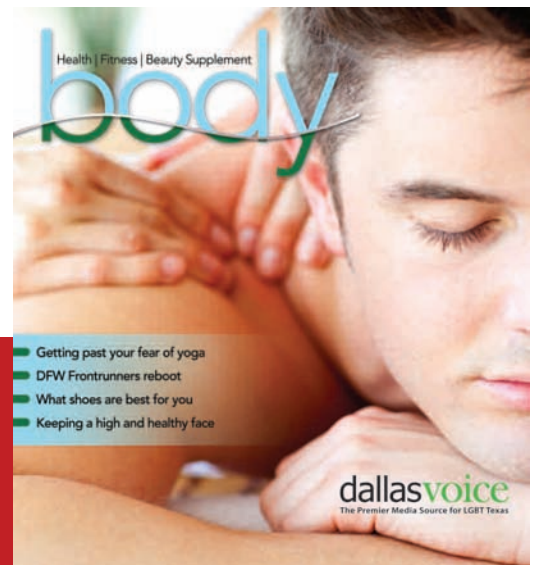


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Instructors talk yoga basics for the beginner

LGBT running/walking group DFW Frontrunners gets back on track

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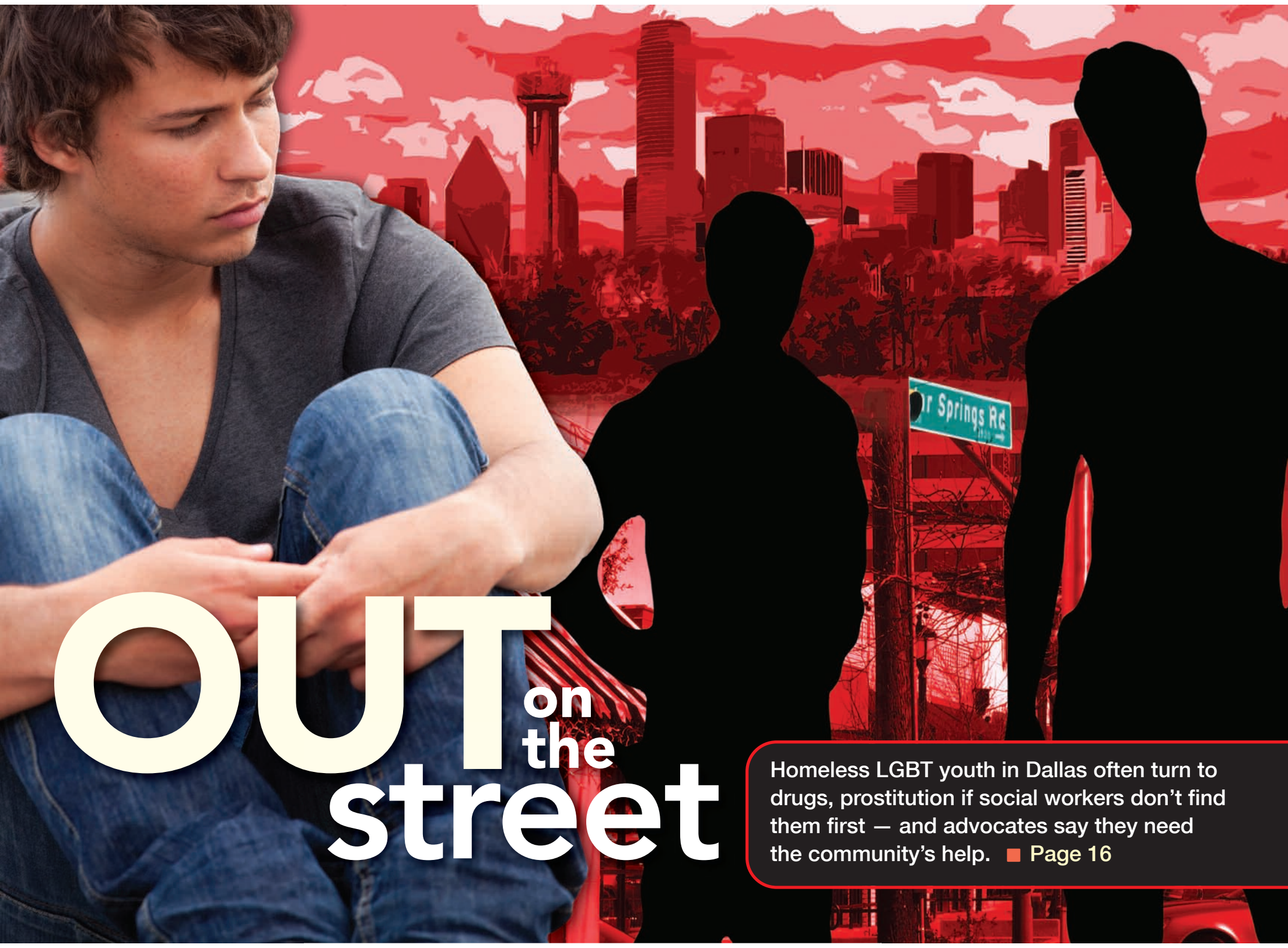
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OUT on the street

Homeless LGBT youth in Dallas often turn to drugs, prostitution if social workers don't find them first — and advocates say they need the community's help. ■ Page 16



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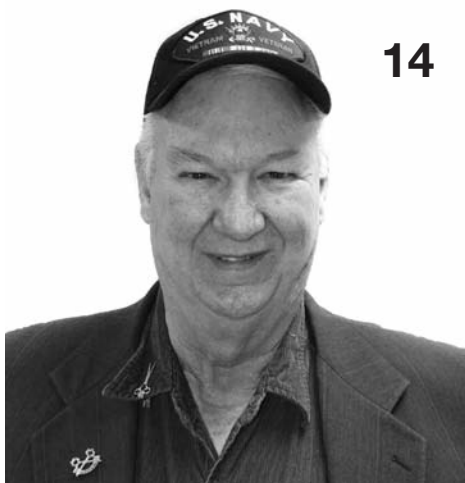
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Pastors Council accuses Mayor Annis Parker of violating oath

Mayor Annis Parker has been quite vocal on the issue of marriage equality lately. Last month she co-chaired the bi-partisan "Mayors for the Freedom to Marry." On Tuesday, Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day — she greeted marriage equality activists in front of City Hall, declaring it "Freedom to Marry Day" in Houston (an action that carried no legal weight).

