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Established 1984 | Volume 28 | Issue 26

FREE | Friday, November 11, 2011

A FORMAL affair

Joe Solmonese, Eric Alva, Jessie Tyler Ferguson, Marlee Matlin, Caroline Rhea, Taylor Dayne, Chet Flake and the late Bud Knight are among those who will speak, be honored or perform at the Black Tie Dinner on Saturday. See stories beginning on Page 16.



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Black Tie Dinner speakers, award recipients and entertainers Joe Solmonese, Eric Alva, Marlee Matlin, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Chet Flake and Bud Knight, Caroline Rhea and Taylor Dayne. Cover design by Kevin Thomas.

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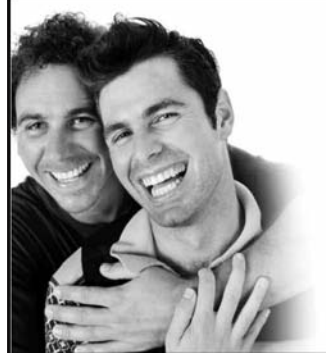
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instantTEA

Rapper in touch with femme side

Hip-Hop Wired pointed us to a CW 33 tidbit from last week about one local rapper who's pushing, what he calls, the XY Movement in which straight guys can wear clothes made for women. Daryll Duane Phillips II, or DPhil Spanglishman, is opting for lipstick as part of his daily image and says it's all about expression. Giselle Phelps reported the story.

In the piece, Phillips said, "A lot of people feel like a lot of colors or tight clothes is homosexual. I feel like it's more of an expression of me."

For his girlfriend, it's kind of a win-win. She comments on the benefit of sharing lipstick as well as enduring gay comments from friends and family.

This isn't all that new. And actually, Phelps has done a piece on this before back in September which also pointed to another local rapper feeling his femme side.

Trend or not, I have to say "bravo" to the guys for taking a risk within their music, which is historically homophobic, and blurring the gender lines. If it's nothing more than for grabbing attention, well, the 19-year-old has succeeded. He's all over the interwebs, just like a Kardashian.

— Rich Lopez

DTC adds summer musical

For the last three seasons, the Dallas Theater Center has extended its season into the summer with a family-friendly musical: *Sarah Plain and Tall*, *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman* and *The Wiz*.



Local rapper DPhil Spanglishman

But not one was on the calendar when the season was released last spring.

Well, Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty has fixed that. This week, he announced the addition of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, directed and choreographed by Joel Ferrell, to the

season. (We've written about how valuable Ferrell is to the Dallas arts scene and DTC; he's done *Joseph* before, in Plano, to great acclaim.) Not only is it a bonus show, but it will be there for an eight-week run — pretty long for regional theater..

— Arnold Jones

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea

Savage to appear at UNT in Feb.

The North Texas Daily posted this week that the University of North Texas will bring in Dan Savage as the keynote speaker for the 12th Annual Equity and Diversity Conference. The one-day conference is set for Feb. 7 at the campus and will also feature Grammy-winner John Legend. Along with his morning appearance, there will also be a book signing with Savage later that day.

Savage appeared in Dallas this March at The Kessler but mixed heavier topics of coming out and bullying and his It Gets Better project with relationship advice made famous from his syndicated column and show *Savage Love*.

— Rich Lopez

Gay man guilty of murder

A gay former Navy pastry chef was sentenced to life in prison Friday, Nov. 4, for the 2009 murder of his roommate's girlfriend. A Dallas County jury found Daniel Willyam, 28, guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Samantha "Shelley" Nance, 20.

Nance, a student at the Dallas Art Institute, was found stabbed 42 times at her Lake Highlands apartment. Willyam, who also attended the Art Institute, was the roommate of Nance's boyfriend, Nathan Shuck. Prosecutors say Willyam murdered Nance out of jealousy because he had become increasingly obsessed with Shuck.

— John Wright



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Fatal hit-and-run raises safety concerns

Pedestrian struck, killed near unlighted crosswalk on Cedar Springs strip

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer
wright@dallasvoice.com

A fatal hit-and-run accident on the Cedar Springs strip last week has led to renewed debate about what can be done to make the street safer for pedestrians.

Wayne Priest, 55, passed away Friday, Nov. 4, at Parkland hospital from injuries he sustained the night before when he was struck near an unlighted crosswalk at 3850 Cedar Springs Road, at the intersection of Reagan Street eastbound.

Priest, who lived in the 2800 block of Reagan Street, reportedly was on his way to pick up a prescription at Walgreens shortly after 9 p.m. He was crossing Cedar Springs a few feet outside the painted crosswalk, according to witnesses, when he was struck by a maroon four-door vehicle traveling southbound toward Oak Lawn Avenue. The driver of the vehicle didn't stop and hasn't been located by police.

"I think any time we have a tragedy like this, we have to investigate whether there are things the city can do to make the area safer for pedestrians," Dallas City Councilwoman Angela Hunt said this week. "What I've asked the city to do is look into exactly what happened and to make recommendations about how we can move forward in making the area safer. I think the challenge we've had in the past is the city has been focused on moving cars, not people, and we're trying to refocus that."

Scott Whittall, president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, said in the wake of the incident, pedestrian safety was the main topic of discussion at the group's monthly board meeting this week. The Merchants Association plans to invite both Hunt and Councilwoman Pauline Medrano to its next meeting to take a firsthand look at crosswalks on the strip.

Whittall said the Merchants Association feels the city needs to either remove the crosswalk near which Priest was hit or add more signage. The crosswalk is marked with a sign on the side of the street in one direction but not the other. Whittall said the Merchants Association would

■ FATAL, Page 14



3 face hate crime charges in Reno beating

Hate crime enhancements could lead to life sentences

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer
wright@dallasvoice.com

PARIS, Lamar County — Three suspects will face hate crime charges in the brutal beating of a gay man who was stabbed repeatedly with a broken beer bottle and thrown onto a fire.

The victim, 26-year-old Burke Burnett, said he was notified by the Lamar County District Attorney's Office on Thursday, Nov. 10 that his attackers will face hate crime enhancements in the case. The Paris News reported on its website Thursday that a Lamar County grand jury indicted the suspects on three counts each of aggravated assault with hate crime enhancements. Two of the three suspects will also face enhancements as repeat offenders.

Aggravated assault is a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison, but the hate crime enhancements would bump up the charges, making them first-degree felonies punishable by up to life in prison.

Lamar County District Attorney Gary Young couldn't immediately be reached for comment Thursday afternoon.

"I'm super-happy about today's news," Burnett told Dallas Voice. "That makes me feel really



RECOVERING | Burke Burnett was left with facial lacerations and a black eye, among other injuries after being assaulted at a party. He said this week that his injuries are healing.

good. It was a quick indictment. I'm just pleased with how Gary Young, the DA, is handling it."

Burnett suffered second-degree burns and needed more than 30 stitches following the attack at a private party in Reno, a small town just east of Paris, in the early morning hours of Oct. 30.

He said his three attackers yelled anti-gay slurs as they sucker-punched him, stabbed him in the back and arm with a broken beer bottle, and

■ CRIME, Page 13

Trial set in gay man's 2008 murder

After three years of delays, Seth Winder will be tried next week for Richard Hernandez's murder

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer
wright@dallasvoice.com

DENTON — More than three years after gay Dallas resident Richard Hernandez disappeared, his accused killer is set to stand trial next week.

Authorities believe the 38-year-old Hernandez was murdered and dismembered inside his Far North Dallas apartment in early September 2008, but they never found his remains.

Seth Lawton Winder, 32, is charged with first-degree murder and faces up to life in prison.

Winder's trial has been delayed numerous times, but Jamie Beck, first assistant district attorney for Denton County, said this week she's confident it will go forward next week, with jury selection set for Monday, Nov. 14.

"Everybody wants a swifter and quicker justice, but you've got to do it right," Beck said, referring to the delays. "Bottom line, we want justice, so if that means it takes a while, then so be it."

Rudy Araiza, who was a close friend of Hernandez's and is also gay, said he's looking forward to Winder's trial.

■ TRIAL, Page 14



Richard Hernandez



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DCCCD: No protections for gender identity

Community college district officials say trans people are already covered under sexual orientation; RCD encourages supporters to contact board members

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center Dallas is calling on LGBT equality advocates and allies to contact Dallas County Community College District officials and ask them to schedule a vote during the DCCCD board's Dec. 6 meeting on adding protections based on gender identity to the district's nondiscrimination policies.

RCD Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said the center decided to issue the call this week after district board members said they would not vote to add gender identity to the policy. DCCD's legal counsel, Robert J. Young, notified McDonnell of the decision in a letter on Monday, Nov. 7.

McDonnell had been in contact with DCCCD board and staff since spring, encouraging them to add gender identity and expression to the community college district's nondiscrimination policy. Sexual orientation is already included.

In his letter, Young wrote that the board does not believe it is necessary to change the district's nondiscrimination policy because "gender identity" is included under "sexual orientation," and because the city of Dallas ordinances include transgender protections.

"Since our current non-discrimination policy states that it protects any other category protected by law, it is clear that 'gender identity' is already covered by virtue of the city of Dallas ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation (defined by the city to include gender identity)," he wrote.

DCCCD's headquarters building is on South Lamar Street, in The Cedars section of Dallas. Two campuses — El Centro College and Mountain View College — and three branch campuses are also in the city.

But five of the seven DCCCD colleges and three branch campuses are in suburban cities not covered by any city of Dallas ordinance. Richland College, the school with the largest enrollment, is in Richardson.

According to DCCCD District Director of Media Relations Ann Hatch, if someone were to file a complaint, that complaint would be filed with the district in the city of Dallas. She said that the district complies with city of Dallas ordinances.

The city ordinance, however, specifically excludes any governmental body — which would include DCCCD — from the nondiscrimination policy.

Gender identity is included in the city definition of sexual orientation. When the ordinance was passed, then-Mayor Laura Miller had the definition expanded to include gender identity rather



Rafael McDonnell

than delaying the vote with a discussion of transgender issues.

In 2002, when the ordinance passed, it was more common to include gender identity and expression in the definition of sexual orientation. Today, these categories are usually listed separately in policies seeking to prohibit

all forms of discrimination.

In an email, Hatch said that Young realized his reference to the city ordinance was incorrect.

"However, the DCCCD Board of Trustees does not believe that it is necessary to change the district's nondiscrimination policy, which does include sexual orientation," Hatch wrote. "If someone at any of our colleges and locations should choose to file a complaint concerning gender identity, that person could reference sexual orientation, which is among the categories listed in our nondiscrimination policy."

McDonnell provided the DCCCD board with written policies of other governmental bodies including the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, DFW International Airport and Dallas County. All include gender identity. Dallas County also includes gender expression.

Only the city of Dallas policy places gender identity into its definition of sexual orientation.

"Sexual orientation and gender identity are two different things, which was spelled out to them in our initial meetings during the summer and they are willfully choosing to ignore it," said McDonnell.

He said that DCCCD's inclusion of gender identity under sexual orientation was using wording that is 10 years old.

But from the letter, there is a clear message of no intention to discriminate.

In his letter to McDonnell, Young said the district is a "welcoming place for all its employees and a good place to work," and cited anecdotal evidence to back up the claim. He said that a long-term employee transitioned while on the job and felt positive about the help and support she received.

But McDonnell insisted that isn't enough.

"If they don't discriminate, he needs to say it in a policy," McDonnell said. "It's not good enough to say it in a letter."

When the district is taken as a whole, DCCCD is the largest college in Texas with 72,000 students and 7,200 full- and part-time faculty, staff and administrators. The school is spread across Dallas County on seven main campuses and six community branches.

Texas has 55 community colleges or community college districts. Only six of those include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies.

Pasadena-based San Jacinto College, with three campuses east of Houston, is the only two-year school in Texas to offer protection that specifies gender identity and expression. ■

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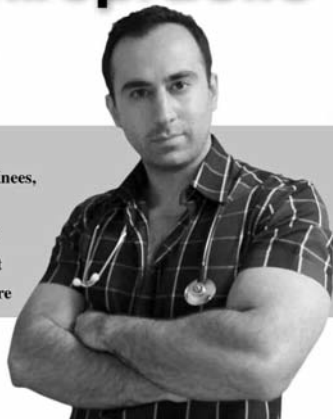
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■ texasnews

PwC's LGBT employees coming to Dallas for summit

Out Professional Employee Network to discuss best practices and personal branding at two-day summit in Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Human Rights Campaign sponsor PricewaterhouseCoopers is holding a two-day diversity summit for members of its LGBT resource group at the Joule Hotel in Downtown Dallas beginning Friday, Nov. 11, in conjunction with Black Tie Dinner set for Saturday night.

The company is headquartered in London, with offices worldwide, including Dallas.

Mark Niehaus, partner chair for the National GLBT Partner Advisory Board, explained that the resource group holds "periodic gatherings of our GLBT members from throughout the country," and that this year, "We decided to connect it to a national event" (the Black Tie Dinner).

Jennifer Allyn, a managing director in the PwC office of diversity, said that normally a business meeting wouldn't be held into Saturday. But, she said, the Black Tie Dinner was a good reason for people to stay through the weekend. She said the meeting will include people who are out, visible and successful.

"The group includes some of our highest-performing GLBT professionals," she said.

Also among the speakers is personal branding expert William Arruda. He begins the event on Friday morning by discussing how diversity can be what differentiates a person and how to use that to accelerate a career path.

"How do you put yourself out there?" Allyn said, explaining what Arruda will discuss. "Are you being thoughtful about your reputation?"

She said Arruda will discuss managing one's reputation to succeed at the highest levels.

When he worked for KPMG, Arruda was closeted and spent about 20 percent of his time covering up who he was, she explained. But at PwC, it's important to be out at work, especially in jobs dealing with clients and building trust.

"Integrity is important," Allyn said. "When you're hiding, you come off guarded. To build relationships, you have to build trust."

She said that building trust is difficult with someone who is closeted because it becomes apparent that person is always hiding something.

In a business environment, people are always coming out. Members of PwC's Out Professional Employee Network (OPEN) will share best practices.

"A lot of our focus is based on how we fit in the organization," Niehaus said.

He said the group focuses on strengths and leveraging those individual personal traits.



William Arruda

"What makes you different is what's important," he said. "It connects you with clients and makes you succeed. We don't want to lose what's unique about each individual."

The meeting will focus on other issues relating to personal branding and career development as well.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Someones will speak along with Point Foundation President Jorge Valencia.

While Solmonese will discuss political initiatives, Allyn said the group is especially anxious to hear from Valencia because "PwC has a big commitment to education."

Other speakers include New York State Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights Alphonso David, who was involved in the fight to pass same-sex marriage in New York, and LGBT retention and advancement consultant Jennifer Brown, who will discuss career development tailored to an LGBT professionals.

"One of our initiatives is energizing allies," Allyn said.

In conjunction with that, OPEN published *I Am Open*. The book compiled interviews with 18 gay and straight people at PwC who have built strong working relationships with each other.

In a professional setting, the book suggests inclusive language such as asking if someone is in a relationship rather than if they're married or invite team members to bring a guest rather than something more specific.

PwC is the first of the Big 4 accounting firms to have an LGBT Partner Advisory Board made up of openly gay partners and managing directors in the company. Many of those partners, including Niehaus, will be at the conference in Dallas.

"We want everyone to leave inspired," Allyn said. ■

GRAND OL' TIME



SUCCESSFUL EVENING | Rob Schlein, president of Metroplex Republicans poses with GO-Proud Executive Director Jimmy La Salvia and his GOProud co-founder Chris Barron (top photo), and with A-List Dallas stars Taylor Garrett and Ashley Kelly (bottom photo) during the Metroplex Republican's Grand Ol' Party on Saturday, Nov. 5. Schlein said 40 people attended the event, which grossed almost \$5,000. But the key objective, he added, was to "have a great party, to reinforce the longtime friendships of our club, and reassert ourselves as the premier gay Republican group in Dallas." Schlein and other former members of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas formed Metroplex Republicans last month after the national Log Cabin organization suddenly revoked the Dallas club's charter over differences between Schlein and national leadership. Schlein had said he believes the local group's decision to invite GOProud's LaSalvia and Barron to speak at the annual Grand Ol' Party fundraiser played a part in national Log Cabin's decision. (Photos courtesy Thomas Garza Photography)




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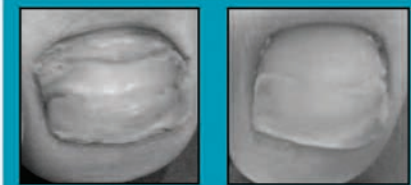
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Resounding Harmony performance benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation

Rene Syler to narrate stories of children whose wishes have been granted in 'Wishes from the Heart'

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resounding Harmony presents its first concert of the season on Nov. 22, called *Wishes from the Heart*, to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation works to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions, and through its chapters around the country has granted some 250,000 such wishes since it was founded in Phoenix in 1980.

Resounding Harmony Artistic Director Russ Rieger said the benefit show was birthed out of the chorus' admiration for the foundation.

