

# Dan Savage: It's 'never been worse'

It Gets Better creator says growing up gay can be as hard as ever  
Sex advice columnist to speak at UNT next week

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Out DJs weigh in on the changing scene of club music

Soulful diva Jackie Hall comes home

Anthony de Mare does Sondheim



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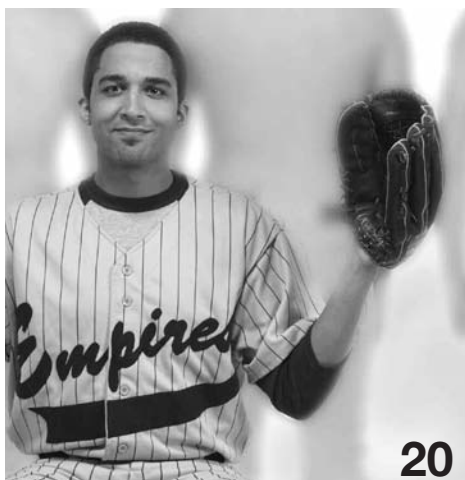
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**DOING JESUS' WORK** | Then-Mayor Tom Leppert walks next to the city float during the gay Pride parade in 2009.

### Attacked for appearing at Pride, Leppert compares self to Jesus

Attacked for appearing in Dallas' gay Pride parade as mayor, Republican Senate hopeful Tom Leppert claimed last weekend that the city's LGBT community was well aware he didn't agree with them, but said he was engaging them anyway because that's what Jesus did.

The Dallas Morning News' Trail Blazers Blog reports that Leppert made the statements after being attacked by GOP rival Ted Cruz, a tea party favorite, for allegedly supporting both gay rights and immigrant rights while mayor of Dallas.

"You know, just a moment ago Tom Leppert told you how he used the office of mayor to stand against the gay rights agenda," Cruz said prior to a conservative group's endorsing convention in Fort Worth. "Somehow, he forgot to mention that he marched twice in the gay Pride parade."

"On the gay parades, it's real simple," Leppert responded. "There was not a single group in this city that I didn't engage. They all knew, a lot of them knew that I didn't agree with them, but there's not a group that I didn't engage. Jesus engaged every single group when he was here on earth and I did, too. And what wasn't told is all the different times that I talked about my faith and went out there and every single person in this city understood exactly where I stood."

After defeating openly gay candidate Ed Oakley in a runoff for mayor in 2007, Leppert hired an openly gay chief of staff, Chris Heinbaugh, and repeatedly expressed support for the LGBT community. In addition to gay Pride, Leppert appeared at Dallas' Black Tie dinner, the largest annual fundraiser for the city's LGBT community. He also refused to answer a question about whether he supported same-sex marriage.

But when Leppert decided to run for Senate about midway through his four-year term, he abruptly joined the virulently anti-gay First Baptist Church of Dallas. And, almost immediately after

stepping down as mayor to launch his Senate campaign last year, he sent out an anti-gay tweet and came out on his website against both same-sex marriage and civil unions.

Leppert's statements at the forum this weekend came just as his successor, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, was meeting with LGBT leaders about his refusal to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage. Rawlings, like Leppert, has verbally expressed support for the LGBT community and appeared at gay Pride. Rawlings also happens to have contributed \$1,000 to Leppert's Senate campaign.

— John Wright

### Renovations planned for JR's

Caven announced this week that JR's Bar & Grill will be closing its first floor area for renovations, but that the second floor will remain open. So happy hour is safe, but it sounds like the bar is getting some impressive redos according to Caven president Gregg Kilhoffer.

"Everything is being improved, floor to ceiling," he said. "Our guests can expect a familiar space, but with a new feel, new fixtures, new audio and video and new state-of-the-art technologies that will improve the customer experience."

The parent company mentioned renovations will commence after the end of business on Feb. 5 and are expected to go on for about six weeks. The bar's regular schedule of events will be moved down the block to TMC: The Mining Company along with some of the JR's staff. The upstairs area will remain open on the weekends. When first floor renovations are done, they'll flip the bar and close off the second floor to continue the upgrades.

"I hope our guests will be patient during this process," Kilhoffer added. "Change is good, and we think the results will be worth the inconvenience and the wait."

— Rich Lopez

  
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# Rawlings won't budge on marriage pledge

Dallas mayor says decision not to sign document puts him in position to advocate for LGBT equality among religious conservatives

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said this week that he has no plans to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage anytime soon.

But Rawlings added that he believes his decision not to sign the pledge puts him in a position to advocate on behalf of LGBT civil rights among religious conservatives in Dallas.

Rawlings, who claims he personally supports legalizing same-sex marriage, has come under fire from the LGBT community for refusing to sign the pledge from the national group Freedom to Marry.

Rawlings has argued that the pledge — which now bears more than 100 signatures from mayors across the country — creates a divisive and partisan social issue that falls outside the mayor's scope.

"I'm not going to sign it at this point, and part of it is because of the reaction that I've gotten throughout the whole community, and I realize whether people appreciate it or not, that I'm in a very interesting position where I can convene a lot of great dialogue because of the position that



**STANDOFF** | A pro-LGBT protester, left, squares off with an anti-gay counterprotester during a "Sign the Pledge" rally organized by GetEQUAL outside Dallas City Hall on Jan. 27. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

I've taken," Rawlings told Dallas Voice during an exclusive interview in his office on Tuesday, Jan. 31. "After thinking about it, it's probably the best thing that I kind of stick by my position here, but also do what I said in that meeting, which is work hard to figure out how I can best help this [the LGBT] community to gain the civil rights they need."

Rawlings was referring to a meeting last Saturday, Jan. 28, which he attended with about 25 LGBT leaders at Resource Center Dallas, in response to his refusal to sign the pledge.

The meeting included several longtime local same-sex couples, including Jack Evans and George Harris, and Louise Young and Vivienne Armstrong.

Over the nearly two-hour meeting, which was at times heated and emotional, the couples and other LGBT leaders told Rawlings their stories and made their case as to why they feel the mayor should sign the pledge.

Outside the Resource Center following the meeting — which came the morning after about 100 LGBT protesters had gathered at City Hall — Rawlings wouldn't rule out the possibility that he would change his mind. But 72 hours later, he hadn't budged.

"I don't see myself changing in the short-term," Rawlings said Tuesday. "I think if there was another movement that I could understand what it was going to accomplish better, I might join that entity. It's not like I'm going to be anti-

■ MARRIAGE, Page 14

## Dan Savage: It's 'never been worse' for LGBT youth

Founder of It Gets Better Project says higher visibility combined with anti-gay forces can make growing up gay as hard as ever

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

Sex-advice columnist Dan Savage, known for his It Gets Better Project, will keynote the University of North Texas Equity and Diversity Conference next week.

"I'll talk about how it's gotten worse in some ways," Savage said.

He said that kids can't fly under the radar anymore like when he came out in 1981.

"Everyone is hyper-aware in a way they weren't before," he said.

### Savage at UNT

The Equity & Diversity Conference at University of North Texas University Union, 1155 Union Circle, Denton. Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 940-565-2711. Dan Savage will speak at 10 a.m. in the Silver Eagle Suit.

Registration is free for UNT students, \$100 for UNT faculty, staff and alumni, \$150 for non-UNT students and \$275 for others. On-site registration, available the day of the conference is \$350.

He called that a result of the Reagan Revolution, when anti-gay rhetoric became organized.

"Mom and Dad beat up on gay people at the ballot box so it became OK for kids to beat up on gay kids at school," he said.

This week, Savage said he received a letter from a father whose 13-year-old son recently

came out.

"How do I know I'm parenting him correctly?" the dad wanted to know.

As a father with a 13-year-old son himself, Savage gets aggressively protective. He tells parents to make sure there's a Gay Straight Alliance in school. If the school has anti-bullying policies in place, make sure they're being enforced and let the principal know you're watching and "you'll create holy hell." And make sure the child has gay role models and friends.

He advises that when the young teen's straight friends start dating and they have no other out friends in school, reassure them that their time will come. And don't be afraid to give an LGBT child the same advice you'd give a straight child. That's not homophobia, he said. It's parenting.

But Savage called this "the best of times and

■ SAVAGE, Page 9



**SAVAGE LOVE** | Dan Savage, shown here at an appearance at the Kessler Theater last year, will appear at UNT on Feb. 7. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

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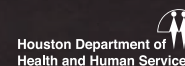


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## localbriefs

### OUTreach Denton hosts dinner

OUTreach Denton will hold a Valentine's dinner and fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 14.

"We are excited about having an LGBTQA event in Denton for once," said the Rev. Pam Wat of the Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

OUTreach Denton and Seven Mile Cafe are partnering to create a romantic, fun and philanthropic evening.

Wat promised "a delicious Italian meal, beautiful music and warm hospitality at one of Denton's newest restaurants."

Seven Mile Cafe is at 311 W. Congress St. Half of the proceeds will support LGBTQA programming and resources in Denton including the newly formed LGBTQA youth group. The cost is \$30 per person and reservations are required. To RSVP, email [OUTreachDenton@gmail.com](mailto:OUTreachDenton@gmail.com). Seating is limited. Soft drinks are included. BYOB.



The Rev. Pam Wat

### Cathedral marks 5 years with UCC

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Cathedral of Hope as a United Church of Christ congregation, UCC General Minister and President the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black will come to Dallas to preach on Sunday, Feb. 5 at the Cathedral.

Cathedral of Hope, the fourth-largest congregation of the UCC, officially became a member of the denomination on Feb. 4, 2007.

Jo Hudson, senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope, recalled the day, saying: "When all the i's had been dotted and all the t's crossed, after the official words of welcome had been spoken, and we all felt good about the service we had just shared, the Voices of Hope choir and our orchestra led us in the anthem How Great is Our God. I thought the roof was going to come off the church."

The relationship between Cathedral of Hope and the UCC has been great for both the congregation and the larger church, the Rev. Hudson said.

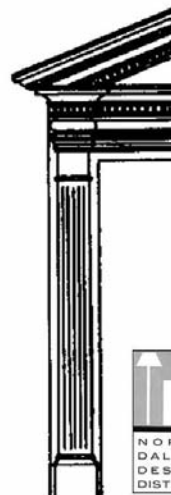
"What has stayed the same are our shared core values of compassion, inclusion and liberation, our hope and our faith in Jesus," she said. "What changed was that the UCC welcomed all at once the largest influx of LGBTQ members in the history of a mainline U.S. church. And, in the ensuing months, Cathedral of Hope saw a double-digit percentage increase in the number of heterosexual worshippers on Sunday morning. Our God is a great God, indeed!"

### pet of the week / GODZILLA

Godzilla is a staff and volunteer favorite because of his huge personality. He loves to play with toys and even responds to his name. He is infamous for sneaking out of the adult cat room so that he can be in the lobby where all the action is. If you are looking for a truly social cat that will make you smile, Godzilla is the one for you!



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**GETTING BETTER AND BETTER** | Dan Savage, right, and his husband Terry Miller started the It Gets Better Project to help LGBT youth. Their original goal was 100 videos but they have more than 50,000 that have gotten 50 million views. (Photo courtesy of Dan Savage)

**SAVAGE**

From Page 6

the worst of times" for LGBT youth to grow up.

"If you grow up in a rural area, go to a Christian school, are bullied from the pulpit and there's no GSA, it's never been worse," he said.

Savage said that when he began the It Gets Better Project, he and husband Terry Miller hoped for 100 videos. A day after posting that first one, he had topped that number and within a few days had 100 more. He said that at last count there were more than 50,000 It Gets Better videos that have been viewed more than 50 million times. That includes one of the most popular — the City Council speech made by Joel Burns that has been seen more than 2.7 million times.

Two of Savage's favorite pieces that were included in the book It Gets Better, which will be released in paperback in March, were contributed by A.Y. Daring and Gabrielle Rivera. Daring, who identifies herself as black and queer, grew up in rural Canada. Her simple story tells of moving to a bigger city and entering a university with the oldest LGBT support group in the country. Rivera, a gay Latina from the Bronx, tells youth that, "It doesn't get better." But she says that you get stronger.

It Gets Better has been incorporated as a non-profit organization. Savage said as soon as the videos took off, they trademarked and copyrighted the slogan and "people started throwing money at us."

"We created a brand," he said.

He said they've had to protect that brand and were able to shut down an anti-gay group that tried to co-opt the phrase.

That money raised has been redirected to

GLSEN, the Trevor Project and the ACLU LGBT project. And he would like to see It Gets Better merged into another organization rather than continue as a standalone. Talks with other groups are ongoing.

Savage commented on the presidential campaign and the image of one of the candidates he helped create.

In 2003, in response to an interview in which Sen. Rick Santorum's called gay sex a deviant behavior, Savage wrote, "There's no better way to memorialize the Santorum scandal than by attaching his name to a sex act that would make his big, white teeth fall out of his big, empty head."

As a result, the definition of Santorum that pops up first in an online search of the name has been dubbed the candidate's "Google problem."

Savage dismisses Santorum's campaign, however.

"He's not running for president," he said. "He's running for a Fox News contract just like [Mike] Huckabee."

On Rick Perry, he wonders how Texans feel about the general impression that Perry's not smart enough to be president.

"He's just dumb enough to be governor?" Savage wonders. "I love that Barack Obama is now more popular in Texas than Rick Perry."

After the George "Rentboy" Rekers scandal, Savage helped popularize the term "lift the luggage" to mean supplying your partner with sexual pleasure. He said studies have shown that homophobic men are turned on by gay pornography.

"Every time a [Ted] Haggard or Rekers comes along, it makes homophobia look gay," he said. "So we celebrate when they come tumbling out of the closet." ■

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## ANNIVERSARY



**MALLITON-COVELL** | Local artist-photographer Marty Malliton and noted attorney Rebecca Covell of Dallas celebrated their 15th anniversary on Jan. 25. When they are not traveling, both are devoted to the community and the fight for LGBT equality.

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## Death



**Philip Wayne**, 84, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Medical City Dallas Hospital. His heart gave out after a bout with pneumonia.

Wayne was born in Canada on March 16, 1927. He came to the U.S. as a young man. He worked and lived in New York City for a time. He served in the Army during the Korean War.

Wayne earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and a master's degree in theater from Columbia University. He was a very successful Department of the Army entertainment director, with positions in Germany, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., South Korea and Fort Bliss. His productions were all of Broadway quality. He truly was a gifted, talented director/producer.

Wayne is survived by his niece, Louise Parnes; and nephews, Mark Spiegle and Lloyd Pollock, all of Toronto.