Of course the Houston Area Pastor Council is riled up about all this talk of "freedom" and "equality." In a statement released Wednesday, HAPC characterized Parker's actions as a "declaration of war on the traditional family." Former mayoral candidate and HAPC president Dave Welch (who famously once claimed that the solution to the AIDS crisis was to "shoot the queers") said, "The battle lines are drawn again as [Mayor Parker] proves her contempt for the churches of the city, the traditional family and our state Constitution."

The statement from HAPC also claims Parker "violated her oath of office to uphold and defend the Constitution of the State of Texas" by advocating for the legal recognition of same-sex couples, which is prohibited under the Texas Constitution. HAPC may want to check out the Houston Mayoral Oath of Office before making such accusations, because this is the oath Parker took when she assumed office: "I, Annis Parker, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of mayor of the city of Houston of the state of Texas, so help me God."

Absolutely nothing about upholding or defending the Constitution of the state of Texas, just a promise to execute her duties and a prayer for God's assistance. The city charter says nothing about the mayor having a duty to uphold the Texas Constitution. So, considering that the mayor's oath was to execute her duties, and the charter doesn't say that she has a duty to not criticize the state, it's hard to imagine how advocating for marriage equality would violate her oath of office.

But let's assume that Parker had sworn to uphold the state Constitution. Members of the state Legislature and statewide elected officials like the governor do take that oath. If we follow the logic of the HAPC, those individuals would be violating their oaths of office if they publicly advocated changing what the Texas Constitution has to say about marriage. Which is interesting because in 2005 a majority of state legislators and Gov. Rick Perry did just that when they pushed through the constitutional amendment that currently prohibits

marriage equality. By the arguments of Dave Welch and the HAPC all of those individuals should be removed from office for violating their oath.

I'm starting to like where this is going ...

— Daniel Williams

Israel Luna's 'Ouija Experiment' screens at the Inwood Theatre

Israel Luna is used to working just as hard getting his movies to his public as making them — such is the life of the independent filmmaker. His *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives* made it to the Tribeca and other film fests, but he's taken an old-school roadshow approach to his latest, *The Ouija Experiment*.

Without a distributor, Luna has been taking the print of his low-budget horror film around the country himself, showing it wherever there's an audience. And what better audience than his hometown for a traditional midnight screening? *Ouija* will show Friday and Saturday nights at the Inwood — fitting, since the movie was shot locally.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Gay basketball league launches

With all the sports leagues in the LGBT community here, we've long been without a basketball one — until now. As one of the organizers of the new Dallas Gay Basketball Association, Steven Coleman has been helping to get the word out on the new league. The interest is there. Coleman guesstimated about 40 people showed up to DGBA's open gym session last week at Reverchon Rec Center.

"This is something we need here," he said.

DGBA's mission as posted on their Facebook page reads: "The Dallas Gay Basketball Association was founded in 2012. This league was created for LGBTQA men and women to create an atmosphere for athletes. In hopes of strengthening a community and providing alternative option for socializing within the gay community. The league invites all skill levels, and encourages new members."

According to Coleman, they've been in talks with DIVA citing their structure as a direction DGBA may borrow from. That makes total sense seeing how successful the volleyball association is in expanding its membership practically each new season. DGBA will serve as a co-ed league for teams. Whether Reverchon will be the only location for play was not mentioned.

— Rich Lopez

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Komen controversy alarms LGBT health orgs

Dallas-based breast cancer agency funds many gay-related projects, centers; some leaders fear cuts after Planned Parenthood decision

DANA RUDOLPH | Keen News Service
editor@dallasvoice.com

As the dust settles on the controversy over a decision by the nation's largest organization fighting breast cancer to withdraw grants from the nation's largest provider of services regarding reproduction, the LGBT community is taking stock of the damage and the potential damage.

Dallas-based Susan G. Komen for the Cure an-

nounced Jan. 31 that it would no longer provide grants to Planned Parenthood. Then, four days later, after being hit with a harsh public backlash, it reversed that decision. But the controversy has raised questions about the relationship between politics and philanthropy, and about whether LGBT health services could be the next to see their funds cut.

In response to a request for comment about LGBT health services, Komen's media office said, "We are not doing media interviews at this time."

Komen's relationships with LGBT health organizations are long-standing and extensive. The Komen website lists more than 30 grants in total for LGBT-related breast health projects between

2007 and 2011. And Komen and its local affiliates help fund many major LGBT health centers, including the Mautner Project, a national lesbian health organization; the Howard Brown Health Center (Chicago); Lyon-Martin Health Services (San Francisco); the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center (New York City); the LGBT Community Center (New York City); Fenway Health (Boston), and the Mazzoni Center (Philadelphia).

Komen said it withdrew the Planned Parenthood funding because it has a policy of not funding organizations under congressional investigation.