"We held our retreat at the Make-A-Wish facility and it's a magical place," he said.

Resounding Harmony Board Chair Mark Knight said that children's wishes are divided into categories: "I want to go...," "I want to be...," "I want to do..." and "I want to have..."

So Resounding Harmony used that as a structure for the concert, basing the program on the idea of children being taken into the wishing tower.

Narrator Rene Syler will introduce some children whose wishes have been granted and tell a number of their stories. Syler is the author of the book *Good Enough Mother*.

Before moving to New York to host *The Early Show* on CBS, Syler was known to North Texas audiences as anchor of the Channel 11 news in Dallas. While in Dallas, she was active in fundraising activities for Resource Center Dallas.

Syler has worked with Resounding Harmony before. She narrated the 10th anniversary production of *Sing for the Cure* in Dallas and at Carnegie Hall in New York.

"I love Resounding Harmony," Syler said. "Any time I can pair with them and a great group like Make-A-Wish, I'm glad to come to Dallas."

She said she'd be doing some things on her website, *GoodEnoughMother.com*, before and after the concert to promote Make-A-Wish and hopefully raise additional funds for the organization.

"Rene is an old friend and we were thrilled she said she'd come," Rieger said.

Rieger said that many of the songs during the concert will revolve around the wishes that have been granted.

"New York, New York" is associated with one wish-kid's story," he said.

Resounding Harmony will also perform 'Joyful, Joyful' from *Sister Act*, 'You've Got a Friend Indeed' from *Toy Story* and 'Out of My Dreams' from Oklahoma.

"The first act will end with a gospel roof raiser,"



Rene Syler

he said.

Sheran Keyton, a popular Fort Worth singer, will be the guest soloist. Keyton appeared in Casa Manana's production of *Hairspray* this summer.

Artwork from some of the Make-A-Wish kids will be for sale in the Meyerson lobby.

"One special piece created just for the concert will be auctioned during the show," Knight said.

This is Rieger's first full season with Resounding Harmony. He joined the chorus last year for the June concert after founding Artistic Director Tim Seelig moved to California to head the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Rieger said money raised at the concert would be distributed in December at an end-of-year celebration.

Each Resounding Harmony concert benefits a community organization. Proceeds from the spring concert *Songs for the Heart* will support the Dallas-based American Heart Association. Next season's beneficiaries will be announced at the upcoming November concert.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Resounding Harmony will also perform for the second time at Cancer Support Community, formerly known as Gilda's Club, for its annual service of remembrance. ■

Resounding Harmony at Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$25-40. ResoundingHarmony.org.

Stonewall Dems collecting donations for Legacy

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will hold their "Santa Can" donation drive, benefiting Legacy Founders Cottage, during their November general meeting on Nov. 15 and at the holiday party on Dec. 5.

Those attending are asked to bring items to donate to the care facility for those who are terminally and critically ill due to HIV/AIDS.

Needed items include clothes, socks, shoes, paper towels, forks, spoons, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, latex gloves, heating pads, Depends, razors, soap, body wash and nail care products.

For more information, contact Omar@stonewalldemocratsofdallas or to arrange to drop off donations or have someone pick them up.

The Nov. 15 general meeting will be held at Ojeda's on Maple Avenue, and featured guests will be Esque Walker from the Adult Workplace Anti-Bullying Campaign and representatives of Legacy Founders Cottage.

Officers for the coming year will also be elected at the November general meeting. Email info@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org for information on running for office. Candidates must be current on dues by the day of the meeting to be eligible to vote.

Announced candidates include: Omar Narvaez for president; Michael Wetter for vice president; Phyllis Guest for secretary and Mike McCue for treasurer. ■

CRIME

From Page 6

threw him onto a lit burn barrel.

The case made national news after graphic photos of Burnett's injuries were posted on Dallas Voice's website.

The three suspects — 31-year-old James Mitchell Lasater III of Paris, 25-year-old Micky Joe Smith of Brookston, and 33-year-old Daniel Shawn Martin of Paris — were arrested days after the attack by the Reno Police Department.

According to the Paris News, each is now charged with one count of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Lasater and Smith were indicted as repeat offenders.

Burnett said he had the last of his stitches removed Thursday and there are no signs of permanent damage. He said the burns are "still ugly but they're definitely healing up" and his black eye is barely noticeable anymore.

Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, said Thursday he was pleased to learn of the indictments.

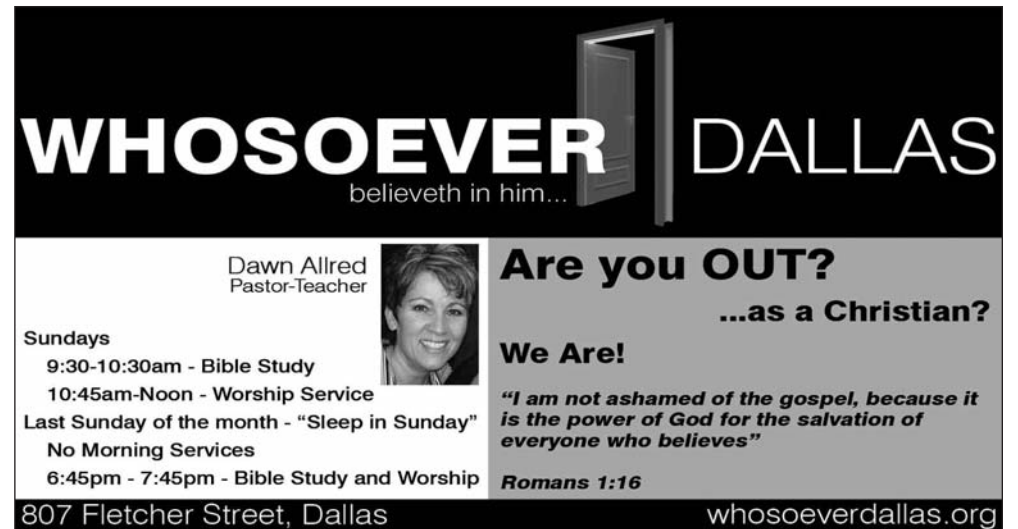
"I certainly think this was a bias motivated crime," Smith said. "This is what our hate crimes act is for. It's good from the standpoint that it could result in enhanced penalties. It's equally if not more important that it sends a message that Lamar County is not going to tolerate bias crimes." ■



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FATAL

From Page 6

like to see free-standing crosswalk signs in the middle of the street, like the ones where Knox Street crosses the Katy Trail a few miles away.

"It's an entertainment district, and there are going to be a lot of people on the street," Whittall said. "There needs to be proper signage on this crosswalk. Unfortunately, something like this has to happen before people pay attention again."

Another crosswalk half a block away on Cedar Springs has flashing lights in the roadway and on both sides of the street which can be activated by pedestrians. However, it has been a maintenance headache for the city, which only recently repaired it after the flashing lights failed for at least the third time in the last few years.

"It's very unfortunate that this is happening right when we finally got the other crosswalk fixed," Whittall said, adding that the Merchants Association would also like to see the city follow through with plans to add surveillance cameras on Cedar Springs. "We probably would have been able to catch the driver if we'd had those cameras."

If caught, the driver would now face third-degree felony charges for leaving the scene of an accident causing injury or death, according to Detective D.T. Marchetti of the Dallas Police Department's Vehicle Crimes Unit.

"The investigation is open and we are actively seeking the individual that struck him," Marchetti said Tuesday. "I'm surprised there weren't more witnesses to it. I'm surprised we didn't get a tag number or a partial tag or a better description of the vehicle."

According to a police report, the impact of the collision was so severe that it caused one of Priest's shoes to fly off. Marchetti said a second vehicle struck Priest after he was lying in the roadway. The driver of the that vehicle remained at the scene.

Assuming the driver of the first vehicle that

struck Priest wasn't intoxicated, they wouldn't have faced charges if they'd stopped, Marchetti said. That's because there's no indication the driver was speeding and Priest was outside the crosswalk, albeit by only a few feet. But Marchetti added that the No. 1 reason people leave accident scenes at night is because they're intoxicated.

One of Priest's roommates, Carrie Moon, said this week she's hoping the driver will be found.

"It is one thing to make a horrible mistake and try to do what you can to help," Moon said. "It is another thing to make a horrible mistake and just leave a person to die in the street. How this person can live with themselves is beyond me."

Moon said she'd known Priest for about a year after they met at the Oak Lawn library. She and her boyfriend were looking for a room to rent, and Priest needed help with expenses.

Priest was from Louisiana but was estranged from family there and had moved to Dallas a few years ago. Moon said he'd been married twice and had a daughter.

Moon said Priest had struggled with his sexual orientation for most of his life but recently came out as gay after moving to Oak Lawn. He was a member of the Cathedral of Hope.

"He was in his mid-50s and it took moving to this area to for once in his life feel like he could be himself and not be judged, not even by the church, which was very important to him," Moon said. "It was like he was starting over, and he had a lot of hope of finding a partner and a new life, and then this happened, which is just so sad."

Moon said she was trying to coordinate funeral arrangements with Priest's family in Louisiana. She said his wishes were to be cremated and buried near his son who committed suicide. The service likely will be held in New Orleans.

Anyone with information about the hit-and-run is asked to call the Vehicle Crimes Unit at 214-670-5817. ■

TRIAL

From Page 6

"I hope that we get justice finally after three years of waiting," Araiza said. "For me it'll be, I hope, closure."

Araiza said he hopes Winder receives the maximum sentence of life in prison.

"Just as long as he's away and out of the public view, and away where he won't be able to hurt anyone else," Araiza said.

Winder's father, Rodney Winder, agreed, saying he wants "justice served and Seth away where he cannot hurt anyone."

Rodney Winder and his wife, Karen Dilbeck, have said they repeatedly tried to get help for Seth, who suffers from schizophrenia, in the months prior to Hernandez's murder. Dilbeck would later publish a book about the case, which was also the subject of an episode of A&E's *The First 48*.

A judge initially found Seth Winder incompetent to stand trial, but he's since been restored to competency.

It's unclear what type of relationship existed between Hernandez and Winder. But police recovered a digital camera containing pornographic images of Winder that were taken inside Hernandez's apartment.

When Hernandez failed to show up at his job at Wal-Mart, authorities went to the apartment on Rosemeade Parkway and discovered large amounts of blood on the floor, walls and couch — in addition to tissue from internal organs in the bathtub.

Police concluded that Winder placed the rest of Hernandez's remains in a Dumpster, which had already been emptied and its contents buried in a landfill.

Purchases made on Hernandez's debit card led police to Winder. They found blood-covered evidence including a sword at two campsites where Winder had been staying. ■



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Big changes ahead for ASOs

AIDS agencies have to look for ways to branch out if they want to survive and thrive under health care reform

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

An estimated 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection, and 20 percent of them are not even aware of it, according to the Centers for Disease Control. And a CDC report released in early August suggests that there are about 50,000 new HIV infections each year.

And yet, federal funding for HIV/AIDS services have remained flat for the last five years — from funding for medical services to research dollars to money for support services — according to Raeline Nobles, executive director of AIDS Arms Inc.

And that means, Nobles and Resource Center Dallas Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox agreed this week, that the nonprofit, community-based organizations that have been the backbone have to look ahead and keep their options open to remain viable.

Changes in the way that federal funds through the Ryan White CARE Act are distributed — requiring that 75 cents of every Ryan White dollar be used for core medical services — give an edge to nonprofits that operate clinics. And that means that AIDS Arms, which just opened its second clinic last month — is “more competitive at the national, state and local levels,” Nobles said. “With the number of people who are uninsured and living at poverty levels, access to any kind of medical care is a priority. So if you are providing those kinds of services, it does give you an edge.”

Agencies that don’t provide those kinds of services, she added, can get in on that competitive edge by collaborating with those that do.

“There’s really no new money to sustain new agencies,” Nobles said. “AIDS is definitely off the docket in terms of diseases people seem to be concerned about. In fact, any HIV provider across the country who is not considering all their options is in a great deal of denial, and that may well come back to bite them rather severely.”

There’s also health care reform to consider, with several parts of the law passed in late 2010 still to be implemented. That reform, said Cox, is changing the face of community health clinics, like RCD’s Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, and HIV/AIDS service programs.

“Our nutrition program is a good example,” Cox said. “It has really been hammered in terms of federal funds, so we have focused on supporting the program through the community, foundations and corporations. ... It is an amazing puzzle we have pieced together, even with cuts in traditional funding streams. But we have managed. We have done the things we felt we had to do.”

And there are more changes coming, Nobles

said that if the Ryan White funds survive beyond 2013 when more health care reform measures go into effect, “it likely won’t include any money for outpatient services like we offer” at the Peabody Clinic and the new Trinity Clinic.

“So we have to take a look at what we do best, and we can use our model and globalize it into different areas. We have to become even more sustainable. Diversification of business is key to survival,” Nobles said. “It can’t just be about HIV and AIDS any more.”

Nobles said “serious discussion has been going on at AIDS Arms for at least two years, at the board and staff levels” about how the agency can expand its focus beyond HIV/AIDS and remain viable.

“We have to diversify our business plan. The situation has been serious for awhile and it is becoming even more serious for our board,” Nobles said. “We hope to have, by early 2012, a final business plan in place to move into the future.”

“Health care reform is a great thing for a lot of people, but it poses real challenges for the nonprofit sector. You have to stay ahead of the curve, or health care reform will run right over you. We definitely want to stay ahead of that curve,” she continued. “The HIV nonprofit community has the best model of care and support the U.S. has ever seen. That model can be globalized to include care for other disease — heart disease, cancer, diabetes.”

Cox said that staff and board members at Resource Center Dallas also began planning for the changing future some time ago, and its current capital campaign to build a new facility is part of the plan.

“Nobody seems to have all the answers right now. The feds won’t say what they will and what they won’t fund. So savvy business people are already thinking, ‘If this funding goes away, what can we do instead?’” Cox said.

“Everybody feels like the challenge working in the nonprofit sector is that you are always aware there is so much more that needs to be done,” she added. “But doing more requires more space, more staff, more resources. And to have that, you have to build the business in a way that is sustainable. And you have to remember, nobody can do everything.”

Both Cox and Nobles are quick to remind that even though their agencies are “nonprofits,” they are businesses nonetheless, and have to be operated with an eye toward success.

“There has been, and probably still is, the mindset about nonprofits. People expect the nonprofits to be there to provide all these services without caring about costs,” Cox said. “But the fact is, nonprofit or not, these agencies have to be run like a business. You have to anticipate, plan ahead. You have to put the structures in place and you have to invest. We make large investments in our staff and in technology. For-profit business sell stock and they answer to their stockholders. We get our money from our donors, and we have an obligation to let our donors know what we do with their money and to let them know we use it responsibly.”

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION



CONVENIENT LOCATION | Construction of the new Parkland Hospital is underway, and should be complete in 2014, officials said this week during a tour of the facilities. HIV/AIDS care will move from Amelia Court to the new 17-story, 2-million-square-foot building. Rooms in the new building will be larger than at the current facility and each one will be a single-patient room. DART's Parkland Station is at the front door of the new building. Outgoing CEO Dr. Ron Anderson said that this is the only public hospital in recent years that will be increasing capacity, and he hopes that this world-class facility will become the hospital of choice rather than a hospital of last resort for Dallas County residents. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

DeGeneres named special envoy to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration has announced \$60 million in additional funding to fight



Ellen DeGeneres, right, with her wife Portia de Rossi

transmission in sub-Saharan Africa, and a new special envoy to raise global awareness about the deadly disease: Ellen DeGeneres.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the actress will "bring her sharp wit and big heart, and her impressive TV audience and 8 million followers on Twitter" to support U.S. efforts to save the lives of those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Clinton said the money would help scale up and assess new prevention strategies.

She said Tuesday, Nov. 8, that more effective prevention methods were driving infections down, making it possible to treat more people.

She said that is allowing health campaigners for the first time to "get ahead of the pandemic," and make progress toward establishing an AIDS-free generation.

According to statements from the White House, Clinton's speech Tuesday at the National Institutes of Health was the first in what is expected to be a series of speeches and announcements leading up to World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

Elton John unveils new effort to combat HIV/AIDS in Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine — Singer Elton John has unveiled a charity project to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine, believed to be the worst in Europe.

The program — co-founded by the Elton John AIDS Foundation and a local anti-AIDS group — will allow homeless women who are at high risk of contracting HIV to be tested for the virus that causes AIDS.

Up to 100,000 young women are believed to be living on the streets of Ukrainian cities, according to organizers.

John said Wednesday, Nov. 9, that the homeless women will also get medical, psychological and legal help to "bring them back to life."

