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Friday, November 18, 2011

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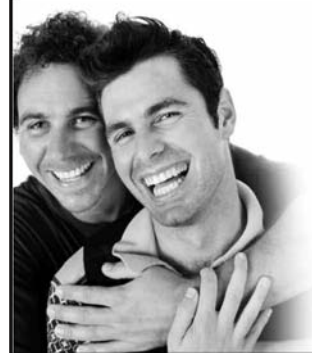


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Taylor Garrett of 'The A-List: Dallas' reports being assaulted

Taylor Garrett, the gay Republican cast member from *The A-List Dallas*, claims he was assaulted on Friday night, Nov. 11 in Dallas by someone who carved "Fuck Coulter" into the side of his vehicle.

It marks the second time in six weeks Garrett has reported being targeted for his association with conservative commentator Ann Coulter and for being a gay Republican. Last month, Garrett reported that a rock with a threatening note attached was thrown at the window of his Dallas Design District apartment. Some gay bloggers have alleged that Garrett falsified the report about the rock as a publicity stunt in advance of the premiere of *The A-List Dallas*.

We don't know much about last Friday's incident beyond what's already been reported, but we did manage to track down a copy of the police report Garrett filed.

Sr. Cpl. Gerardo Monreal, a spokesman for the Dallas Police Department, said Monday there had been no arrests, and he was unsure whether the case had been assigned to a detective yet. According to the report, the suspect is described as a white male, approximately 6 feet, 2 inches tall. The suspect had a dark beard and was wearing a baseball hat.

The incident occurred at 10:20 p.m. at 2800 Knight St. (near Congress Avenue), where Garrett had parked his blue 2008 Audi. According to the Daily Caller, a conservative website that broke the story, Garrett was returning to his car to retrieve a birthday gift for a friend when he noticed the suspect. According to the police report, Garrett yelled for the suspect to get away from the car. That's when the suspect punched him in the face, causing him to fall to the ground and strike his head against the concrete. Garrett suffered a bloody nose and a cut to his ear. He returned to the party a few blocks away before calling authorities. He was treated at the scene by paramedics from Dallas Fire-Rescue.

Jason Shumaker, a spokesman for Logo, the network that is airing *The A-List Dallas*, said Monday morning that Garrett was traveling all day and unavailable for comment. Shumaker didn't respond to follow-up emails later in the week.

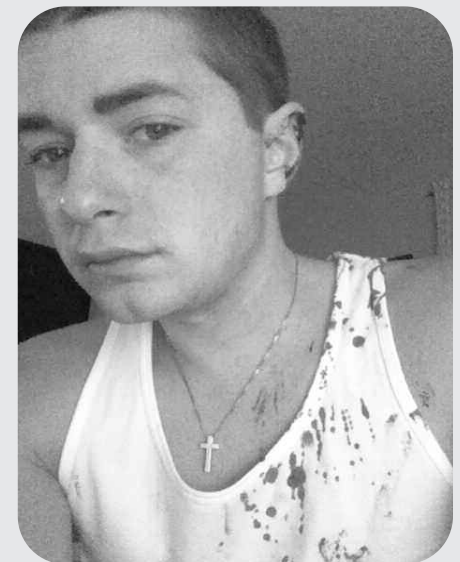
GOProud, a gay conservative group with which Garrett is affiliated, alleged on Twitter last weekend that the incident was an example of "anti-conservative violence from the hateful gay-left (again)."

UPDATE: Laura Martin, the Dallas Police Department's LGBT liaison officer, said a detective has been assigned to the case and has already spoken with Garrett.

"We're definitely aware of it and we're looking at it and we're in contact with him," Martin said Monday afternoon. "There are no leads at this point."

Martin said Garrett was unable to provide any additional info about the suspect, beyond what was in the initial report. She also confirmed that Garrett declined to wait for physical evidence services — or PES — which means police weren't able to take photographs or attempt to get fingerprints from the side of the vehicle.

"Obviously there is damage to his vehicle and there is damage to his face, so it does appear that he was assaulted," Martin said. "We just



TRUE BLOOD | Taylor Garrett provided this photo to *The Daily Caller*, the conservative website he contacted to report that he'd been attacked in Oak Lawn last weekend.

don't know by whom."

Martin said regardless, the incident doesn't appear to be a hate crime.

"From reading the report, it sounds like he was targeted again for his political views and his association with Ann Coulter," she said. "Unless he was targeted strictly because he was gay, it's not a hate crime."

— John Wright

Calif. high court says Prop 8 backers should have standing

The California Supreme Court issued an advisory ruling on Thursday, Nov. 17, indicating that ProtectMarriage.com has standing to appeal a trial court's ruling that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court issued the decision after being asked to do so earlier this year by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court's opinion is an advisory ruling only, which means that the appellate court is not bound by its findings. The 9th Circuit judges, however, have previously indicated they would follow the Supreme Court's decision.

Prop 8, approved by California voters the same year that Barack Obama was elected president, was ruled unconstitutional in the summer of 2010 by District Judge Vaughn Walker, who has since retired. The amendment was defended in court by ProtectMarriage.com, the primary backer of the Prop 8 referendum, after California Attorney General Jerry Brown refused to defend it in court. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also failed to defend the amendment in court.

When ProtectMarriage.com appealed Walker's ruling to the appellate court, the three-judge panel chosen to hear the case heard oral arguments in early December 2010 and a month later asked the state Supreme Court to weigh in on the question of standing. Now the wait begins to see if the 9th Circuit abides by the Supreme Court's ruling on standing, and how the appellate court will rule on the merits of the case.

— David Taffet

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TDOR: 'Everyone deserves to be mourned'

Services planned this weekend in Dallas and Fort Worth to remember, honor the more than 200 trans people murdered worldwide in the last year

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Marcal Camero Tye, 25, was a friendly, outgoing young woman who got along well with most people in the small town of Forrest City, Ark., where she lived — despite the fact that she was openly transgender in such a conservative atmosphere.

But sometime after leaving a party at a friend's house on the evening of March 7, somebody murdered Marcal Tye.

Investigators say that Tye, whose body was

found early in the morning of March 8 on a rural road outside Forrest City, was shot in the head and then run over by a car, her body apparently getting caught in the vehicle's undercarriage and dragged for some distance.

St. Frances County Sheriff Bobby May has insisted that the killing was just "a regular murder" and not a hate crime. But those who knew Tye and LGBT activists who have been following the crime believe Tye was killed because she was transgender.

Marcal Tye is just one of the 22 trans people murdered over the last 12 months who will be remembered by name during Transgender Day of Remembrance services on Sunday at the Interfaith Peace Chapel in Dallas. And she is just one of 221 trans people murdered worldwide in the last year, according to the Trans Murder Monitoring Project.

Transgender Day of Remembrance began in

November 1999 when trans activists and their allies gathered in San Francisco for a candlelight vigil to remember Rita Hester, a trans woman who had been stabbed to death a year earlier in her apartment in Allston, Mass., just outside of Boston.

Her murder has never been solved.

"There had been a candlelight vigil the year before in December, right after she was killed, there in Boston. But a year later, people felt the need to do something to bring attention to her murder and to the murders of other trans people," explained Erin Roberts, one of the organizers of this year's TDOR service.

"Just six weeks before Rita Hester was mur-



Marcal Camero Tye

dered, Matthew Shepard was murdered in Wyoming, and that made headlines around the world. Everybody was talking about his murder, talking about doing something about hate crimes. But when Rita Hester was killed, very few people paid any attention. It seemed like nobody really paid attention when a trans person was murdered," Robert said.

"And it's not that we have any problem with all the publicity around Matthew Shepard's murder. It was a horrible thing, and it deserved that attention," Roberts continued. "But there was just such a stark contrast in the way the two murders were treated, especially in the press. People wanted to do something to bring attention to the fact that trans people are murdered every day in horrible, brutal ways."

Also on the list of those killed in the past 12 months are six trans women who were killed in a

■ TDOR, Page 8

Charter school won't reconsider coach's firing

Nichole Williams says Life School Waxahachie fired her as a teacher, coach because she is a lesbian; school officials won't discuss their reasons

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Political Writer
wright@dallasvoice.com

WAXAHACHIE — Ever since she played girls basketball in high school, Nichole Williams has dreamed of one day coaching the sport.

This year her dream was about to come true after she was named varsity girls basketball coach at Life School Waxahachie, a charter high school 30 miles south of Dallas.

Then, just one day before basketball practice began in October, Williams was abruptly fired.

The 26-year-old Williams, who also taught ninth-grade geography and was an assistant volleyball coach, filed a grievance alleging she was terminated based on her sexual orientation, which reportedly became known to school officials after her fiancée began attending volleyball games this fall.

"I feel like they just ripped it all away from me for absolutely nothing," Williams said. "That's the hard part, and that's what makes me sick."

"The story is, we're still being persecuted," Williams told Dallas Voice. "That's a strong word, but it's true. The fact that as teachers in a professional world, you still have to hide who you are, it's not fair. I don't think anybody

should have to hide who they are."

An administrator at Life School, which has 3,700 students at five campuses in North Texas, including one in Oak Cliff, denied this week that Williams was fired for being gay. However, citing privacy concerns, he refused to elaborate on the reason for her dismissal.

Unfortunately for Williams, she may not have any legal recourse.

Texas is one of 29 states that lack bans on anti-gay job discrimination, which isn't prohibited by federal law, either. And, although case law generally protects gay teachers at public schools, experts say courts have ruled that those provisions don't apply to charter schools, even though they're taxpayer-funded.

In her initial grievance against Life School, Williams requested reinstatement. But she's since given up on that and now merely wants the termination removed from her record so she can pursue her dream of coaching basketball elsewhere.

"Basically, you're looking at a 26-year-old teacher who for the rest of her life has a black mark because she's been terminated," said Williams' fiancée, Jen DeSaegher. "She'll always have to check the 'I've been terminated' box for the rest of her career, and that's not going to go over well."

'More than just a coach'

During her three years at Life School, Williams said she received positive performance

■ COACH, Page 9



DREAM DERAILED | Nichole Williams, shown in the Life School gym, had always dreamed of coaching high school girls basketball, a dream that was about to come true. But one day before basketball practice started, Williams was fired from Life School Waxahachie, and she says it's because she is a lesbian.

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■ texasnews

TDOR

From Page 6

60-day period in the Honduras, beginning last November. The most recent additions to the list of 22 are 19-year-old Shelley Hilliard, who was killed then decapitated, dismembered and burned on Oct. 23 in Detroit; and Jessica Rollon, 32, who was strangled to death in Bergamo, Italy on Oct. 30.

Roberts pointed out that when transgender people are killed, the murders are often characterized by extreme violence and "overkill." They aren't just shot, they are shot and beaten. They aren't just stabbed, they are stabbed over and over and over.

"And as long as trans people continue to be dehumanized, it will continue to happen," Roberts said. "We are real people, with real emotions. We feel love and pain and joy and sorrow, just like anyone else. But people don't see us that way. They see us as 'other,' and something besides regular human beings."