Last fall, U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., began an investigation into whether Planned Parenthood has illegally used federal money to fund

abortion services. Stearns has long been known for his anti-abortion views. And many suspected Komen's decision was less motivated by the "investigation" than for the politics, and they said so, loudly. Their suspicions were made all the stronger because Komen had hired Karen Handel as its senior vice president for public policy last April. Handel, during her unsuccessful run for Georgia governor in 2010, had promised to defund Planned Parenthood in that state, if elected. Handel also stated during her campaign that she opposed same-sex marriage, domestic partner health benefits and gay adoption. By Feb. 7, Handel had resigned from Komen, citing the controversy. But some have argued since

■ **KOMEN**, Page 10

SPECIAL DELIVERY



BE MY VALENTINE | Paula Blackmon, right, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, accepts a bag containing more than 400 Valentine's Day cards addressed to Rawlings from Daniel Cates, left, North Texas regional coordinator for GetEQUAL. Cates delivered the cards written by community members to Rawlings, who has refused to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage, as part of GetEQUAL's Valentine's Day actions, which also included same-sex couples requesting marriage licenses at clerk's offices in Dallas and Fort Worth. For more coverage, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Measure would ban anti-LGBT discrimination in Houston

Charter amendment could also allow DP benefits for city workers

DANIEL WILLIAMS | Contributing Writer
editor@houstini.com

HOUSTON — Long-brewing plans to place a city-wide non-discrimination policy before Houston voters became public this week.

Since December a coalition of organizations and leaders have been working to draft a city charter amendment that would make it illegal to discriminate in housing, employment or public accommodations on the basis of "age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or physical characteristic."

The amendment would also remove anti-LGBT language added to the Houston city charter in 1985 and 2001 — which could allow the City Council to vote to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of municipal employees.

Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who famously became the only out LGBT person elected mayor of a major American city in 2009, has declined to comment on the proposed charter amendment until the language is finalized. She told the Houston Chronicle: "I believe it's important for the city of Houston to send a signal to the world that we welcome everybody and that we treat everybody

■ **HOUSTON**, Page 12



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■ localbriefs

Toast to Life set for Feb. 25

The 14th annual Toast to Life Gala — a fundraiser for Resource Center Dallas' programs and services that make life better for people living with HIV/AIDS — is set for Feb. 25.

The event, "Lights, Camera, ACTION!," begins at 8 p.m. at FIG—Fashion Industry Gallery, at 1807 Ross Ave. Toast to Life has an annual attendance of more than 800, has raised more than \$2.4 million since it began in 1999, and is one of the most eagerly awaited events of the year.

The centerpiece of Toast To Life has always been the culinary fare presented by a collection of Dallas' most popular restaurants, along with wines and spirits. Guests participate throughout the evening by bidding on exclusive silent and luxury auction items and enjoying stellar entertainment.

This year's auction items include:

- VIP passes to a taping of Fashion Police with Joan Rivers in L.A.;
- A limited-edition, autographed Katy Perry tour jacket;
- Week rental of a four-bedroom private condo in Park City, Utah;
- Furnishings from Herman Miller Inc., Knoll and Neiman Marcus-Willow Bend;
- Assorted travel packages and gift certificates from casual favorites to Dallas' most prominent restaurants; and,
- One-of-a-kind art from well-known local artists.

Toast To Life Gala is presented by Christopher A. Salerno and sponsored in part by: Nordstrom, Eric V. Culbertson & David W. Carlson, American Airlines, Christopher J. Vespy, M.D. & Alan E. Roller, Charles MarLett & Jim Vasilas, Steven M. Pounders, M.D. & Jimmy O'Reilly, United Court of the Lone Star Empire, David Hardt & Steven Hartsell, and Bud Light/Ben E. Keith.

Tickets are \$100. VIP tickets, which includes private reception prior to gala, are \$150. For tickets and sponsor information for the 2012 Toast To Life Gala, visit www.toasttolife.org.

BTD beneficiary applications online

Black Tie Dinner has opened its 31st season by making applications for 2012 beneficiaries available online. The deadline is March 2. Beneficiaries must submit a new application each year. Up to 20 organizations are chosen to receive half the proceeds from the annual dinner. The other half benefits the Human Rights Campaign.

The Dallas Black Tie Dinner has been the largest LGBT fundraising dinner since it began in 1982.

Black Tie Dinner has raised more than \$15 million since it began in 1982. In 2011, the organization distributed \$1.142 million to 17 North Texas groups. This year's dinner will be held at the Sheraton in Downtown Dallas on Nov. 3. Mitzi Lemons and Chris Kouvelis are the chairs. ■

For more info or to submit an application, go to BlackTie.org.



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■ pet of the week / DAISY

Daisy is a great dog! She appears to be a Plott hound. She has a great loud voice when she talks to you. Daisy is about 11 months old and should not get much larger than she is now. She will definitely need a big yard so she has room to run and play; however, the fence needs to be wood and about 6 feet high. Like any good coonhound, Daisy can climb chain link fencing.



Daisy and many other great dogs and cats are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, situated at 3201 Earhart Drive, one street south of Keller Springs and two blocks west of Midway Road, in Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days a week: Monday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The adoption cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount. For more information, call 972-418-PAWS, or visit OperationKindness.org.

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SEEKING REPRESENTATION | Spectrum members, from left, Jessica Barner, Eric Douglas, Danielle Palomo, Breanna Diaz, Jakob Schwarz and Kristen Baker-Fletcher outside an SMU Student Senate meeting this week. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Spectrum again seeks LGBT senator at SMU

Members of gay student group speak out after registrar cuts off talks over diversity seat proposal

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

UNIVERSITY PARK — Progress toward an LGBT Student Senate seat at Southern Methodist University came to a halt last week when the school registrar cut off talks with Karen Click, director of the Women's Center for Gender and Pride Initiatives.

"I need to put this project on hold for a while, as I don't have the resources now," Joe Papari, SMU's director of enrollment services for student systems and technology, wrote in an email to Click.

Papari couldn't be reached for comment.

On Tuesday, Feb. 14, members of the LGBTQA student group Spectrum addressed the Student Senate to ask for help in restarting the talks about a Senate seat.