Ukraine has Europe's worst AIDS epidemic, with 1.3 percent of Ukrainians above 15 infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to the United Nations. ■

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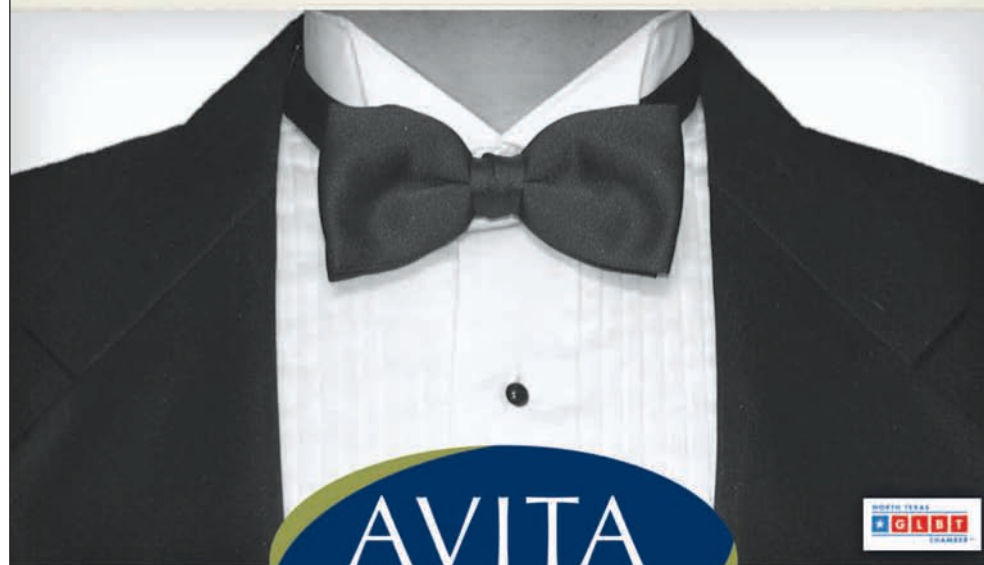
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A Formal Affair

Joe Solmonese, Eric Alva, Jessie Tyler Ferguson, Marlee Matlin, Caroline Rhea, Taylor Dayne, Chet Flake and the late Bud Knight are among those who will be honored or will speak at The Black Tie Dinner on Saturday.



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Solmonese fears 2012 setback



LAST NIGHT | Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese speaks at a previous Black Tie Dinner in Dallas. Solmonese will be leaving HRC next March, making this weekend's event the last Black Tie Dinner he will attend as president of the national LGBT advocacy organization.

Outgoing HRC president says community must fight for Obama

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer
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Joe Solmonese admits he's "very concerned" about President Barack Obama's prospects for re-election.

But Solmonese says he's equally concerned about how the LGBT community — and his successor at the Human Rights Campaign — would respond if Obama loses.

Solmonese will step down as president of HRC after seven years in March. On Saturday, Nov. 12, he'll make his final appearance as the group's president at the Black Tie Dinner, of which HRC is the national beneficiary.

In an interview last month with Dallas Voice, Solmonese focused largely on the importance of 2012 elections, saying that depending on their outcome, major advances during his tenure could be all but erased.

"I don't think that he's going to lose," Solmonese said at one point, attempting to clarify his assessment of Obama's chances. "I think that if everybody does what they need to do, I think there is just as good a chance that Barack Obama will be re-elected, but I'm as concerned that he could lose."

Solmonese said Republicans already have a majority in the House, Democrats have only a slim majority in the Senate, and "everything about these [2012] elections points to us having real challenges."

"I think that if everybody who has gained from

the Obama administration does everything they need to do over the course of the next year, he'll get re-elected," Solmonese said. "But I would be lying if I said I'm not very concerned about the prospects of him getting re-elected."

Solmonese said the message he wants to send to the LGBT community is that Obama has done more for us than any other president, and that the movement has seen more gains under the current administration than at any other time in its history.

"If we care about continuing with the forward motion that we've experienced, then we as a community need to do everything possible to re-elect Barack Obama," Solmonese said. "And we can talk about and debate and press the administration on his ability to do more, and him coming out for marriage, or anything else that we want to talk about, but now is the time to sort of decouple that from all of the work we need to put into getting him re-elected. Because at the end of the day, it comes down to a choice, and the choice isn't even hard for me: It's Barack Obama or any of these other people who are running against him."

Despite his concerns about Obama's chances, Solmonese said he has no misgivings about leaving HRC seven months prior to Election Day. He said he made a commitment to give the organization six months notice, and his contract expires in March.

He said announcing his resignation at the end of August allowed HRC to begin the transition process, which will be completed when his successor takes over, midway through the Republican primary. Solmonese also said he'll continue

■ **SOLMONESE**, Page 22



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Caroline Rhea: From the hip

From her role as Noleta Nethercott on Del Shores' campy queer Texas-based sitcom *Sordid Lives* to taking over Rosie O'Donnell's talk show, Caroline Rhea has long has a strong connection to the gay community. This week, she breaks new ground again, becoming the first professional comedienne to serve as soup-to-nuts emcee for the Black Tie Dinner.

Rhea took a moment this week to discuss her involvement with the LGBT community, her Texas ties and her new (like her, Canadian) reality TV show.

Dallas Voice: You've always seemed to be close to the LGBT community. Where does that stem from? Rhea: I am not a direct member of the LGBT community, but I have had a BLT. In the Venn diagram of life, there is a lot of crossover between gay men and female comedians. It's a mutual lovefest.

How different is it to do a gay event like Black Tie vs. a comedy show on the road? The audience is much better looking.

For special events like this, do you bring your family? Not if it involves bringing a toddler on a plane.

What in you is fulfilled to do an event

such as Black Tie Dinner? I want to support the LGBT community in all that they do.

If you were to rank all you do — acting, hosting, voiceovers, comedy, etc. — how do you rank your priorities? Motherhood first. Then comedy, and working with people that I like.

You have hosted a new reality competition series in your native Canada, *Cake Walk: Wedding Cake Edition*. How did you enjoy that? Did you get to taste the goods? Believe it or not, I didn't taste the cakes.

Will there be a same-sex couple on the show? I hope so.

How do you think that would fly with the show's audience? Same-sex marriage has been legal for years in Canada. It would be another beautiful wedding.

Having now worked with Del Shores on the Logo series *Sordid Lives*, how do you perceive Texas in general? Dallas in particular? Any misconceptions you had that were proven wrong? My dad's family was from Texas and my father looked like J.R. Ewing. I am not a fan of your toll roads and every time I am on the George Bush Turnpike I feel like I am going backwards.

—Arnold Wayne Jones



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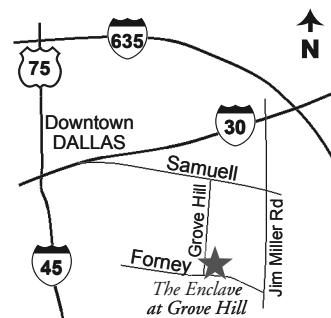
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Taylor Dayne can't stop the music

More than 20 years after she packed the gay bar dance floors with her debut hits, the songstress is still going strong, and says her performance at Black Tie is a 'win-win' for her and her fans

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
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Helping out LGBT people is nothing new for singer Taylor Dayne.

She can't quite recall when she knew she was a hit with the gay community: Over the course of her 23-year career in pop music, she's played venues of all sizes, but she did notice early on how a certain fan base seemed to keep showing up.

"It's kinda hard to remember, but I would perform very specific shows and then some gay clubs and it dawned on me," she said.

With an explosive debut, thanks to her platinum selling 1988 debut *Tell It To My Heart* and the more sophisticated follow-up *Can't Fight Fate* a year later, Dayne became a quick force to be reckoned with on the charts.

But her pop hits were just as big on the dance floor, and Dayne was resonating across the queer landscape.

"I've had wonderful relationship with gay and lesbian fans for years. I'm so glad to be doing Black Tie because I have a great core of fan base here," she said. "It'll be a good show with lots of fun and for a good cause. It's a win-win."

Dayne's performed at gay bars and Pride events in Boston, Chicago and the Delaware Pride Festival. But appreciation of her work in the community was clearly evident in 2010 when she was asked to record "Facing a Miracle" as the anthem for the Gay Games.

"That was quite an honor and then they asked me to perform at the games," she said. "It was very emotional for me. The roar of the crowd was great."

Even after two decades, Dayne remains just as committed to music as she was in 1988. She's embraces her sort of "elder" status in pop music and instead of seeing the likes of Nikki Minaj and Katy Perry as rivals, she enjoys what they are bringing to the landscape of music now.

"I love listening to all the new stuff going on. There is some great talent out there. It's nice to know I was some inspiration to them, the way ladies like Debbie Harry and Pat Benatar were for me. The cycle goes on," Dayne said.

But they still push her to keep in the game. She admitted, "I'm pretty competitive that way."

This year, Dayne released the single, "Floor on Fire," which made it to the Billboard



Taylor Dayne

Dance/Club Charts Top 10.

At 49, Dayne doesn't show signs of slowing. Along with a rumored second greatest hits album, she recently wrapped up filming the indie movie *Telling of the Shoes* and she's a single mother to 9-year-old twins. Juggling it all is a mix of emotions, but her confidence pushes her through.

"I can say I'm a great singer, so when it comes to decisions, I'm fine about recording and performing," she said. "But I would say I work really hard at acting. It's nerve-wracking but it's also amazing. But I'm not a novice at any of this."

With her children, she doesn't make any pretenses about the difficulty of being both a musician and a mom — as long as she instills the proper principles in them.

"We don't try to get wrapped up in small time crap," she said. "At the end of day it's about having a good heart and they have great heart."

It's likely she'll show the same at Black Tie. ■



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coverstory

SOLMONESE

From Page 19

to be involved with the organization through next year, assisting with its efforts around the November election.

"I'm a lot more concerned about what happens the morning after the elections," Solmonese said. "I'm a lot more concerned about this organization and its leader being in the best possible position to navigate those waters, and either we are contemplating a second term with Obama and a continuation of our agenda and perhaps a decidedly different Congress, or we're contemplating President Mitt Romney and all of the implications that means for our community, and I want whoever is in this seat leading this organization contemplating where we go from there, to have had some time under their belt to figure that out."

Asked whether that means he believes Romney will be the Republican nominee, Solmonese clarified that anyone claims to know definitively "doesn't know what they're talking about" — but he added that he thinks the former Massachusetts governor is the "odds-on favorite."

And while Romney may appear less anti-gay than some other GOP presidential hopefuls, Solmonese said called him "someone you have to be careful of" because "he's essentially beholden to no issue."

"He adopts a position that works best for the political predicament he finds himself in," said Solmonese, a Massachusetts native who's watched Romney's political career closely. "So, while he was seemingly pro-gay as he attempted to unseat Ted Kennedy, and his rhetoric isn't harsh and he doesn't have the same sort of narrative that a Rick Santorum has, he's effectively said that he doesn't believe in the repeal of 'don't ask don't tell' and that he would support the federal marriage amendment. But what we don't know, just like we didn't really anticipate with [President] George [W.] Bush, is how beholden he is going to feel to the hard right once he becomes president."

It was Bush, of course, whose administration was pushing a federal marriage amendment when Solmonese joined HRC in 2005.

The marriage amendment, Solmonese said, represents the worst possible thing that could happen to the LGBT community, because it would enshrine discrimination into the Constitution.

And although the threat of the amendment may seem like a distant memory to some, Solmonese warned that it could easily resurface. Which is why, he said, the 2012 elections are the biggest challenge HRC faces going forward.

"I think the elections loom largest because what the elections really represent to me is the potential for us to really stop, potential derail and ultimately set back a lot of the progress that we've made," Solmonese said. "What also concerns me then is that the community be braced for that, and we understand that we've been in these places before, and the measure of who we are and how we'll be defined, is how we react in those moments, the degree to which we stay

BLACK TIE DETAILS

The 30th annual DFW Black Tie Dinner will be held Saturday night, Nov. 12, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. The event is already sold out.

Special guests at this year's dinner include Academy Award-winning actress Marlee Matlin as keynote speaker and Emmy Award-winning actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson as Media Award winner. Singer Taylor Dayne will perform.

Chet Flake and his late partner, Bud Knight, will be honored as recipients of the Raymond Kuchling Humanitarian Award, and gay military veteran Eric Alva, the first U.S. serviceman injured in the Iraq war and an advocate for repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," will receive the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award.

Dinner organizers this year decided, for the first time, to bring in an emcee for the evening, choosing popular comedian Caroline Rhea.

This year also marks the final time that Joe Solmonese will attend the dinner as president of the Human Rights Campaign, the national beneficiary of Black Tie, which each year receives about half the proceeds of the event. Solmonese has resigned as head of HRC, effective next March.

Seventeen local HIV/AIDS and LGBT organizations have also been designated as beneficiaries.

Black Tie Dinner includes a silent auction, a live luxury auction and an after-party at the hotel.

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in the fight and make sure we continue to press forward regardless of the outcome of the election."

Solmonese said he fears the progress of the last several years may lead to complacency. And he said based on his experience, when the LGBT community suffers setbacks, instead of regrouping and uniting, people have a tendency to lose their way and point fingers.

"If we lose, if the outcome is negative, if we go from the march toward marriage equality and the repeal of DOMA and the positive direction that we've been in, to a president and a Congress who decide they're so troubled by all the success we're having with marriage they want to take up the fight again to pass the federal marriage amendment — well, boy, we've come full circle from where we were back in 2005, the last time that happened," he said.

"And you can react to that in one of two ways. You can say this is the inevitable ebb and flow of social change, so pull up your boot straps and let's get going and turn that around again — and understand that that sort of energy that the other side has around something like that is a reaction to their own fear of the progress we've made — or you can become very dispirited and depressed and disenfranchised and decide that it's our own doing, it's our own lack of progress, it's our own failing. And that would be the worst possible thing that we could do." ■

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nationalnews

Judiciary committee passes measure to repeal DOMA

Sponsor acknowledges votes aren't there yet to get Respect for Marriage Act approved by Senate

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, Nov. 10, voted to recommend passage of a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

The bill is the Respect for Marriage Act. Thursday's 10-to-8 vote along partisan lines had been originally scheduled for Nov. 3 but was postponed a week at the request of Republicans on the committee.

Republican Charles Grassley criticized Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, a Democrat, for putting the bill on the committee's agenda, saying the committee should, instead, be taking up "bills that can pass" and which address the country's financial problems.

Grassley said the measure "lacks the votes to pass the Senate" and that, even if it does pass the Senate, "it will not be taken up in the House," which is controlled by Republicans.

Grassley repeatedly referred to the measure as the "Restoration of Marriage Act," instead of the "Respect for Marriage," and said it would not accomplish "restoration of any rights," but rather create "new rights that same-sex couples have never had under federal law.

He also said there is a "universal religious view" that marriage is "about procreation and child-bearing."

"To me, this debate is about stable families, good environments for raising children, and religious belief," said Grassley. "It is not about discriminating against anyone. No society has limited marriage to heterosexual couples because of a desire to create second-class families."

He rebuffed the argument of many, including the bill's chief sponsor, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., that the fight to repeal DOMA is reminiscent of the fight to repeal laws that barred interracial marriages. Quoting Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Grassley said such comparisons can be "deeply offensive" to African-Americans.

Log Cabin Republicans President R. Clarke Cooper offered some support for Grassley's concerns about "priorities," but said the committee debate was "a principled discussion about the meaning of federalism, the priorities of our nation in a challenging time, and what marriage means in America today."

Feinstein noted in her remarks Thursday that a large group of corporations filed a legal brief re-



Sen. Dianne Feinstein

cently highlighting the ways DOMA burdens them with red tape and requires they treat employees differently if they are gay.

Shin Inouye, a White House spokesman, issued a statement saying, "President Obama applauds today's vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve the Respect for Marriage Act, which would provide a legislative repeal of the so-called 'Defense of Marriage Act.' The president has long believed that DOMA is discriminatory and has called for its repeal.

"We should all work towards taking this law off the books. The federal government should not deny gay and lesbian couples the same rights and legal protections afforded to straight couples," the statement said.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group, noted that support for the Respect for Marriage Act has grown to 31 co-sponsors in the Senate and 133 in the House.

"The historic growth in support among lawmakers for repealing DOMA mirrors the growth in public support for the freedom to marry to what is now a solid majority nationwide," said Wolfson.

Recent polling has begun to show a consistent trend in public opinion supporting the right of same-sex couples to get married. A survey of 1,001 adults nationwide by ABC and the Washington Post in July found 51 percent "think it should be legal for gay and lesbians couples to get married."

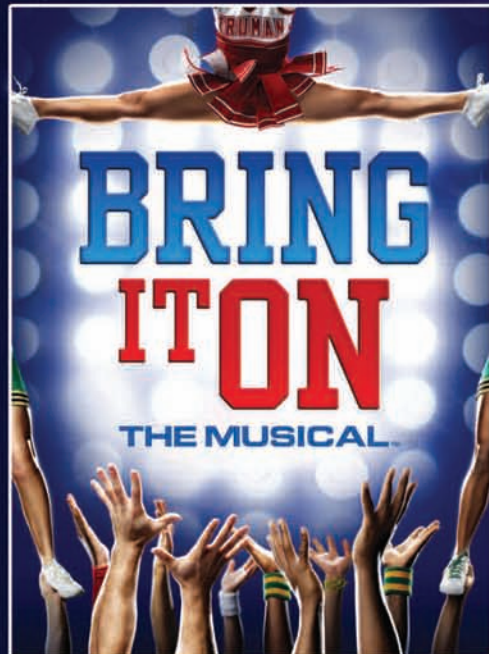
Supporters of the legislation will need 60 votes to overcome what will almost certainly be a filibuster of the legislation should Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid bring it to the floor. Politico.com noted that Feinstein acknowledged to reporters after the hearing that the bill does not have those 60 votes and that she has not spoken to Reid about the bill.