Roberts said this week that "one of the last things I did as a boy" was to attend TDOR services last year in Dallas. And after transitioning earlier this year, she said, she got involved in helping organize this year's service. And she will do it again next year, too.

"As long as we continue to be killed and brutalized, we will continue to have Transgender Day of Remembrance events," Roberts said. "Because everyone deserves to be mourned."

TDOR services in Dallas will be held Sunday, Nov. 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. The evening will include a performance by the singing group Mosaic and speeches by Rafael McDonnell with Resource Center Dallas, Roberts, Oliver Blumer and Rosemarie Odom.

The names of the 20 victims will be read aloud, and flowers will be placed on the podium in memory of each one. There will also be a candle-light vigil.

Blumer and Nell Gaither were co-organizers of the event with Roberts.

Fort Worth TDOR

Agape Metropolitan Community Church of Fort Worth and Trinity Metropolitan Community Church of Arlington are joining forces to hold an interfaith gathering for TDOR on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway in southeast Fort Worth.

The Rev. Stephen V. Sprinkle from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University will speak on the topic "Unfinished Lessons," explaining "five lessons that LGBTQ hate crimes murder victims have to teach us, if we will only learn them."

Tori Van Fleet, a forensics expert with the Fort Worth Police Department who came out as a

■ TDOR, Next Page



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■ **TDOR**, From Previous Page

trans women when she joined the fight to get the city of Fort Worth to add protections for trans people to its nondiscrimination ordinance, will also speak during the service.

Van Fleet said this week, "I am looking forward to the day when the TDOR bells are silent due to there not being any more violence against my

COACH

From Page 6

evaluations, promotions and even a letter of commendation from the superintendent.

Williams was also very popular among both students and parents, despite the fact that they knew she was gay in conservative Ellis County.

About 100 parents and more than 50 students at Life School Waxahachie — which has a total enrollment of roughly 300 — signed a petition calling for Williams to be reinstated.

"She is a passionate teacher who profoundly affects our children's lives on a daily basis," the petition states. "We cannot afford to lose such a valuable teacher and coach."

In response to the petition, along with a steady barrage of emails and phone calls, Life School administrators set up a meeting with parents this week. Eleven parents gathered in a classroom at Life School Waxahachie on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 15, and demanded answers about Williams' termination. But they got relatively few.

Charles Pulliam, Life School's director of human resources, and Ena Meyers, principal of the Waxahachie campus, told parents they're barred from sharing details about personnel matters and wanted to protect Williams' privacy.

"We made the decision that was right for the kids," said Pulliam, who asked the parents to trust the school with their children's safety. "I really wish I could share more, but I can't."

Pulliam made vague references to the school's mission statement and its "standards of excellence," saying his decision to terminate Williams was based on "a global view."

"I can tell you 100 percent, we did what we felt was right for Life School," he said, calling the decision "painful."

transgender brothers and sisters. Until then, we will continue to bring attention to the violence we face due to bigotry, hate, fear and even misinformation, simply for being ourselves and trying to live our lives as best we can."

Several Brite Divinity student clergy have also been active in planning and will participate in the service through music, media and readings. ■

Although he provided no details, Pulliam confirmed to the parents that Williams was terminated based solely on an incident that took place on Thursday, Oct. 13.

According to Williams' account of the incident, four volleyball players dropped by her classroom following school photographs instead of going to the remainder of their assigned class.

For Williams, it was a conference period, and she said she was in and out of the classroom. Williams maintains she repeatedly told the students they needed to go to their assigned class and that she wouldn't vouch for them.

But the students didn't leave, and they were later investigated for skipping class.

On Friday, Oct. 14, the students received one-day detentions.

On Monday, Oct. 17, Williams was placed on administrative leave, and on Tuesday, Oct. 18, she was terminated.

Williams acknowledged she should have reported the students.

"I expected to be in trouble and I knew I should have been," she said. "But to be fired, I was shocked."

The parents who signed the petition agreed, saying they feel the punishment was "extreme" and "disproportionate."

At the meeting this week, parents complained that Williams was replaced two days later by someone who is "unqualified," because he's never coached basketball or girls sports. Williams' replacement also recently resigned mid-year from an athletic director position in another district.

The parents also accused Life School officials of lying to their daughters, who were told after a volleyball game the same night Williams was fired that she was "moving on to other opportunities." The parents said they only learned of

■ **COACH**, Page 10



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COACH

From Page 6

Williams' termination from their kids.

"She's more than just a coach," one parent told Pulliam and Meyers. "She loves her students."

"I did not feel like my child was in any danger," said another parent — a man wearing a cowboy hat, Wrangler jeans and work boots who spoke with a Southern drawl. "I wish the school had a lot more leaders like her."

One parent asked point-blank whether Williams was fired due to her sexual orientation.

"What is her sexual orientation?" Pulliam responded.

"Lesbian," the parent said.

Pulliam paused at length before saying softly, "Certainly I would never consider that."

School says decision is final

Pulliam said later he wasn't aware of Williams' sexual orientation — even though it was highlighted in her grievance filed Oct. 25.

"I've only been here three months," Pulliam told Dallas Voice in a phone interview Wednesday. "I really don't know much about her other than what happened as part of this."

Pulliam said sexual orientation isn't included in Life School's employment nondiscrimination policy. However, sexual orientation does appear in sections of the school's Code of Ethics that gov-

ern employees' conduct toward colleagues and students. Regardless, experts say the policies aren't enforceable because Texas has no statute to back them up. And Pulliam denied that Williams' termination had anything to do with the fact that she's gay.

"I don't want it to be about that at all," he said. "It never has been, and I really think that's just the wrong path. We don't wish any harm on Ms. Williams whatsoever."

DeSaegher, Williams' partner, said Life School's board of directors is made up of people affiliated with conservative evangelical institutions, including Dallas Baptist University, Southwestern Assemblies of God University and The Oaks Fellowship.

But Pulliam declined to discuss the backgrounds of board members.

"It really doesn't make sense to talk about that stuff," he said. "This is about Life School doing the right thing for our students and about us looking to protect Ms. Williams and her rights."

Asked about his personal views on homosexuality, Pulliam said, "My personal opinion is not important here at all."

Pulliam also reiterated what he told the parents the night before, that Williams' termination is final and that the school won't remove it from her record.

When parents pleaded with Pulliam on Tuesday to allow Williams to move on, he admitted he had the authority to remove the termination from

her record but said he wouldn't — "because I'm confident we did the right thing."

After the meeting, parents expressed frustration.

"My reaction was, I really don't feel like we got anywhere," said Jennifer McCoy. "I feel like he was dodging all of our questions."

McCoy has a son and a daughter who attend Life School Waxahachie. Her daughter, a junior who plays both volleyball and basketball, has attended Life School since fourth grade.

"I think that has a lot to do with it," McCoy said when asked if she thinks Williams was fired because she's gay. "Everything else, to me, it's not adding up at all."

Another parent, Wendy Williams, said she has four children who attend Life School, including a daughter who plays volleyball and basketball. Wendy Williams said her kids have attended Life School Waxahachie since it opened, but until now she's never had a major issue with the administration.

"I think they tried to get rid of her because she's gay," Wendy Williams said. "They can't say that, but I don't see any other reasons."

Wendy Williams said although she was raised "very conservative," she doesn't think Nichole Williams' sexual orientation should be an issue.

"I don't think it affected her coaching, and I don't think it affected her relationship with the children," Wendy Williams said. "I don't think it matters." ■



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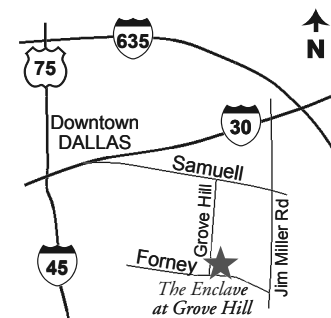
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The go-to place for programs to combat bullying in schools

Mary Jo Kaska, new programming director Hope for Peace and Justice, says the organization will focus on private schools

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Mary Jo Kaska, the new director of programming for Hope for Peace and Justice, hopes her organization becomes the go-to place for help in establishing anti-bullying policies, especially for private schools in Texas.

Right now, the biggest program at Hope for Peace and Justice is its Safe Schools Project.

"We've taken the stand that all school districts need enumerated categories," she said. "The addition of those enumerated categories spells out for young people that the kind of bullying they've seen in their schools frequently is no longer tolerated."

Kaska said that Hope for Peace and Justice is creating its own standard for an anti-bullying program that is research-based, comparing the rollout of this policy to the way Nolan High School, where she taught, introduced its harassment policy.

"We developed a code," she said. "We talked to boys and girls separately — straight on — explaining what harassment was, [how] what they did before was harassment and won't be tolerated."

She said a successful policy sets out who to go to and what happens when the rules are violated.

When that happens, she said, "suddenly a bell goes off before a student does something. It's an educational process. You're creating a safe climate, a safe culture."

The regulations articulate a set of values and a policy, she said.

While H4PJ would be happy to work with pub-



Mary Jo Kaska

lic schools that need assistance, Kaska said the organization's focus is on private schools. Despite the law passed in this year's session of the Texas Legislature, she said many private schools feel exempt because they don't receive public funding.

One step in making schools safer, she Kaska, is training teachers to inter-

vene.

"What I like about the Texas law is that it requires the whole program to be on the district website," she said.

Posting the policy she said is important for private schools too.

Once criteria are finalized, Kaska said H4PJ will be contacting private schools throughout the Dallas area first and then throughout the state. Its consulting services will be available to schools for free, and paid for by H4PJ contributors.

"Then our website will be one-stop shopping for the best anti-bullying resources," Kaska said.

"Private schools are already doing so many things right," she said, but added that some simple changes will help make schools a little bit safer.

"We want schools to be able to promote their success stories," Kaska said. "Upload videos showing things that are working. Foster student leadership and participation in developing a respectful and welcoming school environment."

Kaska was hired after group founder and president Michael Piazza moved to Atlanta earlier this year. She said that although her organization is based at Cathedral of Hope, it is incorporated as a separate non-profit organization. ■

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coverstory

King of rainbows



MAXED OUT | Pop artist Peter Max designed the psychedelic cover exclusively for Dallas Voice, but he's long specialized in American iconography as his subjects, including the Dallas skyline, above.

Even at 74, iconic painter Peter Max still feels part of the counterculture movement

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

Even though Peter Max isn't gay, for 40 years, he's been a natural fit with the gay community.

The traditional rainbow-colored Pride flag debuted in 1978, but Max has been doing rainbows since the psychedelic '60s, always with a distinctive, primary-color-field. Might he have been an influence? Even Max isn't sure.

"I am certainly aware of the [Pride flag], though I don't know if I was an influence. But if I was, I'm glad!" says the 74-year-old artist on the phone from his studio in New York.

There's no mistaking a Peter Max painting; after decades in the spotlight, he has become iconic. With his cosmic-wow, eye-catching pieces, he has long been the *pop!* in pop art.

