

# Patricia Racette: From opera to jazz

Although her opera was cancelled, lesbian soprano still makes Winspear debut

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■ OPERA, Page 18

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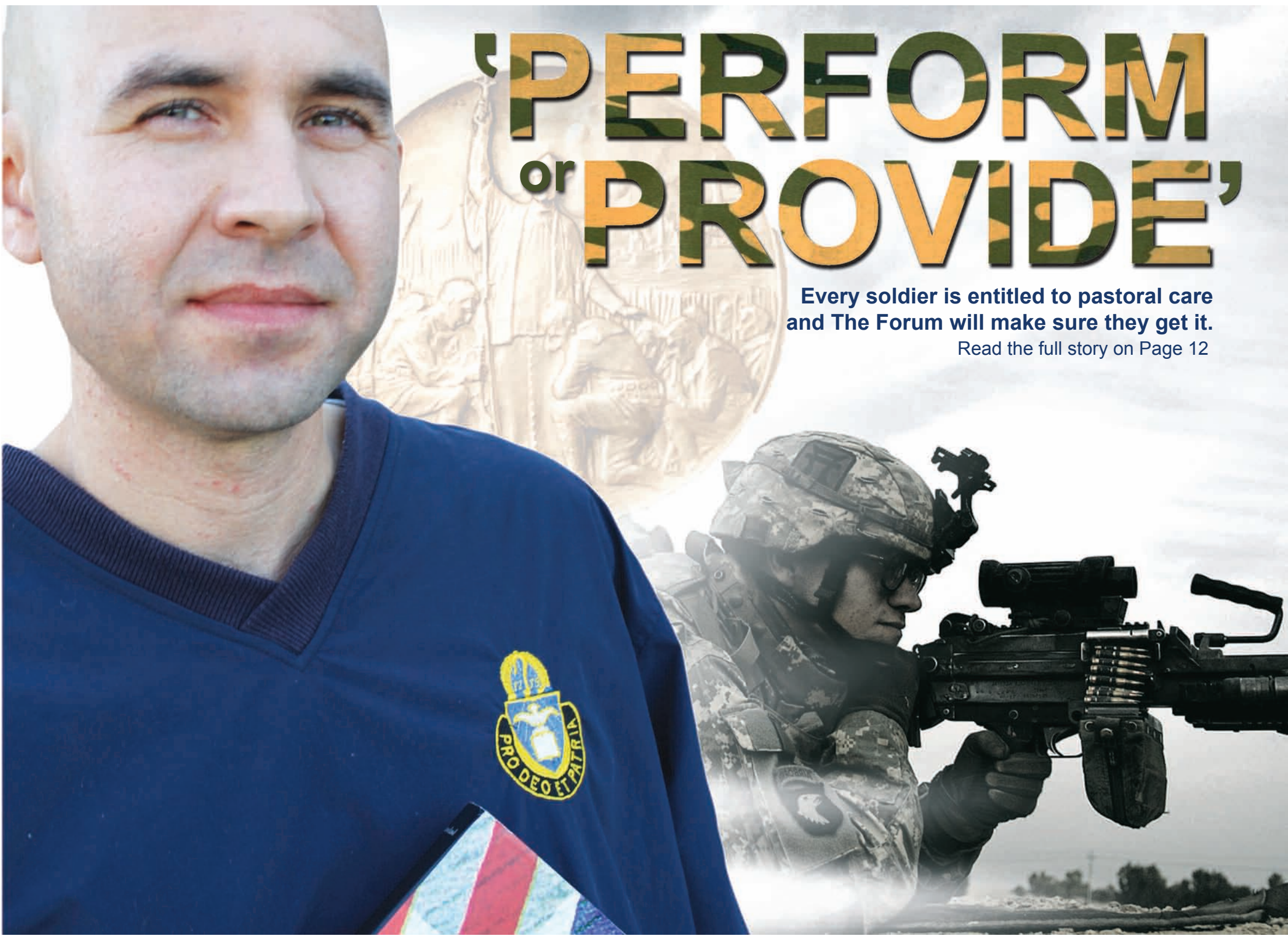
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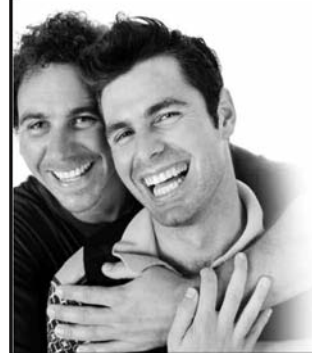


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## Youth group opens in Denton

The LGBTQ youth program in Denton met for the first time on Friday, Oct. 21 at Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The Rev. Pamela Wat reported a good turnout of teens, young adults and adult volunteers.



The Rev. Pamela Wat

Beginning Nov. 4, the church will be open every Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for OUTreach Denton. All LGBTQ youth and allies are welcome. Once that meeting becomes established, a Wednesday night gathering once a month may be added.

Wat said that they went through a list of activities that Youth First Texas has done successfully.

"The thing they wanted to do is hear adult coming out stories," she said. "For some, that night was the first time they had met an out LGBT person."

Before the meeting, Wat was worried that the youth who attended would be afraid to talk.

"But they were open, sharing, talking," she said. "They let their guard down and the healing started immediately."

The initial group included mostly teens ages 14 through 17. Older students in Denton have GLAD, the college group at University of North Texas.

Wat said she thought most of the teens that attended came from safe environments. She said that

some drove themselves, but most were dropped off by parents.

"We need to do more outreach to spread the word without spreading where we might get negative attention," she said. "We haven't broken into the school system yet."

At its first regular meeting, the group will work on fliers and a website.

"At some point, we expect to affiliate with Youth First Texas," Wat said, "but at this point we're continuing under the name OUTreach Denton but following the same policies and procedures that YFT sets out."

*Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St., Denton. Fridays at 7 p.m.*

— David Taffet

## OUT & EQUAL: By the numbers

The Out & Equal Workplace Summit held Oct. 22-25 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel broke records.

Justin Tanis, director of communications for the organization, reported that 2,623 people registered for the conference, which was a record. He said participants came from 30 countries, and the summit overall raised \$2.5 million.

That total includes corporate sponsorships, registrations, merchandise sales and auctions.

At the Thursday night gala, live and silent auctions raised \$74,660 that will benefit the Out & Equal Scholarship Fund for LGBT students. In addition, Northrup Grumman gave Youth First Texas a check

for \$20,000.

According to Cordey Lash, Hilton Anatole's senior sales manager — multicultural, the conference had a \$3 million impact on the hotel. That number includes just under 6,000 room-nights sold, as well as food and beverage sales.

Because the hotel was sold out for three nights of the conference, the impact to Dallas was even greater. Three surrounding hotels also sold hundreds of additional room-nights.

Thursday night's gala attracted 2,800 people, one of the largest seated dinners at the hotel since the Black Tie Dinner moved from the hotel.

More than 130 corporations were represented at the conference, including ExxonMobil, known for being one of the few Fortune 500 companies with a 0 percent rating on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.

The conference had a positive impact on local LGBT business as well. Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman coordinated "community night" on Wednesday. Shuttle buses ran from the hotel to Cedar Springs Road.

"I must have greeted at least 1,000 people," he said. "All the merchants, bars and restaurants had signs and participated."

Tanis said that conference evaluations from attendees rated their experience in Dallas very highly. He said that Out & Equal looked forward to returning to the city soon.

Next year the conference is booked in Baltimore



Northrup Grumman CEO Wes Bush announces a \$20,000 gift to Youth First Texas.

and the 2013 location is already set but not yet announced. So 2014 or soon after is a possibility.

Lash called the Out & Equal attendees the friendliest group the hotel has hosted. He said it changed the culture in the hotel among the staff.

He said that the blocks of panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt set off the piece of the Berlin Wall that stands in the hotel in a way it has never been seen — the Anatole's chunk of the wall is covered in graffiti that includes the ACT-UP logo. And C.U.R.E. raised \$360 from donations at the Quilt display.

"To bring that much positive energy together," Lash said, "we look forward to welcoming them back."

— David Taffet

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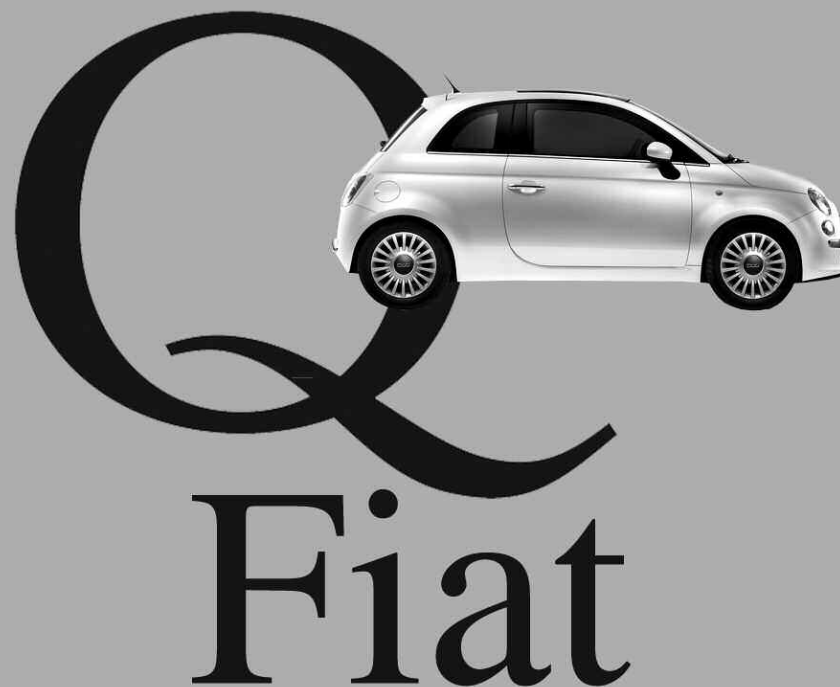
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Jimmy LaSalvia, left, and Chris Barron

## GOProud's LaSalvia slams 'gay left'

Homocon leader, set to speak Saturday at Metroplex Republicans' Grand Ol' Party, downplays competition with Log Cabin

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Political Writer  
wright@dallasvoice.com

When Taylor Garrett, a gay Republican cast member from *The A-List: Dallas*, recently claimed his apartment had been vandalized by a "liberal," Jimmy LaSalvia wasn't surprised.