He is also survived by a number of great-nieces and -nephews and a host of friends in Dallas and elsewhere. Wayne will be interred at the National Cemetery in Dallas. ■

# Resource Center honors volunteers



**LEGACY OF SERVICE** | Carol Fisher accepts Resource Center Dallas' 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award on Sunday, Jan. 29, on behalf of her son, Leon Catlett, who died last year. RCD Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox, left, and services manager Kee Holt presented Fisher with Catlett's award during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at the Starlight Room in Dallas.

Leon Catlett receives top honor posthumously at annual dinner

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**  
editor@dallasvoice.com

More than 1,090 people gave more than 49,100 hours of their time and talents valued at more than \$1.05 million to Resource Center Dallas in 2011, allowing the center to make life better for thousands of North Texans.

The volunteers were honored at the center's annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Starlight Room in the Dallas West End.

Longtime volunteer Leon Catlett, who died last November, posthumously received the 2011 Martha Dealey Volunteer of the Year award.

"Leon's vibrant presence volunteering for the center, from the front desk and nutrition center to events such as Toast To Life, was a comforting and consistent presence for our staff and clients," said Cece Cox, RCD's executive director and CEO. "We miss him terribly, but are comforted by and

thankful for his legacy of service to the center."

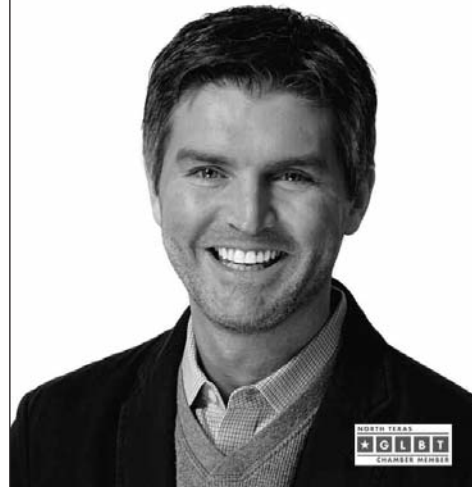
Resource Center Dallas also recognized the following:

- Michael Chau received the Randolph Terrell Community Service Award, given to a group or individual for exceptional service to the LGBT community and/or people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Miles Vinton was given the Suzanne Wilson Award, presented to the year's most significant volunteer in Client Services;
- Jack Hancock received the John Thomas Award, in recognition as the Gay & Lesbian Community Center's exceptional volunteer of the year;
- Dr. Jaime Vasquez was awarded the Bill Nelson Award honoring the Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center's outstanding volunteer of the year; and,
- David Granger received the Bruce Long Award for outstanding development department volunteer.

The center also recognized 117 volunteers who contributed more than 100 hours during 2011. Miles Vinton, with 906 hours, was recognized for donating the most amount of time last year. ■

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# Dems seek supermajority on Commissioners Court

LGBT ally Theresa Daniel among those vying for Dickey's seat

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Stonewall Democrats President Omar Narvaez thinks Democrats have an excellent chance of picking up a fourth seat on the Dallas County Commissioners Court since newly drawn lines extend a district into Oak Lawn.

District 1 Republican incumbent Maureen Dickey — who voted against transgender nondiscrimination protections for county employees last year — isn't seeking re-election. Two Republicans and three Democrats have filed to run for the seat Dickey has held since 2004.

Narvaez said two of the three Democratic candidates are members of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas — Theresa Daniel and Gloria Levario.

The redrawn district, he said, will be harder for a Republican to retain. Cedar Springs Road is the dividing line. The northeast side of the street will be part of the new District 1. The southwest side of the street will be represented by District 4

Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia.

District 3 Commissioner John Wiley Price, also up for re-election, lost the Oak Lawn portion of his district but picked up more of Oak Cliff and Cedar Hill. Parts of South Dallas between Interstate 30 and US Highway 175 also shifted from Price to the new District 1.

Usually the filing period ends on Jan. 1 for the November race. Because of legal challenges to redistricting maps, Narvaez said the filing period will be reopened. Candidates whose districts have changed may decide to change races or may pull out of the running and receive a refund.

"And that's extremely unusual," Narvaez said. So he said that the field of candidates — even for the Commissioners Court races where boundary lines haven't been challenged — isn't necessarily set. Although the primary is still tentatively scheduled for April 3, a firm date cannot be set until new maps are approved.

"I wonder how long this marathon is going to be," said Daniel, one of the Democratic candi-

dates for the District 1 seat.

Daniel was a staff member for Democratic Congressman Martin Frost. She has served on the State Democratic Executive Committee since 1996 and as chair of the Dallas County Democratic Party Advisory Committee for four years. Currently, she works with the Dallas Independent School District in program evaluation and accountability and is an adjunct professor of urban and public affairs at the University of

Texas at Arlington.

Daniel said she's been a member of Stonewall Democrats for 10 to 15 years. As a member of the SDEC she helped add two seats to the state body for Stonewall Democrats leaders.

"With their activity level, both locally and at a state level, they were a model," she said.

In 2004, Daniel received Stonewall's Democrat of the Year award.

Daniel said she's glad sexual orientation and gender identity were added to the county's employment nondiscrimination policy last year and

called health benefits for the domestic partners of county employees a "civil right."

County Judge Clay Jenkins has said he supports DP benefits but didn't bring the proposal forward last year due to budget constraints.

On healthcare issues, Daniel said she needs to take a look at how agencies are funded but said, "I'd work to keep funding on track."

She called the new Parkland hospital "absolutely wonderful."

"When you have an 80-year-old building we're going to have problems," she said, adding that the new hospital shows Dallas County's commitment to public health.

Daniel Clayton is the third Democrat running for the District 1 seat. He has worked for state Sen. Royce West for five years and currently serves as his political director.

Before joining West's office, he worked on a number of campaigns. In 2001, he campaigned for Jim McGreevey, who became New Jersey's "gay-American" governor. Clayton served as deputy field director for former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk's Senate campaign.

Since 2007, Clayton has served as president of

■ DEMS, Next Page



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**GOING AFTER THE GAY VOTE** | Cecile Fernandez, left, speaks to Logan Cabin Republicans of Dallas on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at Texas Land & Cattle in Uptown. Fernandez is one of two Republicans who've filed to replace retiring GOP Commissioner Maurine Dickey. On the Democratic side, longtime LGBT ally Theresa Daniel, above right, and Daniel Clayton are two of the three candidates running for Dickey's District 1 seat.

■ **DEMS**, From Previous Page

the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats.

In 2004, he was executive director of the Dallas County Democratic Party. That year, Sheriff Lupe Valdez and other Democrats swept into office, which began a run of Democrats who were elected to county-wide office.

"How do we make county government more efficient?" Clayton said when asked about his top concern.

He said continued funding for AIDS programs was a priority.

"Dallas County's rate of HIV is so high," he said. "It's affecting the minority community terribly."

On partnership benefits, he said the idea sounds fair and he needs to study the economic impact.

On the Republican side, Dickey has endorsed Cecile Fernandez, a former Dickey's Barbecue executive vice president who helped create the franchise program and take the company national. District 2 Commissioner Mike Cantrell has endorsed Fernandez's opponent, attorney Larry Miller.

Fernandez attended the kick-off event this week for the new Dallas Log Cabin Republicans chapter.

"I was impressed with the turnout," she said of the meeting, adding that she attended because

several of the founders "are longtime personal friends."

She said that although the new boundaries of District 1 give Democrats a slight edge, her connections in the Hispanic community and position as vice chair of the Dallas chapter of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly will make the difference.

"I think I'm the Republican who can win that seat," she said.

She expressed support for LGBT issues. She backs partnership benefits for county employees, but worried that in the new budget year every-one's benefits will have to be cut.

She said that funding for HIV and AIDS treatment must remain in place and added she sees no room for discrimination.

"It's not the '80s," she said. "Everyone knows someone who's died of AIDS."

She said she supports Parkland Hospital and has had people in her family use the facility.

"The people at Parkland are so caring," she said. Despite being overworked in a rundown facility, "they must really love their jobs."

Miller and Levario did not return messages before press time.

Levario, the sister of Dallas County's 204th District Court Judge Lena Levario, works for Baylor's physician network to manage their medical practices. She's also a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, Narvaez said. ■

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**MARRIAGE**

From Page 6

public on this issue, but I think this pledge itself is something that has allowed me to be a broker of discussions now in the city of Dallas. There's some silver lining in this cloud."

Rawlings said he's spoken to as many people who support his position as oppose it. But he acknowledged that when it comes to emails and messages on Facebook and Twitter, the vast majority have been in support of signing the pledge. Rawlings' chief of staff, Paula Blackmon, said his office has received thousands of emails in the last two weeks.

"The other night [someone] said, 'Thank you for not getting caught up in the hype of this thing, but I see you support marriage equality,'" Rawlings said. "And I said, 'Yes, tell me about your position.' And I realize there are so many people out there who really support what the LGBT community is trying to accomplish, but they are not interested in getting caught up into a polarizing movement.

"I'm very excited about the ability now to have this conversation," he added. "I'm tired of talking about the pledge, but I think we're just at the front end of having a conversation about LGBT civil rights."

Rawlings has also said he wants to focus on

substantive things he can accomplish as mayor to support LGBT civil rights.

But as of Tuesday, he said he hadn't identified what those things will be. He said he plans to set up another meeting with Cece Cox, executive director and CEO of Resource Center Dallas, and others LGBT leaders to discuss specifics.

"There's no question I'm a little ambivalent about my role now with the LGBT community, because I think that many people feel that I have sold them down the river, and I don't want for political purposes to act like, 'Oh, but I love you,'" Rawlings said. "I don't want it to be disingenuous. I want to earn my respect in that community by putting my actions where my speech is on this."

Rawlings said he thinks that for religious conservatives, civil marriage is secondary to the sacrament of religious marriage.

He said as mayor he wants to focus on "starting to de-mystify this for the faith-based community, and making sure we separate sacraments from civil rights."

"If we ever are going to get to a better place, we've got to have room for people's civil rights and personal religious beliefs in the same city," he said.

"I'm a believer. I understand that tradition. I understand why that's important. Some great conversations are starting to take place that I didn't think I could ever have." ■



**MEETING WITH LGBT LEADERS** | Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings greets gay couple Jack Evans, left, and George Harris, who've been together more than 50 years, before Saturday's meeting at Resource Center Dallas. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

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**WAVES OF JOY** | Openly gay Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, from left, and his partner Michael Shiosaka wave at spectators in the upper gallery after the Senate voted for a proposal to legalize same-sex marriage Wednesday evening, Feb. 1 in Olympia, Wash. (Associated Press)

# Marriage bill clears Washington Senate

House vote expected as early as next week, but referendum looms

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

Washington State is well-poised to become the seventh state — and the second-largest — where same-sex marriage is legal.

The Washington State bill for marriage equality cleared a crucial hurdle Wednesday night, Feb. 1, passing the state Senate on a vote of 28-21 after senators first shot down an attempt to put the issue on the ballot in November — even though a public vote is still likely through a referendum. Four Republicans in the Senate voted in favor of the marriage equality bill, while three Democrats voted against it.

The bill now goes to the full House, where headcounts gives it a clear margin for victory. Washington United for Marriage, a coalition of groups working for passage of the legislation, said the vote in the House could come as early as next week.

“The overwhelming support we’re seeing from businesses, labor, faith communities and people all across the state is a testament to the momentum of this movement and sensibilities of Washingtonians,” Lacey All, chair of Washington

United for Marriage, said in a statement shortly after Wednesday’s vote. “Volunteers from every part of the state have contributed thousands of hours of their time to make today possible, and we thank them for their commitment to this issue.”

The Senate dealt quickly Wednesday night with 11 amendments, most dealing with proposed religious exemptions. It adopted seven of the amendments but, on a 26-23 vote, rejected an attempt to put the issue before voters in November.

Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Olympia, who proposed the referendum, announced before the debate that he would vote in favor of the marriage equality bill. But during debate, he warned his colleagues that groups opposed to same-sex marriage are already preparing to gather signatures to force a referendum on the measure this November. Such opponents will likely have until early June to collect more than 120,000 signatures.

Sen. Edward Murray, an openly gay Democrat from Seattle and a 15-year veteran of the Legislature, sponsored the bill. It calls for “ending discrimination in marriage based on gender and sexual orientation to ensure that all persons in this state may enjoy the freedom to marry on equal terms, while also respecting the religious

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**CHEERS AND TEARS** | Members of the gallery look down and applaud as the Senate passes the bill. (Associated Press)

■ **MARRIAGE**, From Previous Page

freedom of clergy and religious institutions to determine for whom to perform marriage ceremonies and to determine which marriages to recognize for religious purposes."

Murray said on the floor prior to the vote that those who voted against the bill, "are not, nor should they be accused of bigotry."

"Those of us who support this legislation are not, and we should not be accused of, undermining family life or religious freedom," Murray added. "Marriage is how society says you are a family."

Murray said he and his partner of more than 20 years — Michael Shiosaki — plan to marry and added that "regardless of how you vote on this bill, an invitation will be in the mail" to their wedding.

The religious protection language in the bill stipulates that "no official of a religious denomination or non-profit institution ... may be required to solemnize any marriage in violation of his or her right to free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or by the Washington state Constitution." It also enables religious institutions to bar use of their facilities to same-sex couples for marriage ceremonies.

Many of the amendments approved Wednesday night sought to add to the religious exemptions. One particularly ominous amendment sought to add that no state or local government can "base a decision" to do business with "any religious organization" based on the organization's refusal to accommodate same-sex marriage ceremonies. That amendment failed.

The Senate also rejected, by 27-22, an attempt to enable individual judges, justices and commissioners to refuse to solemnize a same-sex ceremony due to their personal religious beliefs. And it rejected an amendment seeking to allow individuals and businesses — including wedding planners, photographers and florists — to refuse

to provide services and accommodations for same-sex ceremonies.

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, a Democrat and longtime supporter of rights for same-sex couples but not always a strong supporter of marriage equality, announced Jan. 4 that she would support the bill. Local news media reported that the governor was in the Senate for the debate and she issued a statement immediately after the vote.

"Tonight the Washington State Senate stood up for what is right and told all families in our state that they are equal and that the state cannot be in the business of discrimination," said Gregoire. "I believe that this decision should be made by our state Legislature, and I'm proud our elected leaders recognized that responsibility."

Gregoire thanked Murray for his leadership on the bill.