Max is as famous for his commercial pieces — a 1974 postage stamp, album covers (especially The Beatles' Yellow Submarine), his "Love" poster from the 1970s, and his fascination with the Statue of Liberty — as he is for his gallery work. (Full disclosure: I've had a signed Lady Liberty poster in my office for eight years — it always gets noticed.)

"The commercial stuff is one in 100 — the other 99 times is me just dancing on the canvas. But it's often very public," he says. "But I do still identify with the counterculture movement — I'm still a hippie at heart."

He also stays in touch with his '60s roots — just recently he did another series of portraits with long-time friend Ringo Starr.

Max brings that hippie aesthetic to North Texas

this weekend with two appearances: At Wisby-Smith Fine Art in the Crescent on Friday night, Nov. 18, and Saturday afternoon, Nov. 19, then at Milan Gallery in Fort Worth Saturday night.

Even into his 70s, Max continues to work with the stamina of someone a fraction of his age — and he never seems to grow tired of it.

"It's natural. I come to my studio and I have a tremendous will to paint. That's amplified 100 times when I stand in front a canvas. When I pick up the brush, it's amplified 10 times more. When I touch the brush to the paint, I don't know what I'm painting — I just stand there and am amazed that a painting comes out.

"It's like a jazz musician who hasn't written down any of his songs."

So enthusiastic is Max about his art that he designed the cover of this issue exclusively for Dallas Voice.

"It's what I do. I paint, I draw, I go to gallery openings, I meet people, I have a beautiful sweetheart of a wife and I do lovely interviews like I'm doing with you. I'm most proud about all of it, from the first time I started to this very moment talking to you. I'm serious about [my art], but I want to be playful, too," Max says.

Next up for him: He's going to do some more licensing of his work — something he hasn't done in years — and plans to break into animation. But it's all good.

"When I go to my gallery shows, it's all young people," he says. "It's mind-boggling. I never dreamt my life would be like this. I love it all — every second of it." ■

Wisby-Smith Fine Art, 500 Crescent Court, suite 146. Nov. 18, 6–9 p.m., Nov. 19, 1–3 p.m. Milan Gallery, 505 Houston St., Fort Worth. Nov. 19, 7–10 p.m. Wisby-Smith.com. MilanGallery.com. PeterMax.com.



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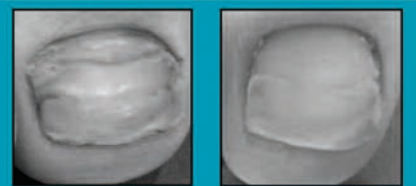
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The growing problem of workplace bullying

Bullying isn't just confined to teens; adults in the workplace are targeted, too

I recently met a remarkable woman who has a lot to say about a kind of adult bullying that hits straights as well as LGBTs, that hurts men as well as women, that harms older and less connected workers the most, and that is so pervasive it's called "The Silent Epidemic."

Esque Walker, who lives in Corsicana and drove up to Dallas recently to give a Saturday morning presentation on workplace bullying, has an undergraduate degree in health information management, a masters in healthcare/health information management and a doctorate in public policy and administration.

She also has a score of certifications and areas of expertise.

She has been working diligently for the passage of the Texas Healthy Workplace Bill, authored by Dr. David Yamada of the Workplace Bullying Institute. It's hard going, as you can imagine.

So far, Dr. Walker has been unable to even get a meeting with Gov. Rick Perry. Perhaps he is too busy campaigning. More likely, if his many aides have put her name and credentials before him, he has retreated into his good-hairyness.

Remember: He scraped through Texas A&M with Ds; she has a Ph.D.

But the governor is not the only impediment to getting this bill in place. So far, Dr. Walker and her associates have spoken with a great many Texas state senators and representatives. Not one has agreed to sponsor the bill.

Dr. Walker was herself the target of workplace bullying some years ago. But instead of simply taking the abuse — as most women and many men have done over the years — she aligned herself with others who understood the issues involved.

So, what are the issues?

To begin, Dr. Walker asserts that adult bullying is based on the bully's need for power and control. It's closely linked with competitiveness; the bully may resent the target's appearance, education, personality or any number of facets of the other person's being. He or she definitely does not want the target to advance.

So how do you know you are targeted, assuming the bully does not actually taunt or threaten you, as happens so often to children and teens?

You start with power disparity; the bully may have a higher status, longer tenure or perhaps corporate protectors to give him or her a sense of strength.

Then you look at four other criteria: repetition, duration, intensity and escalation.

Workplace bullying, says Dr. Walker, usually plays out in a predictable way. First, the bully

criticizes you or gets someone above you in the pecking order to do so. Next, the bully involves others, usually four to six people who may see you as a threat or just want to curry favor with the boss.



Phyllis Guest
Taking Notes

Then, no matter what you do, it is not enough or not good enough, and coworkers are not allowed to "help" you. Eventually you are fired — after being told, "You are not a team player."

Here's how it looks by the numbers:

- 62 percent of bullies are men (who may bully other men, straight women or, of course, LGBTs).
- 58 percent of targets are women.
- 18 percent of adult suicides in the European Union are attributed to workplace bullying.
- An estimated 1 million Texans are bullied at work every year.

As the economy has worsened, pushing out older workers has become the norm; counselors report the escalation, although putting a number to the pain is virtually impossible.

So what to do if you are the target?

First, document everything, with specifics of person, time, place and comment or event. Sec-

ond, do not go to your organization's human resources person or department; HR works for the company and could care less about you.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or your union representative — if applicable — can help; the latter may be especially important in education and medicine, where power disparities and bullying are common.

The Workplace Bullying Institute (WorkPlaceBullying.org) publishes a newsletter and other materials that can offer insight plus specifics. The Dallas Public Library has books by Gary Namie and Ruth Namie, Ph.D.'s known for their groundbreaking research and writing on workplace "jerks, weasels and snakes."

And of course Out & Equal has done and continues doing great work on behalf of our community.

Final thoughts: The worst that can happen is that Texas will continue to allow vast amounts of cruelty in offices, factories, fields and stores. The best that could happen is that our next Legislature will pass the Healthy Workplace Bill, recognizing the problem, mandating anti-bullying education, and allowing victims to sue.

Meanwhile, if a workplace bully is making you frightened and depressed, find a counselor in whom you can confide. And don't wait 'til tomorrow. Do it today.

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

Putting our children at risk

Child sexual abuse a concern for everyone, especially LGBT parents

Most people would probably agree there is no resource that a society cherishes more than its children. So it is hard to fathom how sexual predators manage with such apparent ease to carry out horrendous, undetected assaults on children practically under the noses of their families and others who are charged with their protection.

As horrific as the crime of child sexual abuse is, there are no firm estimates of its prevalence because it often goes undetected and is seriously underreported, according to agencies that study child abuse.

Less than 100,000 crimes of sexual abuse are reported each year because children fear telling anyone, and adults who become aware of the activity are often reluctant to contact law enforcement agencies, even though there is usually a legal requirement to do so.

With so many LGBT households now raising

children, it is obviously vital that all parents be aware of the tactics used by sexual predators to seduce children without arousing the suspicion of their families, and aware of the symptoms victims of child sexual abuse exhibit.

The critical need for sustained intervention into child sexual abuse recently gained national attention following a grand jury's indictment of retired Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky on 40 counts of child sex abuse involving eight victims over a 15-year period. The victims reportedly came into contact with the now 67-year-old, married Sandusky in connection with the Second Mile, a children's charity the former football coach founded.

Although Sandusky denied, this week in an NBC interview, engaging in any type of sexual activity with the pre-pubescent boys, he acknowledged showering and "horsing around" with them after exercise. He also admitted hugging young boys and putting his hand on their legs when they sat next to him.

CHILDREN, Next Page

■ CHILDREN, From Previous Page

His admissions shocked viewers and confirmed in many minds what was already suspected — Sandusky is most likely a pedophile that has taken advantage of young boys with the unwitting complicity of their families.

It is a devastating scandal that will likely rival the one that rocked the Catholic Church a decade ago when it became known that untold numbers of Catholic Church priests sexually abused young boys and violated the trust of their families.

If the charges against Sandusky are true, the accounts by the victims portray a classic pattern of enticement and betrayal practiced by the former football coach in his pursuit of the young boys. Likewise, the lack of action by those who knew about Sandusky's alleged criminal activity parallel what often happens when the abuser commands power and respect in a community.

Much of the difficulty in combating child sexual abuse can be attributed to its relative youth in terms of public awareness about the crime. The first studies on the molestation of children began in the 1920s, and the first estimate of the prevalence of the crime was reported in 1948.

In 1974 the National Center for Child Abuse and

Neglect was founded, and the Child Abuse and Treatment Act was created. Since then, awareness about the problem has grown dramatically, and much more is known about deterring the crime and assisting victims of it.

Children's advocates have identified "red flags" to help parents and others protect children from sexual predators. They warn parents to be wary of someone who wants to spend more time with their children than they do, who attempts to be alone with a child, who frequently seeks physical closeness to a child such as hugging or touching, who is overly interested in the sexuality of a child, who seems to prefer the company of children to people their own age, who lacks boundaries, who regularly offers to babysit, who often gives presents or money to children, who frequently walks in on children in bathrooms or locker rooms, who frequents parks where children



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

gather, who makes inappropriate comments about a child's appearance or who likes to photograph children.

Signs of possible sexual abuse in children include a fear of people, places or activities, reluctance to undress, disturbed sleep, mood swings, excessive crying, fear of being touched, loss of appetite, a drastic change in school performance, bizarre themes in drawing, sexually acting out on other children, advanced sexual knowledge, use of new words for private body parts and a reversion to old behavior such as bedwetting or thumb sucking.

Aside from the moral responsibility to protect children and other weaker members of society that all people share, it is essential to intervene in child sexual abuse because of the long-lasting psychological damage it usually causes. The problems can include feelings of worthlessness, depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and distorted views of sexuality.

Also, victims of child sexual abuse tend to become sexual predators as adults, making it a crime that begets more crime.

The Sandusky scandal will undoubtedly lead to devastating repercussions for Penn State, for the Second Mile charity with which the former football coach is no longer affiliated and for law enforce-

ment and university officials who became aware of concerns about the former football coach's activities and failed to act on them.

But the real tragedy — if the allegations are true — will be the lasting impact upon the victims. ■

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.

Feedback

Double standard

Since the gay community and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation throw such fits when we feel we have been insulted or slighted (Wanda Sykes starring in a commercial chastising a group of teens using the term "so gay," Blake Shelton coming under fire for anti-gay comments and most recently Brett Ratner resigning as producer of the Oscars for using the word "fag" in what was deemed a derogatory way), I am surprised and ultimately disappointed in the double standard the Dallas Voice borrows to do business their way.

In the article "Driver's Seat" (Dallas Voice, Nov. 11), staff writer Rich Lopez actually quotes Drew Ginsburg as saying "Well, if you buy a SAAB, you're retarded."