As executive director of the national gay conservative (or "homocon") group GOProud, LaSalvia said he's grown accustomed to attacks from what he calls "the gay left."

"The gay left is the most hateful, intolerant, dis-

**Grand Ol' Party**  
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MetroplexRepublicans.com

gusting group of people I've ever come across in my lifetime, and everything we do is criticized by them," LaSalvia told Dallas Voice. "They hate gay conservatives more than anything in the world, and I don't know why. It's just a matter of time before violence like that happens."

Coincidentally — or not, depending on who you believe — LaSalvia had lunch with Garrett in Los Angeles just prior to the rock-throwing incident being reported.

They were joined by conservative pundit Ann Coulter — who serves as honorary chair of GO-

■ LaSALVIA, Page 15

# 3 arrested in assault on gay man in Reno

Victim Burke Burnett says he is relieved the men are behind bars and that he believes the attack was an anti-gay hate crime

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Political Writer  
wright@dallasvoice.com

RENO, Lamar County — The victim of a brutal assault last weekend in East Texas said he's relieved three suspects have been arrested in connection with the attack, which he believes was an anti-gay hate crime.

But it remained unclear this week whether the case is being investigated as an anti-gay hate crime by police and whether it will be prosecuted as one by the Lamar County District Attorney's Office.

Burke Burnett, 26, said he was jumped by several men at a Halloween party early Sunday in Reno — a tiny town just east of Paris and about 100 miles northeast of Dallas. Burnett's attackers yelled anti-gay slurs as they stabbed him repeatedly with a broken beer bottle and threw him onto a fire.

He needed more than 30 stitches and suffered second-degree burns.

After graphic photos of Burnett's injuries were posted online by Dallas Voice and drew national attention to the case, Reno police arrested three suspects Tuesday and Wednesday and charged them with aggravated assault.

"I'm grateful that they're in custody," Burnett said Thursday. "I'm in a lot of pain, but I am feeling better. I don't want to see this ever happen to anybody else again."

Burnett, who lives in Paris and came out as gay when he was 15, said he's convinced the attack

was fueled by his sexual orientation.

"The things they were screaming while they were doing it leave no question in my mind as to what their motives were," Burnett said. "If that constitutes a hate crime ... I don't know all the laws behind that. It's not my job to judge these guys or to say what justice is. I just hope that justice is served because what they did was wrong. It would have been wrong no matter who they did it to."

Reno police said they've arrested 31-year-old James "Tray" Mitchell Laster III, 33-year-old Daniel Martin, and 25-year-old Micky Joe Smith. All three are charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury — second-degree felonies punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Each is being held on \$250,000 bond.

Police have been tightlipped about their investigation and declined to release written arrest reports this week. A representative from the Reno Police Department indicated it will be up to the Lamar County District Attorney's Office to decide whether the attack was an anti-gay hate crime.

Lamar County District Attorney Gary Young, in turn, said it will be up to a grand jury to make that determination. Under Texas law, a hate crime is not a separate charge but rather an enhancement that could result in the existing charges being bumped up from second-degree felonies to first-degree felonies — punishable by up to 99 years in prison.

"We're in the process of receiving all the information as a result of the investigation," Young told Dallas Voice. "We will present all that information to the grand jury, including all the information as to whether it's a hate crime or not. The grand jury

■ ASSAULT, Page 10



**BRUISED AND BLOODIED** | Burke Burnett said he was sucker-punched in the left eye at the beginning of the attack.



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## localbriefs

### HRC Family Project hosts picnic

The HRC Family Project will host a fall social picnic for LGBT families Sunday, Nov. 6, beginning at 11 a.m., at the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, on the back lawn in front of the DeGoyler House.

Families are responsible for paying admission into the arboretum.

For more information about the event, call Cooper Smith at 214-329-9191 or email him at [cooper@coopersmithagency.com](mailto:cooper@coopersmithagency.com). For more information on the HRC Family Project, go online to [HRC.org/issues/parenting.asp](http://HRC.org/issues/parenting.asp).

## Deaths

**John "Spanke" Studer** was born in Beattie, Kansas on April 10, 1955 to Ted and Margaret Studer, and died peacefully at his home on Oct. 31, at the age of 56.

Studer was an active member of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, volunteering his services as a docent as well as in the church's baking ministry. He was also well known for his significant contributions to AIDS Services of Dallas. According to ASD's President and CEO Don Maison, Studer served on the agency's board for several years and over the past 20 years he catered and hosted Spanke's Toilet Paper Parties, collecting thousands and thousands of rolls of toilet paper, toothbrushes, soap and other personal items for ASD residents and raising between \$2,000 to \$5,000 twice each year throughout that time.

Studer also served on the boards of the Dallas Bears, Texas Bear Association and the Resource Center Dallas. In June, Dallas Bears



named him Bear of the Year in recognition of his years of service to the community and his work in this year's successful Texas Bear Round-Up.

He touched the lives of many friends and all who knew him understood he had a heart as big as the gentle man he was.

A memorial service will be held at the Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, on Friday Nov. 4 at 10 a.m., followed by a reception at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to AIDS Services of Dallas.

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# Taken for a ride?



Oak Lawn man says cab drivers were taking advantage of people looking for rides home after Halloween block party

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

An Oak Lawn man this week said that taxi drivers at the Halloween Block Party on Cedar Springs Saturday, Oct 29, tried to take him for a ride — but not to where he wanted to go.

Michael Truan and his partner live near the intersection of Maple and Inwood avenues. When the two decided to go to the Halloween Block Party on Cedar Springs on Saturday night, they knew they would be drinking, Truan said, so they decided to do the responsible thing and take a cab to and from the party.

"I usually do take a cab when I go out. I don't want to drink and drive and get in trouble with the cops, or worse, end up hurting myself or somebody else," Truan said. "Plus, taking a cab means you don't have to bother with trying to find a parking place."

That, and the fact that Truan is a flight attendant, means that he is familiar with taxi cabs.

The fare was \$12, and he tipped the driver another \$2 for a \$14 total. Truan said the driver was friendly and courteous and the trip quick and hassle free — the kind of service he has come to expect from Yellow Cab, the company he always uses.

But when it came time to go home, it was another story altogether.

Truan said about 1:30 a.m., he and his partner decided to leave and walked down the block to the area between ilume and Kroger where cabs were lined up, waiting for fares. He approached the first cab in line, and when he told the driver where he wanted to go, the driver quoted him a flate rate fee of \$30.

Angry that the driver was trying to charge him more than twice what the trip to the party had cost, Truan approached the second driver in line, who said it would cost \$25, again more than twice the original fare.

The third driver wanted even more — \$40 — and the fourth driver in line said he wasn't al-

lowed to let fares "jump the line."

Truan said he and his partner finally ended up just walking the nearly two miles home, through a neighborhood not considered to be all that safe for a 2 a.m. stroll.

"I was wearing high-heeled boots, and let me tell you, those boots were not made for walking!" Truan said.

The next day, Truan said, he called Yellow Cab and spoke with a supervisor, who was "sincerely apologetic" and said drivers were supposed to only work "on the meter." He said he also intended to contact Dallas City Councilwoman Pauline Medrano, in whose district he lives.

When Dallas Voice contacted Yellow Cab for comments, however, the supervisor who answered said that drivers are allowed to "go off the meter," but wouldn't comment further.

"If you're a newspaper, we don't speak to you guys unless you want to hire a cab," the female supervisor said. "We don't deal with you guys."

But Gary Titlow with the city of Dallas' public works and transportation department was willing to talk, and his version of what is allowed was a but different.

"They aren't allowed to do that," he said of the taxi drivers' Saturday night fee offers. "The only flat rates allowed are the ones outlined in the city code, and even then, the drivers are supposed to have the meters running."

The only times drivers are allowed to offer a flat rate fare, according to the city code, are when they are taking passengers from the Dallas Central Business District or the Market Center area to either Dallas Love Field Airport or DFW International Airport, or from one of the airports to the Central Business District or the Market Center area.

The flat rate from the business district or Market Center area to Love Field is \$18; the flat rate from Love Field to either of those areas is \$15. The flat rate to or from the Central Business District for DFW International trips is \$40, and the rate to or from the Market Center area is \$32.

City code also allows drivers to offer a discounted rate or charge as long as the driver and the passenger agree in advance and as long as the discounted rate is less than the regular fee.

Titlow also said he would be contacting Yellow Cab officials, and that he was "really surprised" to hear such a complaint about Yellow Cab drivers.

Truan said he was also surprised at what happened.

"I use Yellow Cab all the time, and I have never had a problem with them, but if this happens often, then this crap really needs to stop," Truan said. "We put a lot of money into this area, and to have those cab drivers try to take us for a ride like that — no pun intended — it's just not right. I think it's really B.S. I hope no one else fell for it, but I am sure some people did." ■

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### ASSAULT

From Page 6

will make a determination whether it [a hate crime] is or isn't part of the charge. If their actions of committing the aggravated assault are based on race or sexual orientation or whatever it may be, the grand jury can choose to enhance the offense up a level."

Young declined to further discuss the cases.

Chuck Smith, deputy director of the statewide LGBT advocacy group Equality Texas, said the quick arrests in the case are a positive sign that Burnett's attack isn't being swept under the rug. But Smith said there are always concerns about whether police and prosecutors understand how the state's hate crime law is supposed to work.

"While it's true that that's a prosecutor's decision, it's also important that the law enforcement investigators document everything that a prosecutor would need to know in order to elect to prosecute it as such," Smith said. "The police can investigate it as such, and then the district attorney can prosecute it as such. A grand jury is going to receive proposed indictments from the District Attorney's Office. The prosecutor would ask a grand jury for an indictment under those terms."

Equality Texas has long advocated for a legislative study on enforcement of the state's hate crimes act, rarely used by prosecutors in the 10 years since it passed.

"The reporting from jurisdictions in Texas is not



**SERIOUS BODILY INJURY** | Burnett suffered second-degree burns on his arms when he was thrown onto a lit burn barrel.

comparable to departments of similar sizes in other states, and that's a function of the state not adequately training and enforcing and using the hate crimes act," Smith said. "They don't aggressively

report because they think it would reflect badly on their community, where in actuality the converse is true. In communities that aggressively report, it actually makes those communities safer." ■

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# Parker expected to win re-election in Houston

With lesbian mayor at the top of the ballot, 4 LGBTs among candidates for seats on City Council

**DANIEL WILLIAMS** | Contributing Writer  
editor@dallasvoice.com

Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who's 2009 election made her the first out LGBT mayor of a major American city, faces five challengers in her bid for re-election on Nov. 8, and more than one of those challengers brings a decidedly anti-gay record to the race.