Murray has been a key mover behind much of Washington State's legislation to prohibit discrimination against LGBT people. He led the successful effort in 2006 to pass a statewide non-discrimination law to protect LGBT people and, in 2007, led the fight for passage of a domestic partnership law. In 2009, he sought passage of the state's "Everything but Marriage" bill.

Lambda Legal National Marriage Project Director Camilla Taylor issued a statement saying same-sex couples in Washington State are now "one step closer to enjoying the freedom to marry, thanks to the impressive efforts of Washington United for Marriage, and the bravery of supporters of equality in the State Senate."

Washington State, which has 6.8 million residents, would become the second-largest state behind New York where same-sex marriage is legal.

If the bill is signed by Gregoire and opponents are unable to gather the necessary signatures for a referendum, same-sex couples could wed as early as June. However, if the opposition does force a referendum, marriages would have to wait until after the November election. ■

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viewpoints

# So what if being gay *is* a choice?

Despite some activists' outrage over actress Cynthia Nixon's recent comments, it doesn't really matter how we became LGBT

After four decades of watching people struggle to keep up with the politically correct standard of the day in discussing LGBT life, I'm beginning to think it's time for everyone to relax a little.

I reached that decision this week when I read about activists getting in an uproar over Cynthia Nixon, an actress who starred in *Sex and the City*, telling the New York Times Magazine she preferred being gay to straight because she had lived both types of lives. Her remarks created a furor among those who demand we frame all of our speech in a way they think best advances the LGBT rights movement. A few days later Nixon softened her stance in a Daily Beast interview by saying she was a bisexual by no choice of her own, presumably in an effort to quell the controversy.

Frankly, Nixon's first remarks in the New York Times Magazine article made sense to me, and so did her later remarks about believing she never made a conscious decision to be a bisexual. It's just that I regretted she felt compelled to revise what she had said earlier to appease her critics. I got what she meant the first time without her follow-up explanation, and I imagine most other enlightened people did as well.

Nixon, who gave birth to two children with a male partner, probably did make a choice to live a gay life when she became sexually involved with a woman. If someone is attracted to both the opposite and the same sex, there probably does come a point when the individual might need to make a choice in terms of permanent or semi-permanent partnership.

Certainly Nixon ought to be the best judge of what happened in her own life, so what's wrong with her telling the truth as she sees it?

Nixon noted correctly that many LGBT activists shudder every time they hear the word "choice," "preference" or "lifestyle" because they fear it supports conservative religious arguments that homosexuality is a perversion practiced by degenerates who get their kicks out of being wicked. As the theory goes, that gives credence to the evangelists' claims that bisexuality, homosexuality and gender variance can be cured by the administration of a good dose of Bible verse in quantities sufficient enough to scare the holy bejesus out of the sinner.

As we all know, that doesn't work. Actually,

even most straight people realize that won't work because most of them have also suffered the wrath of the evangelical community in condemnation of some aspect of their lives, such as the urge to masturbate or engage in sexual activity before marriage. In reality, the only ones who truly believe a pack of Bible thumpers can transform a person's sexual orientation are people who are lying about it, have been brainwashed into believing it or are just too ignorant to understand scientific research.

Decades of scientific evidence make it clear that every aspect of a person's physical and mental makeup — which certainly includes sexual orientation — comes about as a result of heritable genes and the impact of sex hormones on the brain and other body parts of the developing fetus.

In his 2011 book *Gay, Straight and the Reason Why*, neuroscientist Simon LeVay outlines decades of scientific studies that all point to the same conclusion: In essence, people are what nature made them.

LeVay, who served on the faculties of Harvard Medical School and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, has pointed this out in various articles and books he has authored over the years. The results of a scientific study LeVay published in *Science* in 1991 showing marked differences in the brain structures of gay and straight men is credited with helping spur the two-decade wave of scientific research aimed at determining a biological basis for sexual orientation.

What the body of scientific evidence does for most reasonable people is confirm what common sense had already told them. There's just no way certain people with obvious mental and physical characteristics could have been anything other than what they became — namely gay, lesbian or transgender.

With others in the LGBT community it's a little trickier because they display either few or none of the obvious characteristics identifying them as anything other than straight. Environment might have played some role in their development, but again the scientific evidence points to biological factors. What's more the individuals usually report experiencing feelings since their earliest recollections that set them apart from heterosexual people.

Still, the unpredictability of humans makes it impossible to categorize all people. Some members of the community undoubtedly did feel an attraction to the LGBT lifestyle and chose to embrace it for that reason. The very size and the diversity of the world's LGBT community is so staggering that if we come across some people who are merely practicing free will, it shouldn't be so surprising.



David Webb  
The Rare Reporter



Cynthia Nixon

That's why I liked Nixon's earlier remarks that it didn't matter how people came to be a part of the LGBT community. As she said, it doesn't matter how each and every person got here, and words will never sway the opinions of bigots and opportunists. It will require life experiences — such as coming to realize they have a child or grandchild who is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender — to hopefully educate them about the realities of life.

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has reported on LGBT issues for three decades for the mainstream and alternative media. He can be reached at davidwaynewebb@hotmail.com.

# Flashing lights won't fix Cedar Springs' No. 1 problem: Shabbiness

Community must work together to spiff up our strip, which wasn't even included in Dallas' 'Complete Streets' program until recently

**A** friend and I went to a Jan. 12 meeting at the Round-Up Saloon, hosted by Dallas City Councilwomen Angela Hunt and Pauline Medrano. The meeting was called to address the epidemic of pedestrian traffic accidents on Cedar Springs Road.

We listened to a city engineer, other city staff, a police officer and local businesspeople. The engineer showed us slides of Cedar Springs as it is and as the city proposed to change it in three stages.

If you read David Taffet's article on Page 6 of the Jan. 27 issue of Dallas Voice, you know what's proposed. And if you've been on Cedar Springs, you can't have missed the most obvious change: yellow warning flashers, first at Knight Street, then at Reagan.

They are supposed to flash 24/7 for a month,

then only when a pedestrian pushes the button to cross the street. However, when I left the Oak Lawn Library on Tuesday, Jan. 31, the flasher at Knight — just in front of the library and the corner of Ilume — was not flashing. Hmmm.

I also went to the Cedar Springs Merchant Association meeting Jan. 25. There, Paula Blackmon, chief of staff for Mayor Mike Rawlings, took questions and listened to comments during the first half of the meeting. I thought the most important point was made by Luke Crosland, ilume's developer: The area generates \$30 million a year in alcohol sales.

That's a huge amount of revenue. With the next phase of ilume scheduled for development, and with more and more apartments replacing the area's older homes, no doubt that revenue stream will grow.

In the second part of the meeting, CSMA Executive Director Scott Whittall spoke of the traffic study the city will conduct throughout February

to help officials make more decisions about traffic problems and solutions. Whittall also announced a new campaign, online and presumably in print, to market "The Strip on Cedar Springs." (Go to [TinyUrl.com/8yb7uj8](http://TinyUrl.com/8yb7uj8) to enter the logo design contest.)

Finally, after asking CSMA attendees to sign up for one of two committees, "traffic problems" or "taxi solutions," Whittall announced a whole calendar of events for the remainder of 2012. All are geared to attract locals and visitors to The Strip. Sounds good.

And if more crosswalk lights, pedestrian signs and police patrols will keep people from being run down, that certainly is good.

But changing the behavior of pedestrians and drivers is not the main problem.

The main problem is shabbiness.

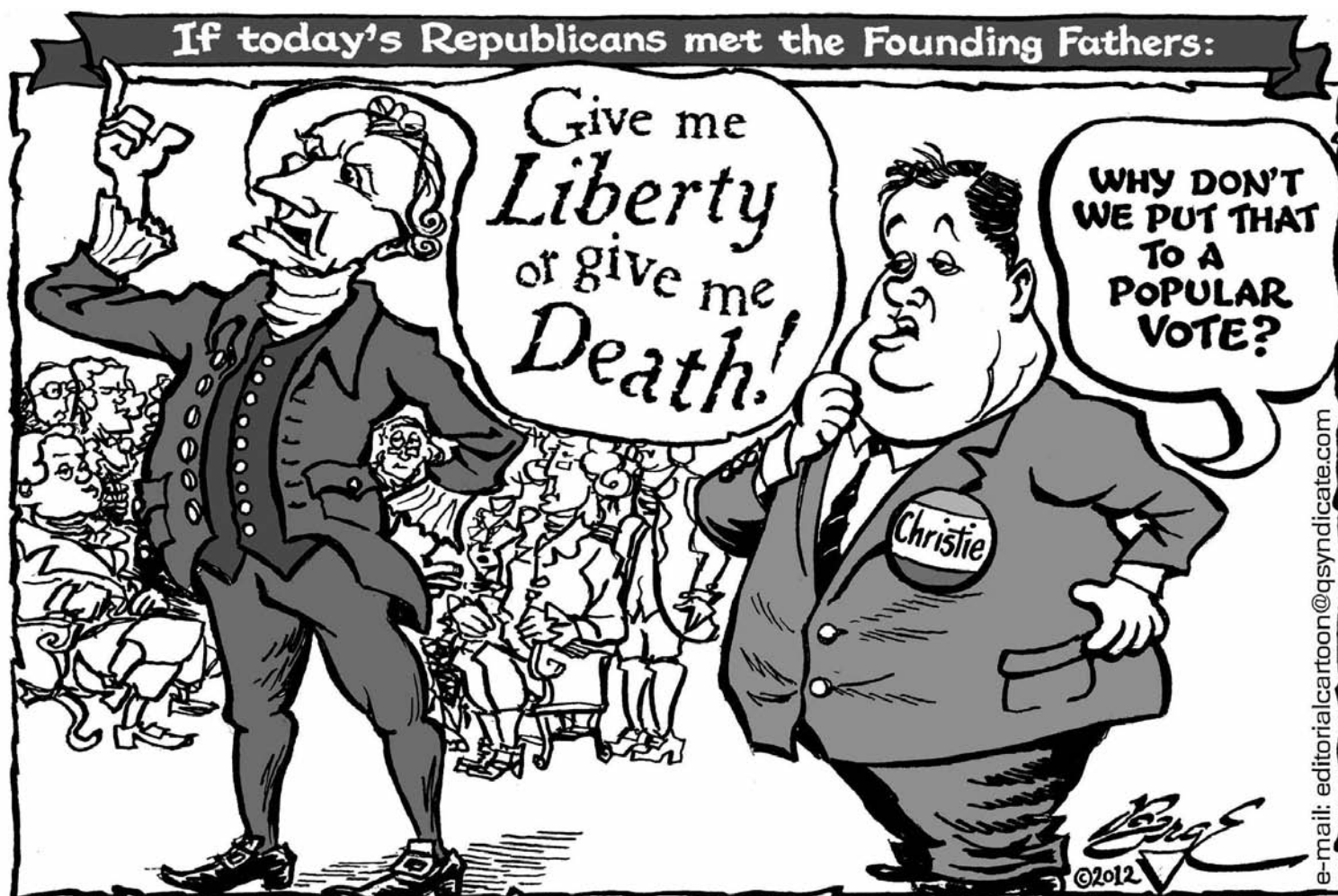
Drive slowly up and down Cedar Springs as I did on Tuesday at midday.

Look at the very different storefronts, the very



**Phyllis Guest**  
Taking Notes

**TO SEND A LETTER** | We welcome letters from readers. Shorter letters and those addressing a single issue are more likely to be printed. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, but we attempt to maintain the writer's substance and tone. Include your home address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Send letters to the senior editor, preferably by e-mail ([editor@dallasvoice.com](mailto:editor@dallasvoice.com)). Letters also may be faxed (214-969-7271) or sent via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas TX 75204). All letters become the property of Dallas Voice.



disparate signage.

Look at the street, cracked and torn and unevenly marked.

Look at the sidewalks, also cracked and torn. In some places, curbs are high, in other places low, in still others slanted to accommodate the disabled. Holes as big as a boot are everywhere. Round metal whatevers are inserted along portions of the sidewalk holding what look like tall twigs. Even if the twigs spring to life next month, they will still look weird.

This is a major "entertainment district" in a major American city? This is our answer to Manhattan's Great White Way or Santa Monica's 3rd Street Promenade?

Our area was not even included in Dallas' Complete Streets planning. In fact, I had never heard of "Complete Streets" until it appeared on the city's handout of short-term, medium-term, and long-term Cedar Springs Pedestrian Safety Improvements. On the handout, as you might guess, it was No. 12, a long-term option to "Review area for Complete Street design."

Check out [www.dallascompletestreets.com](http://www.dallascompletestreets.com). You'll see that nine areas have already been selected for attention and investment, apparently by city staff or consultants. You'll also see a list of workshops held this past November and December, none in our area and none advertised in the Dallas Voice.

How do we get from shabby to spiffy? We talk to the Dallas City Council, we talk to the Cedar Springs Merchant Association, we talk to the Dallas Complete Streets planners, and we talk to one another. Perhaps we organize the equivalent of the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, which works on conserving what's best and reworking what's not.

Today. We can start today. Each of us can make one phone call or write one email, and make one post on Facebook or Twitter. ■

*Phyllis Guest is a longtime activist on political and LGBT issues and is a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Send comments to [editor@dallasvoice.com](mailto:editor@dallasvoice.com)*

spea**o**ut poll

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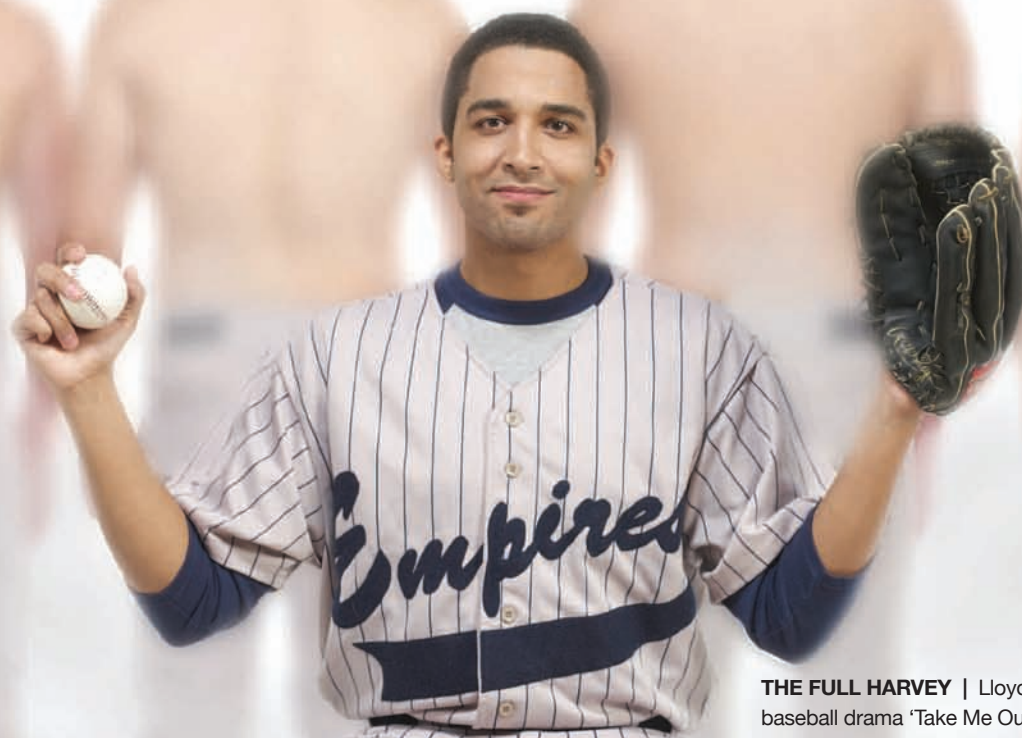
Which state will be next to legalize same-sex marriage?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Will the new lighted crosswalks make Cedar Springs safer for pedestrians?