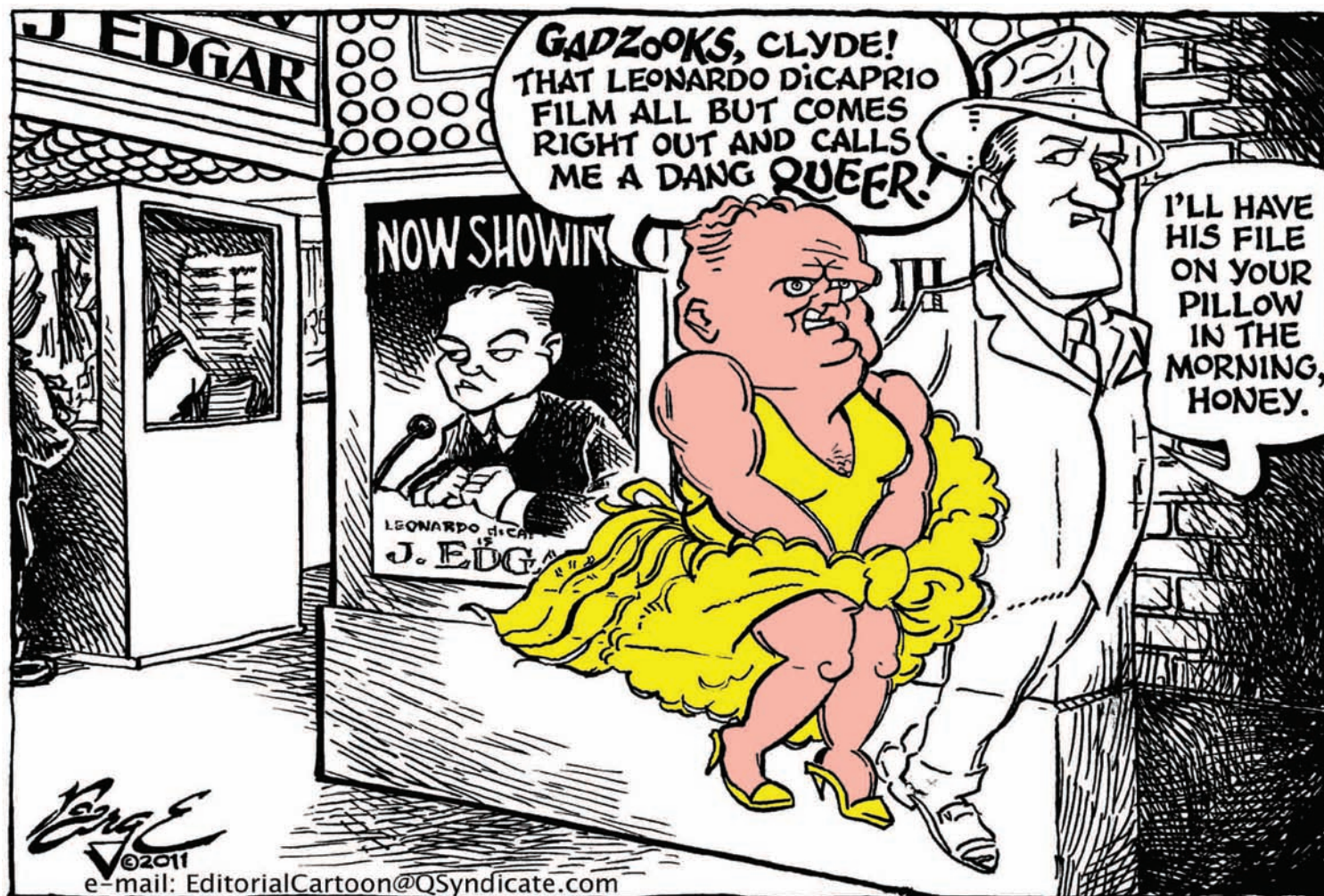
First of all, I cannot believe he would use the quote and secondly, and more significantly, I cannot believe that a proofreader or the editor allowed this to go to print.

One would expect a certain level of professionalism, sensitivity, maturity and social responsibility to have prevented this from happening — not to mention human decency.

I hope others speak up about this, if only to raise awareness that the Voice needs to be more responsible and less hypocritical of what they don't approve of, and ultimately take more caution in the future about what goes out the public. This is irresponsible journalism and further proof that Ginsberg is a jerk.

Geoffrey Bruce, via email

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Have you or someone you know ever been bullied in the workplace?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Does adding sexual orientation to nondiscrimination laws and policies adequately protect transgenders?

- Yes: 21 percent
- No: 67 percent
- Undecided: 12 percent

165 Votes cast



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No more boring white ceramic mugs for tea or coffee. These Art Table Glasses designed by Fratelli Guzzini add an extra zing to caffeine lovers. But these Italian made cups and saucers are so adorable, it might be hard to give them away. The Art Table Glasses set is priced at \$129.

Cantoni, 4800 Alpha Road.
972-934-9191. Shop.Cantoni.com.



NO BREAKING THIS BANK

Piggies aren't the only animals that can carry all that change around. This vintage cast-iron horse can store those nickels and dimes while adding a touch of sophisticated flair to the décor. The bank is priced at \$45.

Bryan Street Traders, 4217 Bryan St.
214-821-5383. BryanStreetTraders.com.



PASTA MADE EASY

Foodies and top chefs will likely grin over these Bialetti pasta pots. The 5-quart pots feature an innovative lock-on lid with built-in strainer. That means no more colanders. The pots come in three colors (purple, blue and orange) and will light up any kitchen with their utility and cheery looks. They are priced at \$34.95.

Available through Amazon.com.



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home and hearth

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The new mPulse Sauna Series by Sunlighten brings the sauna into the house. The stylish high-tech design of the Aspire model includes Blaupunkt stereo system and cd/dvd player, and it comes in cedar, basswood or teak. The entertainment distracts as the infrared sauna therapy works its magic, helping with weight loss, heart health and detoxification. And for their size, these saunas plug into any household outlet and run on less electricity than a hairdryer. The Aspire model starts at \$5,798.

Sunlighten.com. 877-292-0020.



CUT TO THE QUICK

Perfect for the trendy cook, these knives will add a punch of color to any kitchen. The Hampton Forge Tomodachi 10-piece knife block is vibrant in appearance and comfortable in grip. And each knife is color coordinated to its specific use, such as yellow for paring, purple for cutting bread and red for slicing tomatoes. Easy as pie. The set is priced at \$59.99.

Available at Target stores and Target.com.



WE'RE GONNA ROCK IT TONIGHT!

As all good theater queens know, Stephen Sondheim is the greatest Broadway composer and lyricist of all time, and one of his monster hits is West Side Story. The historic film adaptation (one of the biggest Oscar-winning films of all time) is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a spectacular DVD and Blu-Ray collectors' editions, new this week. The set gloriously restores the original to its vivid, exciting best. Extras include song-specific commentary by Sondheim himself, a storyboard comparison, selection of theatrical trailers and much more.

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INTO THE GROOVE

Music lovers may shed a tear over *Nina Simone – The Complete RCA Albums Collection*. The extensive collection contains nine CDs from Simone's catalog along with 35 bonus tracks and deep cuts. From blues to African to jazz, Simone's moving voice is displayed in all forms with signature hits like "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free" and "I Loves You Porgy." Original cover-art reproductions are included as well as her songs covered by Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, The Beatles and more. The collection is priced at \$71.99.

Available through PopMarket.com.



SWEET AND STYLISH

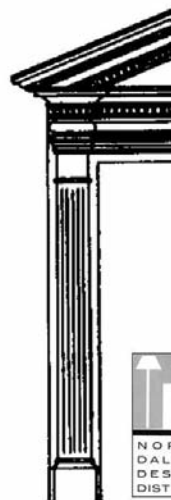
Flowers may end up playing second fiddle to these licorice vases designed by Ligne Roset. Each vase is made of blown glass and is hand cut, making for a unique piece. The blue and grape coloring may make them look like candy, but the design is pure sophistication. The vases start at \$109.

Ligne Roset,
4516 McKinney Ave.
214-526-2220.
Ligne-Roset-USA.com.

THE ART OF WRITING

For those who keep to the written word, Papyrus has launched the Natalizia Collection of Italian leather bound journals. The refillable notebooks are sophisticated and elegant and ideal for sketchers and writers. The Natalizia notebooks come in brown and camel, and start at \$70.

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Mitchell Gold Bob Williams,
4519 McKinney Ave.
214-753-8700. MGBWDallas.com.

FRIENDS OF DOROTHY

Now every dog can be like Toto — or rather, Dorothy, from *The Wizard of Oz* with this emerald red Swarovski dog collar. For the glam canine, the collar is red velvet with rhinestones on a sterling silver base and a Swarovski crystal bow centerpiece. The other dogs will be so jealous. The collar is priced at \$75.

Available through
PoshPuppyBoutique.com.



BOWLED OVER

Platinum Pets continues to rework the dog feeder into something snazzy. These new Olympic dining bowls are made of stainless steel in a food safe powder coat and the stands are wrought iron and thus durable for both indoor and outdoor use. The bowls come in 16-, 32- and 64-ounce sizes and are priced from \$23.99 to \$26.99.

Available through Amazon.com. Platinum Pets offers a 20 percent coupon for Dallas Voice readers when ordering through Amazon. Enter code [HRPZZ06B](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=adv_pz_code) during checkout for their products.



SPOILED TO THE BONE

Fashionista dogs likely have their own set of clothes, but do they have a wardrobe closet? Complete with hangers, this wardrobe is ideal for Spot to put away those sweaters for winter and hang up the raincoat after those not-so-sunny walks outside. The wardrobe is priced at \$89.97; the raincoat starts at \$55.

Available through
DazzleDogDelight.com.



body and soul



TWO SUGARS AND SOME CREAM

Stemming from the legalization of same-sex marriage in New York, Melissa Krueger had the epiphany of Gay Coffee. With a passion for roasting the best java, she created this fun and quirky line of, well, gay coffees. The name says it all, as do the blends such as sensual and dark Red Hanky Roast and medium roasted Stone Butch Breakfast Blend. All roasts are fairly traded and one percent of all profits are donated to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The coffee is priced at \$13 for 10 ounces.

Available through GayCoffee.com.



CUFF IT UP

Bookbinder Darlene Dominguez has taken recycled book leather, flea market finds and vintage buttons and turned them into these beautiful unique cuffs. With an elastic band that pulls it gently around the wrist, these one-of-a-kind pieces are both fabulous accessories and works of art. The cuffs start at \$20.

ChocaLocaDesigns.com,
214-991-2432.



PHONE ATTACHMENT

Today people are tied to their phones, but this ZOMM wireless leash makes sure a phone is never lost. The poker-chip sized gadget will alarm when the phone gets far enough away from its owner thanks to a Bluetooth connection. ZOMM also acts as a speakerphone to answer if the phone is out of quick reach and the panic button calls for emergency assistance. This little thing packs quite the big punch. The ZOMM is priced at \$99.99.

Available at Fry's Electronics locations and ZOMM.com.