Most prominent among the anti-gay candidates is Dave Wilson, who is infamous for his decades-long efforts to roll back advancements for LGBT Houstonians.

In recent weeks, the Wilson campaign has launched robocalls attacking Parker, as Wilson claims, using her position to advance her "alternative lifestyle."

Also in the race are perennial socialist candidate Amanda Ulman, little-knowns Kevin Simms and Jack O'Conner, and Fernando Herrera.

Last year Herrera ran as the Republican candidate for Texas House District 148 against Democrat Rep. Jessica Farrar. During that race Herrera responded to a questionnaire from the right-wing think tank The Heritage Foundation with a statement that he opposed allowing same-sex couples to adopt or be foster parents.

A poll of 748 likely voters, published by television station KHOU-Houston on Oct. 17, shows Parker with a commanding lead, with 37 percent of the respondents saying they intended to vote for her. Most pundits expect the incumbent to win re-election handily.

Her five challengers split 11 percent.

But the big winner in the poll was "Do Not Know," the option that pulled in more than 50 percent, reflecting the disinterest most Houstonians appear have towards the race.

## Council elections

Houston has a 16-member city council, made up of 11 members representing districts assigned letters A-K, and five at-large positions. All 16 council members are up for election, as is the city controller, the position Parker held before being elected mayor.

Incumbent City Controller Ronald Green is unopposed.

The lack of a real contest in the mayoral race has driven voter participation down 20 percent from the last municipal elections in 2009, sending candidates scurrying for every available vote. With Parker at the top of the ticket, several LGBT candidates are among those vying for a seat at the



council table.

In at-large position 2, transgender candidate Jenifer Rene Poole and gay candidate Bolivar "Bo" Fraga are among the crowded field of 10 jockeying for position in the race.

Poole has the support of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, the Houston Stonewall Democrats and the Houston Young Stonewall Democrats, while Fraga has the endorsement by the term-limited position incumbent, lesbian political veteran Sue Lovell.

Other position 2 candidates are Eric Dick, Elizabeth Perez, David Robinson, Kristi Thibaut, Griff Griffin, Rozzy Shorter, Andrew Burks and Gordon Goss.

In District C, gay candidate Josh Verde is one in a field of five contenders, including former state Rep. Ellen Cohen, who has the backing of the GLBT Political Caucus and Stonewall.

Other District C candidates are Brian Cweren, Karen Derr and Joshua Verde.

Gay candidate Mike Laster enjoys the endorsement of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the GLBT Political Caucus and both Stonewall clubs in his District J race. Laster has handily outstripped his two rivals — Rodrigo Canedo and Criselda Romero — in both fundraising and endorsements, but the race remains highly contested. ■

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## coverstory

# 'Perform or provide'



**CATCH-ALL CHAPLAIN** | Chaplain Cris Antal (Lt.) attended the meeting of the Forum on Military Chaplaincy at Cathedral of Hope in October. (David Taffett/Dallas Voice)

DADT repeal gives progressive chaplains a chance to counter evangelical clergy in the military

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer

taffett@dallasvoice.com

When a soldier recently came to Chaplain Chris Antal, a lieutenant in the Army National Guard in New York and a Unitarian Universalist minister, and asked if he'd pray with her even though she was a pagan, he said he replied, "Of course I will, but you'll have to show me how."

Several weeks later, when he saw her again, she told him that the day she had come to visit him, she had hit rock bottom. He had, she told him, saved her life that day.

But Antal said he was only doing his job — helping any soldier who comes to him.

"I've earned the nickname, the Catch-all Chaplain," he said, explaining that it means he takes everyone the other chaplains don't want to deal with.

Being there to help a soldier in need is what it's all about for a military chaplain, said Col. Paul Dodd, a retired chaplain who now lives in Austin.

"The duty of a military chaplain is to perform or provide," said Dodd, adding that he once sponsored an Islamic conference.

Dodd said that no chaplain can perform every service needed by every member of the military. But if a chaplain can't perform the service re-

quested, he or she must provide that soldier with a referral to someone else who can.

Antal said that chaplains who enlisted knew what they were getting into — to some extent. But none of them really expected the repeal of the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy. And for many, that repeal was a game changer.

In October, a group of active and retired chaplains and military personnel and other people of faith, such as the Rev. Steve Sprinkle from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, met at the Interfaith Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope to begin looking at ways of addressing the issues that arose for military chaplains around DADT repeal.

Dave Guy Gainer said The Forum on Military Chaplaincy is not exactly new. It formed in 2005 as a project of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and worked under the radar until DADT was repealed.

Sprinkle said people in the Pentagon, up through Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, knew about their work and considered their statements throughout the DADT repeal process.

And now, with repeal complete, the group met to "come out." At their meeting in Dallas, forum members considered ways to become an independent organization helping to ensure newly out service members receive the pastoral care they need while serving in the military.

Susan Gore, principle of The Mentor Group and editor of the book *Coming Out In Faith*, moderated the Dallas conference. She said the group

■ **PERFORM**, Next Page

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■ **PERFORM**, From Previous Page

started with several retired military officers “who wanted to push back against the far-right skew.”

Sprinkle has been part of the forum for four years and said he was recruited to participate because of his work on hate crimes.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Sprinkle said, more and more members of the Chaplain Corps have come from just one school — Liberty University, founded by far-right evangelical Jerry Falwell. Today, Sprinkle estimated, one-third of military chaplains come from Liberty University.

“They instituted a program that barely meets minimum requirements,” he said of the evangelical school. “It’s an online course.”

And, Sprinkle said, Liberty University’s goal is to take control of the Chaplain Corps and use the military as a pool for religious recruits.

“This is fertile ground to bring people to Jesus at taxpayer expense,” said Tom Carpenter, a retired Marine captain and one of the forum’s founders. “I’ve heard stories of them holding the hand of someone who’s dying and trying to bring them to Jesus.”

And although such actions contradict military policy, no one in the corps has been disciplined or dismissed for it.

“They give chaplains a lot of leeway,” Carpenter said.

Gainer said the military is looking for well-rounded ministers who bring experience with them to the military.

According to the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School in Fort Jackson, S.C., candidates must be endorsed by their denomination or faith group and be “sensitive to religious pluralism and able to provide for the free exercise of religion by all military personnel, their family members and civilians who work for the Army.”

But Sprinkle said that Liberty University is transparent about its goals, and those goals do not line up.

“They’re not committed to pluralism or serving all the troops,” he said.

Gainer said that the greatest opposition to repealing DADT came from the Chaplain Corps because military chaplains answer to two groups — the military and their denomination. Those chaplains that didn’t adhere to a strict stance of maintaining the ban on gays and lesbians were threatened with losing their accreditation from their endorsing religious body — and with it their livelihood and their pensions.

But that contradicts the stated goals of the Chaplain Corps.

“Someone has to say, ‘Either you comply and serve all the troops all the time or get out,’” Sprinkle said.

Gore said that one of the goals of the newly public forum is to “rebalance the Chaplain Corps by bringing in more mainstream faiths.” She said that for many who come from more liberal traditions, questions of what’s a just war make it hard to serve in the military. Antal, for example, is one of just four Unitarian Universalists in the Chaplain Corps.

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## coverstory



Capt. Tom Carpenter (ret.) and Col. Paul Dodd (ret.)

## PERFORM

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During its push for repeal of DADT, members said, the forum had several successes working behind the scenes.

Despite the assumption of confidentiality between parishioner and clergy, that wasn't always the case between gay soldier and chaplain. Dodd said that a number of discharges under DADT occurred after a soldier talked to a chaplain and the chaplain turned them in.

In fact, he wrote a white paper on the practice. After he submitted it, the military tightened up on chaplain confidentiality, Dodd said.

Carpenter, an attorney, wrote an amicus brief for the Log Cabin Republicans' lawsuit against DADT. The court found in favor of declaring DADT unconstitutional, but Congress repealed the law before the decision could be enforced.

Carpenter said that the repeal allows gays and lesbians to serve with no protection. The legal decision, had it not been vacated upon repeal, would have allowed gays and lesbians to serve equally.

Now that DADT is gone, the forum is examining how to ensure LGB personnel receive the same services as other troops from chaplains.

Dodd said that right-wing chaplains charge that allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military will force them to act in ways that go against their beliefs. Some have said they would be required to perform same-sex weddings.

Dodd called that ridiculous. Chaplains are never asked to perform duties that go against their religious beliefs, he said.

"I turned down weddings," he said. "An officer came to me who wasn't divorced."

He said the officer tried to pull strings and force the issue, but Dodd wasn't going to discuss marrying someone who was still married to someone else.

"But we're insisting chaplains have the authority, if it's in keeping with their faith, to marry same-sex couples," he said.

Because of the Defense of Marriage Act, the repeal provides no family benefits. For some issues, Dodd and Carpenter suggested work-arounds.

Issuing ID cards would be extremely helpful, especially to same-sex couples with children, Carpenter said, noting that "That way either parent could get on base to get a child to the hospital."

In another example, joint assignments can be offered at the discretion of a commanding officer, and married couples are often assigned together when they both qualify for positions that are available at the same base. Same-sex couples could be given the same priority.

As the forum looks ahead, rebalancing the Chaplain Corps with members from a more diverse background to reflect the membership of the military is a priority.

"And we need to take care of our trans brothers and sisters," Carpenter said.

The repeal of DADT did not address any transgender issues and does not allow transgender men or women to serve in the military.

Gainer believes representatives of the forum need to sit down with far-right members of the Chaplain Corps and agree to disagree. He said that before the repeal of DADT, they talked to people at Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. While both groups testified against the repeal, they met with some success.

"The president of the VFW in Pflugerville said it was the right thing to do," Gainer said.

That dialogue, he believed, would help chaplains perform or at least provide a useful referral, rather than doing more damage to a soldier seeking help.

Gore thought that the focus of discussion should be with the majority of chaplains "who want to do a good job and are part of the moveable middle."

"We have to convince administrators and educators in divinity schools to encourage some of their best and brightest to serve," Sprinkle said. "So many schools dropped what they were doing during the Vietnam era."