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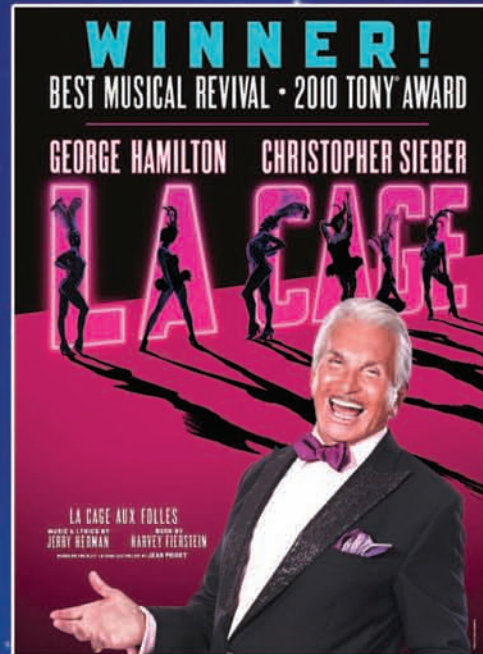
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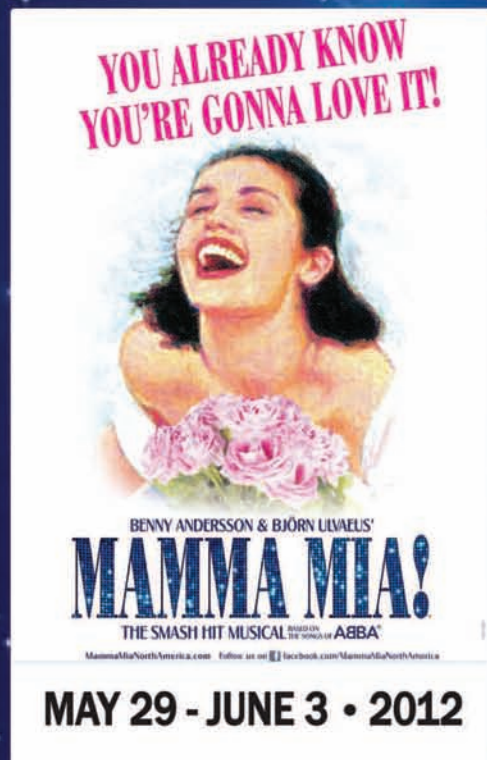
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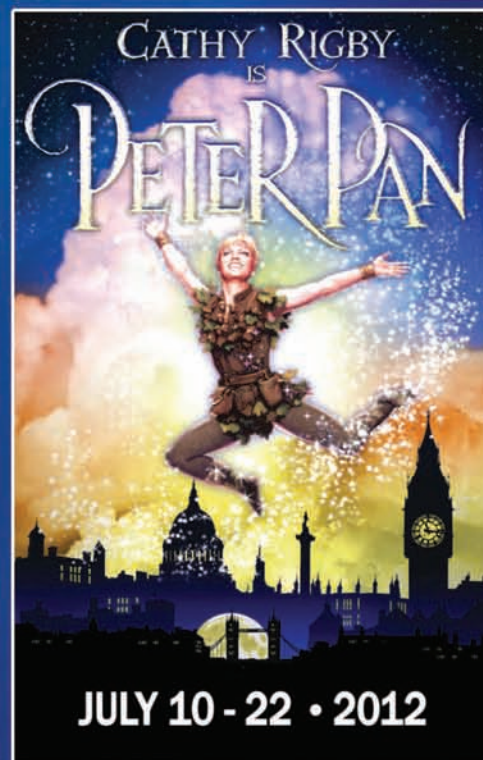
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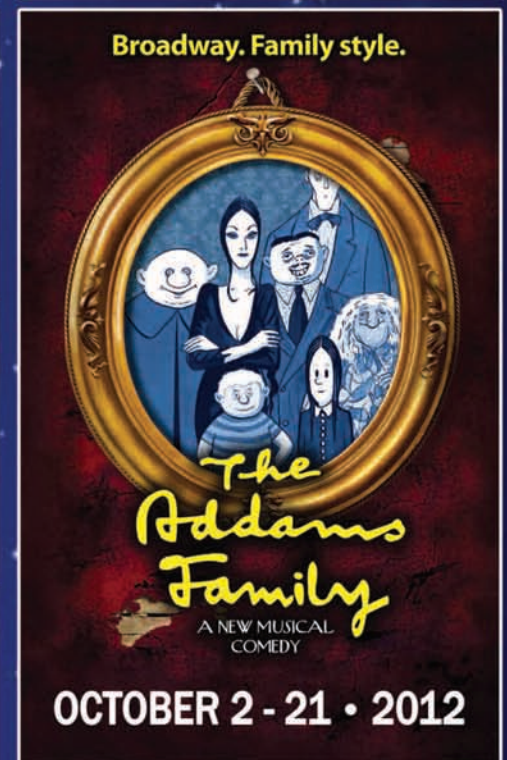
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LGBT candidates fare well across electoral spectrum



BIG WIN | Houston's incumbent Mayor Annise Parker, who became the first openly LGBT person elected mayor of a major city when she won in 2009, addresses the crowd in Lee Park following Dallas' 2010 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, for which she was honorary grand marshal. Parker took 50 percent of the vote in Tuesday's election, avoiding a runoff and winning re-election to a second term.

Houston's lesbian Mayor Annise Parker leads the list of openly LGBT candidates, 75 percent of whom won in elections this week

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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Tuesday was a very good day for openly LGBT candidates around the country, with three in four of more than 60 winning their races, including Annise Parker, who secured a second term as mayor of Houston.

But the real excitement in the Nov. 8 results came in some of the low-profile races of the day, many in notoriously conservative places.

Four out of five openly gay candidates won in conservative North Carolina, including LaWana Mayfield, the first openly LGBT member of the Charlotte City Council.

Another lesbian, Caitlin Copple, became the first openly LGBT person elected to city council in Missoula, Mont. Attorney Mike Laster became the first gay man to be elected to the Houston City Council, and businessman Zach Adamson became the first openly LGBT member of the Indianapolis City Council.

Alex Morse, 22, won an upset victory over a long-time public official to become mayor of Holyoke, Mass. Steve Pougnet glided to a second-term as mayor of Palm Springs, Calif., and attorney Chris Seelbach, who helped overturn Cincinnati's anti-gay charter amendment seven years ago, won a seat on the City Council there Tuesday.

Data collected independently by Keen News Service and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund indicates there were at least 63 openly LGBT candidates on the ballot Tuesday: 47 of them won, 14 lost, and two outcomes remain uncertain.

Eight of nine openly gay candidates for mayor

■ ELECTIONS, From Previous Page

won Tuesday.

Parker in Houston

Parker in Houston secured 50 percent of the vote in a field of six candidates, though none of her five opponents had anywhere near the funding or organization that she did.

Still, going into the race, Parker had reason to worry. In mid-October, a local television news poll found that voters were split on her effectiveness. Fifty percent rated her job performance in her first two-year term as either "Fair" or "Poor," while 47 percent rated it "Good" or "Excellent."

In an interview with KHOU-TV, Parker attributed her poll split to people's anxiety around the economy.

"We have the worst economy here in Houston that we've had in decades, and we have the worst economy that we've had nationally since the Great Depression," Parker told KHOU. "I understand completely why people are anxious, unhappy. It is what it is."

KHOU noted the bulk of the low job performance scores came from Houston's unemployed and that mayors in other big cities around the country were polling similarly.

Right-wing groups that opposed Parker in 2009 tried again to portray her as a lesbian activist, creating a video they posted on YouTube that showed a slow-motion clip of her giving her partner-in-life a peck on the cheek after being sworn in.

It also showed a news clip of Parker appointing a transgender person, Phyllis Frye, to a local judgeship, and a news clip of an executive order Parker issued to ban discrimination in public restrooms on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The video also showed a letter in which Parker referred to her partner, Kathy Hubbard, as "First Lady."

Other mayoral races

In Holyoke, recent college graduate but long-time local youth and community activist Alex Morse won an upset victory against an incumbent who had been a top town official for many years.

The key issue had been over casinos — with Morse being against and incumbent Elaine Pluta being for.

Morse had served on the one-time governor's LGBT commission and started a non-profit LGBT group. While attending Brown University in nearby Providence, R.I., Morse worked for openly gay Mayor David Cicilline, who is now in Congress.

In Palm Springs, incumbent Mayor Steve Pougnet, who is openly gay, won re-election over a field of six other candidates, taking 70 percent of the vote.

The only losing mayoral candidate Tuesday was Bevan Duffy in San Francisco, where, as of Wednesday morning, Nov. 9, Duffy had earned less than 4 percent of the vote in a field with more than a dozen candidates.

The apparent winner, acting Mayor Ed Lee, will

become the first American of Chinese descent to be elected mayor of San Francisco. Lee became acting mayor by appointment of then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, after Newsom was elected lieutenant governor.

Lee was only the third choice of San Francisco's LGBT newspaper, Bay Area Reporter. (San Francisco voters were able to rank their choices — first, second, and third — among the 16 on the ballot.)

The paper endorsed Duffy first and the current City Attorney Dennis Herrera second.

One of the city's LGBT Democratic Clubs endorsed Herrera first, Duffy as second choice, and Lee as third. The other LGBT Democratic Club endorsed Supervisor John Avalos, followed by Herrera and state Sen. Leland Yee.

More election news

In other interesting news from election day:

- An openly lesbian candidate, Caitlin Copple, has won a seat to the city council of Missoula, Mont. — a state with a very sparse LGBT population.

While Copple's connections to the gay community were not consistently highlighted during the campaign, they weren't hidden either. The local daily newspaper, the Missoulian, ran an article about her involvement "with the Pride Foundation, which works to connect and strengthen Montana's gay rights movement."

- Four of the 63 races Tuesday were for seats in state legislatures. One of the most important of those candidates was Adam Ebbin, who moved from the State House to the State Senate in Virginia, becoming the first openly LGBT person in that chamber.

Unfortunately, the Virginia Senate lost a number of Democrats Tuesday and is switching from majority Democrat to majority Republican, giving the state a Republican majority now in both chambers and the governor's office.

- Two gay men won Assembly seats in New Jersey: Tim Eustace and Reed Gusciora.

- The only loss on the state level was Patrick Forrest, who fell short in his bid for a Senate seat in Virginia.

- Two out of three candidates for judgeships won yesterday. The winners were Anthony Cannataro in New York and Hugh McGough in Pittsburgh. Daniel Clifford, a Republican, lost his bid for a judgeship in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

- All five candidates for local school boards won Tuesday, including Daniel Hernandez, with 60 percent of the vote, in Tucson. Hernandez was the openly gay aide to U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, D-Ariz., credited with saving her life after a gunman shot and killed a number of people attending a meet-and-greet the congresswoman was hosting at a local grocery store.

- Of the 41 candidates running for city council or its equivalent in their cities, 28 won. Two others are still pending. Brad Bender's bid for a Town Council seat in Southampton, N.Y., is too close to call. Lance Rhodes has been thrown into a run-off for a seat on the East Point City City Council in Georgia.

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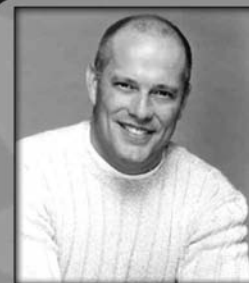
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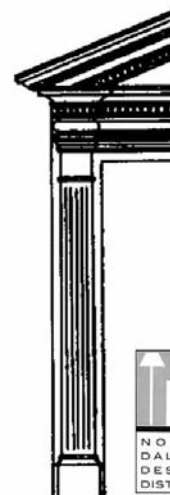


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Republican candidates: Obama's biggest plus

One after another, Republican presidential candidates seem determined to self-destruct, which puts the Democratic incumbent ahead of the pack

Anyone wanting to see President Barack Obama serve a second term in the White House for the sake of LGBT equality has got to be feeling pretty good about now as his Republican challengers struggle to survive what must be one of the most peculiar national campaign seasons ever.

When the Republican candidates aren't self-destructing in mass, they appear to be too busy destroying each other to make any headway with the nation's voters.

Herman Cain, the black, anti-gay Georgia businessman who has led the pack of Republican contenders for president in recent weeks, likely will soon suffer a steep plunge in opinion polls as a result of several women telling the New York Times and other members of the media he sexually harassed them years ago.

Cain calls the allegations "baseless," but Republican heavyweights, such as Mississippi Gov.



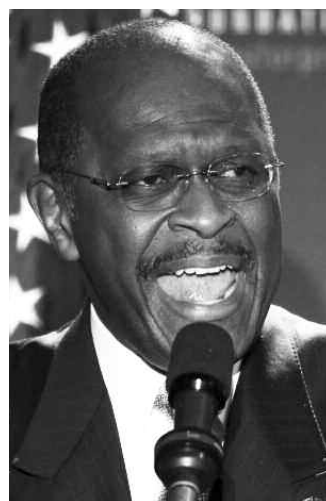
David Webb
The Rare Reporter

Haley Barbour, are showing signs of nervousness and demanding answers as the controversy persists and the number of allegations grows.

Cain attempted at first to brush off the allegations by refusing to discuss them with the media. But that strategy obviously collapsed earlier this week when he finally called a press conference on the campaign trail near Phoenix to answer the charges. The former Godfather's Pizza CEO denied guilt and defiantly vowed to remain in the presidential race.

In a debate with the other Republican candidates this week in Michigan, Cain insisted the sexual harassment allegations would not affect his campaign. He cited a continuing flow of campaign contributions from his supporters as proof of his invincibility.

That resolve could dissipate though if more details of Cain's alleged improprieties emerge: Two of four women whom Cain allegedly sexually harassed when he was head of the National Restaurant Association in the 1990s have spoken out publicly. And a fifth report has emerged that he made a woman with whom he dined uncomfortable by allegedly asking her for an introduction to another woman — in addition to sticking her for an \$800 bill for two bottles of wine. The



Herman Cain

it go away, he instead came off to many as arrogant and inept.

Things aren't going any better for Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who quickly ascended in the polls after he announced his candidacy for president earlier in the fall. But Perry, another major foe of the LGBT community, fell to the bottom just as fast after giving a series of poor debate performances with other GOP candidates.

The governor continued his fall from grace when he spoke at an event in New Hampshire recently and appeared to be under the influence of some sort of intoxicant, although he issued a denial and attributed the odd behavior to a casual speaking style he had adopted for the evening.

In the Republican debate this week Perry again stumbled by not being able to remember the name of a federal agency he wanted to eliminate if he were elected president. Before the debate Cain's answer to the sexual harassment question was expected to dominate news coverage afterwards, but Perry's slip-up instead became the lead.

It was Cain's second break of the evening during the debate. Earlier, Romney had declined to answer a question about whether he thought Cain was unfit for the presidency because of the sexual harassment allegations.

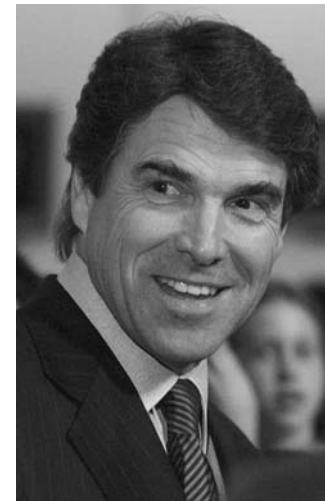
The problems stunting the Cain and Perry campaigns ordinarily would work to the advantage of the other major Republican contender, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, but the savagery the other GOP candidates' campaigns will inflict on him in coming months no doubt will offset the advantage.

Political analysts expect Romney, who also demanded answers from Cain this week, will be portrayed in multi-millions of dollars' worth of advertising as a flip-flopper who can't be trusted by Republican voters.

For that matter, LGBT voters probably can't trust Romney either — and we certainly cannot trust Cain or Perry, who already have made it

dinner followed a speech Cain gave to USAID in Egypt in 2002, according to the Washington Examiner.

Although Cain and his handlers no doubt thought that trying to ignore the controversy might make



Gov. Rick Perry

clear they would not support gay rights issues. In the case of Romney, he does indeed appear to have flip-flopped on issues. Although he once seemed supportive of the LGBT community when he was the governor of Massachusetts, there's no telling what stand he might take in an effort to win the Republican nomination and the presidency.