SEXY AND SMART

These essential oil smart boxes also get quite the message across, thanks to Michelle Bardwell. Find ginger and peppermint scents in the Eat Me box, rose and magnolia in the Love Me box and rosewood and tea tree in the Try Me box. All boxes contain either four 10ml bottles of essential oils or five 2ml vials of essential and therapeutic oils. Each is priced at \$36.

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214-987-2766. FlowerRoad.net.





body and soul

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

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DRINKS FOR TWO

Some occasions and palates just call for both white and red wine. This dual wine tote makes it easy to bring both, or champagne even. Made with high density, stain- and-pill-resistant German merino wool felt, vegetable tanned leather handles and polished nickel finish for hardware, the tote is not just handy, it's stylish as well. The tote is priced at \$145.

Dallas Museum of Art Museum Store,
1717 N. Harwood Road.
214-922-1255. ShopDMA.org.

ALWAYS TEA TIME

Taking tea to the next level, Numi's Enchanted Blossoms Flowering Tea appeals to all the senses. Filled with hand-sewn tea leaves and flowers, the box included a glass teapot and comes in a handmade dark mahogany bamboo case. The flowers begin to blossom when they are steeped. The tea box is as magical as it is elegant. The tea set is priced from \$30-\$35.

Available through NumiTea.com
and Amazon.com.



BED OF NAILS

The idea of lying down on more than 8,000 spikes may not sound too appealing, but with the Swedish Hälsa wellness mat, the body only reaps benefits. Based on the spiked mats of ancient Indian tradition, this mat stimulates acupressure points which increases circulation, lowers blood pressure and releases physical, mental and emotional blocks. The Hälsa wellness mat comes in black, green or purple and is priced at \$39.95.

Available through HalsaMat.com.



IN A NANO SECOND

Classy and cool, this HEX Vision metal watch band is made for the iPod Nano Gen 6 to be clipped in as the watch face. The band comes in gun metal or silver and takes the predictability out of giving just any ol' watch. The watchband is priced at \$69.95.

Apple Store Northpark Center,
8587 N. Central Expressway,
214-765-0820. Apple.com.



BEDAZZLED

Pride goes way posh with this bracelet. It features over 15 carats of fine round sapphires in rainbow colors surrounded in yellow gold. There can only be one word for this — fabulous! The bracelet is priced at \$11,700.

Skibell Fine Jewelry, 8411 Preston Road, Ste. 110,
214-691-5123.

EAR-GASM

Don't forget the stocking stuffers. These new iFrogz headphones change the way sound travels in tiny spaces. The chrome-plated Legion model bumps up the high notes and bass lines. The TimbrePro offers deeper bass sounds through a wooden sound chamber. The Transport uses turbine engine design for purer sound on all levels. The TimbrePro and Transport come with a single button remote/microphone for mobile devices and is compatible with Apple, Blackberry and Android. Headphones start at \$24.99.

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stores and Walmart.com.



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body and soul



BUNDLE UP

A quality scarf is a must for any strong wardrobe and Astor + Black's cashmere collection makes for a stylish accessory. The scarves not only protect in cold weather, but make clear fashion statements in a variety of colors and patterns. Get one for yourself even. The scarves are priced at \$150.

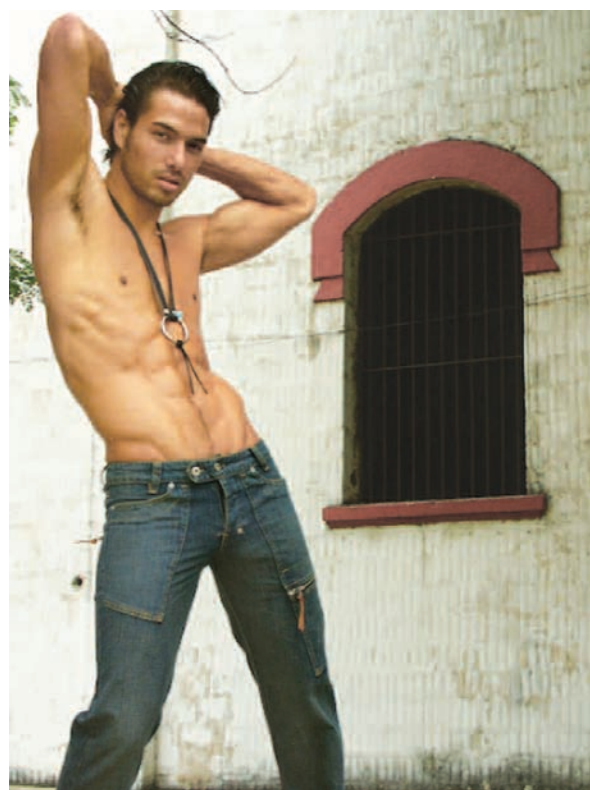
Astor and Black
Custom Clothiers.
877-278-6718.
AstorandBlack.com.

POP GOES THE PHONE

As fun as this looks, the POP phone by Native Union also has a distinct purpose. For the chatty Cathies out there, this handset attaches to your smartphone and protects from up to 99 percent of harmful effects of cell phone radiation. In seven bold colors and soft-touch finish, the POP phone is totally for that whimsical hipster who appreciates the irony of nostalgia.

The handset attaches to most Mac products and Blackberries, and prices start at \$29.90.

Available through Amazon.com.



THE GIFT OF DENIM

Rufskin is known for making extreme choices in its clothing designs, but when it comes to denim, the sex appeal is out of control. Whether they rethink classic jeans or offer sexy, snug fits, Rufskin's denim is incomparable. Jeans start at \$120.

Union Jack,
3920 Cedar Springs Road.
214-528-9600.
UnionJackDallas.com.



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Two Corks and a Bottle,
2800 Routh Ste. 140
(in the Quadrangle).
214-871-9463.
TwoCorksandaBottle.com.



A DIFFERENT LOOK

Classify this as for the person who has everything. Epic Helicopters takes the holidays to the skies with its Holiday Lights Tour. With tours in Fort Worth and Addison, Santa's not the only one who gets airspace during the holidays. Epic offers 10 different lights tour variations through Jan. 1. Tours in Fort Worth start at \$379; tours in Addison start at \$429.

Epic Helicopters, Fort Worth Meacham Airport 4201 N. Main Street, Suite 109 Fort Worth. 817-625-1800.
Addison Airport, 4553 Jimmy Doolittle Drive, Addison. 214-799-1501.
EpicHelicopters.com.



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LIFE+STYLE

fashion



... in a fashion

The DMA's exhibit on the fashions of **Jean Paul Gaultier** exudes sex appeal with a big dose of flamboyance

For a man best known for creating the Valkyrie-like conical breastplate that shot Madonna into the pop culture stratosphere, Jean Paul Gaultier is a surprisingly humble person. While he's clearly delighted to have his fashions on display — as they are at the Dallas Museum of Art in the traveling exhibit **The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk**, which runs through February — he makes one thing plain: He does *not* consider fashion “art.”

“My work is not art,” he says flatly. “My job is to make clothes that have to be worn. My role is not to create in the abstract but to be inspired by the needs and desires of the people. So I am in service to that. Art is art — it is a personal vision of the artist.” He pauses, then adds with a smile, “My collections are my babies, though.”

While the designer himself may not consider his work product “art” in an academic sense, there are probably few who would agree with him. More so than most fashion designers, Jean Paul Gaultier’s style is instantly recognizable, even without seeing the label. He almost single-handedly moved the bustier from the boudoir to the arena stage, cladding Madonna in a corset for her *Blonde Ambition* tour in 1990, immediately making legends of them both.

It’s not just brassieres, but lace bodysuits, silk leotards, men in skirts — Gaultier takes fashion rules and sets them on their heads,

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

turning out wearable art (there, we said it) that is both old-fashioned, even classical, and futuristic — but always oozing sex.

“My love for fashion belongs to the fact I saw a movie from the 1940s when I was 12,” he says. “In the movie, they did a beautiful description of couture.” (Now, when he works with a film director — as he did recently with Pedro Almodovar on *The Skin I Live In*, or Luc Besson on several films — “it is like I return to that [moment]”.)

But really, the germ of his style was started by what a pre-teen Jean Paul found in his grandmother’s wardrobe.

“I was fascinated by the whole world of my grandmother’s closet — it was beautiful and different,” he says. “It was underwear that could be worn as outerwear. I stole my ideas from her.”

Though not *just* her. Gaultier was inspired by television, by old movies, by showgirls — anything that offered a view of beauty he could re-imagine on the runway.

“My definition of beauty — there’s not one type. Beauty is beauty — you can find it in different places,” he says.

It’s a keystone not only of his design style, but of the DMA’s astonishingly exciting exhibit. (Anyone who doesn’t think a Gaultier gown deserves formal museum treatment obviously hasn’t seen the show.) In just a handful of rooms, we move from camp to

punk — with many, many visits to edgy haute couture.

In the first gallery, visitors are introduced to Gaultier himself, talking about his fashions via a quasi-Animatronic mannequin that captures his actual face and voice, projected with unnerving authenticity. That happens with a lot of the mannequins, some of whom seem to look back, even judge you. (One Mohawk’d man in tights and a codpiece seemed to be flirting with me; I bet he does that with all the boys.) Lanky sailor boys in striped Apache T-shirts look as if they leaped from a Tom of Finland drawing; that cone bra is also unmistakable.

Walk further, and the second room oozes the dark romance of a bordello, approximating (with its window-like display cases) the red-light district of Amsterdam. “I think when you exit this room, they should give you a cigarette,” I told another patron. She didn’t disagree.

Another room shows the movement of the pieces, sort of, with a moving catwalk that is like a time machine of Gaultier runway fashions, including representative designs from his famous *Men in Skirts* that took MOMA by storm some years ago. That’s only the most obvious example of the genderbending that is a Gaultier hallmark — and a central theme of the sexual forthrightness of the DMA’s exhibit.

“Androgyny is part of the thing that interests me,” he says, “that

■ FASHION, Page 18

WORLD OF GAULTIER

Dallas Museum of Art,
1717 N. Harwood St.
Through Feb. 12. DM-Art.org

DRESSED TO KILL IT | Gay fashion pioneer Jean Paul Gaultier oversees his own exhibit (above center) as an Animatronic mannequin, a fascinating technology that only accentuates the brilliance of the designs. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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■ FASHION, From Page 16

moment when the young can pass to adolescence [and] their beauty is between feminine and masculine at the same time. I use it to show in reality how [both sexes] can assume [the identity of the other sex]. In Scotland, you will see me in kilts and they are very masculine — it's not feminine to wear a skirt [in that context]."

That, Gaultier says, is the essence of freedom, showing that "men can cry just as well as women can fight."

And this exhibit shows that a designer can be an artist with a bold sense of sex — even if he doesn't think so. ■

Prints charming

'A-List' photographer Mike Ruiz stands above reality TV royalty

JEF TINGLEY | Contributing Writer
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

Remember on sitcoms when the family pet would die, and the parents would break the news to the kids by saying that Sparky went to live on a farm somewhere? Well, that works in the world of reality TV, too. It's not that all those fan-favorites or most-hated villains from the various seasons die, they just go to a different kind of "farm" after their 15 minutes of fame fade.

