17 Artist Schiele
- 18 Shaft worker
- 19 Swallow eagerly
- 20 Start of a quip by Oscar Levant
- 23 B&O and others
- 24 Words before about
- 25 Posed for Annie Leibovitz
- 28 Peters out
- 31 Run like a stud
- 35 More of the quip
- 38 Green stuff
- 39 In a lazy way
- 40 Where Franklin, Winston, and Josef had a threesome
- 42 With mouth wide open
- 43 "... a \_\_\_ deferred" (Hughes)
- 45 More of the quip.
- 47 Three couples in bed?
- 49 Clothing closure

- 50 Old protest org.
- 51 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 53 Cause for overtime
- 55 End of the quip
- 61 Request from one's knees
- 62 Injures with a horn
- 63 Hit with hand motions
- 65 Serengeti sound
- 66 Totally absurd
- 67 Terrific, in slang
- 68 Cry of one in bondage
- 69 Boston ball handlers, briefly
- 70 Went lickety-split

**Down**

- 1 Meadow mama
- 2 Colette's Parisian heroine
- 3 Pirate drink
- 4 Madrid mister
- 5 Wuss
- 6 Larger-than-life
- 7 Went down
- 8 Playground retort
- 9 Like a muscle Mary
- 10 Rio's mountain
- 11 France's Côte d'\_\_\_
- 12 Composer Boulanger
- 13 Medium skill
- 21 Practiced heterosexuality
- 22 Head given in a bar
- 25 Loses traction
- 26 Corydon author Gide
- 27 Old message sender
- 29 Davis of Querelle
- 30 Eliot's Marnier
- 32 HRC's equal sign, and others
- 33 Supplication start
- 34 Knights' attendants
- 36 He shot off at the OK Corral
- 37 Eye problem
- 41 Barbed barricades
- 44 Sneaky Pie cry
- 46 Islamic leader
- 48 Like Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
- 52 In harmony
- 54 Aida setting
- 55 Fruit flavor for gin
- 56 Emulate Dr. George O'Malley
- 57 Russian inland sea
- 58 Blowhole
- 59 Point of view intro, at Gay.com
- 60 Home st. of Maupin
- 61 Ask too many questions
- 64 Absorbed, as a loss





Branda and Air at Station 4.



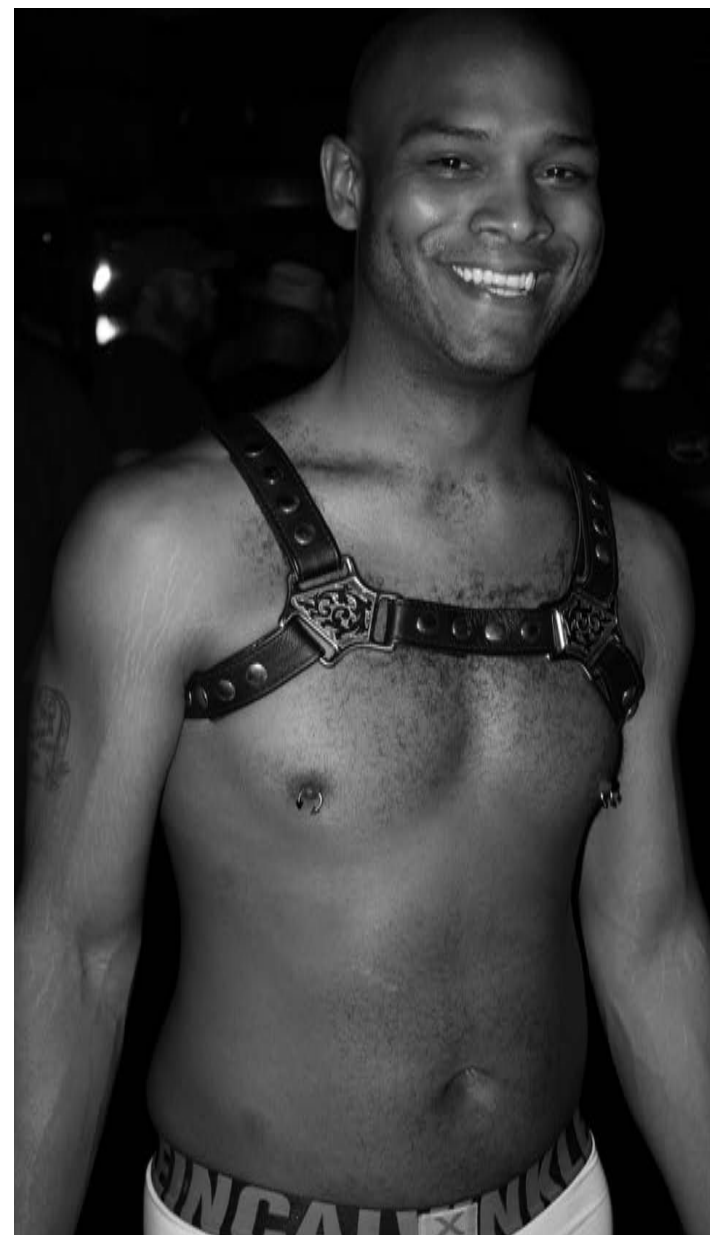
Richard, Justin, Emmanuel, Chance and Adam at the Round-Up Saloon.