- Yes: 53 percent
- No: 28 percent
- Unsure: 19 percent

177 Votes cast



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

THE FULL HARVEY | Lloyd Harvey bares all — along with most of the cast of the baseball drama 'Take Me Out' from Uptown Players. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

# The hurt locker room

Newcomer **Lloyd Harvey** shed 20 pounds, his dreadlocks, some insecurities *and* his pants to play a gay baseball stud in Uptown Players' 'Take Me Out'

**L**loyd Harvey has something to confess — an outing of himself, if you will. He hates sports. Well, not *hate*, it's just that "I'm more of a comic book nerd. I like movies. I never played sports so I never had the 'locker room experience.'"

This might not be relevant, except that this week, Harvey will find himself not only *in* a locker room, but *naked* there. And pretending to be a god among athletes.

If one wasn't frightening enough, together they are almost too much to take.

Harvey has the lead role in *Take Me Out*, the Pulitzer Prizewinning play about a mega-star of the baseball diamond who comes out as gay, setting the sports world — especially his diverse bunch of largely homophobic teammates — into a tizzy.

When Harvey auditioned for it, though, he didn't really expect to get it — he's tried out for shows at Uptown Players before without success. Plus, he was able to see his competition.

"I was looking around the room and seeing all these chiseled, fit guys and I'm thinking, 'I won't get it,'" he relates. "Then I got

a call-back, which was great, but now I'm seeing all these guys with six-pack abs and I'm the guy with a keg." That's when he told the producers he would lose 10 pounds. He even cut off the dreadlocks he'd been growing for three years to get the role.

To his surprise, they cast him — and took him up on his offers to cut and trim. That's when the *real* work began.

"I started on P90X [workout] and stopped eating fast food that day," Harvey says. "One of my friends is a personal trainer, and he made a 20-minute workout to do on top of the P90X. It's been a total physical change. I weighed 200 pounds in December and now I weigh 180."

So focused was Harvey, he almost forgot to be nervous about stripping down for the famous shower scene of locker room grab-ass.

"Being an actor — or any kind of artist — you're putting yourself out there for whatever you do. This is like putting yourself out there double-time. You're trying not to break the fourth wall while there are a few hundred people watching us.

But all you have to do is say 'Fuck it!' and have the confidence to go out there and put your heart and your body on the line ... though telling my mother I had to do a nude role was an interesting conversation."

She wasn't the only one. Harvey has performed at Dallas

Children's Theater and had major roles in community theater productions of *Rent* and *Sweeney Todd*, but this is certainly his professional breakthrough. But it's also the first time he's been able to get his friends interested in what he does.

"Before I would do a show and not all my friends would see it. But as soon as I started saying, 'Yeah, there's gonna be full nudity in it, *every one* of my friends bought tickets to see my penis onstage. Some of them threatened to bring cameras. I told them that's a no-go. 'Take a picture and I hope you get kicked out of the theater,' I said. 'And we certainly won't be friends anymore.'"

He probably won't have a hard time making new friends after this anyway. ■

## TAKE ME OUT

Kalita Humphreys Theater,  
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through  
Feb. 19. UptownPlayers.org.



## Oh, 'Pluck' it

Steven Walters will be the first person to admit his play **Pluck the Day** wasn't the best. You can't blame him for thinking that — he wrote it 10 years ago, when he already thought he knew everything. When an actor called wanting to submit it to a festival, he thought he was joking. "Sure," he agreed, "for all the good it'll do."

Only it got in, and Walters realized something terrible: He was actually going to have to rewrite it. And re-rewrite. And then again.

It's almost opening night and he's still trimming and fixing, whittling down a 2-1/2 hours show into a tight 80 minutes with no intermission.

*Pluck the Day* was first performed by Second Thought Theatre, which Walters co-founded, in its inaugural season; a decade later, it kicks off

STT's 10th season. It's like revisiting a long-lost friend. Or maybe frenemy.

"I have a healthy dissatisfaction for everything I do," Walters says over a beer and burger. "The old script was not good — it was talky and too long. It had no point of view. Now it does."

The biggest change in the revision, he says, is in the character of Bill, who we learn is gay. Bill is the only man sitting on a lumpy West Texas

porch who actually develops; the others remain blissfully content to nurture their decaying way of life. But it's still a comedy.

"It's a farce," Walters assures. "That's one thing that hasn't changed."

— A.W.J.

Bryant Hall next to the Kalita, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 26. Second ThoughtTheatre.org.



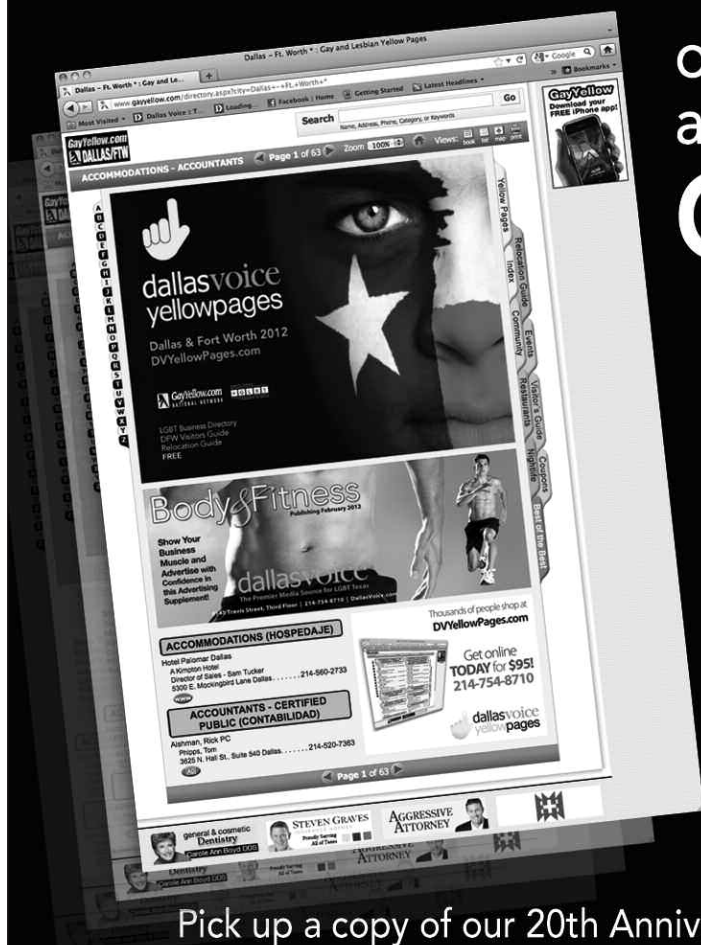
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# The spin doctors

In gay dance clubs, the bartender is crucial, and the doorman keeps the peace, but the hero of the night is the DJ. The DJ works not just as the person bringing the tunes, but also as ship's captain, leading the dance floor into an open sea of remixes and creating waves of euphoria through matched beats. Rarely, though, do we hear them open up.

Until now. Seven DJs from across the Dallas scene candidly weigh in on the crowds they play for, the state of Dallas' party scene and just where it is heading. From dance to country to even outside the gayborhood, queer DJs are setting the tone and making their mark, but now they want to be heard.

— Rich Lopez

Is Dallas' gay dance scene what it once was — or can be? A panel of out DJs gives us the back beat



**Dallas Voice: How has the scene evolved?** Alex

Guerrero: I've been going to Cedar Springs since I was 19 and it hasn't changed much. The area could explore something more. The music has changed for sure and the lesbian scene embraces trendy genres like dubstep.

Paul Kraft: How we socialize as a community has changed. It's a real challenge. Younger LGBT members socialize more in non-gay clubs. Clubs should adapt; smart ones are appealing to diverse patrons.

Scottie "Redeye" Canfield: I hear complaints all the time about how DJs can't play a non-hit. I come from the "trust-the-DJ" era.

Blaine Soileau: I'd like to go more progressive. What I think holds [me] back are the constant requests for Gaga, Britney and Rihanna.

**Micah, you are in Los Angeles now. Is the scene different there?** Micah Banes: The L.A. scene lets me play what I want.

They are open to anything. I can play a dubstep track followed by disco and the crowd digs it.

**How could the scene be better?**

Redeye: I wish there was more diversity. [Back in the day], straight people went to gay clubs because the music was better; now, every place is carbon copy and they don't have the balls to break out.

Soileau: It's a challenge to break the migration pattern to Cedar Springs.

Banes: Yes! Blaine hit the nail on the head. I think Dallas is hurting on venues. The worst thing is getting the 'mos to experience different things.

Kraft: Much of the scene is held in hands of few — namely, the Dallas Tavern Guild. That doesn't allow for variety. Caven controls much of the Strip and they [seldom bring in outside DJs], and it's tougher for smaller indie clubs to finance guest DJs. Until we

have more club owners like [those at the Dallas Eagle], willing to be innovative, nothing will change.

**What is the Dallas gay club scene doing right?** Roger Huffman: Our crowd is the same, but we do see more straight people coming in.

Banes: Roger is awesome. He's got it on lock.

Guerrero: [At Sue Ellen's], we play to customers and fans. Crappy music doesn't make us money and the DJs are doing a major part for the night. Great managers help.

**How do you keep it fresh?** Guerrero: I know what I do for the lesbian crowd works, but sometimes there is a pressure if they want a different sound. For me, it's about maintaining focus.

Soileau: I try to change up the music each time I spin locally. I'll have favorites thrown in but people will definitely hear new and unreleased stuff.

Huffman: We may play some slower country before the faster stuff needs to happen — like the two-steps and the shuffles.

**With the Purple Party, MetroBall and the like, how is Dallas as a dance destination?** Redeye: It used to be [great]. I would define the whole scene as kind of stereotypical. It's the same thing everywhere and there are a lot of people who don't wanna hear that.

Guerrero: Dallas is lacking in some parts. Station 4 just did the Glow Party and it was cool, but how much better it could be if we had more [of those events]?

Soileau: Bigger events are going by the wayside. Many of the circuit parties from the '90s have vanished. I don't think Dallas would support more. We can't charge a cover because people likely complain.

Erik Thoresen: Yes. Because of one word: Pride.

Banes: Do you think it's the support or lack of venues for the shrinking of party size?

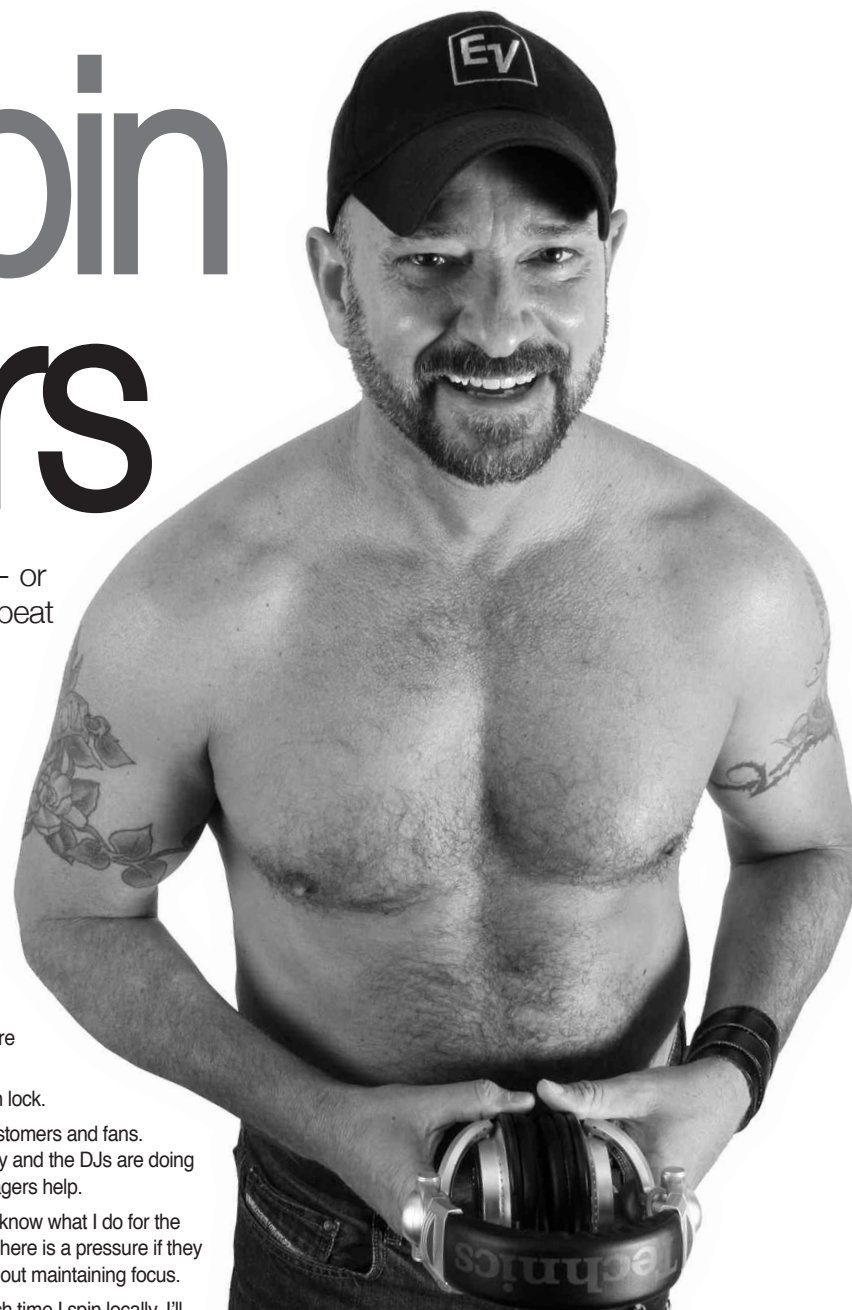
Soileau: Micah, I think it's just been done and new things are evolving.