One such example is Celebrity Fashion Experience III, a one-night fashion show held recently at Lofty Spaces.

The roster for the event read like a TiVo lineup of guilty pleasure season passes: M.C. Dawn Neufeld (from VH1's *Football Wives*), guests Brig Van Osten (winner of Bravo's *Shear Genius*, Season 3); Reco Chapple (Bravo's *The Fashion Show*, Season 1); a collection from Nicholas D'Aurizio (*Project Runway*, Season 8, though he was a no-show due to a wedding conflict); and even pre-show nibbles from pastry chef Porsha Kimble, once an apprentice to Buddy Valastro of TLC's *Cake Boss*. Add a catfight from the *Bad Girls Club*, it could have been a live version of *The Soup*.

Luckily, guests were instead treated to special celebrity appearance by Mike Ruiz, the hunky model/director/photographer/man of many talents: He's made small screen appearances on *The A-List: New York*, *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D List*, *America's Next Top Model* and *RuPaul's Drag Race*. While his on-camera street cred would have been reason enough for his appearance at this show, Ruiz was actually there touting his newest



RENAISSANCE MAN | Mike Ruiz, above, designed a collection for J. Cheikh, including men's swimwear, opposite. (Photos courtesy QC Cong Photography)

title: fashion designer.

"It's [J. Cheikh's] fashion line, and I was a guest creative director for Spring 2012," he explains. "My involvement sort of grew out of meeting their team at charitable events and borrowing outfits for the red carpet. Eventually we just found a way to partner."

The collection, based on the Dakar Rally (a famous off-road auto race), mixes and matches Northern African influenced textures and colors with structured European tailoring.

But the J. Cheikh collection isn't Ruiz's first time working with runway looks. He also recently created a T-shirt line (MR by Mike Ruiz) featuring beefcake images of him styled in the likes of Tom of Finland. (Funds from

online exclusive

Visit DallasVoice.com/category/Photos to see more of the Jean Paul Gaultier exhibit at the DMA.



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ADVENIR GOES GREEN

the shirt sales benefit one of his favorite charities: The Ali Forney Center, an organization that assists in housing for LGBT youth in New York City.)

Adding to his creative streak, Ruiz is in the midst of a book launch for his coffee table pictorial *Pretty Masculine*, a collection of images that deconstruct perceived ideas about masculinity.

"I wanted to combine feminine and masculine. I did things like drape beautiful floral arrangements on rugged men. It's not what you would expect a book on masculinity to be, it's not homoerotic," says Ruiz. "A lot of books for the gay community are explicit; that's not my mindset. I wanted to create a beautiful, aspirational ideal of what masculinity should be. I don't consider myself hyper-masculine or hyper-feminine; I think I am a combination of both, and wanted [the book] to manifest that." (Proceeds from *Pretty Masculine* benefit New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis.)

While many in Ruiz's position of being at the cusp of a burgeoning mini-empire get drunk on their own power and quest for stardom, he's stayed humble, approachable and even philanthropic, encouraging people not only to give back, but also to love themselves. That sincerity has set him apart from so many of his flash-in-the-pan reality TV brethren — he seems like the only anchored, non-bitchy regular on *The A-List*.

"I had a rough childhood, and as a result I have worked really hard and, you know, made my dream come true," he says. "When I see peo-



ple struggling, I feel it's my responsibility to help them empower themselves. I sort of tie that into everything I do these days to pass on the messaging and help the next generation be empowered, because it took me a while to find my footing."

Footing.... Hmmm, maybe footwear will be his next world to conquer. ■

Triangles: 'The Descendants' and 'Twilight: Breaking Dawn, Part 1'

Alexander Payne is both the most aptly-named director and the least accurate: His movies are all about people enduring a fair share of pain, but his default reaction is to find humor in that. It's a great skill, of course, but one that he beats like a drum. So when his newest, *The Descendants*, works its story around a husband and father (George Clooney) faced with the twin tragedies of a wife in a coma and discovering she has been cheating on him ... well, sometimes pain just needs to be pain. (Payne also loves the "road trip" plot, here and in *Sideways* and *About Schmidt*; I wonder if he would even know how to make a movie set in a boardroom.)

But if *The Descendants* traffics in familiar territory, at least Payne knows how to paint portraits of people that ring true. Certainly Clooney — proudly showing his age as a salt-and-pepper middle-aged dad juggling his own parental ineptitude and obligations as the family patriarch — brings the proper balance of heft and comic sensibility to the role of an emotionally detached man grappling, for the first time, with the realities of connecting with other people. Come to think of it, that describes just about every other movie Alexander Payne has made. He might not show much variety, but at least he knows his limitations.

The romantic triangle in *The Descendants* is between two men and a dead woman; in *Breaking Dawn, Part 1* — the latest in the *Twilight* saga — it's between a dead man (well, actually vampire Robert Pattinson) and another man (well, werewolf Taylor Lautner) and a woman (well, actually Kristen Stewart, who I think may be part mannequin). In this, the fourth film in the series, I think I may have finally figured out what I've missed all this time that every teenaged girl seemed to understand intuitively: The supernatural element is extraneous to the slow-moving romance between Bella and Edward (and the puppy-dog longing of Jacob). It's kind of the *point* that nothing much happens over its two hours — if it did, it might shake you from your swoon.

A new director, Bill Condon, imposed a horror-film sensibility on all the treacle, giving us both the longest wedding sequence since *The Godfather* and the most harrowing childbirth since *Rosemary's Baby*. If you can stomach author Stephanie Meyers' didactically anti-abortion subtext — and can accept how Lautner keeps his shirt on most of the time — *Breaking Dawn* is actually the best entry in the series to date. Go figure.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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L+S dining

Beyond



There's so much more than the ordinary to be thankful for from Dallas restaurants

Turkey

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

Thanksgiving always conjures up thoughts of turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie, and while those staples are comforting, there is so much more to an autumnal menu than those familiar standbys. And Andre Natera, executive chef at Pyramid inside the Fairmount Hotel Downtown, has come up with some inventive ways to ring in fall without cleaving to the ordinary.

Mixing it up not just for the season, but for specific plated dinner offerings on the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, Natera's theme exudes sophisticated comfort, starting with the butternut squash bisque (available now only on Turkey Day, but hopefully on the full menu soon). A dollop of oil and slight bite from chorizo turn a simple vegetable soup into a tremendous savory experience.

But you don't need to be there on Thursday to fully appreciate the scope of the flavors, from a surprising heirloom carrot salad (\$10) wrapped around goat cheese to a butter-poached lobster perched on a stone-grits-stuffed ravioli provides a whimsical — and wholly satisfying — variation on the Southern specialty of shrimp and grits. The hearty, earthen flavors of roasted lamb (\$33), served with mushroom risotto and crisp Brussels sprouts, are accented by a rich Zinfandel demi-glace and pitch-perfect preparation.

As always, desserts are a winner, especially the smartly conceived pineapple upside-down cake, which turns a '70s-era dinner party joke into a robust and tangy closer. With his current fare, Natera has devised probably his best menu since coming to Pyramid: Inventive, thematically unified, intensely seasonal and executed with all the warmth of a hearth on Christmas Eve. And he did so without relying on turkey or ham. That's something to be thankful for.

Pyramid is open for brunch buffet and a plated din-

ner on Thanksgiving Day (\$49.95), and offers "turkeys to go" as well.

TASTING NOTES: THANKSGIVING EDITION

Many Dallas restaurants will be open on Thanksgiving, offering those who don't feel like cooking at home the chance to still enjoy a feast. Among the specials:

Craft — Prix fixe dinner including appetizers, desserts, a selection of side dishes and choice of turkey, prime rib, salmon and more for \$85/adult, available 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Nana — Both a four-course brunch and a select menu for dinner (including bottomless mimosas) are available, starting at \$65/adult.

The Second Floor — Chef J Chastain has the kitchen at his Galleria restaurant going all day, with a three-course dinner from 11 a.m.–11 p.m. for \$49 (add \$20 for wine pairings).

Mignon — In Plano, enjoy a traditional buffet of butternut squash soup, roasted turkey, stuffing, dessert and more from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. for \$40/adult.

Some restaurants have pre-Thanksgiving takeout services. **The Grape** will prepare a smoked Amish turkey dinner or a maple-glazed ham with all the fixin's from \$165–\$275 (serves up to 15). **La Duni** is offering its luscious cakes for pickup on Wednesday until 9 p.m. Pre-order online at LaDuni.com and get a 5 percent discount with the promo code CAKE.

The annual **Beaujolais Festival**, which for me has always symbolically kicked off Thanksgiving week, comes to a new locale (the new Omni Hotel) on Nov. 18, 7–9:30 p.m. You can roam around the fancy new digs while swigging some good French (and even Texas!) wines, and tasting bites from local chefs. Tickets are \$55. Visit FACCDallas.com for more information. ■

LITTLE LAMB | The earthy depth of lamb, mushroom risotto and a rich demi-glace conjure up autumn without cleaving to traditional ideas of the holidays. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Grow up!

'It's Only Life' is a cabaret, ol' chum

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

The DMA isn't the only Dallas institution that has Jean Paul Gaultier on its mind: Over at Theatre Too, Jeffrey Schmidt's set for the song cycle *It's Only Life* is dominated by a wall of coned newspaper that looks like it could put out a lot of eyes. If there's some metaphorical meaning to this design, it escapes me. This is, after all, a revue of sprightly songs by the composer John Bucchino, not a book musical telling a story that needs to be interpreted visually.

That's its blessing and its curse, though mostly a blessing. Broadway songs (and country music) are about story; pop songs are vignettes of emotional abstraction, capturing a moment, not a tale. The versatility of cabaret that is it brings a storyteller's approach to pop — it's like acting in a vacuum, and writing songs that support that ethic is a Bucchino specialty.

But the cast here is almost too good, creating tiny characters for three minutes, only to aban-



SING A SONG | The cast of 'It's Only Life' brings actors' ideas to a delightful musical revue.

don them for the next one. But there's no follow-through — there's not meant to be. On novelty songs like "Painting My Kitchen" and "A Contact High," Bucchino's Sondheim-esque wordplay and the lightning-fast emotional modulations by Seth Grugle and Angel Velasco, respectively, draw us instantly into a story, but sometimes a plot seems to be shoehorning its way where none belongs.

All that is really required to enjoy it, though, is a change in mindset: Think of *It's Only Life* not as a play, or even as a revue, but as a concert loosely orbiting around the idea of finally growing up. It starts with "The Artist at 40," a confessional worrisong about the creative process that sets the tone for what follows: *I'm so busy making art / That there's*

no time to live / The life the art is imitating is the wise refrain.

After that, it's just a question of immersing yourself is Bucchino's playfully syncopated melodies that insert luscious phrases and unexpected lyrical bombs, delivered wonderfully by the cast of five. Darius-Anthony Robinson has a great R&B pop voice that's actually suited to the revue format of playlets in song form, especially on the centerpiece solo "Grateful," then, with a quick turn, his comic energy serves him on songs like "A Powerful Man." Erica Harte has a quirky Broadway style that always catches the ear, and Jennifer North shines on torch songs.