As for Perry, his disdain for the LGBT community is well known in Texas. He has long fought rumors that he is secretly gay, and that could be part of the reason for his vehement opposition to any LGBT human rights advances. It was for that reason the picture of him going down on a corn dog at a state fair made him the laughing stock of the country.

Likewise, Cain has already vowed to reverse any gay rights gains seen during Obama's administration, and the revelations about his alleged sexual harassment of women should concern all LGBT voters. If he repeatedly treated women over whom he had power with disrespect, it's unlikely that he showed any mercy to gay and lesbian associates he encountered.

But despite the dangers the three major Republican candidates pose to the gay rights movement, the one who wins the nomination will enjoy significant LGBT support. Many LGBT voters believe the Republican Party's policies regarding the economy, national defense and other issues represent the best course for the country — regardless of the impact on the gay rights movement.

The saving grace for gay rights activists who want to see Obama remain in office is that the Republican Party has failed to come up with a candidate to electrify the nation's voters. As discouraging as the country's economic situation remains, Obama continues to outpoll other candidates and would likely win the election if it were held today.

And — at least at this time — it appears unlikely any of the Republican candidates are going to change that scenario by Election Day next year.

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

Ken Mehlman inspiring? Not to me

Why honor a man who spent years not just hiding in the closet, but working with those who oppressed his LGBT brothers and sisters?

In a move that has stunned a lot of folks, Out Magazine has named Ken Mehlman one of its 100 most inspiring people of the year. I was stunned not just by Mehlman's inclusion in the Out 100 list, but the use of the word "inspiring" to describe him.

Let me explain.

Ken Mehlman was campaign manager for the 2004 re-election of George W. Bush. You remember him?

He was the president who threatened to veto the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act, which added sexual orientation to the list of protected classes in existing hate crimes laws. And he was the president who supported the federal Mar-

riage Protection Amendment, a heinous law that — luckily — failed to pass.

Then, from 2005 to 2007, Mr. Mehlman served as the chairman of the Republican National Committee. During that time, he supported the Republican Platform, which included opposition to same-sex marriage.

Well, maybe that's water under the bridge. But I have to say, I do not find Mr. Mehlman in any way inspiring.

What is inspirational about a man hiding in the closet, actively working against LGBT rights on perhaps the largest scale imaginable?



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

What is inspirational about a man who served as the guiding force of a Republican Party that stepped up its use of anti-gay rhetoric and propaganda to motivate the most conservative of its members?

What is inspirational about a man who, when he finally decided to come out at 43, assembled a team of strategists to make his coming out as painless as possible?

Now to be fair, since he has opened his closet door, Mehlman has gone on record as support-

ing many LGBT causes. He even lent his support to the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

Good for him. But Out Magazine's criteria for their selection is "the extraordinary power of the individual to inspire and motivate by example."

What kind of example has Mehlman set?

From what I can tell, his example is this:

- Stay in the closet as long as you can, and do anything necessary, even if it means supporting people who actively work to discriminate and inflict suffering on the LGBT community.

- Do anything necessary to gain power and wealth and influence for your own gain, then once you are well situated, carefully come out while offering support to the same people you helped oppress.

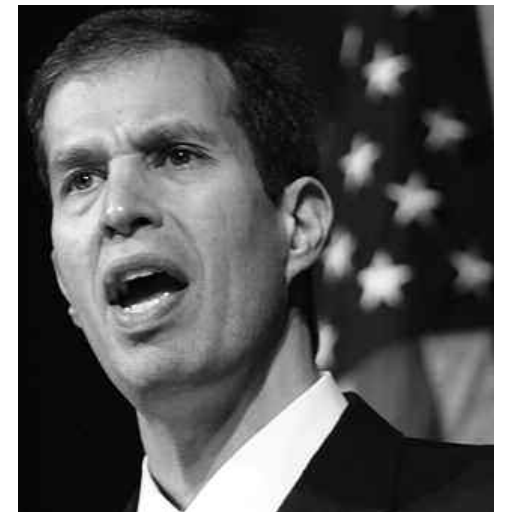
- Come out once there is little danger of your actions hurting your own personal wealth or celebrity status.

- Lastly, make a grand show of your compassion and support for LGBT causes with sufficient effort and cash to buy your way into prominence as a gay icon.

Harsh words? You betcha.

Here is the deal: I understand just how difficult it is to come out, every LGBT person does. We have not reached a time when coming out is simple and non-traumatic.

I also understand how everyone comes out at their own pace. For me it was a process that took



Ken Mehlman

several years, starting when I was 18 and continuing until I was 20.

During that time I was conflicted and confused and sometimes hid my orientation. But I never actively tried to oppress my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

Still, giving Ken the benefit of the doubt, maybe he didn't realize he was gay until 2010. Whatever his story, I have sympathy for him in his personal struggle, but absolutely no sympathy for his active participation in the oppression of LGBT people and the encouragement of homophobic smear campaigns which stepped up the level of hatred and discrimination in our country.

Maybe I need to take a page from the fundamentalists' creed, and "love the sinner, hate the sin?" The problem with that is I would still be "hating," and that's not going to help anyone.

I don't hate Ken Mehlman; I just find him a very sad person who may or may not be trying to atone for his past behaviors. That is a very human struggle and one we all face at one time or another. To do that with grace and humility might be something truly inspiring.

For that, I will wait and see. ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



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156 Votes cast

Sorry? No, 'Grateful'

John Bucchino calls Stephen Schwartz his best friend and Stephen Sondheim his mentor. So how come he's not a huge fan of musical theater?

own. One of the most respected composers of cabaret songs for more than two decades, he broke into Broadway with the acclaimed 2008 musical *A Catered Affair*, which wraps up its regional premiere at Theatre 3 Saturday. But that's hardly your last chance to experience Bucchino. On Nov. 17 — his birthday! — he'll perform his one-man show at Theatre 3, and the next day, previews of his revue *It's Only Life* begin in the Theatre Too space. It's a mini-festival of Bucchino in Uptown.

It's surprising — to Bucchino, especially — that he's become a staple of Theatre 3's schedule, since he personally never had much interest in musicals. Even today, while he numbers Stephen Sondheim as a mentor and calls Stephen Schwartz his best friend of 25 years (he even claims credit for getting *Wicked* made; more on that later), he doesn't really "get" lots of theater references. In fact, he never intended to be a composer at all.

"When I started writing songs, my goal was to be a singer-songwriter," he says. "I started out playing piano at age 1; it became my favorite toy and still is. I just started noodling around with songwriting, which naturally evolved out of playing piano in high school. I figured I'd be a [piano playing pop star] *a la* Elton John or Billy Joel. But *noo*obody was interested in me — they wouldn't give me the time of day. It wasn't on my radar that other people could sing my songs, but that's what took off."

His songs have been recorded by everyone from Barbara Cook ("It doesn't get better than Barbara Cook — her version of 'Sweet Dreams' just knocks my socks off. But her version of *anything* knocks my socks off"), Kristen Chenoweth, Audra MacDonald and Patti LuPone; he wrote the music for a children's book by Julie Andrews and her daughter; he calls *Grateful* probably his most important work. The song was also a watershed for him.

"It was Saturday. I was cleaning house and suddenly found myself at the piano playing the chorus for 'Grateful' and I just started to cry. But that's as far as it went for month. Then came the sweat of crafting these lyrics and bridge around this perfect chorus," he says.

Bucchino invited his friend Art Garfunkel over to listen to it and give feedback. As soon as it was over, Garfunkel said, "Don't give that to anyone else: It's *mine*."

"From that reaction, I knew something was going to happen

with it," he says.

Still, his ascension to Broadway was a long one.

"I didn't really know about live theater. I kind of thought of pop songwriting as somehow cooler — theater writing as less complex and two dimensional," he says. "But Stephen Schwartz is the one who encouraged me to write for the theater."

How can a gay guy involved in music *not* be a theater queen? Bucchino seems unfazed by the idea. He says he "wasn't entirely unfamiliar with Stephen Sondheim" when Broadway's greatest composer-lyricist called to say he was "really excited by my work." But then came the pressure to produce something he wasn't wholly conversant in. "It became terrifying to write for musical theater, because all these lofty people were encouraging me."

A Catered Affair is his only show to open for a Broadway run, but his song cycles have been staples of regional theaters; Theatre 3's Terry Dobson has been an especially enthusiastic supporter. ("I'm still not a musical theater geek just because I've done it," he says.)

So how does he take responsibility for *Wicked*?

"Holly Near [for whom he has been a long-time accompanist] and I had gotten a gig to do a lesbian music festival on Maui. Stephen [Schwartz] was working on [the score for the animated film] *Prince of Egypt* in Los Angeles. I told him to come with me and we could hang out. He did. We were on a snorkeling trip with Holly and her partner and she said, 'I just read the most interesting book.'" It turned out to be *Wicked*. When she described it to Schwartz, he immediately saw the potential to become a musical. "So if I hadn't invited Stephen to vacation with us, it would never have happened!" Bucchino crows.

Bucchino acknowledges some have called his songs "not immediately hummable," but that's a good thing.

"That's because you haven't heard them before. I'd like to think that's a reflection of my unique voice. What I go for in my writing is surprising inevitability — a chord progression or turn of phrase that makes you say, 'I didn't expect it to go there but, gee! How satisfying.' I think the songs that are immediately memorable are derivative or formulaic in a way," he says.

He also strives for a timelessness of sentiment, which is why, although often recorded by gay artists, his songs are usually gender neutral.

"If you look at the love songs on the *Grateful* CD, because I had not come out or to terms with my sexuality, I just decided not to use pronouns. There are no 'he' or 'her,' but 'you.' Maybe that's a copout but also makes them more universal. We're all people — gay or straight, male or female, we all go through the same stuff. I'm trying to reach that commonality which transcends gender or sexual orientation. Sometimes I wish my art were more overlapping into commerce, but I'm happy doing what I do."

What's the word? Oh, right: Grateful. ■

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

I WRITE THE SONGS | Composer John Bucchino has his turn performing his music with a cabaret show at Theatre 3, which is holding a mini-festival of his music this fall.

If you look at John Bucchino's web page, you're immediately struck by how, under "biography," he lists only the compositions he's written and recordings made of his songs and awards he's received. No date of birth, no hometown, no pet peeves. It's as if his life story can be expressed through his work alone.

And the thing is, Bucchino doesn't really disagree with that.

"I guess I do feel that way," he says with a sudden flash. "I figure on a website, it's not about me as a person but me as a songwriter. I do feel the work — especially *It's Only Life* and the albums — are incredibly open and incredibly vulnerable insights into me. Ninety percent of them are directly from experiences in my life. I'm so wrapped up in what I do — probably unhealthily so — but I'm perfectly open. I need to get those two things in a better balance."

In fact, doing so might make for a good song.

It's not as if Bucchino doesn't have a fascinating story of his

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ADVENIR GOES GREEN

L+S screen

Hoover? Damn!

'J. Edgar' tries — and almost succeeds — at being 'Brokeback' for G-Men

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



Before he became the nation's most famous lawmen (one who never carried a gun or made an arrest), J. Edgar Hoover's greatest governmental accomplishment was organizing the system for card cataloging the Library of Congress, and in Dustin Lance Black's screenplay for *J. Edgar*, that speaks volumes. Hoover thought of everything — books, people, information — as things to be categorized and managed. "Believe in the individual" Hoover (Leonardo DiCaprio) says near the end of the film, without a hint of realization that his entire career was a slow repudiation of that principle.

Hoover was, simply, a scary son of a bitch, a homegrown Torquemada clothed with the mantle of democracy.

That's not something I'm sure *J. Edgar* fully captures. Hoover was an innovator of law enforcement: He believed in process, in the value of centralizing information like fingerprints, and of preserving evidence *in situ*.

But as with many well-intentioned people who rise to unbridled power, he abused it. Personal and political enemies were targeted, if not outright blackmailed; the constitution became more barrier than guideline. You can see how Hoover's FBI laid the groundwork for the Bush Administration's unironic use of "extraordinary rendition" as a euphemism for torture; the U.S. *doesn't* torture as a precept, so anything we do in the name of safety *must* be proper.

J. Edgar gets off to a shaky start, but it grows on you. Our first sight of Hoover is of DiCaprio pinched into an overdone old-man latex mask that looks comical, like Lord Voldemort in a Brooks Bros. suit. The film is bookended by the sunset of Hoover's life while recording his memoirs, and the start of his career, only until about 1935; that leaves a generation of villainy during

the Cold War and Civil Rights Movement almost untouched by Black and director Clint Eastwood. Some things had to come out, of course; but the gap feels gaping.

None of this is to say Black's screenplay doesn't succeed on several levels. He portrays Hoover as a spiritual brother of Norman Bates: Emotionally arrested, mother-obsessed (a scene where he dressed in his dead mom's clothes is singularly creepy) and expressing his frustrations in inappropriate ways.

He also presents us with one of the most perversely touching love stories of the year: The very public but very secret romance between Hoover and his aide, Clyde Tolson. Tolson,

played with model-good-looks and a seductive, pantherish stealth by Arnie Hammer, humanizes Hoover. He serves, often ineffectively, as the moral guidepost, the floating conscious of a notoriously

paranoid influence peddler who saw criticism as subversiveness and liberalism as treasonous. Eastwood is best directing as he hints, for the better part of an hour, at the sexual energy between them. It's on the personal level that *J. Edgar* becomes something more than a biopic — it becomes *Brokeback Capital Hill*, a romance among G-Men.

Hammer is the most compelling actor on the screen, followed closely by Judi Dench as the most unnerving mom since Angela Lansbury in *The Manchurian Candidate*. But Leo falls flat. He doesn't convey Hoover's demagoguery with enough vitriol; it's like he's afraid of coming off as the villain.

Ultimately, maybe it doesn't matter. Hoover's political legacy speaks for itself; we have *J. Edgar* to remind us of the sad tragedy of being in the closet, and how even in unlikely times, love finds a way.



J. EDGAR
Leo DiCaprio, Arnie Hammer, Judi Dench. Rated R. 145 mins. Now playing in limited release.

G-MEN, X-RATED | Tolson (Arnie Hammer) and Hoover (Leonardo DiCaprio) carry on in 'J. Edgar.'

Kitsch and tell

Nestled in the Ozarks, the hetero haven of Branson, Mo., proves that there's more than meets the eye — if you know where to look.

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

On the surface, Branson, Mo., does not hold a lot of appeal to the LGBT community. With its reputation as a sort of Las Vegas lite, the tourist town seems to cater to an older, retiree crowd.

But while shows featuring acts like Tony Orlando and The Osmonds might not hold much sway for hip gay crowds, even ironically, Branson *does* have its charm that can woo even the most skeptical traveler. Just look closer. And if you're a Christmas-holic, you might think you've gone to heaven.

Marketing Branson as a travel destination for gays is a hard sell, but locals want LGBT people to know they shouldn't be afraid of the city. Granted, it is not the party destination of, say, South Beach or Provincetown, but that's not what the place is about, even for straights.

"For the gay traveler, they are not coming here because it's a gay destination," says Mark Bryson with the Branson Tourism Center. "It's a holiday destination and we offer a lot of recreation as well. The nightlife may not exist, and we're not the stop for something like the White Party. We just want to prove that the gays don't need to be afraid of Branson as they long have."

As an out gay man, Bryson knows his stuff. Branson is a pleasant sort of Twilight Zone that shuts out the rest of the world but welcomes all to its happy, little corner.

And he's right. The city succeeds in courting a mature crowd, but it does not lack in alternative offerings for those uninterested in kitschy stage shows. With a beautiful landscape, there are plenty of recreational activities.

Ziplining is big in these parts, and for good

BAZAAR EXPERIENCE | Dick's 5 & 10 in Branson's historic downtown district offers everything you could need or want, but claustrophobics beware. The tiny aisles are always crowded.

reason. The hilly terrain makes for an ideal ride that should get the heart racing. Murder Rock and Thousand Hills are among a large list of golf courses within a small radius. Take a scenic tour of Branson by boat on Ride the Ducks — a carboat if you will — or by train on the Branson Scenic Railway, a 90-minute round trip that takes you through the Ozarks and into Arkansas. Both offer holiday options such as Holiday Lights Duck Style through Dec. 11 and The Polar Express through Dec. 3.

Branson ups its game with the Branson Landing, an outdoor mall complex located on the waterfront of Lake Taneycomo. Shops and restaurants run from high-end such as Level Steakhouse and White House | Black Market to easily accessible like Cantina Laredo and Chico's, but the centerpiece of the Landing is its \$7.5 million water fountain exhibit, which features

shows synchronized to lights and music. During the lighting of the grand Christmas tree, the fountains danced to Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas." That's pretty gay.

The Landing includes the Hilton Promenade that makes for a convenient stay. Blocks away is the historic district where the charm kicks in small-town style. An array of homey shops feature all the trinkets and tchotchkes you'll never need, but are nevertheless irresistible.

The anchor of the district is Dick's 5 & 10. This large store hosts a heavy crowd hungry for good deals and perhaps a step back in time. The store is cramped, with aisles that offer everything from candy, sewing patterns, tools and souvenirs. It's kind of ridiculous and it's also cool. But if you're claustrophobic, do some serious consideration. The crowd is a heavy mix of tourists and regular shoppers and weekends are

almost impossible to navigate through.