Kraft: Trends change. It was sofa clubs, then bottle clubs, but I'm seeing a trend to dance more.

**Are non-gay clubs surpassing gay ones in innovation with differing offerings like silent discos, guest DJs and live music?** Kraft: I can appreciate out-of-the-box inspiration; incorporating new ideas is always good.

Soileau: Yes, but silent discos were a cute idea, then buh-bye. I would love to see more guest DJs, but try charging a cover to pay for them.

Guerrero: I don't see a big difference. The clubs I've been to are the



**DJ BLAINE SOILEAU** | 'If you want to hear your favorite song, go sit in your car then come back into the club.' (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

same, music-wise.

Redeye: You can't be in this business and be cheap. Clubs are about rep and bringing in someone that's worth a damn will have more people in spending money at the bar. You have to invest in the bar. Beauty Bar has brought in cutting edge DJs from outside for \$1,000.

**As DJs, do you think live music options are good or bad for the scene?** Soileau: I'm not sure about more live music.

Kraft: As a dance DJ, the last thing I want is to build up energy to stop for a live act. Sue Ellen's has done a great job with live music, though.

Huffman: I wish we had more options. A live band came in on our anniversary and we had requests for live bands but nothing became of it.

Banes: The Round-Up would be great for live music.

Soileau: But I don't see a gay crowd packing a live venue.

**Why is that?** Banes: There are not a lot of live acts that can pull in 300 homos to a club.

Soileau: That all would be nice but most of the gay crowd isn't in-the-know. Back in the '80s, I would have answered differently. People were thirsty for new stuff.

Guerrero: I know our customers enjoy the bands. There is nothing wrong with more music. What's wrong with finding gay bands? I'm not a big fan of live music, but seeing them at our club, there is major talent out there.

**What has been the best thing to happen to the Dallas club scene?**

**MICAH BANES** | 'I'm excited about where gay music is going. We're going to see a big change in the next five years.'



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The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Image (detail): Jean Paul Gaultier, *Punk Cancan* collection, cancan-style ruched tulle strapless dress with "whirl of legs" lining, haute couture spring/summer 2011, photograph © Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier

# Quisine

A guide for local restaurants.



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**ALEX GUERRERO** | 'Being the only female [DJ in town] is a blessing. I hope to spread my wings and make the lesbian community proud.' (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

■ SPIN, From Page 22

**The worst?** Soileau: We haven't dissolved and faded away. The worst is how the Internet has taken a big bite out of club life.

**Banes:** Like Blaine said, the Cedar Springs migrations hurt, but the passion is still there.

**Huffman:** A good thing was the no-smoking ordinance — it made the atmosphere so much better. The worst has been the clubs that have closed.

**Redeye:** There's always room for it to get better, but you need a catalyst, a vanguard. Try something out once a month, do something different. Baby steps.

**Guerrero:** For me, the worst is the drama. It puts people at high risk. Don't bring the drama out!

**Have Scruff, Grindr and social networks affected clubs?** Kraft: You can now order men like pizza. We don't know how to talk to each other. I think people are getting over that and have more desire to get out.

**Soileau:** Absolutely. That's why clubs are promoting alongside these apps.

**Thoresen:** What hasn't changed is that people still go clubbing to party and get down.

**As DJs on Cedar Springs, how do you respond to that migration?** Guerrero: Working on the block, I'm very lucky, but I know there could be more venues. We work hard to have a presence. I can't imagine how it would feel if I didn't get as much visibility.

**Thoresen:** It's tough because I've been doing solid while other clubs have been up and down.

**Huffman:** I do like that the clubs are in one location. I think in part, that's good for us.

**Redeye:** There is a market for it and I wish I could play in the community, but play cool stuff. I couldn't get away with it, so I've al-

ways been at clubs that were on the fringe.

**Where do you see the gay club scene heading?** Redeye: Gay clubs feel more segregated than ever. Maybe people think we're progressing, but we're really going backwards.

**Soileau:** It'll always be in a transitional state. But they'll be around.



**Kraft:** It could use more diversity and outside influences. Dallas isn't known for being versatile. Having been a promoter, I will tell you: It was suicide to deviate. The guys here want what they want. It's

tough from a balancing standpoint.

**So what's your overall perspective on the state of the Dallas gay club dance scene?** Huffman: It's good. As long as people still are coming out to have fun, it'll continue.

**Soileau:** I do think we are trailing straight clubs [in terms of innovation], but it's a cycle.

**Kraft:** It could be more current, innovative. The Cavens, the Okons, the Guild still have a hold and work very much in the old way. The Eagle has adapted and moved forward. Until we have more club owners deter-

■ SPIN, Page 26



**DJ REDEYE** | 'I wish I could play in the community, but play cool stuff. I couldn't get away with it, so I've always been at clubs that were on the fringe.'



PIONEER  
NATURAL RESOURCES

PRESENTS

# GIANT



The cast of *Giant*.

Photos by Karen Almond.

**A NEW  
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**KATE BALDWIN**  
as  
Leslie Benedict

■ SPIN, From Page 24

mined to do that, the scene could stagnate.

Redeye: A lot has to do with the business of it. The DJ is there to educate, but if you think of clubs as a school, it's like the audience gets to check out one book and everyone's gotta share it.

**What do you say to haters who say Dallas has no appreciation for music diversity?** Soileau: You have all these people that are living in a time warp with their relentless requests. If you want to hear your favorite song, go sit in your car then come back into the club.

**Final thoughts?** Redeye: I'm not dissing mainstream, but it's sad when a whole market is ignored. It's like feeling ostracized in my own community for listening to

something different. It doesn't feel representative.

Guerrero: I feel honored to be in the biggest gay scene; being the only female is a blessing. I hope to spread my wings and make the lesbian community proud.

Banes: I'm excited about where gay music is going. We're going to see a big change in the next five years.

Kraft: At the Eagle, you can see everybody having a great time together. That's the future. Separately things are weak, but draw a number of groups together and you see the strength.

Soileau: Just keep supporting your local clubs because when they are gone you will miss them.

Huffman: I agree with Blaine. The support is important.

**Thanks, all. Now keep the party going.**

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**Who's who on the panel**

Before relocating to L.A., **Micah Banes** hosted Cocktails, a traveling Friday happy hour/'80s rave. His DJing was borne from his live electro music work and consists of big room, breaks, dubstep and hip-hop.

**Scottie "Redeye" Canfield** is the resident DJ at Beauty Bar. He was the co-host of EdgeClub in the early '90s and has spun at Club One and Minc. He describes his style as "indie dance and dubby nudisco."

**Alex Guerrero** has been spinning for almost three years, but considers her year at Sue Ellen's her first true gig. Her style includes dubstep and house.

Dallas' lone gay C&W DJ, **Roger Huffman, below right**, has been the resident at the Round-Up Saloon for four years.

Having been a DJ promoter, **Paul Kraft, left**, now focuses on spinning himself. He's one of three residents at the



Dallas Eagle and has spun at Club Dallas. He calls his style upbeat house.

**Blaine Soileau** is a resident at Dallas Eagle, but he also tours for gigs. His oeuvre consists of vocal and progressive house.

**Erik Thoresen, above**, has been on the scene for a decade and spins what he calls simply "party style music" at TMC: The Mining Company.



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# A new gigness

Out singer Jackie Hall is the best Dallas diva you don't know about ... yet

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

To label your band an "experience" is gutsy, but if it's true, why not? When the frontlady for The Jackie Hall Experience belts out a tune, people shut up and listen. Always.

So why are you just *now* hearing about her? "The career is slower than I like, but I just see it as part of paying my dues," Hall sighs. "I welcome it all in God's time, but I know change is gonna come."

Making it in the music biz comes with frustration, and Hall has had her share. But breaking onto the Sue Ellen's stage has reinvigorated her two-fold: She's got a gig that pays and she's getting her name back out in the LGBT community, even though the response "Jackie Who?" remains a hurdle.

"I left the community because I couldn't get paid or pay my musicians," she says. "I had to branch out in different areas. If I could perform for free, I would, but my boys won't."

Hall reminisces about sweet gigs at Illusions and Joe's. With a 13-piece band (yes, really), she prided herself on big shows and an audience that embraced what she was throwing down. But as clubs closed or moved on, Hall was left to figure out a new plan. So she ventured away.

"I was able to book myself at the old Hollywood Casino in Shreveport and I sang at Tucker's Blues in Deep Ellum," she says. "I even performed at a biker bar in Fort Worth. I'm still figuring it all out. I'm working on expanding my *gigness*."

An old friend has helped her on just that. Some years back, Hall would sing karaoke at the Circle Spur in Irving, where she met a shy singer

named Anton Shaw. The two became friends and nurtured each other's talents.

"Back then, we were the *shit*," Hall laughs, "singing En Vogue songs in the 'hottest place in Irving.' But we really were there for each other and we both wanted to be stars. We lost connection for about 10 years, but she's the reason I'm in the scene now."

After taking in a performance of Shaw at Alexandre's, the two reconnected; a run-in at an audition then led to Sue Ellen's. Shaw books talent for the club's live-music Vixin Lounge. Last November, Hall made her debut to a healthy crowd on Thanksgiving weekend.

"She hadn't seen me perform live since back in the karaoke days," Hall

says. "That means she booked me on faith."

Along with her band bookings, Hall has released original music teaming up with local musician Taylor Hall. In a strange way, his indie grunge and her soulful lungs were a match made in heaven. Coming together through former Edge DJ Alan Ayo, the two created Robinson Hall, a dirty blues outfit that released three singles online last year.

In addition to original works, Hall isn't short on delivering her strong renditions of classic rock and soul covers. She kinda loves it.

"I discovered my purpose in life early on and it's music. It is the only thing that brings the world closer, brings out emotions, memories. Music has landed me homeless before, but it's important, man," she says. "So every time I walk onstage I expect to kill 'em. When I sing I want people to take that ride with me. I want them to



**QUEER HOMECOMING** | In recent years, Jackie Hall has performed in venues from biker bars to blues clubs, but the lesbian singer is now turning her attention back toward her fellows in the gay community. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

hold hands during love songs, bang their heads during the rockers and cry at the sad songs. That's why I named it an experience."

And it is. When Hall takes on any song, she embodies it. Her body is fully engaged on a classic like Dylan's "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" and she turns delicate while singing Etta James, or her big hero, Gladys Knight. As she reflects on the highs and lows and the songs she embraces, Hall has an epiphany.

"Sitting here, this has been a revelation for me. I need to be more out in my own community," she says. "The gay community has a lot to offer and I have a gift that I'd like to share. I wish I knew more showtunes, though. The gays love those."

Good for her. Half the battle is knowing your audience already. ■

*The Jackie Hall Experience performs every second Saturday at Sue Ellen's.*



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L+S music

**The  
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variations**



Sexy gay pianist Anthony de Mare's love of showtunes spurred his experimental concert tour inspired by the music of Stephen Sondheim

**GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS** | Contributing Writer  
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com

Dark, handsome and obviously buff, Anthony de Mare's charm oozes out of his publicity photos. Smiling at you from behind his piano, he seems to have just said "Hello" and is waiting for you to answer.

Wishful thinking, at best. De Mare is happily partnered to Tom Spain, a publishing executive; they live in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York with their Pomeranian, Cowboy. ("He is actually a very large dog, for a Pom," says de Mare with a laugh.)

It's unlikely he'd have time for you anyway. De Mare is in the middle of an ambitious concert project that started in Canada last spring and has already taken him to New York City, Chicago and more. On Saturday, he'll play that concert, *Liaisons: Re-imagining Sondheim for the Piano*, at the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth as part of the Cliburn Concerts Series.

The concert is a natural fit for de Mare, acclaimed as an interpreter of contemporary music. In fact, it was his idea.

Already a big showtune fan, de Mare organized this project, which enlisted 36 composers to create short, solo piano pieces based on the music of Stephen Sondheim — not arrangements, mind you, but original compositions that use a Sondheim song as a *cantus firmus*. It's the fulfillment of a concept that has been brewing in

him since childhood.

"I was always a fan of Sondheim," he says. "I trained as a dancer and pianist and always felt at home in theater. Besides, it was one of the best ways I could think of to be able to play this music in concerts."

The concert ends up being something of a showcase for gay musicians. In addition to de Mare and Sondheim, among the participating composers who are openly gay are Ricky Ian Gordon, Eve Beglarian, Fred Hersch, Nico Muhly, Eric Rockwell, Rodney Sharman and Jake

Heggie. "And there are a couple of others I am not so sure about," he adds with a chuckle.

De Mare left the parameters open for the composers, giving them as much freedom as they needed. But he did have some policies about what he wanted to play.

"I didn't really want any of the songs to be deconstructed, making them unrecognizable," he says. "I told them to maintain the melodic material even if it is a loose reference to the song. I also asked them to make the pieces no shorter than three to four minutes, and no longer than eight or ten." (Most run four to eight minutes.)

That may sound like an easy assignment, but it wasn't.

"Many of the composers told me this turned



**I'M STILL DE MARE** | The gay pianist and showtune addict will tackle Sondheim at his Cliburn Concert.

out to be a very challenging assignment because the songs are so perfect just as they are," he says. "It is hard to do something original without doing something completely different."

For example, minimalist composer Steve Reich tackled "Finishing the Hat" from *Sunday in the Park with George*. "You know right off the bat that it is Reich, but the melodic material is still there," he says. "David Rakowski had only one song in mind, 'The Ladies who Lunch' from *Company*. It was not originally on my list, though it is one of my favorite songs from the show. It is so character driven I didn't think it would work

as a piano solo. But he brought it to life brilliantly with all its bitterness and core of disappointment — he gets there without the lyrics."

The program at the Modern will be held in the intimate lecture hall at the museum — an ideal venue for a piano recital. Shields-Collins "Buddy" Bray, a fine pianist himself, will serve as moderator, initiating a discussion about the pieces. De Mare will play about 13 of the 36 musical meditations commissioned, but even he isn't quite sure which ones.

"I am still deciding," he says. I vote for "I'm Still Here."

#### LIAISONS

**The Museum of Modern Art of Fort Worth**, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. \$25. [Cliburn.org](http://Cliburn.org).