It's Only Life is a regrettably generic name for a musical of distinctive pleasures. Then again, don't think of it as a musical; think of it as an evening of song-filled entertainment. ■

IT'S ONLY LIFE

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Theatre3Dallas.com

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Saturday 11.19

Bring your bingo face

Get all militarized for GayBingo Platoon. This is the final bingo for the year and they go out with a bang. With LGBT military vets as the special guests, a performance by Something Fabulous and a raffle benefiting Lone Star Ride, the night looks to be jampacked with excitement as Jenna Skyy, Patti Le Plae Safe and Beaux Well-born guide you through the evening.

DEETS: The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road (inside S4). 5 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.com.

Saturday 11.19

A pile of Pilobolus

Dance company Pilobolus turns the world of dance on its head — as well as its dancers. The company doesn't perform your usual dances. Instead, they create a show that's part Cirque, part sport and all of it amazing. They are like the rebellious teens in the dance world, making this a must-see.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$12–\$200. ATPAC.org.

Saturday 11.19

Turtles in the chamber

The Turtle Creek Chorale Chamber Chorus performs its first show as part of the Chamber in the Chapel series. The 40-voice chorus will sing a variety of music that will take your breath away.

DEETS: Interfaith Peace Chapel, 3910 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. \$10. TurtleCreek.org.



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FRIDAY 11.18

COMMUNITY

An Intimate Evening with Doris Roberts. The Emmy award-winning actress appears in support of the gay owned and -run Ranch Hand Rescue, which fosters ranch animals in extreme situations. Billy Bob's Texas, 2520 Rodeo Plaza, Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$250. RanchHandRescue.org.

Triangle Networking Tarrant, for gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Dos Gringos, 1510 University Ave., Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$5. 817-496-3479.

Oak Lawn Group for Gays Lambda (formerly CODA) meets on Fridays at the St Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 6:30 p.m. Call 214-868-7350 for more information.

ART

Sweet Bullets Pop art exhibit curated by local queer artist Robb Conover featuring work by Corey Godfrey, Duke Horn, Tony Reans and more. Kettle Art, 2714 Elm St. Through Dec. 10. KettleArt.com.

SATURDAY 11.19

COMMUNITY

DFW Bi Net, a social and support group for bisexual men and women, brunch. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 10:30 a.m.



Legacy (men & women 50+ for fellowship and activities) private home or at Cathedral of Hope. Contact: Roy or Fred at 214-691-3353 or 214-202-8192.

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

ART

Ninth Annual Cedars Open Studio Tour. More than 20 artists' studios will open their doors to the public with live art, entertainment and refreshments. Meet local glass blowers, sculptors, jewelers, potters and painters, and watch them work in their studios. South Side on Lamar, 1409 S. Lamar St. Noon. 214-485-7300.

SUNDAY 11.20

COMMUNITY

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

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

The House of Glamour is a forum for African-American women to dialogue. Brooklyn's Jazz Cafe, 1701 S. Lamar St. 3 p.m. LOSF.org.

MONDAY 11.21

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

TUESDAY 11.22

COMMUNITY

JEWEL Writing Discussion & Exchange meets on the fourth Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs

EVERYBODY LOVES DORIS | Actress Doris Roberts comes to Dallas for an intimate evening with the star to help the gay-owned Ranch Hand Rescue.

Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for the discussion topic and assignment for the month. RCDallas.org.

QLive! Open Mike Night for comedy. Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave. 10 p.m. QCCinema.com.

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

WEDNESDAY 11.23

COMMUNITY

Firedancers Dallas Tribe club night the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7-10 p.m. Free. Facebook.com/TheHiddenDoor.

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

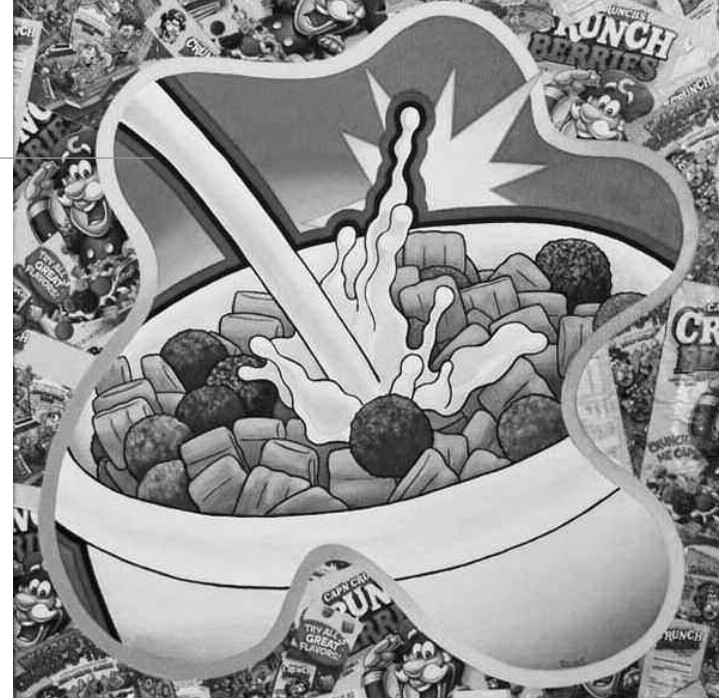
El Sol meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

THURSDAY 11.24

COMMUNITY

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

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BOWL OF ART | Artist Tony Reans' work is part of the Pop art exhibit 'Sweet Bullets' at Kettle Art through Dec. 10.

The Rotary Club of Dallas-Uptown meets every Thursday. All visitors are welcome. Hully and Mo's, 2800 Routh St. 11:45 a.m. DallasUptownRotary.org

Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6526 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

Standing on the Promises is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. There are no dues or fees for membership. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Troy Aikman turns 45 on Monday. The former Dallas Cowboy quarterback still makes headlines, whether for his divorce this year or the continued rumors that he's gay. In September, he threatened to assault the man behind the rumor, Skip Bayless, on a local radio show and the comments went viral. Let's not forget, he also has three Super Bowl rings.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Arguments at work easily get out of hand and cost you big time. Keep conversations calm and open-minded while focused on finding solutions. Take time for fun with friends to stay in balance.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Birthday plans are sure to go awry. Roll with the punches. With Mercury turning retrograde in your sign it seems you do nothing right. Keep a sense of humor while cleaning up mistakes.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Being generous to those in need boosts your reputation and even your career. Feeling beautiful and confident can start a row at home. Clear the air, try a daring, new solution and move on.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your future plans need revision. Those changes challenge your associations. Be ready to change some of those. Don't commit to those revisions, but take time to think them through.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Professional advice helps you clear up snafus. More mix-ups make success look further away than ever. Balancing humor with responsibility, you can solve them and advance.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

While you are feeling energetic, the rest of the world seems to be gumming up. Beware of rash outbursts. You will be heard more than you know, so think carefully about what you want to say.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

A person can get enough flirtation and sexual adventures. A sudden realization about what you really want in that department can bring focus as you turn to more serious matters.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

These next three weeks will have you backtracking and cleaning up. You'll be reminded of neglected promises. Take complaints seriously and make no excuses or retorts.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Sudden changes in your health are for the better, but consult a professional and review your exercise regimens. Focus on what you enjoy most about work. Colleagues will pick up on it

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Your playfulness and creative efforts make huge impacts on your work. That's not a good thing. Are they a constructive focus or a frivolous distraction? Channel that energy productively to go far.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Neglected problems at home will blow up in your face. Think carefully and deal. Flawed efforts are better than none. Consider carefully any corrections offered by roommates or family.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

A homecoming offers some rude surprises. Take them in good humor and learn from them. An opportunity to heal a wounded relationship may require some changes in your routines.

THIS WEEK

Mercury is turning retrograde and there's a solar eclipse, all in Sagittarius. Be open-minded and patient. New information will make you change your mind about important matters, though it may take weeks to figure out.