Antal thinks that gays and lesbians will gain more acceptance as they tell their stories in non-confrontational settings and others see "their identity as professional service members is primary."

While the work of the forum will concentrate on helping LGB military personnel, creating a more diverse Chaplain Corps may help a majority of service members. Recent polls show that a majority of troops find the chaplaincy irrelevant.

Sprinkle called the work of the forum a gift from the LGBT community to the nation.

"You wouldn't think we'd be the ones opening the doors so that all troops will be served with dignity, integrity and respect," he said. ■

Proud's Advisory Council — and Logo filmed the **LaSALVIA**

From Page 6

rendezvous for an upcoming episode of *The A-List*.

The timing led some in the gay blogosphere to suggest that LaSalvia put Garrett up to falsifying his report about the rock, which allegedly shattered a window at his apartment in the Dallas Design District — perhaps to generate hype prior to the premiere of the show.

Again, though, LaSalvia said he wasn't surprised. After all, when he reported that he'd been the victim of a hate crime in Washington, D.C. in July — and used it as an opportunity to craft an op-ed in support of gun rights — he, too, was called a liar.

"I think that is absolutely appalling that someone would question that, and until you've been through what I've been through, shut the fuck up, because I know what happened to me," LaSalvia said. "It was very traumatic for me, and that is why I wrote about it, as a way to help me deal with what happened to me.

"And I would say the same for Taylor. He told people about it as a way for him to deal with what had happened to him. And it's just appalling to me that anyone would question that, and then to speculate that it was a coordinated effort — that I would tell Taylor, 'Oh yeah, fake a hate crime, you know, get lots of attention,' — that's just absurd. And I would just tell all of those people, until it

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LaSalvia and GOProud board chairman Chris Barron, who co-founded the organization together in 2009, will be in Dallas this weekend for the Grand Ol' Party — the annual fundraising dinner held by Metroplex Republicans of Dallas, formerly Log Cabin Republicans Dallas.

Also attending the dinner will be Garrett, according to Metroplex Republicans President Rob Schlein.

In a wide-ranging interview with Dallas Voice last week, LaSalvia criticized Log Cabin Republicans National — where he once served as director of programs and policy — for its recent decision to de-charter the Dallas Log Cabin chapter. The decision was based in part on Schlein's decision to invite LaSalvia and Barron to speak at the Grand Ol' Party. LaSalvia said he believes Log Cabin leaders mistakenly view GOProud as a threat, even though the groups have different missions and donor bases.

"While there are dozens and dozens of gay organizations on the left, the fact that one other right-of-center gay organization exists is not acceptable to Log Cabin," LaSalvia said. "They have a very specific mission, and they work within the gay establishment organizations in Washington to do their thing.

"We're working in the conservative coalition with tea party groups and conservative organizations advancing a conservative agenda, and that's very different from what they do in the Gay Inc.



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**LaSALVIA**

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viewpoints

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AIN is a small agency with a small budget — and they need all the volunteers they can get

With just over two weeks left before Thanksgiving, each of us has plenty of time to decide what we are going to give thanks for. And where. And how.

I decided I would give thanks for my health, happiness and longevity by making a modest monthly donation to AIDS Interfaith Network in honor of two very good friends who died in the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

One, Barnaby, used to coax me out to one of two or three New York LGBT bars whenever I started feeling sorry for myself for working long hours. After he got a law degree in his 30s, and I got a job here in Dallas, he took me out for pricey lunches and dinners on my trips back to New York. And he called me just to talk the week before he died.

The other, Steven, was my boss at one job, my associate at another, and a quiet joy to be around. When we made a corporate move from New York to Dallas, and I could not make up my mind on a condo, he let me sleep in his spare bedroom for most of a month. And when he got sick, we were close until he could no longer speak.

But why did I choose AIN rather than one of the other nonprofits dealing with HIV/AIDS? Three reasons:

First, AIN was one of four organizations that lost money in September 2009, when the city of Dallas cut \$325,000 from funding for HIV/AIDS outreach, prevention and education programs.

Shortly after, the city received a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, but that went to a new city program, none to AIN.

AIN lost an entire program aimed at preventing infection among young, high-risk males. As you know, infections among this group are still soaring.

Second, on a 9/11 Day of Service, I joined other Stonewall Democrats of Dallas in working at AIN. We did nothing daunting — some cooked; others served the food; still others washed dishes. I just picked up used plates, wiped tables and poured water.

But what an eye-opener! These clients are the poorest of the poor, many of them homeless.

AIN serves breakfast and lunch five days a week — a total of 26,000 meals a year. Without AIN, most would have no food, no transportation (bus passes), no water when it's hot, no bedding when it's cold.

Third, AIN is smaller and somewhat less well-known than other nonprofits serving the many individuals living with HIV/AIDS or in danger of becoming infected. When it was more fully funded by the city, state and federal governments, it had a staff of more than 30; now a baker's dozen of staff and variable numbers of volunteers try to pick up the slack. All volunteers get a choice of chores.



Phyllis Guest  
Taking Notes

Right now, a prime need is for an Internet guru — a person who knows the ins and outs of and enjoys emailing, posting on Facebook, Tweeting the latest news, etc. Some staffers are rather Internet savvy, but they lack the time and the fine-tuned skills to turn social media into a recruiting and fundraising tool.

Another need is for a community activist who can set up a monthly "Saturday Night Live @ Daire Center" for 2012. Each SNL evening involves providing an early dinner for 30 or so clients, plus light entertainment such as music or board games. Church, mosque and synagogue social action groups know how to do this, as do many political, professional and community clubs.

A third need is for a different kind of community activist, one who can represent AIN at city events, shows, fundraisers and the like. This is perfect for someone who has a varied wardrobe and a love of nightlife. Anytime there is a chance to mention good works, the AIN rep should be on hand to reach out and speak up.

A host of other volunteer jobs are available. Because I lack the above special talents and am neither a cook nor a carpenter, I will probably end up turning handwritten notes into computer files or sorting donated items into manageable piles. That will be my way of giving thanks for the two dear friends who died and the many who remain.

To outdo me — you know you can — call Travis Gasper at 214-943-4444 or email him at tgasper@aidinterfaithnetwork.org.

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

# The dangers of conversion therapy

Southern Poverty Law Center, Truth Wins Out join forces to shine a light into the darkness of those who try to change others' orientation

Imagine being told your lifetime of thoughts and feelings were unacceptable, and that what you think and feel in the future would need to be remolded to conform to what others consider acceptable.

That's the reality of conversion therapy, an

unscientific methodology rooted in conservative Christian philosophy that is designed to reorient homosexuality to heterosexuality.

Conversion therapy is condemned by all major medical, psychiatric, psychological and professional counseling groups. Yet fundamentalist religious leaders advocate its widespread practice to "cure" homosexuality. They recommend this treatment for both adults and for gay and lesbian teenagers, who are often forced into the therapy against their will.

Opposition to conversion therapy is strong in the LGBT community, and it gained even more momentum recently when the Southern

Poverty Law Center and Truth Wins Out joined forces to launch a coordinated campaign to counter proponents of the controversial therapy.

The prestigious civil rights group — SPLC — and the LGBT rights organization — TWO — scheduled a series of community meetings in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., for former patients of the therapy to share their stories. One of the campaign's goals is to seek help from community activists and elected leaders in monitoring and evaluating local conversion therapy programs.

■ DANGERS, Next Page

■ **DANGERS**, From Previous Page

For most people, the notion of conversion therapy achieving any measure of success would probably be laughable if it were not so destructive to those who are exposed to it. Critics of the therapy warn that individuals who undergo it often suffer anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts — in addition to retaining their sexual orientation.

The radical therapy is reminiscent of unscrupulous scientific experiments from previous decades that horrified the world when they came to light. In those events groups of scientists in the U.S. and other countries carried out hideous psychological and medical experiments using as their subjects prisoners, orphans, mental patients, minorities and other powerless people.

Through my work as a journalist I have met several individuals over the years that underwent conversion therapy. Without exception, all reported the therapy caused them more anguish than they felt before receiving it.

One person — who was raised by a domineering, Bible-obsessed mother — was sent from his East Coast home when he was in his

20s to a conversion therapy treatment program in, of all places, San Francisco, the gay capital of the U.S. It's not difficult to figure out what happened there.

The group of like-minded individuals in the program reportedly had the time of their life when the lights went out at night, and at one point they went over the wall to see the sights of Baghdad on the Bay.

Again, the lack of logic is humorous, but the therapy left the young man and his family, which had expected him to return home "cured," more troubled than ever.

In subsequent years he engaged in the abuse of alcohol and illegal substances, promiscuity and criminal activity.

His mother drifted into a state of denial and, even though her son contracted the HIV virus, she maintained that he did not engage in sex with other men.

The last I heard, the man was still allowing his mother to run his life, which she has dedicated to ensuring would not include the company of a male partner.

In another case, a man in his 30s sought help from a counselor whose facility was located on the campus of a large mainstream church. Plac-

ing his trust in the counselor — in part because he supposedly was a straight, married man — the patient participated in a bizarre treatment program that involved the patient removing his



**David Webb**  
The Rare Reporter

clothes during the sessions. The "treatment" eventually progressed to the counselor instructing the patient to perform oral sex upon him.

Eventually, the patient came to his senses, reported the counselor to law enforcement officials and filed a

lawsuit against him. The patient suffered severe psychological problems as a result of the contact with the counselor, but he recovered through the help of a traditional counselor who helped him accept his sexual orientation.

The last time I heard from the patient he was attempting to get on with his life as a gay man and had met someone with whom he was trying to bond.

The files of Truth Wins Out are full of stories of unscrupulous conversion therapists who masquerade as professional counselors, when in fact they are what the organization's founder, Wayne Besen, refers to as "quacks."

Besen has also cornered advocates of conversion therapy who claim to be "ex-gay" in gay bars and exposed others as frauds because they still engage in homosexual activity.

The influence of the powerful Southern Poverty Law Center — which is best known for its work in waging successful legal fights against violent white supremacist groups — will likely help Besen spread his message to an audience that he might

“ Without exception, all reported the therapy caused them more anguish than they felt before receiving it.

not have otherwise reached. The nonprofit group's Teaching Tolerance project has received high praise for its outreach.