#### Food sounds

**Knock out two birds with one stone at these places that offer bites with a side of music**

"If music be the food of love, play on," Shakespeare wrote, but why choose? You can enjoy some great grub — from Cajun to home cookin' to desserts — at any of these gay-friendly venues that also feature live music. All are open daily with food and performances going late.

**All Good Café.** This Deep Ellum eatery gets it all right, from home cooking to a hip atmosphere to a strong lineup of national acts. Owner Mike Snyder has bred his place as a music destination with tasty food. Braised short ribs or the well-seasoned rock 'n' roll pork chop are hard to pass up, but are better when paired with the café's usual slate of folk, country or rockabilly acts (queer trio Girlyman has performed here). 2934 Main St. Kitchen open til 9 p.m. weekends. [AllGoodCafe.com](http://AllGoodCafe.com).

**The Free Man Cajun Café and Lounge.** Soak in the flavors of Louisiana at another Deep Ellum spot. The menu runs from apps to entrees but Cajun spices seep all the way through. Nosh on Boudin balls or have a proper dinner with the Cajun crawfish pasta. Do not pass over the cranberry wheat bread pudding, pictured below, while catching local artists like out singer SuZanne Kimbrell. 2626 Commerce St. Open til 1 a.m., 3 a.m. Fridays. [FreeManDallas.com](http://FreeManDallas.com).

**House of Blues.** The papa of all food-and-music venues, HOB's rich menu includes burgers, salads and their signature ribs. Don't let the large, heavy menu deter you from enjoying a show from the local house band in the restaurant, or walk across the building to see smaller bands like Uh Huh Her in the Cambridge Room, pictured above, or headliners like Erasure in the big room. Tip: Get your drinks from the restaurant bar. 2200 N. Lamar



St. Open til 10 p.m., 1 a.m. weekends. [HouseOfBlues.com](http://HouseOfBlues.com).

**Opening Bell Coffee.** Don't let the "coffee" part fool you — this ain't Starbucks. Drinks range from the obvious (latte!) to alcoholic, with food sticking to the sandwich-and-soup variety, though the sweet bites are awesome. The coffeehouse is a cozy, comfortable spot to lounge on a sofa or take up a tiny table for a romantic night out to see acoustic LGBT acts such as Tom Goss and Steff Mahan. 1409 S. Lamar St., Ste. 12 (at South Side on Lamar). Open til midnight weekends. [OpeningBell.com](http://OpeningBell.com).

**Sundown at Granada.** Although you can grab a slice and a brew inside the Granada Theater, hit up Sundown next door first. Granada owner Mike Schoder took ownership of the old M Street Bar and turned it into a complementary biergarten and resto. With more than 60 beers available and a chef driven menu focusing on local foods, Sundown rocks it for pre-show drinks and casual dining before queer acts like Brandi Carlile and CSS perform at the Granada. 3520 Greenville Ave. 4 p.m.-2 a.m. [SundownDFW.com](http://SundownDFW.com).

— Rich Lopez



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L+S auto

# Regal bearing



Buick's sassy GS is 'Regal' enough for speed queens, styled for a princess

**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
crwauto@aol.com

Who knows what "GS" really stands for in the Buick lexicon? An educated guess would be "Grand Sport," but I'm voting for "Goes Sonic." Of course, it's all relative: A turbocharged four-cylinder engine is only so sonic, but when attached to an expertly-developed European sport sedan, it invigorates the luxury-loving soul. Or something. It's cool.

With Pontiac rising less like a phoenix and having burned down more like wood structures in a lava flow, Buick had a wider road on which to needle some adrenaline. A high-output Ecotec 2.0L turbo-four, pumping 270hp and 295 lb.-ft. of torque, stirs cravings. Choose a six-speed manual transmission (believe that!) or six-speed automatic with Driver Shift control. 0-60mph occurs in 6.7 seconds; you can run all day at speeds that will put you behind bars. Just bring a healthy debit card because the GS rates 19/27-MPG city/hwy. I averaged closer to 24-MPG — appreciably lower than some similarly-sized and comparably-powered, but less pudgy, competitors.

Put that in perspective. The oh-holy Buick Grand National's 3.8-liter Turbo V6 delivered an "official" 245hp. Its speedier sibling, the GNX, squashed contemporary Corvettes with an underrated 276hp. The Regal GS is playing in the same league with two fewer cylinders, about half the displacement, and two additional doors for family and friends. Imagine what a V6 and AWD would do! Now, that would be *Super Sonic* (I'll let Chevrolet borrow that).

Whereas in the old days you'd find a solid rear axle with enough wheel hop to plop your pop, the Regal GS's chassis is a technical wonder. GS comes standard with Interactive Drive Control, a three-mode system that changes suspension and steering settings for more aggressive driving. "Standard" maintains comfort on rough roads or open Interstates. "Sport" stiffens the suspension and steering for better control. This is my favorite mode for everyday driving and Interstate travel. GS is for enthusiasts who are presumably headed for a smooth track — visit your dentist before pressing that button. To give fair warning, the instruments change from ice blue to white

when GS mode is engaged.

All of this wizardry is attached to an incredibly stiff body structure that allows the four-wheel independent suspension and Brembo disc brakes, with four-piston front calipers and high performance linings, to stop the car as if clipped by a freight train. As in other mid-size GM sedans, engineers conjured up the HiPer Strut front suspension to reduce torque steer and improve cornering grip. That's great, because loading up the front wheels with 270hp is usually like holding the reins of a speeding stallion. Available 200-in. polished alloys with low-profile tires play horse whisperer to tame the turbo's torque.

Personally I prefer the Regal GS's spiced up continental style to the muscle boy Grand National's black brick attire. The body shell is

**COUPE'D UP** | With the continental styling of a German coupe and the muscles of a Corvette, Buick's GS take on the Regal provides unexpected power inside an elegant framework.

shared with the German-built Opel Insignia. Stamped from what was apparently a solid piece of very elegant Black Forest granite, the Regal's coupelike design is quite handsome from its chrome Buick grille to large headlights with sinister-angle running lamps, C-slash body surfacing, and sculpted rear deck with spoiler. It looks expensive. Twin exhaust outlets through the bumper and snarling fangs of chrome up front tell fat daddies to back off.

A cabin fit for Fittipaldi awaits sporty gents (and gals). Interior style is very businesslike with controls intelligently placed, but surrounded by lots of high-quality black plastic. Forget wood-grain, much less real wood. Deeply-sculpted heated black leather seats blow the chill off winter while the thick flat-bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel encourages you to heat things up. Audi couldn't do better.

Controlled through either faceplate buttons and knobs or the console joy wheel, the car's in-dash navigation gets you anywhere. Audiophiles will exfoliate their ears with the standard 336-watt Harman/kardon 5.1 Matrix Surround Sound system with nine speakers. Go old-school with a CD, stream Pandora Internet Radio, or summon satellites with XM. Bluetooth or USB connect driver's smart phones to the full-color 7-



in. touch screen. Blind spot warnings and rear parking assist keep you from calling Flo.

A friend and I flew the "Goes Sonic" to Detroit for the North American International Auto Show. Even after many hours on the road, the seats, steering, and suspension kept us in good kit. There was always plenty of power to jet past mini-vans and pickup trucks. On the first evening, we attended the premiere of the first-ever Cadillac ATS compact sedan. After the festivities, we handed the valet our claim slip. Two Regals pulled up before ours. Even among Cadillacs, the sporty Buick cuts a swath.

If you don't like the turbo, Regal also comes in 182hp four-cylinder and 36-MPG eAssist variants. But, that's for babies. Go Sonic and learn why you won't soon forget GS.

Price as tested came to \$38,155. ■

## Teen love in Texas

***Don't Let Me Go* by J.H. Trumble** (2012, Kensington). \$15; 352 pp.

Nate Schaper was in love with Adam Jefferies from the moment Adam had rushed over to Nate's locker to help another student who'd been bullied. Adam was like that: compassionate and smart, gentle and caring — not to mention so beautiful, Nate could barely stand it. They were an "us" not long after that morning by the lockers, and within weeks, they'd decided to come out together.

Adam was a senior then — a budding actor, a lover of the stage, and about to graduate. Nate was a junior and he never wanted to let Adam go.

But the following summer, he had to do it: Houston and New York City are 1,600 miles apart, and Adam had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to appear off-off-Broadway. Nate wasn't about to hold him back.

Once in New York, though, Adam seemed not to miss Nate as much as the other way around. Adam had a new life complete with hottie roommate. He never seemed to have time for Nate anymore. Things had changed.

But Nate had changed, too. Angry with the way his life was going, he'd become a silent activist at school. He made a new friend, a straight guy who wouldn't take any trouble from bullies. And when it seemed like Adam was *so yesterday*, Nate found another boyfriend.

But can you truly forget the love you lost? Stuffing aside memories of Adam and the things they shared, Nate wondered when he ever would...

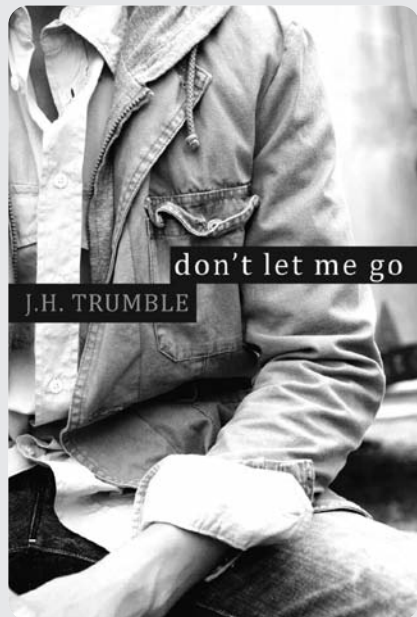
Looking to spend some time with a wonderfully satisfying love story? You can stop your search right here, because *Don't Let Me Go* will do just right.

With some not-quite-chaste bedroom scenes and a host of characters to embrace, author J.H. Trumble adds sass and spice to a tale of romance found and lost.

But love isn't the only focus of this story: teenage Nate encounters homophobia in various forms and though it lends a certain squirmy realism, those parts of this book aren't easy to read. Fortunately, Trumble's supporting (and supportive) cast offsets the hate, which gives this novel meaning.

This is a great book for teens and adults alike, and it has an ending that ... well, I don't want to ruin it for you, so let's just say it works. If you're up for a nice boy-meets-boy story, *Don't Let Me Go* is a book to get lost in.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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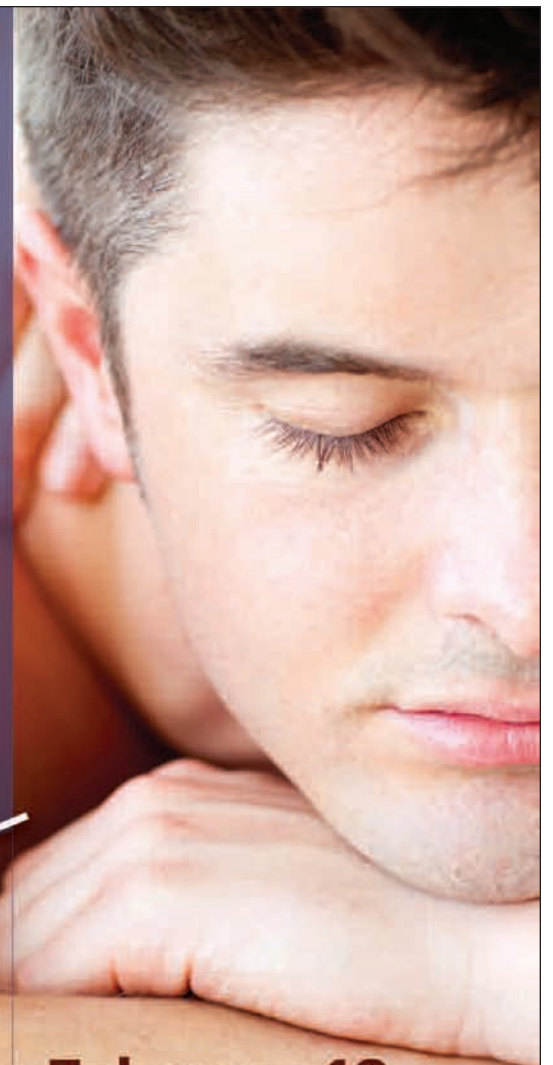
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# Drama, queens

NBC's hyped 'Smash' wants one thing: To be the next 'Glee.' It succeeds



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

**Smash** has one goal in mind: To out-gay *Glee*. The much-hyped hour-long drama series (NBC is hawking it by tying in to the Super Bowl, even though the *real* singing competition *The Voice* airs after the game; *Smash* is on Monday) has musical performances interwoven with a melodramatic storyline about the next Broadway star. Forget competing against other teens at regionals: This is the whole enchilada. (Although no one in the cast looks like they have ever eaten an enchilada. Too many carbs.)

A musical theater team — gay composer Tom (Christian Borle) and fag-hag lyricist Julia (Debra Messing) — get suddenly inspired to turn Marilyn Monroe's life into a Broadway musical. That's usually a years-long enterprise, only hot stage producer Eileen (Angelica Huston) needs a new show to replace one tanked because of her divorce. Marilyn sounds perfect. The key, though, will be getting the right star.

It's instantly a showdown between two women: Veteran belter Ivy (Meg Hilty) and fresh newcomer Karen (Katharine McPhee). The sleazy British director Derek (Jack Davenport) wants to sleep with one, which may skew the vote, but the thing is, you really want *both* to get

it. This isn't *Black Swan*, it's *A Chorus Line*.

Creator Theresa Rebeck is an old hand at New York theater, and *Smash* oozes insider knowledge gussied up for TV: The catty personality conflicts, the references to other shows and composers, the cumbersome, do-we-know-what-we're-doing rehearsal process. These routines sometimes devolve into cliché (episode 2 is less deliciously addictive than the pilot, but still entertaining), but the style of the series — with rehearsals magically transforming into idealized fantasy stagings of what the show *can* be — works, keeping the show visually interesting.

Rebeck also knows her market: Theater queens. When Derek snipes that he doesn't like gay people, Eileen shoots back that he picked the wrong profession; every assistant and chorus boy seems like a friend of Dorothy, and Tom gets his princess attitude going. *Smash* is less over-the-top than *Glee*, as if these characters are the same high schoolers a few years after graduation. Add *American Idol* runner-up McPhee into the mix (she's a good actress) and fallen-from-Grace Messing, and *Smash* has everything a gay boy could want.