"Show how progressive our campus can be," Spectrum President Harvey Luna urged the Senate.

Tom Elliott, who now works for the Travis County Democratic Party in Austin, first brought the idea of an LGBT seat to the Senate in

2009 when he was a senior.

Elliott said when he served on the Senate's Diversity Committee, it dealt with finding more resources for minorities and better ways to recruit new students from those communities.

He thought that with the negative publicity SMU gets from the Princeton Review rating of the school as one of the 20 most homophobic campuses in the U.S., an LGBT senator would send a positive signal to potential incoming students that while the student body remains conservative and seems lacking in diversity, everyone is actually welcome at SMU.

The Princeton ranking is based on student surveys. In many ways, SMU doesn't fit the profile of other schools on the list. SMU is the only school on the list with inclusive nondiscrimination policies, domestic partner benefits for employees, sanctioned LGBT student groups and openly gay faculty and staff who are embraced by the administration.

In December 2009, the Student Senate voted against adding the LGBT diversity seat. The vote was 19-19, but a three-fourths majority was needed to pass the resolution that would have then gone to the entire student body for a vote.

But the perception of the school remains one where gays and lesbians are not welcome, according to members of Spectrum who believe that a diversity seat would help change that.

■ SMU, Page 11

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■ texasnews

■ KOMEN

From Page 6

then that Handel was just a symptom of the Komen board and CEO, Nancy Brinker, who hired her.

Lorri L. Jean, CEO of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, the largest LGBT community organization in the country, was one of the first to issue a statement on Feb. 1, saying Komen "has stunningly decided to shun its mission by siding with right-wing extremists rather than with low income women — including large numbers of lesbians and transgender women — at risk of breast cancer." Many other groups and individuals criticized Komen's decision, too, some vowing to withhold contributions and participation in Komen's highly popular "Race for the Cure" events.

Liz Margolies, executive director of the National LGBT Cancer Network, said her group has never received Komen funding but said the defunding of Planned Parenthood would have been "a blow to the health of the LGBT community." LGBT people, she said, experience "increased obstacles in accessing care and difficulty finding culturally competent providers," along with lower rates of health insurance coverage. Planned Parenthood filled this gap for many LGBT people.

The Komen controversy raised additional concerns about future funding for LGBT health services.

The Mautner Project, a national lesbian health organization, currently has a \$200,000, two-year grant from the central Komen organization's National Capital Area Grants Program in Washington, D.C. The money forms approximately 10 percent of Mautner's total budget. Leslie Calman, executive director of the Mautner Project, said in an interview that Komen has been an "extremely generous donor." Mautner received a \$500,000, two-year, capacity-building grant between 2008 and 2010 that "saved the Mautner Project" when it had been in danger of going under, she said.

In Chicago, Howard Brown Health Center received a \$75,000 grant from Komen's local affiliate in 2010 to support its Breast Health Awareness Peer Educator Project, "designed to encourage breast health conversation and education among sexual minority women of color over 40."

Cindi Creager, a spokesperson for New York City's LGBT Community Center, said the Center has received "varying levels of funding" from Komen Greater NYC since 2004, most recently, an \$80,000 grant in 2010. The Center has a grant application pending for 2012.

Nurit Shein, executive director of the Mazzoni Center in Philadelphia, said her center has received \$30,000 this year from Komen's Philadelphia affiliate to do "education, clinical breast exams, and referrals to mammograms," and has received similar grants for several years.

Wendy Stark, executive director of the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York City, said the Komen affiliate has funded that Center for over 10 years. Dr. Anita Radix, director of research and education at Callen-Lorde, sits on Komen's National Multicultural Advisory Board. Among other things, Komen money supports the

"very critical position" of a case manager in women's health at Callen-Lorde. "We've found them to be very supportive of LGBT health," said Stark.

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center has not received grants from Komen, but Jim Key, chief public affairs officer for the Center, said that, even though Komen reversed its decision regarding Planned Parenthood, the L.A. Center still "[finds] it distressing that the foundation was so willing to play politics at the expense of vital services such as breast cancer screenings."

"If pro-choice organizations are first, we can't help but wonder if LGBT organizations are next," he said.

Nurit Shein in Philadelphia agreed, saying that Komen's hiring of the anti-gay Handel made her wonder, "Are lesbians next?" after the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

Shein also sits on Komen's National Multicultural Advisory Board, which addresses issues of the LGBT community, among others. She said in an interview that she has been "sharing our disappointment and concerns" with Komen officials about the controversy. But she said the situation also indicates a "disconnect" between Komen's local affiliates and its national headquarters. The Philadelphia affiliate "has been a true partner with us," she asserted.

In Massachusetts, the state Komen affiliate in 2011 funded the annual Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch at Boston's Fenway Health. Audre Lorde was a lesbian activist and writer who died in 1992 from breast cancer.

Boston's Fenway Health Center spokesperson Philip Finch said, "We'd certainly be receptive to their funding it in the future, as long as they have policies which are supportive of women and women's health," such as the policy to fund Planned Parenthood again.

In a statement Feb. 3, Komen's Brinker said, "We have been distressed at the presumption that the changes made to our funding criteria were done for political reasons or to specifically penalize Planned Parenthood. They were not." She added that Komen will amend its grantmaking criteria "to make clear that disqualifying investigations must be criminal and conclusive in nature and not political."

And the Mautner Project's Calman said Komen had been "scrupulously apolitical" until the Planned Parenthood defunding, even though Brinker is a Republican and served as a presidential appointee under President George W. Bush. Calman noted that Mollie Williams, Komen's managing director of community health programs, who resigned in protest at the defunding of Planned Parenthood, sits on the Mautner Project Technical Advisory Council and has been "a good friend to the Mautner Project."