Here's what we got for your week and weekend calendar of fun .... The good ol' **Hidden Door** brings the **Leo Party** and **Miss Leo Contest** back for its 24th year. Where does time go? ... **Club Dallas** is always a good place to um, workout, but get a mouthful at their **Sunday BBQ's** .... Everyone's going retro this weekend. **DJ Craig Reed** spins the classics at the **Studio S4 Disco Party** on Friday .... Then the **HRC** bowls a perfect game at **300 Dallas** for Sunday's **Disco Fruit Bowl** .... **Barbara's Pavilion** hosts a **Back to School** party Saturday. They encourage naughty school boys and girls to dress for the occasion. **Onyx** hosts the night with karaoke .... **Kickback** kickstarts the weekend for you on Friday at **Sue Ellen's**. Catch the blue-eyed soul of singer-songwriter **Maren Morris** on Saturday. She's on our highly recommend list. And for some game time, every Tuesday the club hosts the **Dart & Pool Tourney** as well as **Pocket Rockets' Texas Hold 'Em Poker** .... The lights go out in the **Dallas Eagle's Dark and Dirty** party on Friday. **The United Court** has us curious about the rest of the weekend. They get all music-like with the **Rock 'n' Roll Show** on Saturday and the **Woodstock Show** on Sunday. The nights benefit **UCLSE charities** .... Help the **Brick's** softball team **Dallas Boom** get to Chicago for the **World Series** Saturday as the hunky players switch hit with **Drag in a Bag**. The night's hosted by **Miss PSSA Serenity Michaels**. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT [DALLASVOICE.COM](http://DALLASVOICE.COM).



Rob and Jackie at the Tin Room.



Anthony at the Dallas Eagle underwear auction.



Gary and daughter Katie at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Jerry and Ashley at Drama Room.

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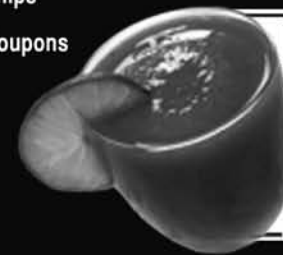
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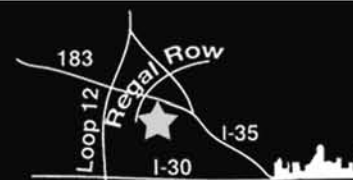
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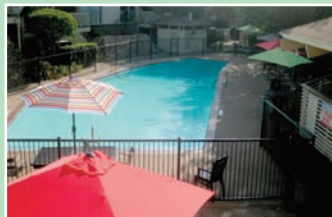
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