As regards religious leaders who recommend conversion therapy, they are doing neither the individuals nor their families any favors. Coming to terms with one's sexual orientation — for both gay men and lesbians and their family members — is challenging enough without the interference of religious leaders who apparently are less concerned with the welfare of the individual than they are in demanding observance of antiquated religious laws.

For gays or lesbians attempting to deny their sexual orientation, it might be useful to learn a lesson from the legions of people who have already struggled with the same issue and finally came to realize that a person's basic nature cannot be transformed. ■

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

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# Aria there yet?

Patricia Racette, half of the lesbian power couple of opera, has certainly arrived. And that's music to our ears

GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS | Contributing Writer  
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com

From the outside, the opera world seems like a gay haven — costumes, wigs, oversized egos, passionately dying divas full of drama. The fans are legendary in their devotion — the term “opera queen” is one that is used for self-identification more than it is tossed as a jab.

On the inside, however, it is mostly a gloriously appointed closet. While those who work in the opera, both onstage and off, are mostly straight, a large contingent are lesbians and gay men. They may be out to one another, and even show up at the gala with their partners, but few are out beyond the curtains.

Not so for the stunningly beautiful opera star Patricia Racette. “I am out and proud,” say the soprano in a phone interview. “Everyone has their own timing and their own issues to face, but I have never regretted coming out.”

Racette, who will sing leading roles in both *Tosca* and *Madame Butterfly* at the Met in 2012, is married to Beth Clayton, a mezzo-soprano justifiably famous for her smoldering portrayal of *Carmen*. They met while singing a production of *La Traviata* in Santa Fe in 1997, Racette playing the ill-fated Violetta and Clayton portraying her loyal friend Flora. (I always wondered about those two characters.) The couple married in 2005.

“It is inconceivable that we would be hiding our relationship,” Racette says. “If I were to be lying to everyone about such a huge aspect of my life, it would affect my performance. I am a total package and I certainly can't leave part of me at home when I walk onstage.”

Any irony in a lesbian playing *Tosca*, the ultimate straight woman? Racette laughs at that thought. “We are past that nonsense in the theater and on television as more and more actors

come out. In *Tosca*, I am portraying the circumstances of being passionately in love and I have my own love for Beth to dig into for motivation.”

In this, she is absolutely correct — you don't need to be a whore to play *Carmen*. “There is a certain suspension of reality in opera,” Racette adds.

Racette admits to some apprehension at the start of her decision to come out, but it was short-lived. She looked at it in reverse: All her straight colleagues talked freely about their personal lives and the demands of spending so much time on the road, why not her?

“I thought, wait a minute. If I try to avoid these kinds of questions about my personal life, they will think that I am ashamed, like my love for Beth is some kind of dirty secret. For decades, the ‘It's nobody's business’ mantra kept opera singers in the closet. I can't judge what other people do, but when I hear that I think, ‘Too bad.’

They have no idea how liberating it is to just put all that baggage in the trash and live openly. If I want everyone else to think that my life is great, I have to show how great it is myself.”

Has this adversely affected her career? Hardly, as her Met engagements indicate. Clayton as well continues to get juicy roles. But she realizes that you can never know what you *didn't* get.

“I am always asked this question and I always give the same answer. I just don't know, and can never know unless someone tattles later. However, it really doesn't matter. The opera world is full of as many disappointments as triumphs.”

One big disappointment was the cancellation of Janacek's opera *Katya Kabanova* at the Dallas Opera this season. Racette was scheduled to sing the leading role in a glorious production in



QUEEN OF OPERA | Stunning soprano Patricia Racette was disappointed when the Dallas Opera canceled her production of ‘Katya Kabanova,’ but she still gets to perform at the Winspear this week with a cabaret performance featuring jazz and pop classics. (Photo courtesy Devon Cass)

which she has triumphed in the past. “That one really hit me in the gut. I was so excited to return to Dallas. I went to school at North Texas State University and have many friends still in the area. I was especially looking forward to singing in the new house opera house.”

She *will* get to sing in the Winspear on Nov. 9, but it will be a far cry from Janacek. Racette performs her one-night cabaret as a bonus show to TDO patrons. Unlike other classical artists that seem stiff in crossover work, Racette started out singing jazz and cabaret; she switched to opera at the suggestion of an astute teacher. Accordingly, her program is a tribute to songs made famous by some of her favorite singers, and like any good gay person, Judy Garland and Edith Piaf top that list.

“Don't expect any high notes,” she laughs. “I do in fact belt a few higher notes in the evening,

but the reality is that my technique is speech-based. That translates into whatever style of music I sing. Sometimes, my opera fans are surprised that I can sing this way and not hurt my ‘other’ voice. But my technique allows for both styles and I sing in exactly same way — just in wildly different ranges.”

I ask Racette about *Tosca's* great moment when she leaps off the castle wall to her death, cursing her tormentor on the way down. “*Katya* makes a leap as well, but into a river. Of course, *Tosca* is an opera diva, so her leap is much more spectacular. I always tell them to make it real and take some chances. However, I may feel like I am 17 when I am flying through the air, but I feel like I am every bit of 46 when I land.”

There is another unique “coming out” from Racette: She's an opera singer who admits her age. ■

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Tony Cragg, *Outspan*, (detail) 2008. Bronze, 74 7/8 x 78 3/4 x 48 7/8 in. (190 x 200 x 124 cm). Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg - Paris © 2011 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn. Photo: Charles Duprat

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## Blonde ambitious

The Sounds lead singer Maja Ivarsson (sort of) swears off women and focuses on music greatness

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

Let's get one thing out of the way: Maja (pronounced like Maya) Ivarsson has mentioned time and again that she will "never date another girl." This isn't breaking news, but the media is overly fascinated with The Sounds singer's bisexuality, though *she* never uses the term. Ivarsson is passionate about love but without mincing words, her one and only same-sex relationship was downright hard.

"There was a lot of bad stuff, just like in any relationship," Ivarsson says. "I think for a lot of lesbian couples, you end up turning into friends. And there were issues of cheating, but it was a great relationship. We didn't have sex. I don't blame her. It sucks."

Ivarsson wasn't interested in women before, but the chemistry was there and she admits to having some bi-curiosity. But now, she swears to never be with a woman again... though she'll never say never.

"I love boys, too," she snickers. "But who knows? I'm getting old! I'm 32 and I want to have a baby."

All this comes from one of the more dynamic singers on the scene, who wants The Sounds to be the biggest band in the world. Following up their fourth album release this year, the band is on its North American leg of the tour supporting *Something To Die For*; it comes to the Granada Theater on Thursday. Ivarsson

### THE SOUNDS

With Natalia Kills and The Limousines. **Granada Theater**, 3524 Greenville Ave. Nov. 10. Doors at 6 p.m. \$18. GranadaTheater.com.



**SOUNDS OFF** | Singer Maja Ivarsson doesn't mind Blondie comparisons, but the guys — not so much.

doesn't need to reconcile the conflict of fame and family. She's figuring it out as the band rolls along.

"We definitely deserve to be a bigger band but I'm also very proud and very humbled," she says. "We are quite happy with what we've accomplished, but our main goal is to get as big as possible."

It's been a slow ride, but promising. While well received, their 2002 debut album *Living in America* suffered an identity crisis. Radio stations didn't what to do with this post-punk

pop dance music conglomeration.

"I think since Day One, we were ahead of our time, mixing these electronic elements and rock," she says. "But the industry wondered what we were. Later, The Killers and MGMT broke out. We know for sure they were influenced by us and that's a compliment."

Appearances on the Warped Tour increased exposure, and celebrities like Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl hyped them up. Even Geico picked up one of their songs, "Hurt You," for a commercial. They are straddling the line right now between blowing up and indie cred.

But Ivarsson might be the one responsible for the success of the band. As the single blond female in front of a group of men, it's apparent where the focus is. Think Courtney Love and Hole, Gwen Stefani and No Doubt, and ultimately, Deborah Harry and Blondie. The last

being a popular comparison.

"The guys don't like that so much, but I don't mind," she laughs. "I think Debbie Harry is one of the cooler chicks out there. I was 13 when I discovered Blondie and I just thought this is the way it should be: looking fab and kicking ass. I never liked the strung out or slutty singers."

Otherwise, Ivarsson does her own thing. She won't read reviews unless someone shares a more glowing one with her. But don't confuse that for ego. It's all part of a plan.

"During our first record, there were some good things written about me, but also some mean things, and I'm a very emotional person," she says. "Some people only have bad shit to say and I just stopped reading reviews. The more I read about myself from other people, I think it censors me. I may think I shouldn't do whatever, but I wanna be as authentic as possible."

There's no doubt of that onstage. As the frontwoman, Ivarsson is legend and should go down as one of the greats. The Sounds pump up their live show into frenzy and almost strive to mesh the audience in with the band. For her, it's another day at work.

"I don't know what else I could do," she says. "I don't know any other way to do it. Being onstage is where I belong and I love getting the audience involved and on stage. We're here to have a fucking dance party!"

Which is the next option if worldwide domination isn't theirs yet. ■



### Dazzling affair for the holidays

In 2009, local actors and singers came together as DFW Actors Give Back to release *Holidazzle*, a CD of holiday music all for the benefit of Jonathan's Place, an organization that serves the needs of children suffering through abuse. As it turned out, the match was successful enough for performers to assemble again for *Holidazzle: Act II*.

The collective raised close to \$10,000 for the organization.

The CD will be available at several theaters through the holiday season for \$10. Performers in this second edition include local faves like Gary Floyd, Denise Lee and B.J. Cleveland.

DFW Actors Give Back will host a CD release party this Monday which also provides a preview of what's on the disc. Along with appetizers and drinks, featured artists will also perform songs from the CD. Oh, and they want you to dress in festive attire.

If that doesn't get you in the holiday mood, then bah, humbug to you.

— Rich Lopez

**Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.**  
DFWActorsGiveBack.org.

# Gay Troubadour

Gary Lynn Floyd has a new name, a new CD and a new reality TV show

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

Gary Floyd has made a big decision: It's time to use his middle name.

For years, if you Googled him, you'd be just as likely to get another gay Texas-based musician (he of the Butthole Surfers) as Dallas' premier crooner. While he has "nothing against butthole surfing," he says, it's time to stake out his own identity.

May we introduce Gary *Lynn* Floyd.

People might not mistake them anymore anyway. *This* Floyd could set himself apart by being one of the musicians profiled on the new reality series *Troubadour, Tx*.