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

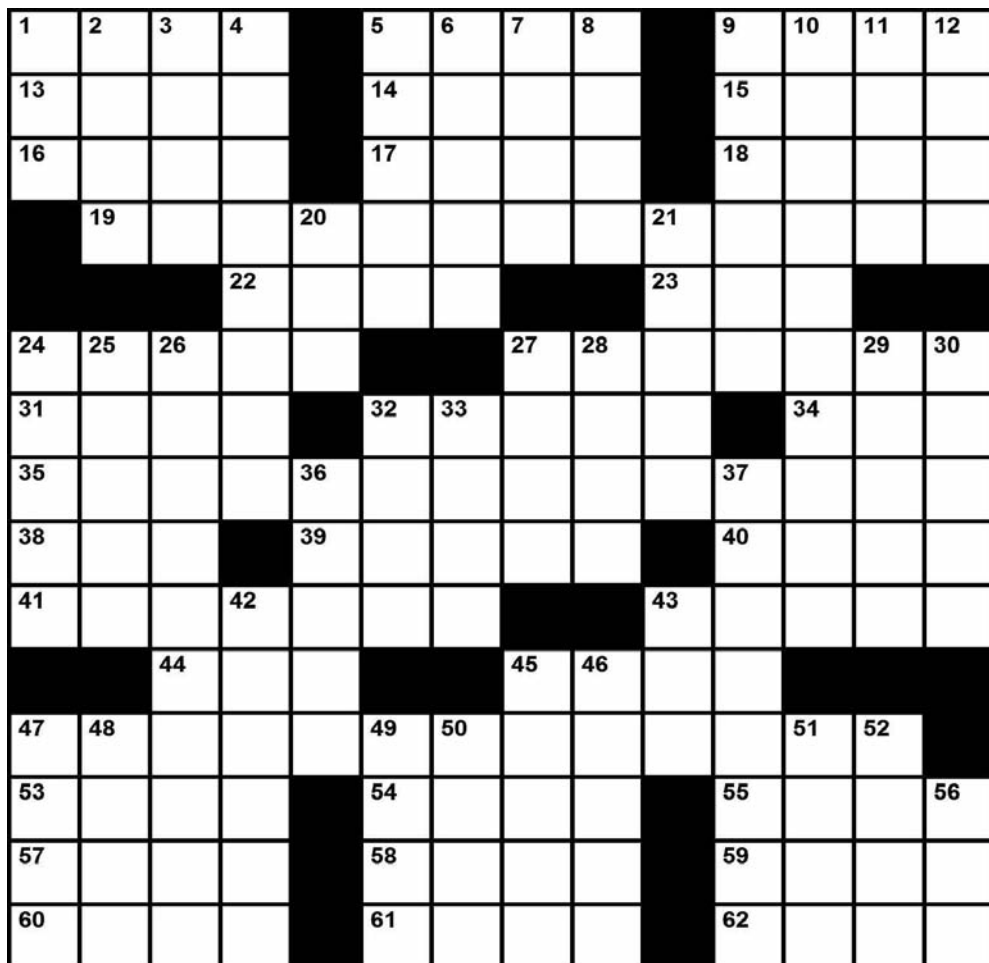
JANE'S WORLD



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Jon Cryer's Cry

Solution on page 25

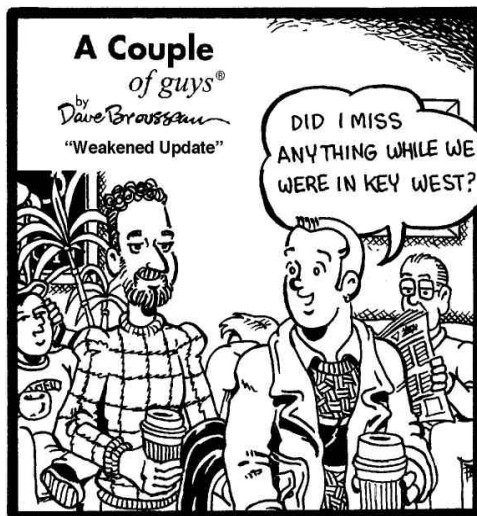
Across

- 1 Nuts
- 5 West ___ Story
- 9 Little fairies
- 13 Where you can eat a hero
- 14 Bipedal dino
- 15 Egypt's lifeline
- 16 Distribute sparingly
- 17 Garb for Mychal Judge
- 18 Secluded valley
- 19 Character who recently kissed Jon Cryer's character on TV
- 22 Dances to jazz
- 23 Cheerios essence
- 24 Nut for pies
- 27 Big bird
- 31 AfterEllen.com and AfterElton.com
- 32 One who runs the show
- 34 Shipping magnate Onassis
- 35 TV show with Jon Cryer
- 38 Contraction in a carol about gay apparel
- 39 Writer Chekhov
- 40 Magi origin
- 41 Give a cocky look to

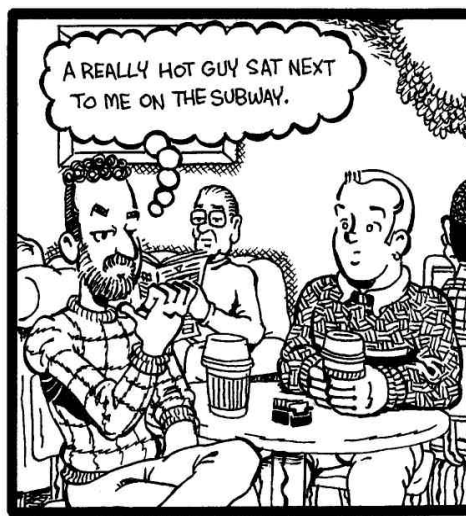
- 43 What Mickey Mouse has down below that Donald Duck lacks
- 44 Cul-de-___
- 45 "Stop it!"
- 47 Actor who plays 19-Across
- 53 Afternoon socials
- 54 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 55 Wax-covered balls from Holland
- 57 Sitarist Shankar
- 58 Stagger from a Cukor film?
- 59 ___ Mae Brown
- 60 Pious ejaculation
- 61 No better than
- 62 Winetaster's guess

Down

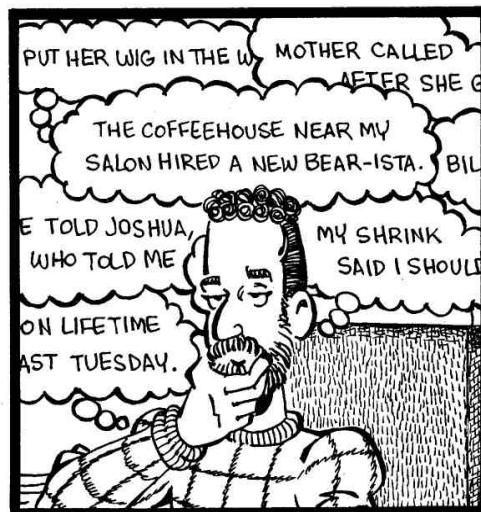
- 1 Dipstick word
- 2 Sneaky Pie cry
- 3 Earthenware pot
- 4 Long piece of meat
- 5 Deep throat problem
- 6 Jeremy of M. Butterfly_
- 7 Young women who have balls
- 8 Business VIP
- 9 Director Bergman
- 10 Guy that shot off at Lexington, e.g.
- 11 Got on one's knees and asked for it
- 12 Tickled pink
- 20 Mafia figure
- 21 Valet employer
- 24 Strokes from Spencer-Devlin
- 25 "Desert Fox" Rommel
- 26 It gives a drag queen smooth legs
- 27 Estefan's eight
- 28 Penn of Milk
- 29 Wave top
- 30 Dropped hankie and such
- 32 Poet St. Vincent Millay
- 33 Today cohost Lauer
- 36 Drug agent, for short
- 37 Like a boa
- 42 Has dinner at home
- 43 Snapshot
- 45 "We're here, we're ___ ..." (Cryer's response to the kiss)
- 46 Scrabble piece that often goes with Q
- 47 Razor choice
- 48 Clothes line
- 49 Cheers barfly
- 50 You may go down on one
- 51 Falco of The Sopranos
- 52 ___-tat
- 56 Put a scuff on



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Justin, Tyler and Clinton at Rainbow Lounge.



Ricardo, Victor and Alex at the Drama Room.

We have to start off with some bad news. **Klub Wet** is officially off the market and closed. So don't head there **Sue Ellen's** will host the **Hope 4 Peace and Justice Hold 'em Poker Tournament and Mixer** on Friday. The event is to benefit the anti-bullying program **Safe Schools**. Stick around after the tourney for **All Tied Up**, where you are urged to display your creative tie fashions. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** perform for the party. On Saturday, head upstairs to the **Vixin Lounge** for **Ciao Bella**. **Paco Estrada** plays Sunday night Have you started your holiday shopping? Get that going at the **Cedar Springs Sidewalk Sale** on Saturday. The all-day event on the strip will also feature the **Local Artists Arts Pavilion** Get your picture taken as part of the **Colors of Diversity Photoshoot 2** at **JR.'s Bar & Grill** with photographer **Tracy Nanthavongsa** Saturday This is the last bingo night of the year so get decked out in your gear for **GayBingo Platoon** with **LGBT military veterans** as the special guests **Tuesday night show tunes** at **Woody's** are a must. On Thursdays, **Jada Fox** and her **Foxy Friends** host **Who Wants to be a Drag Queen?** ... Hang out with **Voice of Pride** winner **Robert O.** on Saturdays at **Peker's** where he hosts **Totally Twisted Karaoke** Local filmmaker **Brent Paxton** premieres his show **The Dallas Life** at the **Brick** on Tuesday. The event benefits the **North Texas Food Bank**. **DJ Tristan Jaxx** headlines the **Thanksgiving Eve Dance** Wednesday. ■

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



Kenny and Chad at TMC: The Mining Company.



Linda and Handia at Station 4.



Lori, Sopashon and Cory at BJ's NXSI!



Tom at the Black Tie Dinner.



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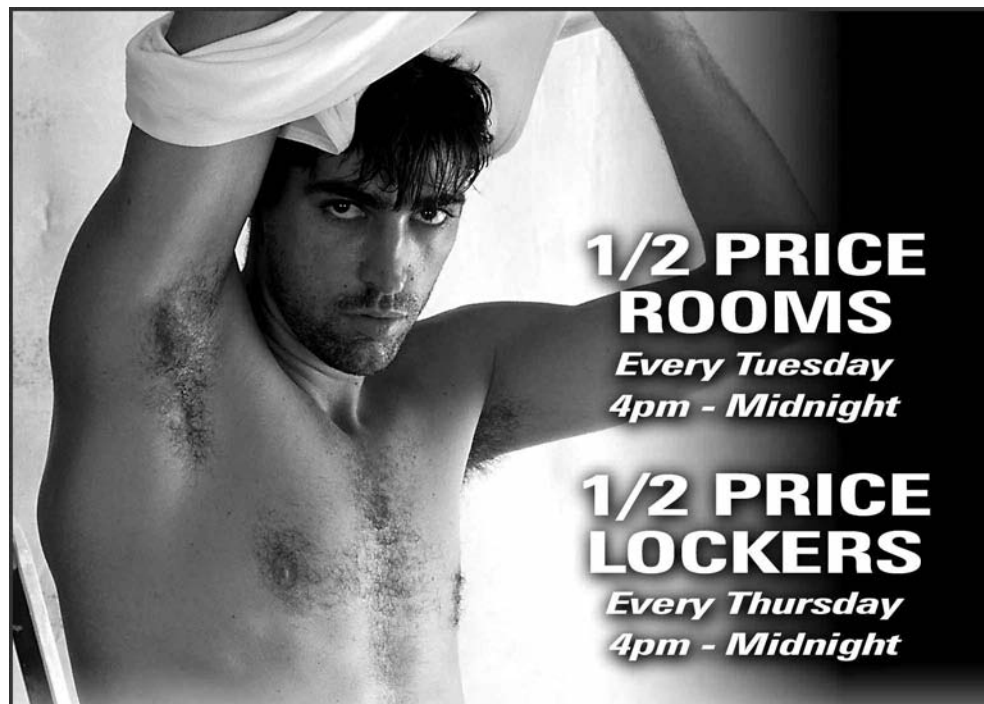
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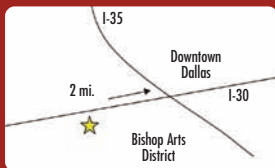
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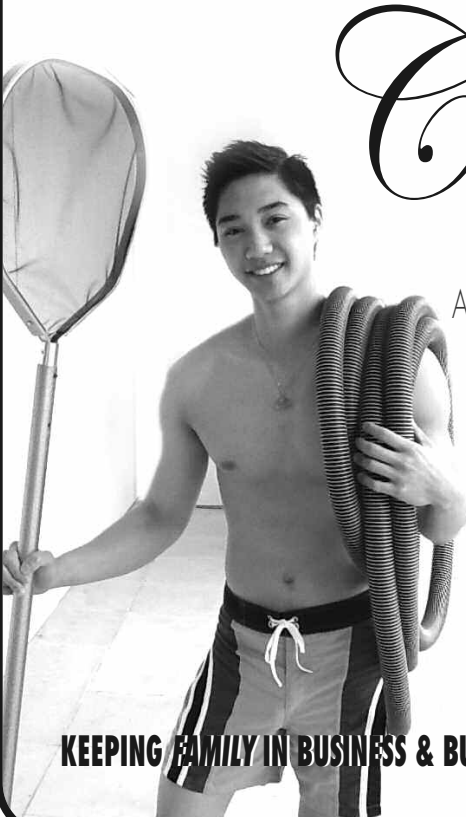
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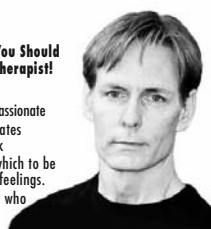
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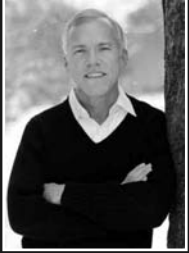


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