Calman said she had been "alarmed and dismayed" at Komen's decision to defund Planned Parenthood, and characterized it as "a huge misstep." But she said that, going forward, she looks forward to "continued support" from Komen.

Shein of Philadelphia said she would like to hear "a stronger statement" from Komen about "mixing politics and philanthropy," but is "glad" the national organization reversed its decision.

■ KOMEN, Next Page



SAYING GOODBYE | Karen Handel, shown waving to supporters during her 2010 Georgia gubernatorial campaign, resigned Feb. 7 as senior vice president for public policy at Susan G. Komen for the Cure. (Associated Press)

■ **KOMEN**, From Previous Page

Creager, of New York's LGBT Community Center, said the center will continue to "pay attention to new developments," but added, "We hope and believe Komen will continue to address the needs of LBT people with breast cancer by continuing to partner with the Center and other

LGBT organizations."

The situation with Planned Parenthood may even have made that more likely. The L.A. Center's Key noted that, "Komen knows the world is watching — and there will be an immediate outcry over any decision that prioritizes politics over lives."

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■ **SMU**

From Page 9

Last year, Spectrum again urged the Senate to add the seat but they again voted it down citing the difficulty in identifying LGBT students and uncertainty about how many students the senator would represent.

"They were concerned with numbers," said Spectrum member Eric Douglas. "They threw out 150 as a number."

He laughed at the idea that on a campus with 11,000 students, fewer than 150 would be LGBT.

Senate Secretary Martha Pool said that there's concern about double representation and questioned all diversity seats.

"Special interests are supposed to have liaisons," she said. "There's supposed to be a senator [assigned to] every student group. That way, everyone is fairly represented."

However, no one from Spectrum who attended the Senate meeting on Tuesday had ever met a senator assigned to their group.

Spectrum member Kristen Baker-Fletcher objected to the idea that a senator who isn't a member of the LGBT community could represent those students well.

She mocked the idea, characterizing it as, "We have efficient people who can speak for you."

Spectrum's activist chair Breanna Diaz said that a diversity senator would represent all LGBT

students, not just the few who belong to one of the school's several gay groups. She said an LGBT representative would bring issues to the Senate that aren't currently being addressed, including health, mental health and safety.

Diaz said a major concern from last year seems to be resolved. In talks with the registrar, an optional slot could be added to the online student information profiles. Students could indicate their sexual orientation or gender identity on a confidential page. Those who self-identified as members of the LGBT community could vote for the diversity senator but wouldn't have to belong to a campus LGBT organization.

Several senators asked whether a resolution to the registrar would make a difference.

Spectrum member Jakob Schwarz said, "The only leg the registrar's office can stand on is that students don't want it. A resolution by the Student Senate would be an indication of students do want."

Click wasn't sure that registration on the campus database was necessarily the answer.

"Is this the one stumbling block?" Click asked, adding that she doesn't know the answer.

Click said the question of who would vote for the LGBT seat is complicated since a lot of allies attend Spectrum, many LGBT students don't belong to any of the campus groups, and reaching out to them all is difficult because of the transience of an undergraduate population.

"There's no easy fix," she said.

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■ HOUSTON

From Page 6

equally, and depending on the elements of what was actually in it, I might or might not support it,"

According to Equality Texas Executive Director Dennis Coleman, the prospect of Houston voters approving the non-discrimination amendment has ramifications for efforts to pass similar measures in the state Legislature.

"Nondiscrimination in Houston builds a better case for us when we go for nondiscrimination in Austin," said Coleman. "To be able to tell representatives that they represent areas that already support these efforts is very helpful."

The cities of Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth all already have similar nondiscrimination ordinances and offer DP benefits to employees.

But Houston's form of governance makes this effort unique. While the City Council is empowered to pass city ordinances covering issues of discrimination, they can be overturned by popular vote if those opposing the ordinance collect 20,000 signatures to place the issue on the ballot.

That was the case in 1985 after Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire pushed through the council the city's first protections for gay and lesbian Houstonians (no protections were provided for the bisexual or transgender communities).

A coalition of right-wing voters led by Dave Welch, then president of the Houston Chamber of

Commerce, was able to place the issue on a city-wide ballot, claiming the policy "promoted the homosexual lifestyle." The group also recruited a "straight slate" of candidates to run against City Council members who had favored the protections, with Welch running against Whitmire.

The public vote on nondiscrimination was held in June 1985 and Welch's forces prevailed, but the city's temperament had changed by the time of the City Council and mayoral races in November. A comment of Welch's that the solution to the AIDS crisis was to "shoot the queers" was aired on local TV and few in Houston wished to be associated with him after that. The "straight slate" failed to capture a single City Council seat and Whitmire remained mayor, but the defeat of the city's nondiscrimination policy remained.

By 1998 Houston had changed: Annise Parker was serving as the city's first out lesbian city council member and Houston boasted the state's first out gay judge, John Paul Barnich. Mayor Lee Brown, sensing the change, issued an executive order protecting LGBT city employees from employment discrimination. But the city had not changed that much. Councilman Rob Todd led efforts to fight the order in court, arguing that since voters rejected city-wide protections from discrimination in 1985, it was inappropriate for the mayor to institute them without voter approval. The city spent the next three years defending the policy in court, finally emerging victorious.

The joy of that 2001 victory would be short-lived, however. That year Houston's voters approved another amendment to the city charter, this time prohibiting the city from providing domestic partner benefits for city employees. In a narrow defeat, just over 51 percent of voters decided that the city should not offer competitive benefits.

The current proposed non-discrimination amendment would remove the language added in 1985 and 2001. While it would provide non-discrimination protections it would not require the city to offer benefits of any kind to the spouses of LGBT city employees, leaving that question back in the hands of the City Council.