Dining options are hit-and-miss. Local eateries like Mel's Hard Luck Diner and Moon River Grill offer bland tastes at breakfast and dinner, respectively. The city fares better with desserts. The Downtown Diner in the historic district has sublime homemade pies and singer/pianist Dino Kartsonakis backs up his claim at 24 Karrot Cake Company in Branson Landing that his carrot cake is the best.

The Christmas season in Branson starts Nov. 1 and if you must do the strip, head to the main drag (W. 76 Country Blvd.), which has either incorporated holiday music into the act, or presents a blowout extravaganza of Christmas such as the Andy Williams Moon River Theater, a grand venue with an adjacent restaurant. A small trail of trees and greenery are lighted, adding to a

■ **KITSCH**, Page 36



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■ **KITSCH**, Page 35

holiday ambience, even if the weather can sometimes be a muggy 70 degrees. But it's a fantasyland nonetheless and the Andy Williams Christmas Spectacular is just that. A variety of acts including The Lennon Sisters, Bob Anderson and sometimes Williams himself perform as if Christmas were around the corner and the magnificent sets house an impressive orchestra and dancers.

While those names may not ring many bells, the crispness of the show makes it worthy and at the very least, the Russian Adagio Dance Team Pasha and Aliona will blow your mind away. Simply put, they are quick change artists and it's Aliona who puts drag queens to shame with her nanosecond dress swap — onstage. When Pasha waves a tasseled hula-hoop over her and one dress morphs into another, it is jaw-dropping and electrifying. You might spend the whole night thinking, how did they do that — and multiple times?

The Knudsen Brothers' *SIX*, at the Hughes American Family Theater, strays from corny impersonations like the passable Legends in Concert show at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theater. Instead, they perform songs from the Beach Boys, Lady Gaga and more with arena like flair but sans instruments. When they drop U2's "With or Without You" on the audience, they fill the room with music all from their own stunning vocal tricks.

Other holiday musts include the Shepherd of the Hills Trail of Lights (through Jan. 2) and An



LANDING STRIP | Branson Landing is a new development that offers an unexpected sophistication, in town with high-end shops and restaurants overlooking Lake Taneycomo.

Old Time Christmas as theme park Silver Dollar City (through Dec. 30), but prepare for your ankles to ache — the slopes are killer.

The roads are as well, but get lost and drive through the curvy roads to see the natural landscape of the area. The trees in fall are picturesque and the Ozarks flank the roads. They are both intimidating and inspiring.

True, Branson isn't going to be the place for boys in briefs dancing at the bar, but for those willing to just let go of the frenetic energy of everywhere else, the city can be a magical one for both LGBT families and couples. ■



SEASON'S GREETINGS | Singer Andy Williams, who revealed a serious illness just last week, is still responsible for the Andy Williams Christmas Spectacular, which shows that Branson is serious about the holiday, already underway. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice).

Laugh riot

Ellen cracks us up, on stage or page

ELLEN DEGENERES



Seriously... I'm Kidding

Sometimes it's hard not to laugh. When your 4-year-old says something hilariously profound, you bite your lip, knowing that you'd be in trouble if you bust a gut. If your beloved does something silly but well-meaning, you twist your lips to avoid the outburst you know is coming. When your great-aunt shows up at holiday dinner dressed *like that*, you know there'd better not be even one "Ha!" to escape your lips.

Yep, sometimes it's hard not to laugh — but you'll want to when you read this book. "As it turns out, writing a book is hard," Ellen DeGeneres says.

This is her third book, each one sharing the ellipses-in-the-title feature. She didn't think writing it would be difficult because, after all, she has a lot to say every

day for at least an hour. There's a lot of talking on a talk show, you know.

There's a lot of listening, too, and daydreaming is not allowed. DeGeneres listens to many famous people — one of her favorites is her wife, Portia de Rossi, who is "beautiful and one of the nicest people [she has] ever met." No, she tells nosy people, they aren't planning on having a family because "there is far too much glass" in their house. Besides, first you have to give birth.

"I won't go into specifics," says DeGeneres, "but ouch and no thank you."

In case you're thinking that this book is all fluff, you'll also find useful advice in its pages. DeGeneres gives readers hints on being a super-model and how to know what clothes will come back in fashion. She writes about polls and why people shouldn't put too much faith in them. She offers several ways to gamble in Las Vegas, gives kudos to funny women who've paved the way for people like her.

But will you find laughs? Yes ... but.

Seriously... I'm Kidding is like having a 241-page monologue in your lap. DeGeneres' wicked wit beams bright from almost each page. But there are times when she dives below silliness. An entire page devoted to sound effects? Four pages of drawings for your child to color? Jokes like these and a few go-nowhere "short stories" may leave readers scratching their heads.

But if you're a fan of DeGeneres' talk show or standup, you'll find a treasure-trove of classic humor that you won't want to be without. For you, *Seriously... I'm Kidding* will be a hard book to miss. And we're not kidding.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

★★★★★
SERIOUSLY... I'M KIDDING
by Ellen DeGeneres
(Grand Central Publishing, 2011).
\$27; 241 pp.

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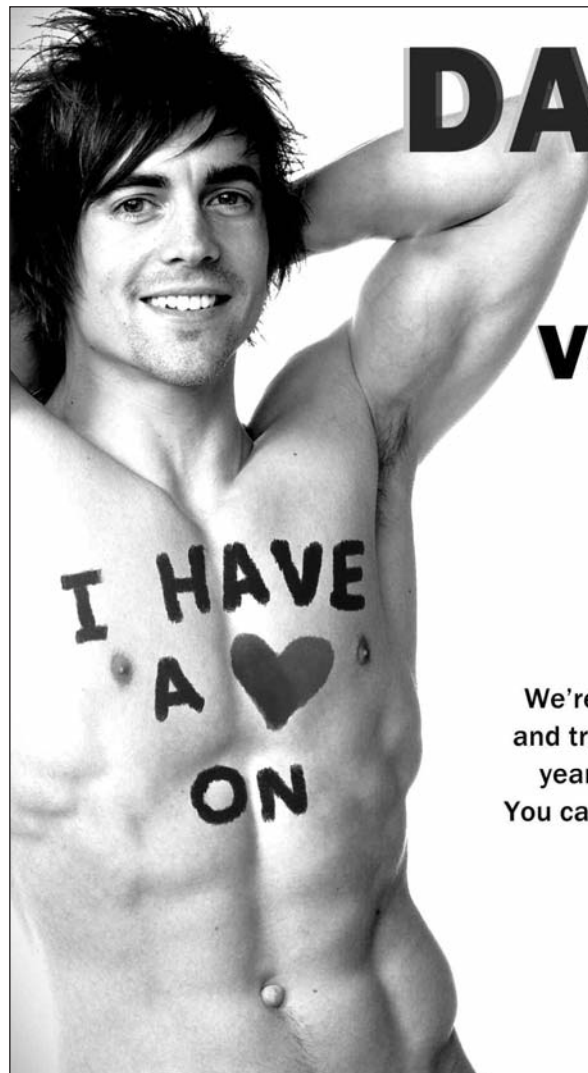


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Now we're **COOKIN'!**

Fiery under the hood and on the road, these sporty rides know how to burn rubber

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer



I love *Hell's Kitchen*: Watching Gordon Ramsey make snarky remarks as he collects aprons at the end of each culinary challenge brings joy to my sarcastic self — I like it when they cry. I also imagine the displaced wannabe tearing out of the parking lot in a fog of burning rubber.

But being accomplished chefs, they would probably choose some refined conveyance — like one of these.

Dodge Charger SRT8. Dodge conjured its magic from a chassis donated by a two-generations-old Mercedes E-Class. However, those leftovers are like Emeril Lagasse sending home his signature dish in sealed china. You won't complain. The re-designed sedan's heathen-eating high-gloss black grille, hood with functional black air exhauster, slammed roofline, 164 LEDs in the taillamps, and 4-in. round dual exhaust tips are but an appetizer.

A performance driver's favorite table includes a heated flat bottom steering wheel with paddle shifters, aluminum trim, aggressive seat bolstering, heated/cooled front buckets and heated rear seats. Hands-free texting comes with compatible Bluetooth devices while safety is enhanced by Blind Spot Monitoring, Forward Collision Warning and Rear

Cross Path detection. The 19-speaker Harman/Kardon audio system cranks 900 watts.

Spicy heat comes from under the hood. A 470hp 6.4-liter HEMI V8 chucks the car from 0-60mph in the "high 4-second range" and delivers 23-MPG hwy thanks to cylinder deactivation during cruise and other technologies. A two-mode adaptive suspension system monitors driver inputs to automatically optimize performance. For a little coaching, owners receive one day of instruction from the Richard Petty Driving Experience. Prices start just under \$47,000.

Mercedes C63 AMG Black Series Coupe.

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■ **COOKIN'**, Page 42



SEEING RED | You can have devilish fun with the high-powered sex appeal of the Mercedes AMG Coupe, top, or the muscle-car testosterone of the Dodge Charger, above. (Photos courtesy of Mercedes-Benz and Dodge)

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DRIVER'S SEAT

Reality TV star (and gay gearhead) Drew Ginsburg stays in the family business — and has *two* rides to show for it



TWO RIDES ARE BETTER THAN ONE | Drew Ginsburg divides his road time between two cars sold at his family's dealerships: A VW Beetle, left, and an Audi A6. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

As the lone gay member of the cast of the recently ended reality show *Most Eligible Dallas*, Drew Ginsburg had to be both fabulous and a gearhead — not exactly the stereotype of the gay man. But his love affair with cars has left him admittedly (if justifiably) snobby about autos — his family does, after all, own a number of car dealerships, and working in the family business means knowing a whole lot about them.

Oh, and don't ever call him A-list.

— Rich Lopez

Name and age: Drew Ginsburg, 30.

Occupation: I handle marketing for the Boardwalk Auto Group, including Boardwalk Audi in Plano and Park Cities Volkswagen on Lemmon Avenue. We're the longest continuously owned and operated dealer in Texas and we feature Volkswagen, Audi, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati and Porsche.

What do you drive? I'm open to driving multiple cars but they all belong to the dealership. Right now, I drive either a VW Beetle or an Audi A6.

That's variety. How do you choose? It just depends on what's going on, but usually if it's business, I drive the Audi; the Beetle is for casual stuff.

Do you have a permanent car? I'm still waiting for my Porsche to come in. It's the new Porsche 911 Carrera in white with black interior. It will be here in January. It's a very sad time right now without a Porsche. I have no sports cars to drive.

Your taste in cars is very A-list (zing!): But I'm not A-list, far from it. I don't think so, anyway. Are you talking about the show?

Umm ... No? So, how are A-list vehicles compared to

you? They all drive Hondas and BMWs, but I don't think they *know* anything about them.

What's the sexiest thing about a ride? Usually it's the acceleration and sometimes, just the design.

Speed driver or grandpa? I'm a speedy driver. My driving style has been described as sex.

Hmmm... can you pick me up at work today? [Silence.]

What was your first car? It was a two-door Chevy Tahoe. I got it when I was 16.

Favorite road trip story? Once I drove from Dallas to Newfoundland with a college buddy and then back to our home in Vermont. It's my favorite because I was just this young college guy having a new experience.

Two guys, one vehicle: Nice. What are the rules of your car? That depends. I was out with a Lamborghini and my roommate got mad that I wouldn't go to Starbucks for him to get a drink.

Where is your fantasy drive? I'd like to conquer the Autobahn again. It's all about driving in Europe. I'd love to drive around Spain and take a trip to the California coast.

What's in your music player? It's loaded up with either

Spotify or Pandora, but I've been listening to Rihanna's "We Found Love" a lot and David Guetta's "Titanium."

Where do you park when you go to Wal-Mart? [Laughs] I just park at the end of the lot.

Are you a car snob? Yes I am, but not about the price tag. I am when it comes to the design and makeup of the car. There are great cars for less than \$30,000 and not so great ones for more than \$120,000. Some people just buy for the emblem.

Like \$30K millionaires? Exactly! They wanna buy a luxury car but can't afford it. It's just for brand.

What should everyone know about cars? Well, if you buy yourself a Saab, you're retarded — it's phasing out. And paying cash doesn't necessarily mean the best deal. And most dealers don't rely on the Kelley Blue Book because we're using real-time market insight. Every car has idiosyncrasies and we have to look at those.

What's it like being famous now? It's been a fun experience and I'm just taking it in as it happens. I don't think of myself like that, but I've gotten to meet more people. It's been a fun ride.

Pun intended? Sure.

■ COOKIN', From Page 40

and large 6.3 badges add frivolous flash. There's no rear seat, but Microfiber is everywhere.

As the most powerful C-Class of all time, the car runs with a 510hp 6.3-liter V8 engine connected to Mercedes' SPEEDSHIFT MCT 7-speed sports gearbox with four shifting modes, rev-matching function and stellar reaction times. One only needs 4.2s to move from naught to 60. Electronic stability modes and the sports suspension can be adjusted for more spirited shenanigans on a proper track. The C63 AMG starts just over \$64,000.



Welcome to the neighborhood

With their move from Irving to Lemmon Avenue — the 'hood's Motor Mile — Goodson Acura has undertaken a bumper-to-bumper overhaul.

At the new facility, there's clearly an emphasis on style. Sleek, sophisticated interiors are resplendent with textures and patterns. Every model is on the showroom floor, each in identical silver body color, which only allows for easy comparisons between models and complete color coordination with the space around them. Behind the welcome desk and throughout the lobby,

friendly faces are eager to offer assistance.

"One of the things that we've always prided ourselves on is our culture. That's the best way to describe it," says Richard Schindler, president and Goodson employee for more than 23 years.

They've also worked hard to stay on the cutting edge, with next-generation tablets that read barcodes inside vehicles and an alignment analyzer built into the service drive. Maybe most enlightened: An LGBT community representative, Chad Whitefield, who keeps the dealership involved in events that benefit various charity groups and give back to their customers.

— Steven Lindsey

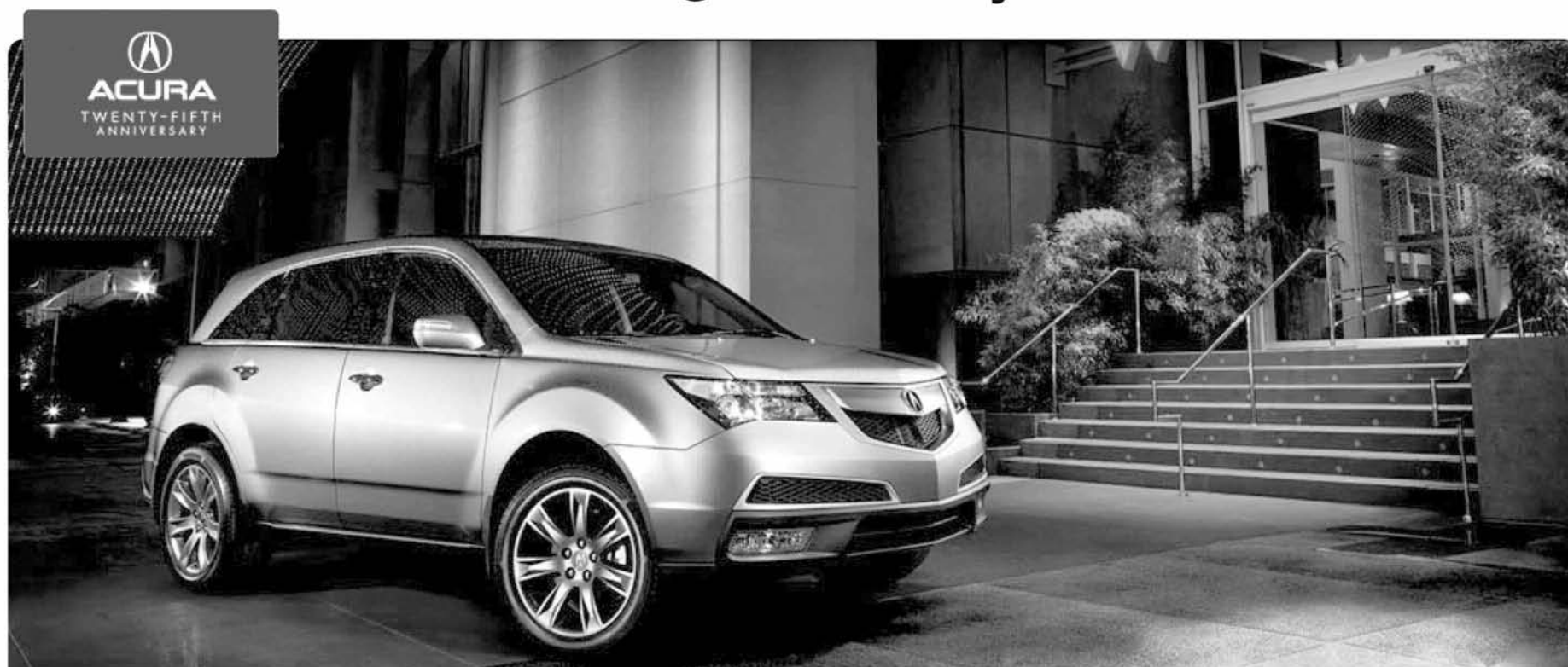
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Little pleasures

'Everything's bigger in Texas' doesn't have to include your gasoline bill. Try one of these fun little numbers

CASEY WILLIAMS |
Auto Reviewer



LOOK SMART | Fashionistas will swoon for the Gucci-fied Fiat 500C, above; buying the Scion iQ, below, shows off your intelligence. (Photos courtesy Fiat and Scion)

It's not the size of your car that matters, but the pleasure you derive from it. Some of those big, bulky motor tools may look sexy, but once you get a fill of their piggish appetites, they can be a turn-off. If your dreams are set on complete satisfaction, we suggest these fun little numbers.