"They follow about 24 singer-songwriters — what we're doing to make our way through the music business," he explains. That means hauling his keyboard up the backstairs of Woody's for a patio concert.

Piano? Gay bar? This ain't no Logo show. The

nationally syndicated series (available locally on KTXA Sundays at 10 p.m.) is about Texas musicians, most of whom are shit-kickin' straight guitar-strummers, not gay pianists with a background in Christian music.

"I wasn't really sure they knew what they were getting when they asked me," Floyd says. He was recruited by a friend from the music

business over the summer; he began filming in late August, and has shot for about four days so far.

Floyd has been impressed by the production values, especially considering the quick turnaround

— the series has already begun airing, even though production is still underway. Floyd is not sure when his profile will air — perhaps by the end of the month, perhaps early in 2012. But he's still filming. In fact, Floyd's last planned segment shoots this Sunday at the Interfaith Peace Chapel at the Cathedral of Hope. The event will also serve as the launch party for Floyd's latest CD.

"The [disc] is called *Then+Now* — it's sort of a

**GARY LYNN FLOYD**  
Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910  
Cedar Springs Road, Nov. 6,  
6:30–9 p.m.  
CathedralofHope.com

retrospective of my songs," he says. "It combines the best songwriting," and includes a duet with Denise Lee that he had never recorded. It promises to be a great showcase for his talents as well as his appeal to a variety of audiences. (A portion of proceeds will benefit the chapel.)

"I hope people show up!" Floyd says. No worries: If there's one thing Dallasites have shown themselves good at lately, it's appearing on reality TV. ■

**HAT TRICK** | Floyd's CD release party coincides with filming for his appearance on the new reality series 'Troubadour, TX.'



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—Elysa Gardner, USA Today



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L+S screen

# Mysterious 'Skin'

Almodovar's psycho-sexual sci-fi comes off without a Hitch(cock)

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

At his best, Pedro Almodovar is a master of outrageous antics like Fellini and the tense, driving, investigative thrills of Hitchcock, though seldom in the same movie; at his worst, he allows mawkish sentimentality to be his undoing.

He's finally hit the sweet spot with **The Skin I Live In**, a rangy, intoxicatingly compulsive mystery that blends spectacle with sci-fi with the cool suspense of David Cronenberg. Better yet, it explores big emotional themes that are as extreme as the crazed plot but frighteningly relateable.

The film, set one year in the future, reunites Almodovar with the Spanish actor he made a star, Antonio Banderas, for the first time in 21 years. Banderas, at 51, still has smoldering good looks and a dangerousness brooding under a controlled, respectable exterior.

He plays Robert Ledgard, a plastic surgeon who has pioneered an artificial skin that will revolutionize the treatment of burn victims — a passion, since his own wife was horribly disfigured a decade before. His methods skirt medical ethics, however, so his colleagues don't know Robert has been experimenting on Vera (Elena Anaya), a prisoner in his house who has been changed, slowly but inevitably, into The Perfect Woman.

Is Vera his Frankenstein's Monster? His reincarnated dead wife? A hapless victim? The plot unfolds (in true Almodovar fashion, non-linearly) with a cool, voyeuristic intensity (accented by the finest mood-enhancing pulsating score, by Alberto Iglesias, in any movie since *Atonement*). While it leaps around — to topics like



**DR. FEELGOOD** | A surgeon (Antonio Banderas) holds a woman (Elena Anaya) captive for inscrutable reasons in a great thriller from Pedro Almodovar.

home invasion, rape, parent-child relationships and homosexuality — eventually the structure reveals itself, with the creepiness of *Vertigo* meets *The Fly* meets *Chinatown*. Maybe if directed by Kubrick. Or Tom Ford.

If that sounds puzzling, *The Skin I Live In* is something of a Rubik's cube, disorienting but with the promise of figuring it out always just around the corner.

Banderas, who has wasted his time with his earthy accent doing voice-overs in recent years, roars back as a compelling leading man. Anaya's sexually daring performance is matched only by her pristine beauty. As a cat-and-mouse thriller, this is thoughtful and smart; the fact it's from Almodovar means it's far more interesting than any other movies out now that you're likely to see. If you're debating what to see this week, that's an easy call: Vote for Pedro. ■



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# Lynch, pinned

'Glee' star Jane Lynch, on a quick trip to Dallas to promote her new memoir, gets her Sue groove on

Jane Lynch has elevated the calm, withering quip to high art. Whether plying her craft in Christopher Guest mockumentaries like *Best in Show* or *A Mighty Wind*, or feature films like *Talladega Nights* and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, she's become one of the most iconic comic actresses working today.

She's also been one of the most visible gay celebrities, especially since her Emmy winning role on the hit series *Glee*, where she plays homophobic right wing high school coach Sue Sylvester. In September, her memoir *Happy Accidents* moved her influence to the written page.

Lynch, in town this week at a benefit for the Black Tie Dinner, she sat down to discuss Sue, her comic sensibility and her approach to activism. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Dallas Voice: You hosted the Emmys two months ago and you were a nominee. How did you juggle those competing pressures?** Jane Lynch: I really didn't have time to think about how I was a nominee. I was focused on the moment and I was very aware that I was only the third woman [after Angela Lansbury and Ellen DeGeneres] to host the Emmys solo, and only the second lesbian.

**You're in town promoting your new book *Happy Accidents*. Do you feel it's too early to write an autobiography?** Well, it's a memoir, *not* an autobiography where you write about a whole life — I'm certainly not there. A memoir is instead a book about yourself built around a theme. I kept saying to my wife, I could write 15 different books. But this is the one about suffering over my suffering.

**Did you write it yourself or have help?** My wife and I wrote it together — she's definitely the co-author. [I didn't want to use a ghost writer because] it had to sound like me. I'm not like Susan Lucci — I have a voice people know.

**How did you end up working with Dallas' Black Tie folks?** I was in Dallas before speaking at an HRC event, and I'll tell you: You guys are organized, enthusiastic and *rich*. I have been getting people from here emailing me about coming back [ever since].

**You very casually refer to your wife in conversation, which I think can really change the dialogue among people opposed to same-sex marriage.**

We're very aware of that. We aren't activists in the [overt] political way, but we let the fact we're living our life be the example. In red carpet, people ask me about my *wife* now. They don't play games referring to wife as "life partner" or "girlfriend."

**Your big break was in the Christopher Guest film *Best in Show*. Did working with Guest give you your comic sensibility or did having that sensibility get you the job?** Hmm, I'm not sure. Chris Guest says he can tell within five minutes of meeting an actor [at an audition] whether they can do his stuff, and stuff like that has been cracking me up my entire life, the whole "less is more" style of comedy.

**Sue Sylvester is your breakout role. How do you approach her? She seems very unlike you.** It's all about understanding her psychology. She lives to shock. But Sue's a warrior. It's why she wears that track suit: It's her uniform. She has a lieutenant in Becky; the Cheerios are her soldiers. I think of *Patton* when I do her. In the Madonna episode, we took a speech right out of *Patton*. Everything is a fight with her and she'll create one out of whole cloth if she needs to.

I'm reading the Steve Jobs biography, and it occurs to me: He was Sue Sylvester. He lies to himself with all those false deadlines and unreasonable expectations. Everything was a fight. If he didn't get what he wanted, he cried. Sue would never cry, but she's suffering in her own way. Every so often she does something tender.



**I think my biggest disappointment in Mr. Shuster is he keeps taking it easy on Sue and she turns on him.** Yes, for some reason, people keep forgiving her. That's gotta end some time.

**Do know what's up for her this season?** Everything's very late this season. Every once in a while, [creator] Ryan [Murphy] will pop in every so often and say "We're writing some very baroque monologues for you." We'll see.

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L+S stage

# A-ti-cus! A-ti-cus!

DTC 'Mockingbird' scores with acting, Lee's words, but direction wavers

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Life+Style Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)

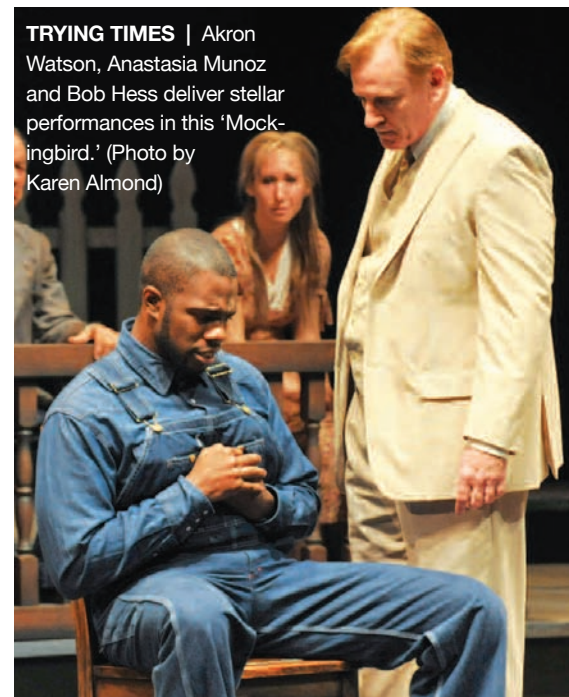
If you're like any normal person, you kinda wanna hate Harper Lee. She wrote, with efficient, clear, evocative prose, perhaps the perfect Southern novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in 1960, and save the occasional letter to the editor, nothing since. More remarkable still, that slender volume's structure, characters, plot and emotional arcs resonate as vividly today as they ever did. Yes, armed with the ammunition of her words, you've got a kill-shot in the making, almost no matter what.

Almost. There's much to like about Dallas Theater Center's current production of this stage adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. (It's a co-production with Casa Manana; its version closed last month, and while this one has almost the same cast and crew, it's strikingly different.) Acts 2 is the money, with an unparalleled courtroom scene and a profound coda about the mysterious Boo Radley.

Several of the performances are indelible as well. Anastasia Munoz, as a clucking society lady but mostly as the white girl who accuses a hapless black man of rape, quakes with such nervous ferocity, you fear she'll shake loose a light fixture. Akron Watson as the victim of her prejudice and James Dybas as her racist father are equally good, and solid work comes from Bob Hess, Denise Lee and Morgan Richards as the precious tomboy Scout. But the production is all but stolen by Aiden Langford as the moppet Dill, a charming kid who could spread diabetes with his sweetness.