The organizers of the current effort are confident that this year is the year for victory.

Noel Freeman, the president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, which is spearheading the effort, explains that the previous votes occurred in "non-presidential years," when voter turnout in general is low, and conservative voters make up a larger percentage of the electorate.

Additionally, polling by Equality Texas in 2010 showed that 75 percent of Texans support employment protections for gay and lesbian people.

In order to place the non-discrimination amendment on the November ballot the coalition supporting it will need to collect 20,000 signatures of registered Houston voters and submit them to the city clerk. Freeman says that the final charter amendment language is still under consideration and that once it is finalized the group will begin collecting signatures.

Even former Councilman Todd, who once fought the city's policy of non-discrimination for LGBT employees, supports the current effort. ■

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12 ways to celebrate Black History Month

Queer-specific events

• **Third Annual Marlon Riggs Film Festival:** Friday, Feb. 17 marks the first day of Fahari Arts Institute's Third Annual Marlon Riggs Film Festival, presented in cooperation with The South Dallas Cultural Center, Black Cinematheque Dallas, Q-Roc.TV and BlaqOut Dallas. The festival honors the legacy of the late gay, Fort Worth-based filmmaker Marlon Riggs. Screenings begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday night at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. The cost is \$5 per night. There will be a talk back after each evening of films.

• **Queerly Speaking:** Queerly Speaking is a monthly spoken word open mic event for queer people of color hosted by the Fahari Arts Institute at the South Dallas Cultural Center. The fourth season begins this month with February's theme of "Love on Top." 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24. \$5.

• **Unity Black History Soul Food Potluck:** United Black Ellument is an organization dedicated to building Dallas' young black gay and bisexual men's community. They will be celebrating Black History Month with delicious soul food on Sunday, Feb. 19. The food and fun starts at 6 p.m.

and people are encouraged to come with or without a dish. The event is free. UBE is in Deep Ellum at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C. UBEDallas.org.

• **¡Baile! The Dance:** Allgo is Texas' statewide queer people of color and allies organization that focuses on improving the queer people of color community's health and advancing LGBT black and Latino artists and community organizing. Baile takes place from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17 at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center at 600 River St., Austin. Tickets are \$25 online/\$35 at the door. If you'd like to support but can't travel to attend, consider an online donation, which can be made at Allgo.org/Allgo/Support.

Other events

• **'Free Man of Color':** The African American Art Repertory Theater presents *Free Man of Color*, the true story of John Newton Templeton, a freed slave, who graduated from Ohio University 35 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. DeSoto Corner Theater at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. AarepTheater.com

• **Mahalia Jackson 'Queen of Gospel Music'**

Exhibition: The African American Museum celebrates the life of Mahalia Jackson with 51 pieces of artwork and rare footage of her life and performances through June 30. The museum is at 3536 Grand Ave., Dallas, in Fair Park. Admission is free. AAMDallas.org.

• **'My House Cultural Discovery — African American Folk Tales and Legends':** You and your children or favorite little ones can celebrate Black History Month at The Museum of Nature & Science with storyteller Toni Simmons at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 24, followed by craft time until 1 p.m. Free for members and included with the cost of general admission for non-members. 3535 Grand Ave., Dallas. NatureAndScience.org.

• **13th Annual Red, Hot & Snazzy Benefit:** The United Negro College Fund, or UNCF, presents its 13th Annual Dallas/Fort Worth Black History Month signature event Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Dallas. Proceeds provide scholarships for low-income college students and operating resources for UNCF's Texas-based historically black colleges. For more information on time and cost, visit: UNCF.org.

• **Black History Month Celebration:** South Side on Lamar celebrates Black History Month at

8 p.m. Feb. 26. The local Ebony Emeralds Classic Theater presents a special performance, *Three Tales of Black History*. It is directed by Akin Babatunde and will feature music by Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus, Thelonius Monk and Billy Strayhorn. The show takes place in South Side's Blue Room, 1409 S. Lamar St.

• **Cultural Awareness Series:** The Dallas Black Dance Theater presents its annual Cultural Awareness Series Feb. 23-26. Price levels vary from \$10-\$65. DDBDT.com.

• **'Frederick Douglass Now':** The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) presents *Frederick Douglass Now*, a show by Dress Performance Theatre Series starring Roger Guenveur Smith at 8:15 p.m. Feb. 24-25. The show takes place in the Clarence Muse Café Theater in the Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas. \$15.

• **Saturdays of Service:** Black history month is moving from being more event-based to service-based. Groups such as Black Men Emerging at SMU are pushing for change and not just entertainment. They lead Saturdays of service throughout the Dallas area from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Remaining service dates are Feb. 18 and 25. ■

—Compiled by Toi Scott



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Restoring some Dignity to Dallas

Mirroring a national trend, local LGBT Catholic group finds itself in a rebuilding stage

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dignity Dallas, the LGBT Catholic organization, is in a re-forming stage, according to leader Jim Davis.

Davis said he's been out "beating the bushes to let people know who we are."

Dignity is not formally recognized by the Catholic Church. Jon Garinn, Dignity Dallas' former spiritual leader, said the group once attracted 25 to 35 people to weekly Sunday mass.

But Davis said the group, on the verge of folding, now meets just once a month as it tries to rebuild. One problem, Davis said, has been finding local leaders willing to identify themselves openly and actively promote the group.

"The bishop already doesn't like us," Davis said. "What do we care what he says? I want my name out there."

DignityUSA Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke said the role of the organization has changed, and the Dallas chapter's situation isn't uncommon. She said at one time, Dignity was the first connection a gay Catholic made to the LGBT community.

The organization was often a place of sanctuary — a safe place for LGBT Catholics who were verbally attacked in their parishes. That's not true anymore.

"The LGBT community has blossomed," she said. "As Dignity re-forms across the country, it's taking many shapes and forms."