Chevrolet Sonic. Chevy's latest Detroit-built sub-compact is about to hit competitors with a boom. The Aveo it is not! Sonic is refined, stylish and loaded with fun features like a digital speedometer, Bluetooth, USB, remote start and a 138hp turbo engine. Check the sheets for heated leather seats. Expect 29/40-MPG city/hwy. A base price of \$13,735 keeps GM's smallest member from being laughed out of the locker room.

Volkswagen Beetle. VW wouldn't be dressed without a Beetle, and with the 2012 re-design, it should attract more than mall chicks and club queens. Look close and you'll notice a longer roof, beefier fenders, LED running lamps and

optional 19-in. wheels. Gone is the sky dome, but there's more room to stretch. Get it with a 170hp five-cylinder or 200hp Turbo that moves 22/30-MPG city/hwy. Optional Fender audio deserves a B.J. Prices start under \$20k.

Toyota Yaris. Completely redesigned with lovable puggy looks — and 2.9-in. longer to boot — the Yaris offers a more solid ride. You'll love the flat bottom steering wheel, nine airbags and comfy interior. The 106hp engine, connected to a four-speed auto or five-speed manual trans. delivers efficiency — up to 30/38-MPG city/hwy. You can still get three- and five-door hatchbacks. Given a base price just over \$14,000, hordes will be zipping about.

Scion iQ. It's always the smart ones that turn tail undercovers and become wild animals. However, with just 93hp, this tiny city car will have to impress with 11 standard airbags, standard Bluetooth and HD Radio, and "3+1" seating. Thump yourself happy with available



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Pioneer speakers and subwoofer. A brake override and stability control are standard, as is 37MPG fuel efficiency. Prices will start just over \$15,000 when sales begin nationwide in early 2012.

Nissan Versa. Let's just start with the name: "Versa" implies all kinds of uses, but the best one for this re-designed Nissan is getting to work or school and back — all the more pleasurable with Bluetooth, NAV, USB and large interior. The 109hp engine delivers 30/38-MPG city/hwy with an automatic. For an incredibly low starting price of \$10,990, you shouldn't expect much more than a durable transport tool. Pay more and get the good stuff.

Fiat 500C. Fiat can drop its top. The 500C is efficient, fun and revs its 101 horses through a hunky Italian five-speed to deliver 38-MPG hwy. Click the Sport button for a quick rise. Packages like Pop and Lounge, 14 exterior colors and 12-seat designs express. It's even a Top Safety Pick. If a queen wants her 500C, she should go full handbag and get J. Lo's Guccified edition. Prices start at \$19,500 (or

\$27,500 for the famous green and red stripes).

Kia Rio 5-Door. The name hints at Brazil, but the car is from South Korea with German, Audi-inspired styling. Available UVO by Microsoft voice-activated infotainment, rear camera, LED accent lights, USB and dual chrome exhaust tips are upscale. Slid under the hood is a 138hp engine with start/stop technology that enables 30/40-MPG city/hwy with a six-speed transmission. Including a 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty, prices start under \$14,000.

Hyundai Veloster. Three-door-plus-hatchback styling reminds a little of Saturn, but the funky-cool package and split-cowl dash are pure Hyundai. A 138hp four-cylinder with paddle-shifted automatic turns in 40-MPG hwy — better than a Honda CR-Z Hybrid. Blue Link enables voice text messaging, music selection, and a back-up camera. Expect to pay at least \$17,300, including Hyundai's 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty and trade-in value guarantee.



CAR-NIVALE | At less than \$14K, the Kia Rio is an affordably sporty ride. (Photo courtesy Kia)

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Out of drag

Aerodynamic cars are sexy and fuel efficient — as Detroit has long known

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer

My stylishly fabulous friend from Paris once said, "These are the most uncomfortable shoes ever, but they are Prada." My partner and I, on the other hand, have become patrons of Cole Haan, purveyor of kicks that are well-made and beautiful but as

comfortable as sneakers. With or without a label, style and functionality can go together — especially with automobiles.

Chrysler built a wind tunnel by 1930 and enlisted the help of Orville Wright to explore shapes that would slip through the air more easily. They discovered cars of the time would have gone through the air more easily driving *backwards*. The result of their work was the Airflow, from 1934 to 1937 an art deco masterpiece that employed streamlining and elegant curves not fully appreciated until the Ford Taurus debuted in the mid-'80s.

Given the abysmal sales of the Airflow, American automakers wanted no part of engineered styling, choosing instead to splash on chrome and fins. However Germany learned. The VW Beetle and Porsche 356 were influenced by the Airflow's underlying engineering, and the Audi 5000 and Mercedes from the late '70s and '80s relied heavily on wind tunnel testing, giving them a timeless style that still doesn't look dated. Recently, the quest for better gas mileage and battery range pushed aerodynamics forward.

Bugatti's million-dollar Veyron supercar is one gorgeous hunk of carbon fiber and stays grounded at 268mph with the help of a rear spoiler that raises and pivots automatically. Active aero should be expected on a car of this pedigree, but it is also becoming commonplace



on fuel sippers from America, Japan and Korea.

Designers focus on how the car greets new air, where the air flows around and under the chassis and the amount of turbulence-causing drag occurring as wind soars over the rear of the vehicle. A sleek front, smooth undersides, streamlined mirrors and clean break at the tail optimize efficiency. That's why you are now seeing flat edging at the rear of vehicles, smaller spoilers, fluid mirrors and very tall decklids. The look is most extreme on the Chevy Volt and Toyota Prius.

Cars do not need as much grille cooling the engine at higher speeds. To help cars slip through the air, and get the 40 miles of electricity-only driving some promise, automatic shutters close and divert air around the vehicle. They are included on the Kia Optima Hybrid, Ford Focus SFE, Toyota Camry Hybrid, Chevy Cruze Eco, Volt and Malibu Eco. It works: Cruze Eco achieves 44-MPG in highway driving without a hybrid system; the "lightly electrified" 2013 Malibu Eco will achieve 38-MPG. It's safe to say no cars since the Airflow were fussed over so thoroughly to both look good and go smoothly through the air.

You can easily see the attention to aero on a sedan like the Camry, but the Camaro ZL-1 is special. GM's Tom Peters and his team went overboard to make sure the hood vents in-

creased downforce, but were also sculpted out of carbon fiber. Ground affects and a subtle rear spoiler were engineered for performance, but styled to be beautiful, like a linebacker who stays tan and smooth with sharp attire.

Any aerodynamicist worth their smoke wand can make cars slippery. Real talent comes from designers who can also make them beautiful. Cars of all types and prices prove designers can pen shapes that are sexy out of drag.



AIR APPARENT | Engineered cars allowing wind to move in a path or least resistance have been hallmarks of Mercedes-Benz, above, for decades, and make the million-dollar Bugatti Veyron, top, road candy for the eye.

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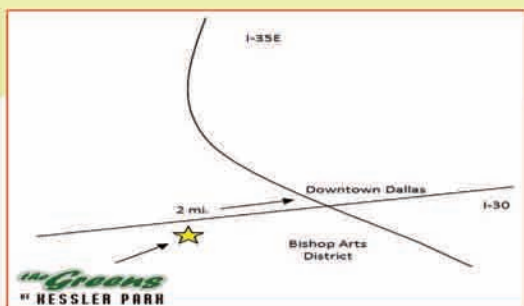
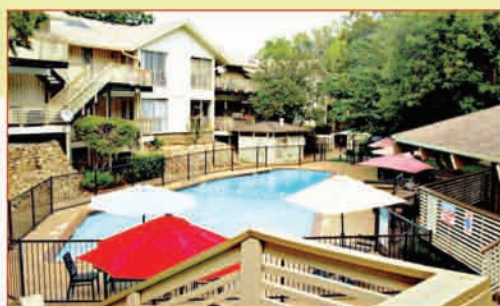
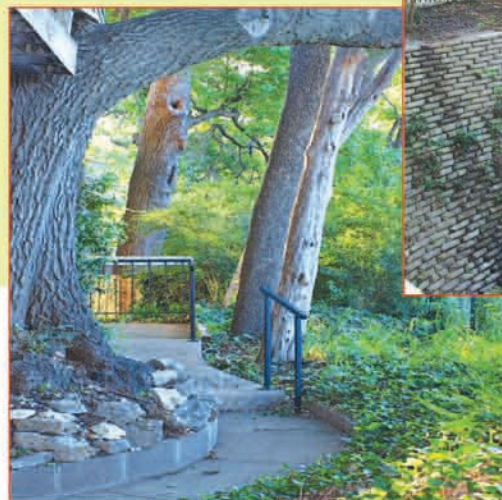
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Saturday 11.12

We'll fall for these Con men

With more than 150 artists auctioning off their art and for cheap (opening bid is still \$20), Art Con 7 is both the best place for snagging original art and a flat out blast. With live music by the Hope Trust, KERA's Rawlins Gilliland as auctioneer and all of it benefiting Musical Angels that provides free piano lessons to hospitalized children, it's unparalleled in offering a fulfilling night.

DEETS: 511 W. Commerce St. 7 p.m. \$10. Art-Conspiracy.org.

Sunday 11.13

Gaultier gets his proper due

The world has oohed and ahed over designer Jean Paul Gaultier's striking fashions for years, but from afar. The Dallas Museum of Art brings the designer's work up close in the highly anticipated exhibit *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*. The exhibit includes not only his fashions, but an animatronic mannequin of the designer. And it talks!

DEETS: DMA, 1717 N. Harwood St. Through Feb. 12. \$16-\$20. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Thursday 11.17

The man still is a "Work of Art"

Even with more than 30 years in the music industry, Morrissey still retains an air of mystery. That's part of his mystique. Sure we've discovered tidbits about the former Smiths singer, but his hidden side is part of his allure and odd sex appeal.

DEETS: McFarlin Auditorium, 6405 Boaz Lane. 8 p.m. \$40-\$50. Ticketmaster.com.



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calendar

FRIDAY 11.11

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour at Ristorante Nicola, 8111 Preston Road, Ste. 150. 5:30 p.m. Email pavw@ti.com for more information.

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

JEWEL Crafting Circle meets. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for the craft project of the month. RCDallas.org.

CONCERT

God-des and She. The lesbian hip-hop duo returns to Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 9 p.m. PartyAtTheBlock.com.



SHE AND HER

God-des and She bring their hip-hop stylings back to Dallas Friday at Sue's.

SATURDAY 11.12

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers Prime Brunch followed by a trip to the Dallas Zoo. The Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd., 11 a.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

Once in a Blue Moon, women's dance. Dance-Masters Ballroom, 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$10. 972-479-0774.

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

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 11.13

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers play Uno at member residence. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

First Community Church of Dallas worship services. 9120 Ferguson Road. 11 a.m. FCCDFW.org.

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

MONDAY 11.14

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 UMC. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

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

TUESDAY 11.15

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-506-3367.

JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. RCDallas.org.

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 11.16

COMMUNITY

Legacy of Success Community Mixer meets. Catfish Blues, 1011 S. Corinth St. 6:30 p.m. LOSF.org.

Cathedral Business Network meets. Location to be determined. 11:30 a.m. Contact Anita at 214-351-1901. CathedralOfHope.com.

DFW Prime Timers Prime Lunch at Greek Isle Grill and Taverna, 3300 N Central Expressway (in Ruisseau Village), Plano. Noon. The group then plays bridge every Wednesday at member's residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

THURSDAY 11.17

COMMUNITY

The Set men's group by the Legacy of Success Foundation. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 6 p.m. LOSF.org.

The House of Glamour for African-American women to meet and caucus. Brooklyn's Jazz Café, 1701 S. Lamar St. 3 p.m. LOSF.org.

FA.C.E., support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS. The group also meets on Mondays. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



RuPaul Charles turns 51 on Thursday. The pioneering drag queen continues to step up the art of drag with the upcoming fourth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race* on Logo in January along with the companion show *Untucked*. But in 2010, he returned to his roots by releasing his fifth album, *Glamazon* and debuted the single "Superstar" on the finale of the third season of *Drag Race*.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Efforts to befriend colleagues backfire. Constructive criticism should be offered carefully. Friends' insights help your partnership and challenge your friendship. But you love a challenge.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Your eagerness to get ahead is overdone. Crediting your colleagues will help you keep proportion. You don't need to oversell yourself. Humility is your key to greatness.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Your own creative visions and hopes are too extravagant. Share them anyway. Invite your friends to critique your goals. They will help you develop keener focus. Face domestic discord to heal it.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Think before responding to a challenge. You're feistier than usual. On the other hand, taking criticism to heart could provide a lot of material for self-improvement.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Too much explaining undermines your efforts. Answer questions succinctly. Hunches may offer insight, but don't necessarily trust them. Stick to the facts.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

If you ask for a raise you'll get what you're worth. Are you willing to risk it? Quiet time alone can help you get insight into early traumas. Helping those less fortunate can help you to heal them.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Sex can be healing, but one can overdose. Feelings of satiation can open new insights. Even in hard times life can be good and you have the resourceful creative instincts to make the most of it.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Advice from Mom is useful, but more a springboard to clearer ideas. Others may trigger your anxieties, those worries are your own from childhood shames. Choose your company carefully.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Showing off leads to criticism. The trick is to consider the source, see what you learn from it and don't let it bother you. Stay strong and focused to take charge and deal with family problems.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Try not to start arguments at home. An older sibling or neighbor has good advice even if you don't like it. Hard work and efficiency at work will be rewarded with greater challenges.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your energy is picking up and liable to go in different directions. Housework is a pleasant diversion. Focus on learning practical issues. What do you need to learn to be truly successful?

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Keeping up with the Joneses quickly becomes more jonesing. Challenge yourself to be thrifty. Campy discussions are fun, but easy to overdo. Improve on your own flaws; never mind others'.

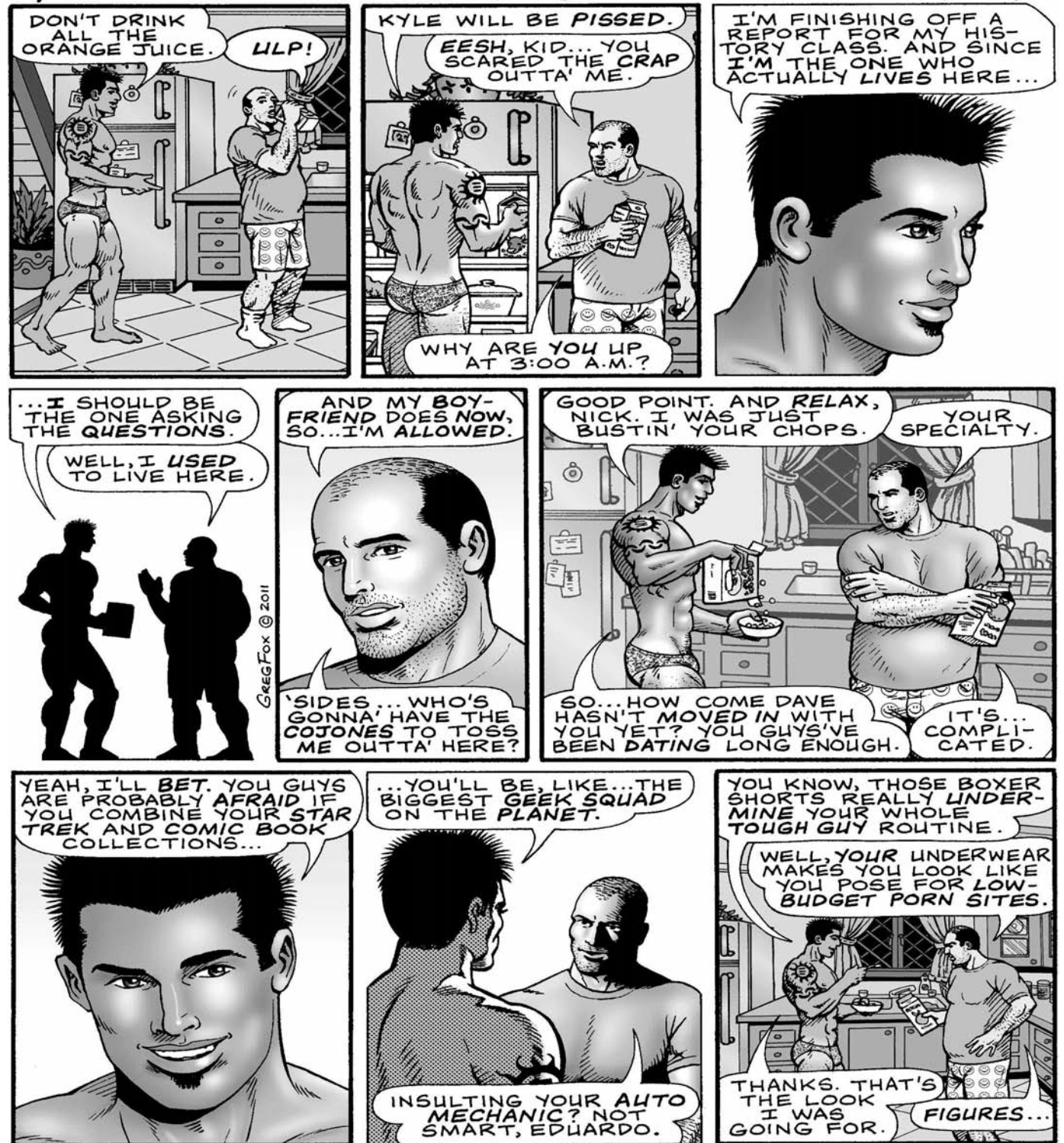
THIS WEEK

Mars is in Virgo trine to Jupiter in Taurus directing our energies to critical, constructive matters. Get to work. Flirtations and chatter are just distractions, but a little is good for morale.