That's the good news. But the director, Wendy Dann, makes puzzling choices and misses many opportunities to give the production more weight. The set, with its multitude of unnecessary layers, is overly complex, and the staging

**TRYING TIMES** | Akron Watson, Anastasia Munoz and Bob Hess deliver stellar performances in this 'Mockingbird.' (Photo by Karen Almond)



can be confusing. The voice-over narration is abrupt and awkwardly handled, as is Dann's easy resort to mood lighting and ominous music whenever anyone talks about Boo Radley. (This is theater, not film — don't resort to melodramatic clichés. I kept expecting Tori Spelling to come out and begin a scene from a Lifetime movie.)

I begrudge no actor the burden of succeeding Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch, the greatest single dad ever, so it's fair to cut Jeremy Webb some slack in taking it on. But Webb is at least a decade too young for the part, and makes up for it by slouching and aw-shucksing his shoulders to affect a home-spun likeability. It almost works, but the heavy touch upstages much else.

For devotees of the novel (or the movie), the familiarity of the story is still a delight; for others, this *Mockingbird* simply doesn't fly. ■

### TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

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[DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org)

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# Ciudadaddio

Abraham Salum introduces contemporary Mexican cuisine to Dallas with Komali

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

Most Texans know, or think they know, what Mexican food is like. Most have it wrong.

Tex-Mex certainly owes a lot to the "Mex" side of the equation, but it's no accident the "Tex" comes first: It's an American interpretation of another cuisine. A good analogy might be the synergy between Cajun and Creole cooking in Louisiana: They may share some basic ingredients, but one tends toward a spicy country-style profile; the other works in a smoother, sophisticated idiom.

And that's what Komali is to Tex-Mex.

Chef-owner Abraham Salum opened Komali earlier this year next door to his eponymous sister eatery, returning to his roots South of the Border for inspiration. We haven't really seen its like since Monica Greene shuttered her Oak Lawn resto Ciudad four years ago. Greene and chef Joanne Bondy only grudgingly added chips and salsa to the menu after customers grouched that they expected the familiar munchies while sipping tequila and reading over the entrees (that's a Tex-Mex thing). So far, Komali has resisted the allure to Texify its menu, sticking fairly authentically to recipes from regional Mexico.

Of course, that takes some getting used to. The quesadillas (\$8.50) here are fried crisp and puffy, in a variety of colored tor-

tillas. For those expecting pizza-like wedges, they come as a shock, and they are greasier than their American cousins, but that is cut by the heat of the raw tomatillo salsa and the creaminess of the excellent, chunky guacamole.

Mole is the sauce of choice on many of the items, itself a refreshing option rarely seen in Tex-Mex joints. A deeply spiced, faintly chocolatey topper, it can range from pasty to watery. The version here splits the difference: Slightly soupy with chucks of spiciness that burst out. It accompanies both the Qaxaca-style tamale (\$8.50) and the Robusto cigar-sized enchilada that accompanies that tampiquena filet (\$20).

Scoop up a little to dip the filet in, one of the highlights of the menu. Again, expectations are subverted: Rather than a thick, puck-like disc of beef, the filet at Komali snakes across the plate like a flank steak, though nearly free of fat. Minimally dressed with cracked black pepper, it's as tender as a Shakespearean sonnet. Ask for a ramekin of spicy brown abrol salsa (or just piggyback on the mole) to bring out even more flavor.

Komali does sea as well as land; when you remove the banana leaf from the salmon filet (\$18), your eyes are visited with a shiny, poached square of brilliant fish that practically falls apart if you look at it too long; your nose may detect the citrusy hint of oranges. You couldn't cook a more perfect piece of fish.

(For unbridled spiciness, best to look to the bar, where mixologist Leann Berry has crafted an array of addictive cocktails, like the namesake, bright as an hibiscus flower, and a habanero margarita that has more kick than a rodeo mule.)

Chef Salum acts as his own pastry chef, serving up chocoflan, churros (served with a demitasse of hot chocolate) and crepas con cajeta, milk-infused crepes that pull sweetness from plantains.

As with Salum next door, the atmosphere is elegant yet approachable: Painted concrete floor, fresh flowers and neutral beiges are warm without distracting from the food. Good call. ■



MODERN MEX | Komali chef-owner Abraham Salum takes a sophisticated approach to Mexican cooking. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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Friday 11.04



**Coma tones**

Our favorite San Antonio lesbi-centric rock trio is back. Girl in a Coma are on the road supporting their fourth album, *Exits and All the Rest*. Fusing rock, punk and Tejano, GIAC has stayed true to its brand while still showing growth each time out. As always, watch out for singer Nina Diaz's vocal onslaught. It's glorious.

**DEETS:** Prophet Bar, 2548 Elm St. 8 p.m. \$15. ProphetBar.com.

Friday 11.04

**And the beat goes on**

We all know Tony Moran is one heck of a DJ, but he proves it in heaps as he headlines the music for the Troy Sands Remembrance Dance Party, in honor of the late DJ who made quite the impact on both the local and national dance music scenes. Donations are suggested to benefit Sands' favorite charity, the Parkland Foundation.

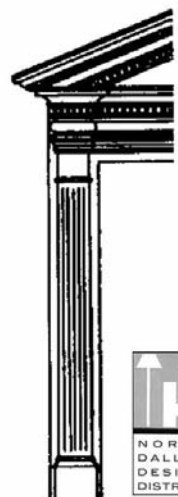
**DEETS:** Dallas Eagle. 5740 Maple Ave. 10 p.m. \$10. DallasEagle.com

Thursday 11.10

**Deck the halls with some 'Tuna'**

The people of Tuna, Texas suffer through yard-decorating contests and a theater production gone awry in *A Tuna Christmas*. Is it bad to laugh through it all to forget our own holiday trauma?

**DEETS:** Casa Manana, 3101 West Lancaster Ave. Fort Worth. Through Nov. 20. \$50-\$70. CasaManana.org.



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**MONDAYS AT 11PM**

**FRIDAY 11.04****COMMUNITY**

**Friends of the Dallas Public Library** fundraising dinner will feature *Incredible Hulk* comic book writer Greg Pak. Ritz-Carlton, 2121 McKinney Ave. 6:30 p.m. \$150. FODPL.org.

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

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

**THEATER**

**A Catered Affair.** Theatre Three presents the John Bucchino and Harvey Fierstein play. Theatre Three, 2800 Routh Street. Through Nov. 12. \$25-\$35. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**SATURDAY 11.05****COMMUNITY**

**KhushDallas** social group for LGBT South Asians meets. Email khushtexas@gmail.com or call 469-454-8741 for location information. KhushTexas.org

**DFW Bi Net Bisexual, Bi-Curious and Allies Support Group** meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 11 a.m. SupportGroup@dfwbi.net.

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

**SUNDAY 11.06****COMMUNITY**

**HRC Family Project Picnic.** Families are responsible for admission and their own lunch. Families will convene at the back lawn of the DeGoyler House. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. 11 a.m.

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

**Whosoever Dallas** Sunday services. 807 Fletcher St. 10:45 a.m. WhosoeverDallas.org.

**MONDAY 11.07****COMMUNITY**

**Sharing the Journey: Coping with Grief** is the last of a six-session support group. Saturn Road Church of Christ, 3030 Saturn Road, Garland. 1 p.m. 214-689-2922.

**Mindful Monday Meditation** hosted by Fit for Faith. In IPC Classroom A. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

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

**BROADCAST**

**The A-List: Dallas** spotlights a group of locals in the queer community. Airs on Logo at 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY 11.08****COMMUNITY**

**Late Bloomers**, social support group for women



**'A' PLUS** | See how gay Republican Taylor Garrett fares in this Monday's episode of 'A-List Dallas.'

who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

**Lambda Pride Toastmasters.** Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.FreeToastHost.us.

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

**WEDNESDAY 11.09****COMMUNITY**

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

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

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

**THURSDAY 11.10****COMMUNITY**

**Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association.** 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 information.

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Heather Matarazzo** turns 29 on Thursday. The actress made her name early as Dawn Weiner in the 1995 indie *Welcome to the Dollhouse*. She went on to star in *The Princess Diaries*, *Scream 3* and, most recently, *Mangus!* which was shot in Dallas by Texas filmmaker Ash Christian. She recently contributed to *The Huffington Post* a piece on growing up gay and religious.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Self-consciousness provokes you to overdo things, hurting yourself or complicating your work. Think less about yourself, more about your partner: committed, for the moment or hypothetically.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Mixed messages and rumors hurt your reputation. Defensiveness makes it worse. Look at the problem as one to heal with good humor, even at your expense. Clear it up.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

You're over-competitive at work. Pay attention to nagging inner voices. They can help correct your perspective even if you don't like what they say. Charity work will also do you much good.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Don't take personal criticisms too seriously. You don't need to prove your intellectual prowess, but you may need to admit to your limitations so you can expand your wisdom.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Give yourself room to be a drama queen to let frustrations out. Friends will be a lot more supportive than you expect. Being too nice can work against you; focus on being just nice enough.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

An ego trip has a hard landing. Your ruler Mars opposing Neptune makes it hard to know whether you're offering too much or too little. Someone who knows your heart best can tell you how big it really is.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Your erotic charms are irresistible. How you use them tells a lot about your values. You're better off keeping your reputation clean. Honesty and strategy are crucial to winning at work.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

You can charm your partner into almost anything, but use this openness to work on issues in your relationship. The high-minded approach is harder but yields better results.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

This week's full moon brings out your wild. Shocking friends, making new ones and starting some titillating gossip. Enemies at work try to use that against you. Turn it to your advantage.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Arguments with your partner are based on misunderstanding and overreactions. More empathy would help. Worries about money are exaggerated. The outlook will improve very soon.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Channel your worries into exercise. Swimming and martial arts are best. A wave of domestic bliss offers serious improvements. Sexual competition is fun; taking it seriously can get dangerous.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Sometimes your charm comes too easily. Overdoing it can alienate some people. What does your partner think about your flirtations? Accept criticism graciously and think seriously about it.

**THIS WEEK**

Mars opposes Neptune just before going into Virgo. Showing off an excessive aggression or internalized anger will exact a price that you'll have to pay very soon. Meditation and swimming help, but contact sports are dangerous. You may go overboard with creative hobbies, but those excesses can draw out inner truths.