But she said that Dignity is still a place for LGBT Catholics to take refuge from the mounting attacks by bishops and the pope that have hurt so many.

"We're the group who will affirm who you are," she said. "We'll marry the couples. We'll baptize their kids. Dignity is there to support the majority of Catholics who support LGBT rights."

Duddy-Burke said a study last year indicated that Catholics are less likely to hear anti-LGBT messages from the pulpit than mainstream Protestants or Evangelicals.

A New York Times/CBS News poll released this week showed that more than two-thirds of Catholics believe same-sex couples deserve some sort of relationship recognition, while 44 percent support marriage equality.

But the message from the upper hierarchy is still negative and even getting worse.

"Dignity is the anti-hierarchy," she said.

The national organization helps local chapters with quarterly leadership calls, a chapter-relations support team, leadership training programs and general exchanges of ideas.

Duddy-Burke said some chapters continue to offer weekly mass while others perform their own service monthly. Some attend a parish together and then go out to brunch as a group. Others maintain activities such as a book-discussion group or supper club.

Davis said the Dallas Dignity group has maintained its monthly supper club at Revlon House, one of the housing units of AIDS Services Dallas.

Duddy-Burke called that "more Catholic than the liturgy" in living the values that the church teaches.

Davis said that many Dignity members attend mass at Holy Trinity Church on Oak Lawn Avenue, where a large portion of the congregation is gay and lesbian. To explain what Dignity means to him, Davis coined the chapter's motto — "The traditions you love. The acceptance you deserve."

"I started attending Dignity when I began hearing edicts from Rome," he said. "My church [parish] wasn't welcoming either. At the time, I was ready to walk away from the [Catholic] Church."

He agreed with Duddy-Burke that Dignity speaks for the values of the majority of Catholics who believe in equality for the LGBT community.

"We think it's important as gay Catholics to hold a mirror up to the Catholic Church and say, 'There's no conflict there,'" he said.

Because the local bishop doesn't support Dignity, Davis said the group has had trouble finding clergy to lead mass. Currently, a monk who lives in the area but is still affiliated with an order in another state and a priest from the Polish National Catholic Church with a parish in Oak Cliff act as its spiritual leaders.

"If the chapter is going to have any effect," he said, "we have to be in your face."

Davis wants new members who will let the group's leaders know what the new Dallas Dignity should do.

Duddy-Burke said that the increasingly hostile rhetoric from the church hierarchy isn't playing in the pews. DignityUSA is receiving stronger and stronger support from Catholics across the country.

"I'm giving 25 bucks to Dignity," she said people write her after hearing anti-gay messages from the church, "because I'm not giving it to my parish."

Dignity Dallas meets the first Sunday of the month at Cathedral of Hope at 5 p.m. For more info, visit DignityDallas.org.



Jim Davis



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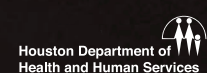
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OUT on the street

Homeless LGBT youth in Dallas often turn to drugs, prostitution if social workers don't find them first — and advocates say they need the community's help

DAVID WEBB | Contributing Writer
davidwaynewebb@hotmail.com

Every weekend a hunt takes place on the streets of Dallas for some of society's most vulnerable members, and their fate often depends upon who finds them first, according to social workers who note that LGBT youth are homeless at twice the rate of the general youth population.

The homeless young people under pursuit by both social workers and others whose motives are suspect — often sinister — tend to blend into the scene.

That makes the youths, who typically dress

like average teenagers, difficult to identify and to engage in conversation, which is the first step in gaining their confidence and initiating sustained contact.

The young homeless population differs substantially from their older counterparts because they are unlikely to be found sleeping in homeless shelters, under bridges, in parks and the like. Their youth often affords them the opportunity to spend the night with relatives, friends and acquaintances, which is why "sofa surfing" has become popular to describe their nomadic lifestyle.

The youths often are distrustful of older people who approach them on the street because they quickly learn there are criminal-minded individuals circulating, whose motives sometimes mirror the real life horrors of primetime television crime dramas. Dallas is a city of beautiful skyscrapers with bright colorful lights beckoning visitors, but it also has a vast, ugly underbelly harboring drug trafficking, prostitution, pornography productions and every other type of vice imaginable to which young people can become



prey.

Amie McNamara, interim director at Youth First Texas in Dallas, said her organization provides a safe place for all LGBT youths to meet and receive counseling and reliable support from peers. It also works to counteract the harmful influences homeless young people encounter when they leave their homes, she said.

"Gay, lesbian and transgender youths have a much harder time," McNamara said. "They tend to get kicked out more."

Sometimes, they leave home on their own because the conditions there are deplorable or abusive, according to social workers.

Once away from the protection of responsible adults, homeless youths face big challenges to survive, and if they are LGBT the challenges often are greater because of anti-gay discrimination and feelings of inferiority, McNamara said. They often make bad choices because of the absence of authority figures to guide them, she added.

■ **YOUTH**, Next Page



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■ **YOUTH**, From Previous Page

"They feel they sometimes have no choice but to get involved in the sex trade," McNamara said. "Their need is so great it is easy for them to get involved with an adult who has ulterior motives."

Often the adult simply offers to allow the homeless youth a meal and a sofa to sleep on, but the youth soon learns there are "strings attached," said McNamara, adding she could think of a dozen who are depending on the generosity of friends or others for shelter. If the youth is at least 17, no laws apparently are being broken in the sex-for-shelter scenario because that is the age of legal consent, and presumably some people are sincere in their offers to help, without expectations of something in return.

Youth First Texas arranged a telephone interview with one youth who is homeless and 18. His name is being withheld because of his age and vulnerability, and the name Ricky is being used

to protect his identity. He offered to allow the use of his name, which may be reflective of immature thinking that fails to take into account that he might feel differently about such public exposure when he's older.