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

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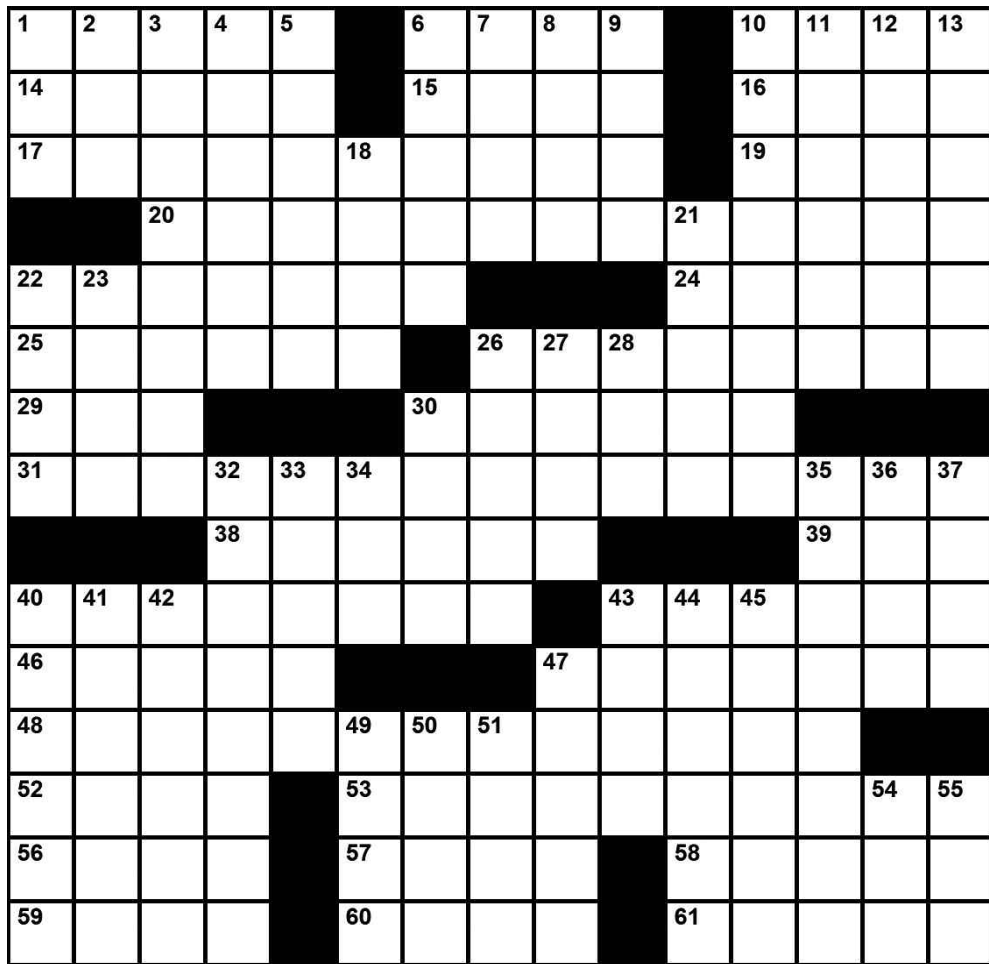
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God's Memoir

Solution on page 51

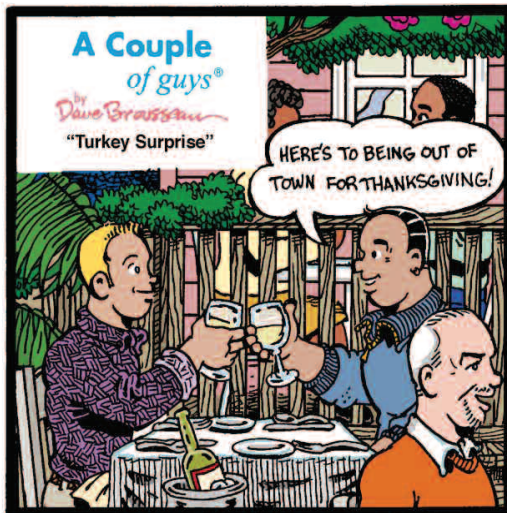
Across

- 1 Big name in foamy heads
- 6 Eagles, but not leather bars
- 10 Cabbage salad
- 14 When actors should come
- 15 Heterogeneous mixture
- 16 Common greeting
- 17 Hairy situation on Wall Street?
- 19 "Da Doo Ron Ron" opening
- 20 David Javerbaum's book about God's Memoir, with The
- 22 Aida, to the Egyptians
- 24 Particular Advocate, e.g.
- 25 Straights, to PlanetOut?
- 26 One who goes both ways on the train?
- 29 Henry and June's Anais
- 30 Centers of research
- 31 Message from God in 20-Across
- 38 Kind of line, on Broadway
- 39 Monopoly abbr.
- 40 Lick it
- 43 Crossed swords
- 46 "There's ___ every crowd!"
- 47 Seaport of da Vinci's land

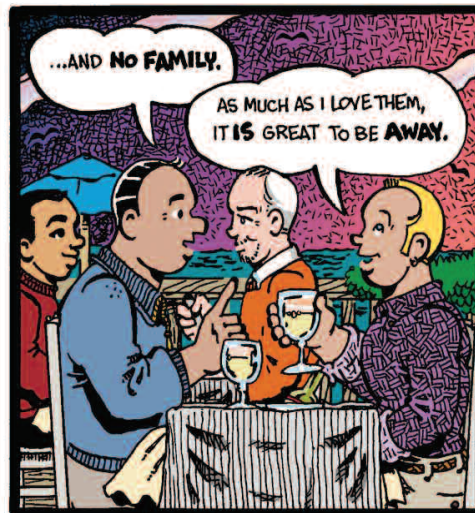
- 48 What God is, since we're created in God's image, per 20-Across
- 52 Some promises
- 53 Hear here
- 56 Fairy tale bad guy
- 57 Leave out
- 58 Part of a fashion name
- 59 Financial aid criterion
- 60 Guitarist Townshend
- 61 Second name in cross-dressing

Down

- 1 Choreographer Fosse
- 2 Le Monde article
- 3 Uncovering the head?
- 4 Parish priest
- 5 Cuts off from escape
- 6 Rich oral pleasure with nuts
- 7 It's Not the Size That Counts star Sommer
- 8 Bubbly drinks
- 9 Today co-host Lauer
- 10 Garb for Diana Nyad
- 11 Like the least convincing excuses
- 12 Q, in a theater
- 13 More like some dreams
- 18 Many P-town beach vehicles
- 21 Actress Anouk
- 22 Permission request
- 23 Went down (on)
- 26 Class clown
- 27 Adolph of publishing
- 28 "Boys of summer" org.
- 30 Emperor played by Charles Laughton
- 32 Towered over
- 33 "To ___ own self be true" (Hamlet)
- 34 Lover that you can't get over
- 35 Putting off coming
- 36 Steven's opening
- 37 Decorate anew
- 40 It's for skin
- 41 Liable to blow
- 42 "The Raven" maiden
- 43 Bulb unit
- 44 Bill Clinton's number two
- 45 Got up like a stallion
- 47 Shoot off unseen
- 49 Grating sound
- 50 Vegetable dildo, for short
- 51 Cut
- 54 Hollywood's Hagen
- 55 Put a scuff on



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Larry and Bryan at the Dallas Eagle.



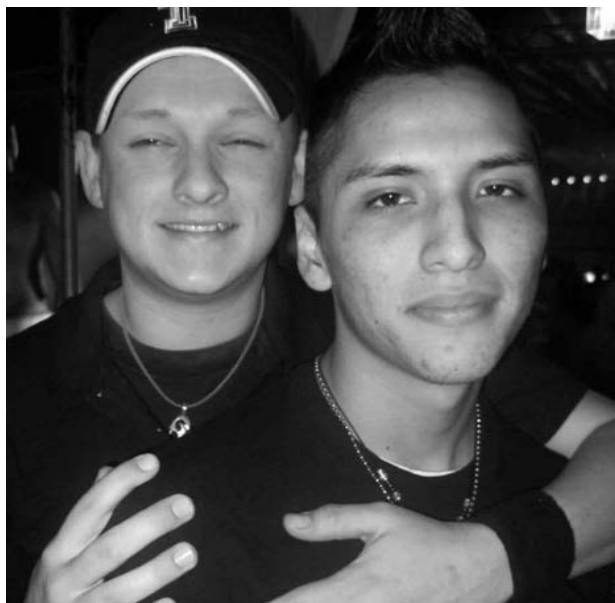
Matt, Memo and Elvis at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

Figuring out your nightlife fun? No worry, we gotcha **High Tech Happy Hour** returns for its monthly drinky event. **Ristorante Nicola** is this month's location for Friday Lesbian singer/songwriter **Jevette** appears at **Art & Coffee** on Saturday. The monthly open mic and live art show takes place at **Mokah Coffee Bar** in **Deep Ellum** DJ **Perry** starts the weekend at the **Dallas Eagle** on Friday and DJ **Paul Kraft** rules Saturday night. Before Kraft does his thing, take in the **DFW Leather Corps Seminar** in the afternoon. Got talent? Show it off on Tuesday's **Open Mic Night** **Mi Diva Loca** performs the hits at **Jack's Back Patio** at **Woody's**. The **Voice of Pride** winners sing pop covers but also add original material to their set Do not miss **Exklusive's** hot **Black Friday All Male Review Show**. We won't! Hayyy Not sure how many times we've said this, but **Cherries** is now open — again. The **grand opening** goes down on Friday with a sweet cast featuring **Kelexis Davenport**, **Celeste Martinez**, **Kandy Cayne** and more. Former **Rainbow Lounge** manager Randy took over the club and has turned into **Randy's Club Cherries**. We can't wait to check it out **God-Des and She** return to Dallas bringing their lesbian hip-hop to **Sue Ellen's** on Friday. Whatever you do on Saturday, do not miss the **Jackie Hall Experience**. She will likely blow your frigg'in' mind away. For real. ■

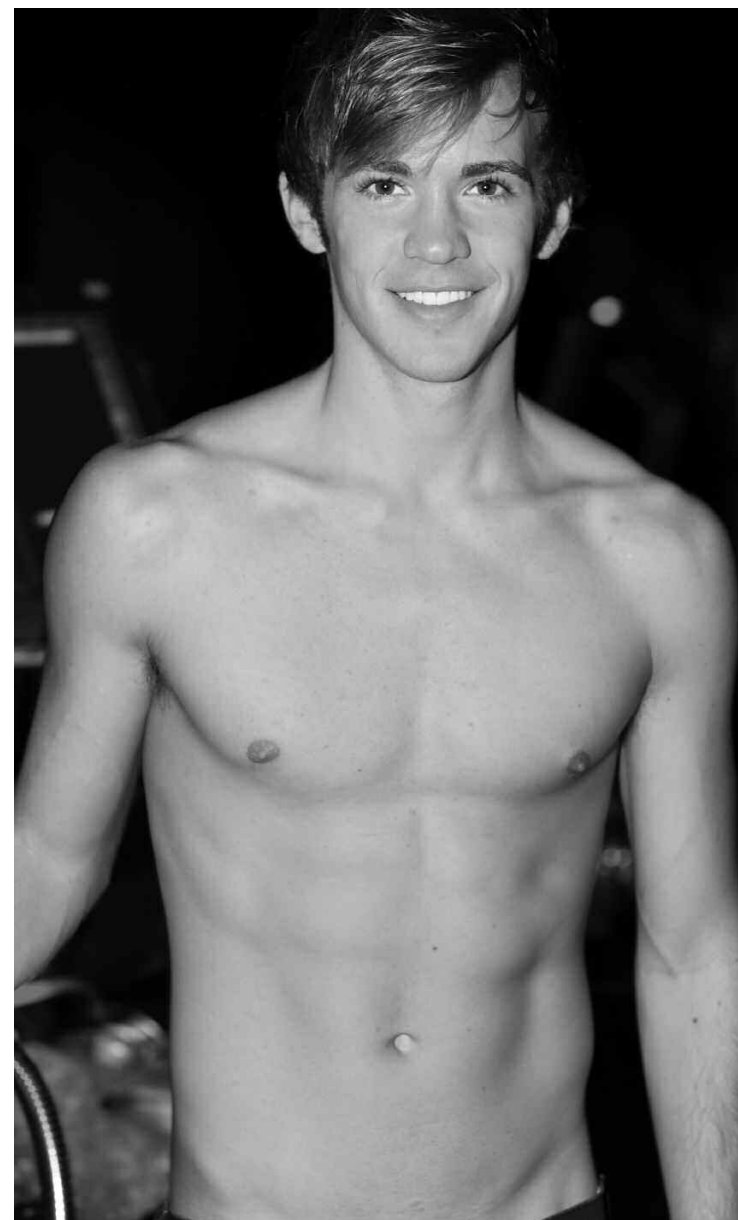
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Chad at Pekers.



J.R. and Luis at the Rainbow Lounge.



Will at BJ's NXS!



Josie, Melly and Mirdes at Havana

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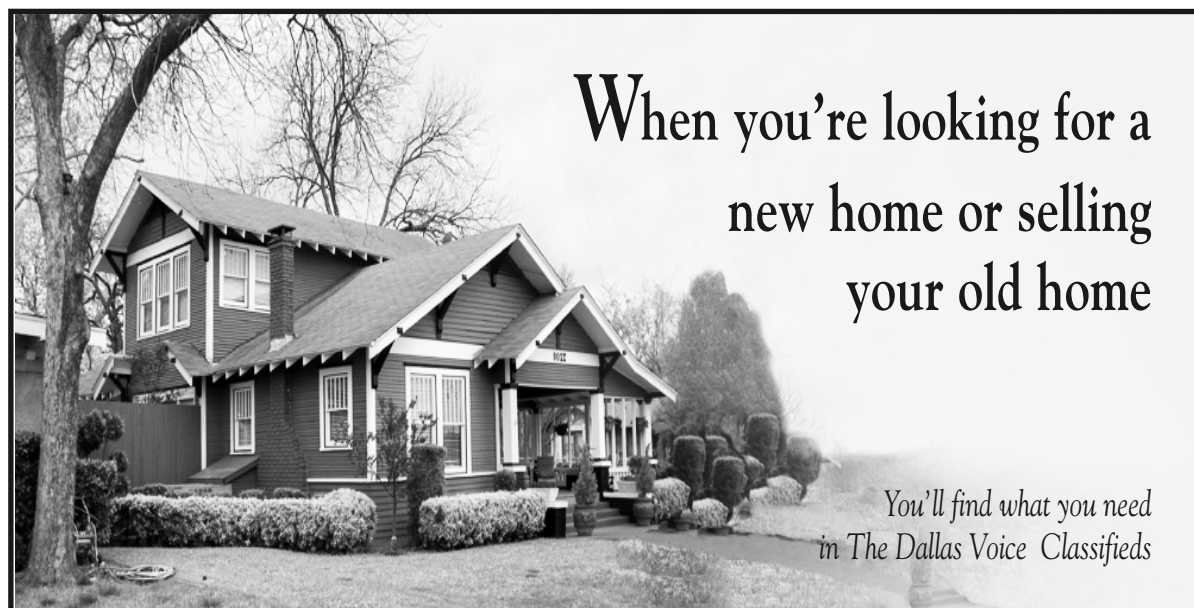


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