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

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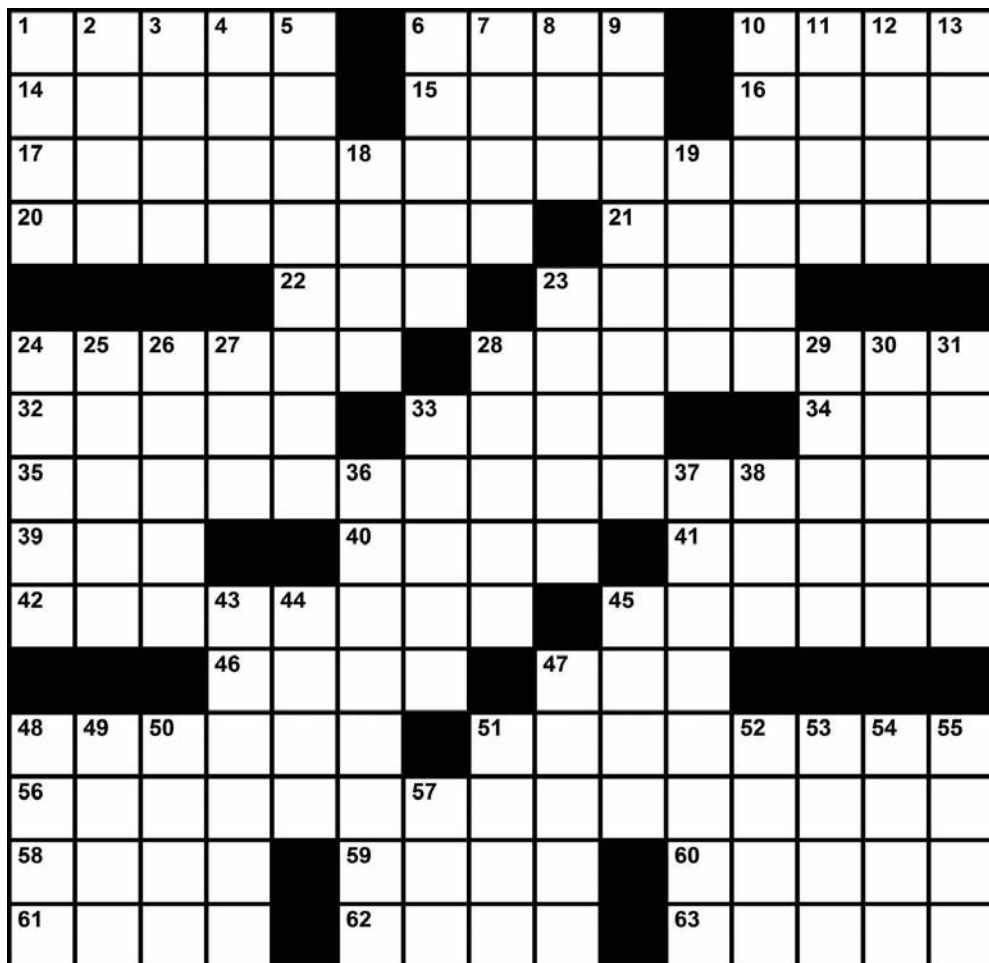
**bitter girl**



email: joan@joanhilty.net

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JOAN HILTY © 2011



# Remembering Paula Ettlebrick

Solution on page 29

**Across**

- 1 Lake, of Hairspray
- 6 "Beat it!"
- 10 What fruits do in orchards
- 14 Hawke of Hamlet
- 15 Jelly not for bread
- 16 Tomato variety
- 17 Start of a quote from Paula Ettlebrick
- 20 They perform without payment
- 21 Spain and Portugal
- 22 Barely beat
- 23 Cannon of Hollywood
- 24 Excites a bit
- 28 Rent
- 32 Leave the sack
- 33 What Shakespeare might be in, with "the"
- 34 DARTH, as a boy
- 35 More of the quote
- 39 Sweetie pie
- 40 Russian gymnast Korbut
- 41 Tried to go down on?
- 42 One who doesn't come immediately
- 45 \_\_\_ Rico
- 46 "Hi" to Lorca

47 Gone to Fla., maybe

- 48 Escargot
- 51 Piece of my heart and more?
- 56 End of the quote
- 58 Aspirin unit
- 59 "Uh-oh!" to Lord Byron
- 60 Priest role in Superstar
- 61 They don't hang out in gay bars
- 62 Word after Bush
- 63 Rock-bottom

**Down**

- 1 "Queen of Country" McEntire
- 2 Bit from Ted Casablanca
- 3 "Pet" plant
- 4 Philosopher Immanuel
- 5 Suckers, perhaps
- 6 Sucking sound
- 7 Sticks around a bar?
- 8 Follower of Jim Buchanan
- 9 Dish from the land of the Samurai
- 10 Gay novelist Harlan
- 11 Pride expression
- 12 Potent head?
- 13 "Papa \_\_\_ Rolling Stone"
- 18 One-liner, e.g.
- 19 New corp. hires
- 23 Word for skin
- 24 Hiking trails
- 25 Flamboyant Flynn
- 26 Elton John's instrument
- 27 IRS info
- 28 Inevitable online claim
- 29 Shoot-'em-up
- 30 Remove a condom?
- 31 Link with
- 33 Kevin Isom's It Only Hurts When I \_\_\_
- 36 Jester's headwear
- 37 Like seamen
- 38 Long distance letters
- 43 Pirouettes like a ballet dancer
- 44 \_\_\_ sci
- 45 "But," in Barcelona
- 47 Ballet follower
- 48 Bay Area bulls (abbr.)
- 49 Drag queen's leg need
- 50 With skill
- 51 Many miles away
- 52 Movie theater
- 53 Glinda portrayer in The Wiz
- 54 HHH, to Sappho
- 55 Pt. of DOS
- 57 Bullring shout



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# LIFE STYLE

## scene



"Ladies" at Alexandre's.



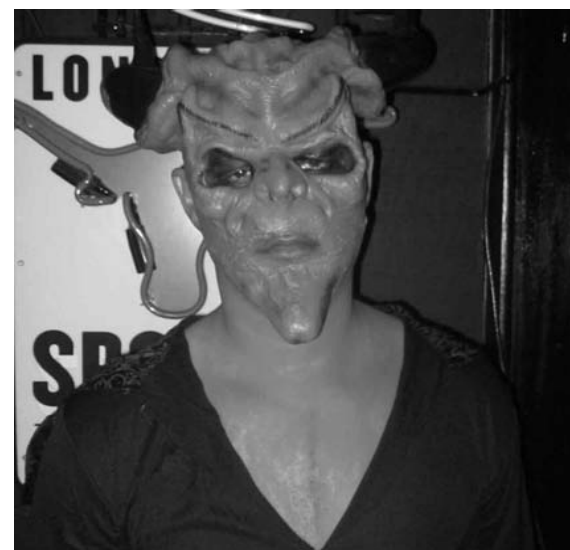
Revelers at the Cedar Springs Halloween street party.

What's up this week? Read on and find out .... Start out with **Krimsin Door** rocking out your favorites Friday night at **Sue Ellen's**. **Wendy Colonna** brings her Americana tunes to the stage on Saturday and disco rockers **Three Drunk Monkeys** finish out the weekend on Sunday .... Get some post-Halloween frights at **Blood Bath 3 Film Festival** at the **Texas Theatre**. The two-day event is hosted by the very queer friendly **DOA Blood Bath Entertainment** .... **DJ Tony Moran** comes to town performing for the **DJ Troy Sands Remembrance Dance Party** Friday at the **Dallas Eagle**. The night honors the local DJ and his contribution to the club scene. Don't forget the always fun **Dance Your Ass Off Party** on Saturday .... Get a double dose of **Karaoke with Eric Way** on Tuesdays and local singer **Jurni Rayne** on Wednesdays .... **Kiana Lee** hosts the **All-Star Drag Shows** every weekend at **Club 1851** Friday through Sunday .... We are always curious about the **Trash Can Drag Contest** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at **Best Friends Club** .... Hit up the **Granada Theater** Thursday for **The Sounds**, **Natalia Kills** and **The Limousines** show .... **DJ Mickey** spins every week on **Trashy Tuesdays** at **BJs NXS**. If you got the moves and the body, hit up **Amateur Strip Night** on Wednesday. Heck, it might even help you pay the rent. Then move on to Sunday for the **Wet Jockey Contest** .... Get your caliente on Monday at **Latino Night** at **Klub Wet** .... That's what's up. ■

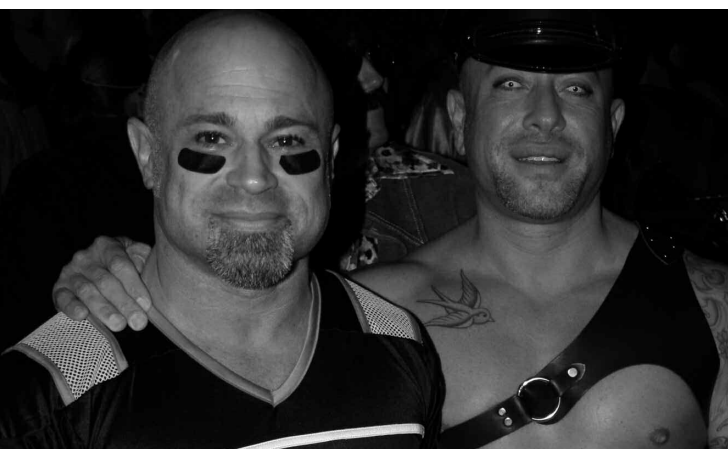
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Ruben and Roberto at Pekers.



Lawson at 1851 Club.



Revelers at the Cedar Springs Halloween street party.



"Cowboys" with "Moll" at the Cedar Springs Halloween street party.



Fairy with dog at Cedar Springs Halloween street party.

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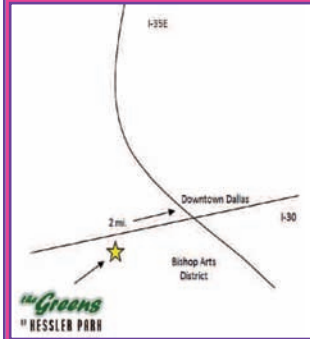
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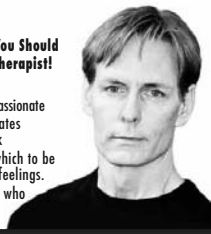
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