Break out the Playbill and grab an orchestra seat — *Smash* is in for a long run. ■



**HELLO NORMA JEAN** | The making of a stage musical about Marilyn Monroe creates a competition between two actresses (Katharine McPhee, Meg Hilty) in the aptly-named 'Smash.'

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## Friday 02.03

### Fill up on eye candy

Viva Dallas Burlesque delves into the absurd with *Gadgets and Gobstoppers: The Twisted World of Wonka*. Burlesque beauties go from steamy to steampunk teaming up with local band Marquis of Vaudeville. Expect a cavity as they transform the theater into a candy confection of dance and music and a whole lotta sexy.

**DEETS:** Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Road. 8 p.m. \$20. VivaDallasBurlesque.com.

## Tuesday 02.07

### Lady unplugged

Brandi Carlile must really love this town and rightfully so. She's been here consistently the last two years and sold out the Granada Theater in 2011. She scales back a bit this time performing with an acoustic trio and likely her signature acapella tune. She's one of the few who can pull that gimmick off with so much magic.

**DEETS:** With Lucy Wainwright Roche. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 8 p.m. \$27.50-\$39.50. HouseOfBlues.com.

## Tuesday 02.07

### Sounds like couture

Fashioned Forward is a musical exploration into the designs behind legend Jean Paul Gaultier. Spanning from classical to pop, performers turn fashion into song with works by Gershwin to Madonna using Gaultier as inspiration.

**DEETS:** Horchow Auditorium, 1717 N. Harwood Road (in the DMA). 7:30 p.m. \$37. DallasMuseumOfArt.org.



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## FRIDAY 02.03

## COMMUNITY

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

**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.

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

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

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

**Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous.**

Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 438 Butler St., Ste. 108.

## ART

**Divine** featuring the art of lesbian artist Cathey Miller and Norbert Kox. Recapitated porcelain figures by Click Mort are also featured in the upstairs gallery. Webb Gallery, 209 W. Franklin Road, Waxahachie. Through Sunday. WebbArtGallery.com.

## THEATER

**The Game of Love and Chance.** Mixed identities twist this French comedy by Pierre Mariveaux about a single girl and her dad who pushes her to marriage. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Feb. 18. \$18-\$26. MBSProductions.net.

**Giant.** The Edna Ferber novel is translated into a new musical by Michael John Lachiusa and director Michael Greif. Wyly Theater, 2401 Flora St. Through Feb. 19. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Woman in Mind.** Director J. Alan Henna helms this Alan Ayckbourn comedy about a woman whose life is suddenly changed from boring to an ideal after being knocked out by a garden rake. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through Sunday. \$21. IrvingTheatre.org.

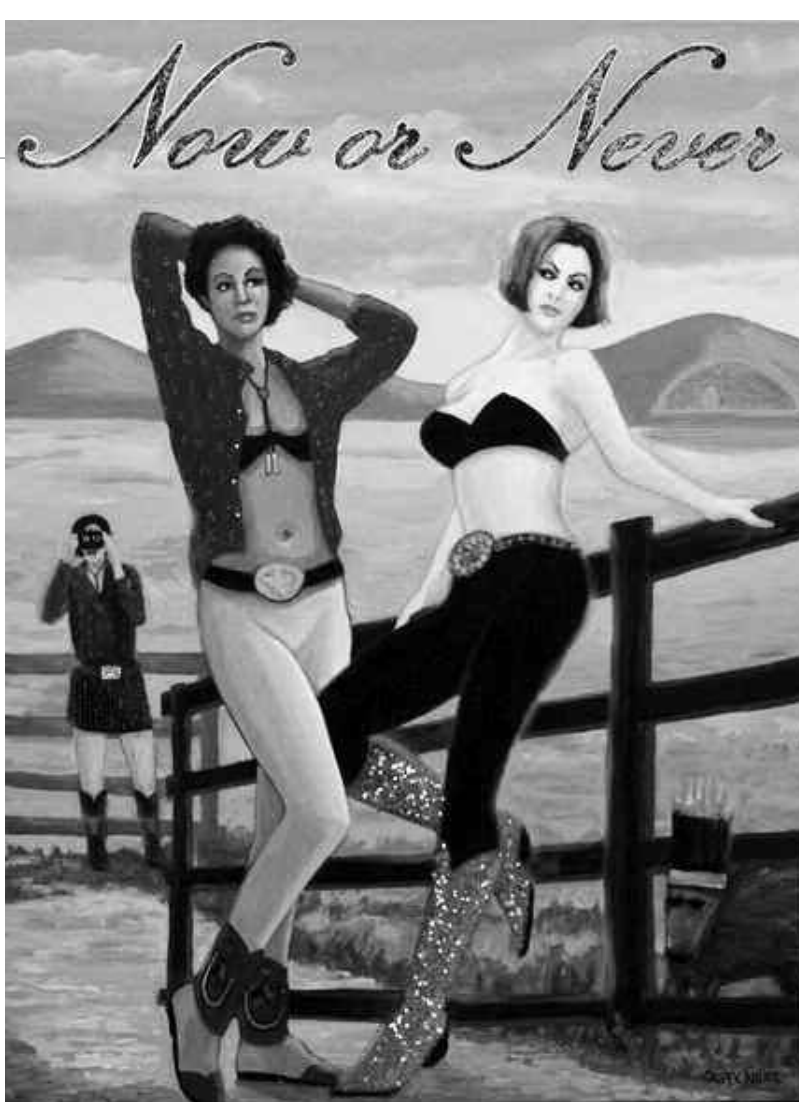
## SATURDAY 02.04

## COMMUNITY

**KhushDallas** provides a safe and supportive network for LGBT South Asians (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka). Join our social event on the first Saturday of every month. 8 p.m. Email khushtexas@gmail.com or call 469-454-8741 for location information. Khushtexas.org.

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

**Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club.** Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games from sci-fi to fantasy. The groups meets in the Community Room. Half Price Books, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.



**ARTY GALS** | Webb Gallery in Waxahachie closes its art show 'Divine' this Sunday featuring the work of out artist Cathey Miller.

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

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

**Legacy** social group of adults 50 or older from Cathedral of Hope. Monthly potluck or outing. 972-387-3345.

**Fuse: Core Group** for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com.

## BROADCAST

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

## SUNDAY 02.05

## COMMUNITY

**Unemployed Support Group.** Weekly meeting explores job search issues. Led by an experienced professional career advisor. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CareerSssistanceMinistry@gmail.com

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

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

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

**Friends Associating and Relating.** Social group meets for dinners, game nights and more. Newcomers welcome. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

**First Community Church of Dallas** worship services. The church is open and affirming. FCC of Dallas, 9120 Ferguson Road. 11 a.m. FCCDFW.org.

## MONDAY

## 02.06

## COMMUNITY

**Living the Questions** is a course seeking relevance for Christianity in their own lives and in the 21st century. Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road. 8:30 p.m. Through Feb. 13.

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

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

## TUESDAY 02.07

## COMMUNITY

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

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

**QLive! Open Mike Night.** Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave. 10 p.m. QCinema.com.

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

**Sista to Sista** support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center. Meets every first, second and third Tuesday. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. AOC.org.

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

## WEDNESDAY 02.08

## COMMUNITY

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

**American Veterans for Equal Rights** North Texas Chapter. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m. Lone Star Veterans Chapter LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCPres@aol.com.

**FUSE Activity Nights.** The official FUSE hangout night with games, food and more. Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com. El Sol, an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

## BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Stonewall Democrats of Texas Vice President Erin Moore. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

## THURSDAY 02.09

## COMMUNITY

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

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

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

**The Rotary Club of Dallas-Uptown** meets. All visitors are welcome. Hully and Mo's, 2800 Routh St. 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. DallasUptownRotary.org

**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.

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

**Choir and orchestra rehearsals** at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

*Have an event to share? Upload it to our online calendar. Visit DallasVoice.com, click on Calendar and follow the prompts to Add Event. Easy!*

## this week's solution

P	A	T	H		B	R	E	D		I	T	S	M	E
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Kathy Najimy** turns 55 on Monday. The actress has been making us laugh since her role as Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act* to appearances in gay-friendly fare such as *Ugly Betty*, *Drop Dead Diva* and *Desperate Housewives*. She appeared in the Jennifer Aniston-directed TV movie *Five* last year and is set to appear in *BearCity 2*, touted as a hirsute *Sex and the City*.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Your dazzling brilliance may offend some. Don't hold back. Just be sensitive and ready to apologize if necessary, or just politic. It doesn't have to be a big deal, but arguing will make it one.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

It's too easy to say much and give away the store. Let people wonder how much you do know makes you look wiser. Set aside some money for an impulse purchase.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

A new you will break into the open. It could be a daring new look or a talent that refuses to be hidden. If you worry about that disrupting your relationships, holding it in will be even worse.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Trust those instincts and intuitions. That voice inside has important messages. Friends will disappoint you. They're only human, but are they really friends? Keep a shrewd eye on their motives.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Showing off your intellectual brilliance can cause more trouble than it solves. If you want to shake things up, you could be very effective, but the only way you can make peace is to stay quiet.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Remember the soul is eternal. Attend to material realities. Success pulls you away from home and family, but is that so bad? A little separation there doesn't need to be a complete break.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Winning arguments by intimidation costs you. Gaining allies takes effort and attentive listening. You can change your mind about strategy and details without sacrificing principles.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Be very careful of nervous inflammations, as they may impact the bowels. Cleanliness, relaxation and a healthy sex life are the best care. Improving the work process will irritate colleagues.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Efforts to start or refresh a relationship will open surprises that take you in directions you're not ready for. Being a control queen will backfire horribly. Just roll with it and see where it goes.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Nobody can be right all the time, but correct your own mistakes. Did your friends really screw up, or were your expectations unfair? What's right is more important than who's right.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

You can't hold back your rebellious streak, but channel it creatively to boost your standing at work and invigorate your partnership. Go ahead and take a chance.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Confusion is good for the soul, provoking you to examine yourself deeper. Changes should feel uncomfortable if they provoke real opportunities. Stay focused on the long haul.

**THIS WEEK**

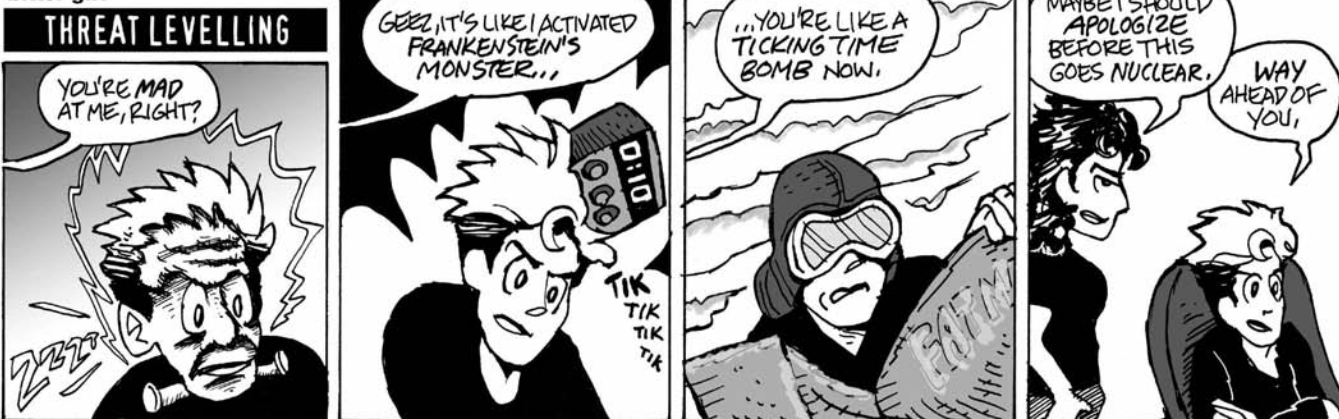
Venus is entering Aries, good for sports and trashy fun, not so much for emotional and financial investments. But then she aspects Uranus and Jupiter, so be open for some very fun surprises.

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

**JANE'S WORLD**



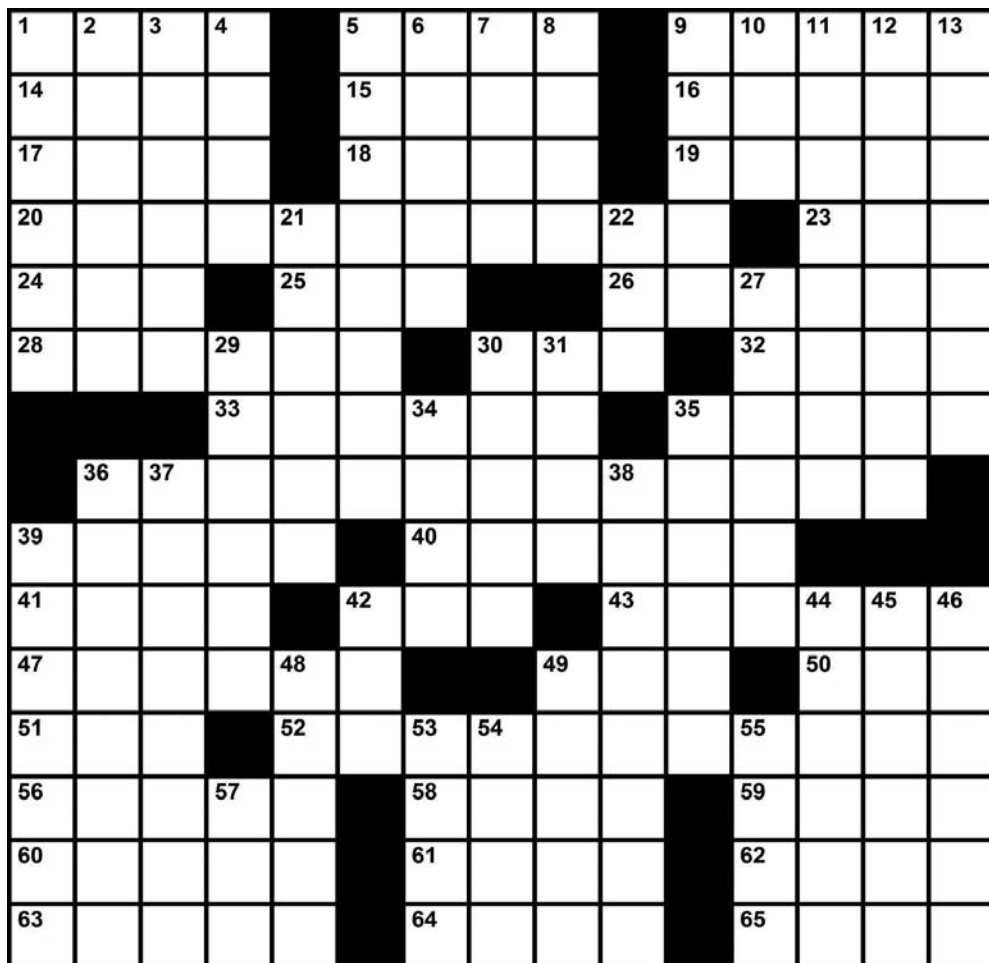
**bitter girl**



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# Taylor-made Advice

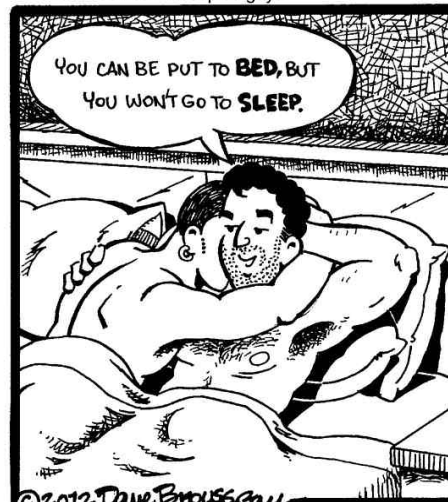
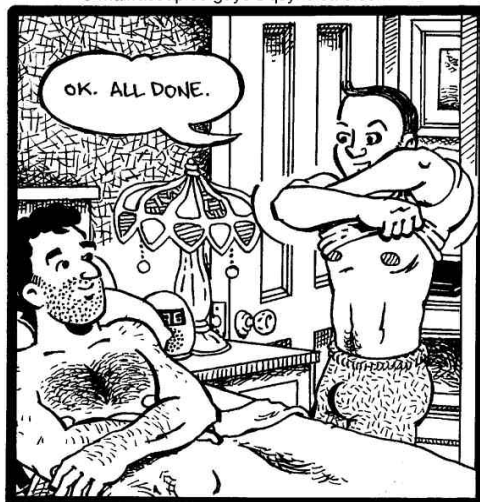
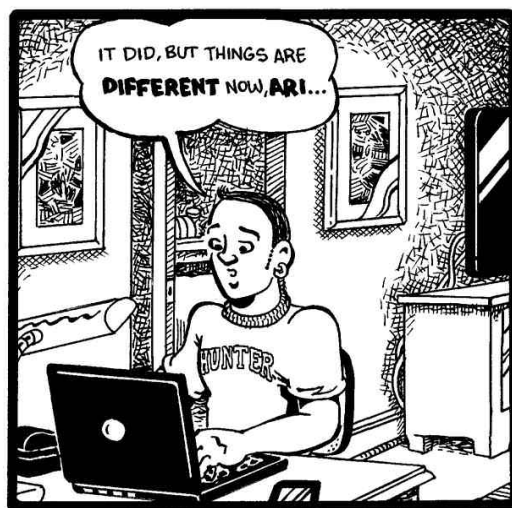
Solution on page 37

**Across**

- 1 One that may be beaten
- 5 Demonstrated heterosexuality
- 9 Answer to "Who's there?"
- 14 Coin on the Continent
- 15 It was gauche, for Debussy
- 16 Henri's boyfriends
- 17 St. Patrick's land
- 18 Tight-assed
- 19 Taco topping
- 20 Start of a quote from Tate Taylor's "The Help"
- 23 Thousandth of an angry inch?
- 24 Poet's before
- 25 S&L assets, maybe
- 26 Accuse of wrongdoing
- 28 Old car brand name
- 30 Takes too much GHB, e.g.
- 32 Bottom's offer to pay?
- 33 Relates with
- 35 Literate boast?
- 36 More of the quote
- 39 Type of hole
- 40 Weatherspoon of the WNBA
- 41 Soothing agent
- 42 Edvard Grieg's land (abbr.)

**Down**

- 43 Swallowed hard
- 47 At the top
- 49 BB propellant
- 50 Vein filler
- 51 Head of the bd.
- 52 End of the quote
- 56 Word before "ho!"
- 58 Minute opening
- 59 Charger, to a Cockney
- 60 Joe of "The Ruffian on the Stair"
- 61 Resolve, with "out"
- 62 Poetic adverb
- 63 "... \_\_\_ evil"
- 64 Relief of Lincoln
- 65 Blows it

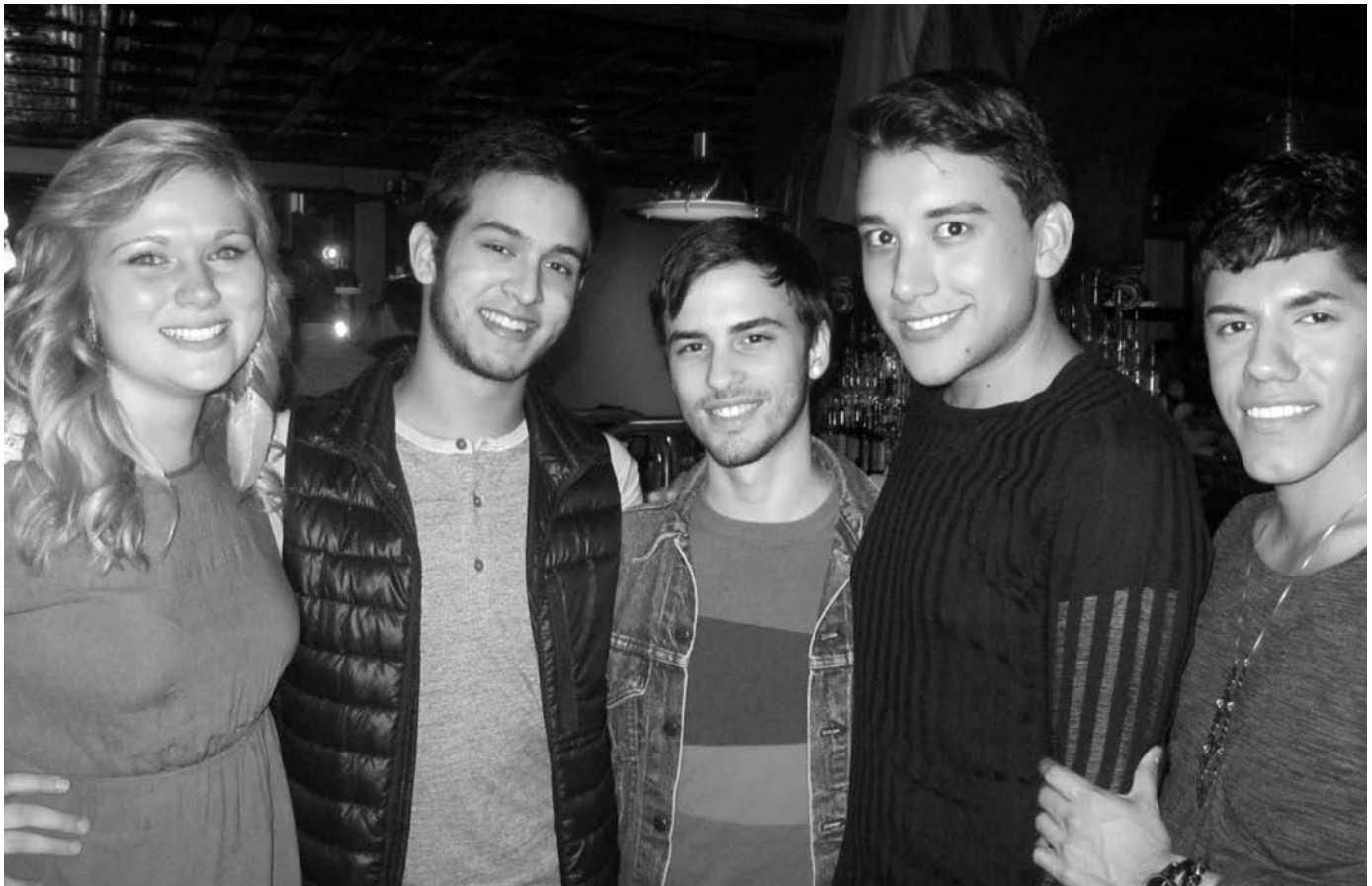




Lisa and Vanessa at Sue Ellen's.



Al at Pekers.



Kenzie, Sergio, Alvaro, Emilio and Marcus at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

For a good time, don't call us, just head out to these spots .... **The Brick** is going all out Saturday as **FairPlay** presents **Sexy Cirque**, complete with an acrobatic performance by **Kia** and a cast of avante garde characters. The club picks up the old Tuesday tradition with it's new weekly **Cruise Inn** night .... **Voice of Pride** finalist **Carlos Saenz** performs Saturday at **Alexandre's** .... **Cherries** features the **Kelexis Davenport Show** on Fridays. **DJ Michael Jon** spins after and continues on Saturday. Ante up for **Drop-N-Aces Texas Hold 'Em Poker** every Sunday afternoon .... If you need some chill time and a smoke, hit up **Blue Smoke's Cigar Back Room** .... We hear there's a **Madonna** halftime show this weekend. Head to **Woody's** to watch the **New England Patriots** and **New York Giants** battle it out for **Super Bowl** glory .... Drag king troupe **Mustache Envy** brings a new show to **Sue Ellen's** on Friday. **Shot to the Heart** packs the night featuring **Frankie 4Play**, **Ricki Sparx** and more along with host **Lilith Grey** and **DJ Paloma**. **Anton Shaw** and **the Reason** perform Saturday night and **Kathy Corbin** and **the Barefoot Hippies** wrap up the weekend on Sunday .... There's no shame in needing a **Valentine's Day** date. That's what **Hearts on Fire** is for. The **Dallas Eagle** hosts the party and bachelor auction on Saturday benefiting **AIDS Interfaith Network**. Drinks and single men? That's a win-win. **DJ Blaine Soileau** spins his **Release** party afterward. Check your pulse at **Throb** underwear night and contest on Wednesdays, but ask before you check anyone else's! ... The **Lizard Lounge** keeps the party nonstop with another impressive Saturday night with **Dillon Francis** and **Nadastrom** performing .... No go and work it. ■

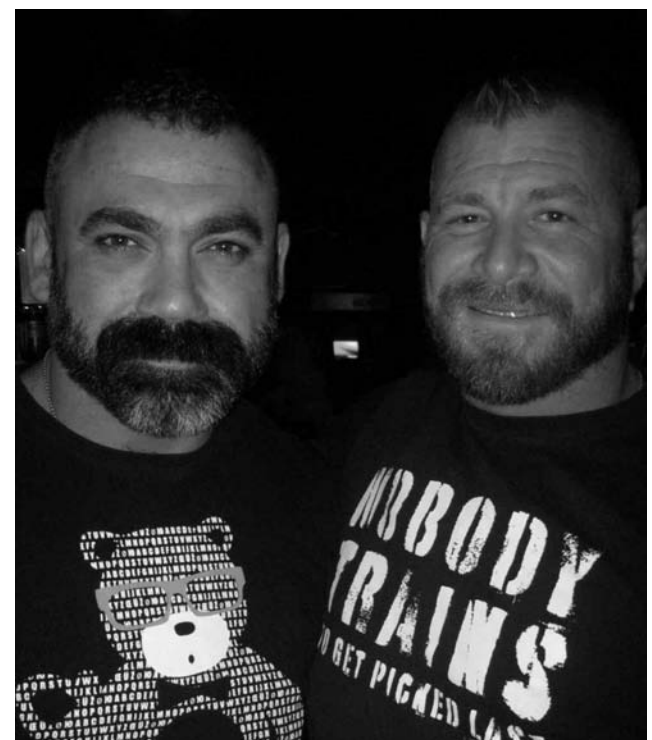
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Al, Chanee and Christian at BJ's NXS!



Pam, Randy and LaRue at Cherries.



Patrick and Chris at the Dallas Eagle.



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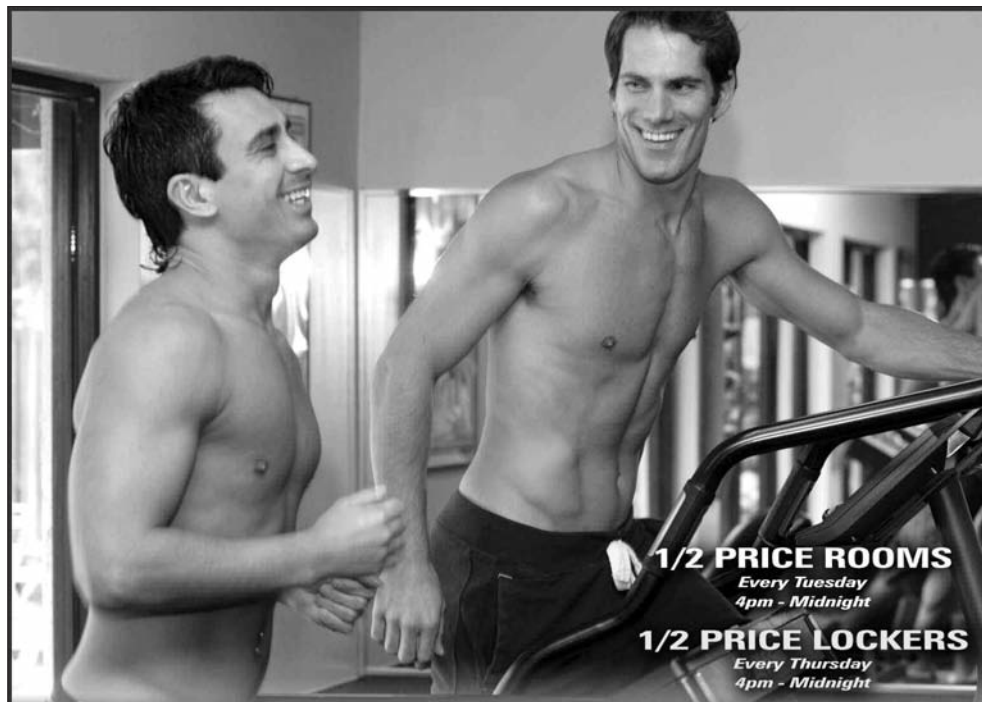
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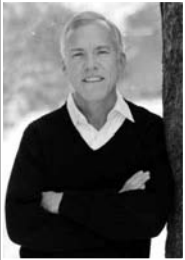


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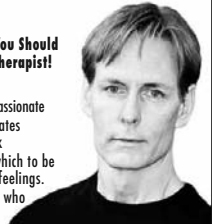
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