Ricky has been homeless since he was 15, when his mother kicked him out of the house because he declared he was gay. His mother threatened to kick him out in a text message while he was at school, and when he arrived home he found the locks had been changed.

"She was like, 'If you are not going to abide by rules, get out,'" Ricky said. "I thought she was joking. I didn't know where to go or who to call. All I could do was sit there and cry."

Ricky said his mother wanted him to hide his sexual orientation rather than coming out. Had he dropped the subject and remained closeted, he could have stayed, he said.

"She wanted to pretend like it never happened," said Ricky, who noted he couldn't accept those terms. "It's my life."

Since then Ricky, whose father is a truck driver

"She was like, 'If you are not going to abide by rules, get out. I thought she was joking. I didn't know where to go or who to call. All I could do was sit there and cry.'"

'Ricky,' a homeless gay youth, on getting kicked out by his mom at 15



HUNTING THE HOMELESS | Promise House case managers Benjamin Williams, center, and Jessica Amspoker talk to Terry Fisher, a homeless man, on Cedar Springs last month. Promise House provides temporary emergency shelter for young homeless people, and Amspoker and Williams say older homeless people are often the best source of information about where to find youths on the streets. (David Webb/Dallas Voice)

who has no permanent residence because he is on the road all the time, has alternated living with friends and other relatives. He now lives with a sister, and his father pays Ricky's share of the rent so he can go to high school, where he's a junior.

Ricky said homelessness disrupted his life, causing him to get involved with alcohol, drugs and prostitution while he was staying with a fe-

male friend who had older friends. Those older friends introduced him to behavior he now regrets, said Ricky, who also got a tattoo and a face-piercing during that period of apparent rebellion.

Ricky failed a grade in high school because of the situation, and he is now a year behind in graduating.

■ **YOUTH**, Page 18

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coverstory



GETTING THEM BACK ON TRAC | Jerry Sullivan, assistant director for the Transition Resource Action Center, which provides transitional housing, said at one point in the last year two-thirds of the youth TRAC was serving were LGBT. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

■ YOUTH

From Page 17

"I bounced around from home to home after I was kicked out," said Ricky, who hopes to get a part-time job, graduate from high school, go to college and become a high school teacher specializing in theater. "It has ripped a hole in my family."

Ironically, Ricky's mother has come out as a lesbian and lives with another woman. He now suspects her fears about her own sexual orientation caused her to be unreasonably harsh with him.

"I wouldn't want to live with her now, but she hasn't offered to let me," said Ricky, who notes he considers the leaders and other youth at Youth First Texas to be his family now.

Ricky's plight has become all too common in today's society, which seems to be mostly unaware of the problems. Every year a new generation of ages out of foster care and the juvenile justice system, and an estimated 50 percent wind up homeless within six months because they aren't prepared for independent living.

The nation's estimated 1.7 million homeless and runaway youths come from all socio-economic backgrounds and cultures, and it is estimated that 20 percent of them are LGBT, according to statistics compiled by the National Coalition for the Homeless. In comparison, the number of LGBT youths in the general youth population is estimated at only 10 percent, according to the Washington, D.C.-based group.

"If you are an LGBT youth, you are twice as likely to be homeless as teens in the general population," said Mike Faenza, president and CEO of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. "Anything that causes additional challenges to individuals — stress, stigma, discrimination and other psychological factors — also impact and present barriers to stability within the family."

Faenza noted that all homeless people tend to

become victims of crime at higher rates, but young people who don't have the guidance of concerned adults are especially vulnerable.

"They are exposed to people preying on them and exploiting them," Faenza said. "They come into contact with people offering to help them, but they actually are just using them sexually. There are serious risks to kids who are homeless, and it is escalated for kids that have challenges or are traumatized because they are struggling to come out."

Ricky represents the type of youth that social workers such as Benjamin Williams and Jessica Amspoker want to meet and help before they get involved in self-destructive lifestyles. They are case managers involved in street outreach for Dallas-based Promise House.

Williams and Amspoker hit the streets on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights looking for youth who need help. The pair regularly visits the Cedar Springs entertainment district in Oak Lawn, as well as places like the Greyhound and DART stations in downtown Dallas.

On the streets Williams and Amspoker offer youths protection at Promise House, which provides temporary emergency shelter for young homeless people to help them get back in school, get jobs or even join the military. The social workers travel as a team because the work can be dangerous in that the youths they approach might be under observation by pimps or drug traffickers.

Amspoker said young people who are homeless and need help are difficult to track and approach. Most don't realize there are resources such as Youth First Texas and other homeless assistance programs available to help them, she said.

"Every day is different," Amspoker said. "We're talking about a transient community. It's a lifestyle where they have to stay on the move. Where they are staying last week may not be where they are this week."

Williams said homeless youths are often de-

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coverstory



COUNTING THE KIDS | Mike Faenza, president and CEO of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, said there's never been a good count of the homeless young people in Dallas, but he hopes results from a survey in January will remedy that. (David Webb/Dallas Voice)

YOUTH

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ceptively average looking because they "don't look homeless."

"These young people are still going to want to be presentable and impress people," Williams said. "They understand appearances are everything."

Many still have cell phones because their parents will continue to pay the bills so they can remain in contact with them, Williams said. Curiously, the parents say they are comforted to know their children are "still alive," apparently unmindful of the other hazards of life on the street, he said.

Williams said they make many of their connections with young people by handing out cards with information about Promise House to everyone they see. Older homeless people will sometimes tip them to where they can locate homeless young people, he said.

"We try to build a reputation by being at places at regular times," Williams said. "They eventually learn they can trust us."

Once contact is made with homeless youths, emergency shelter is provided at Promise House if they want it. Sometimes, a homeless youth will call them later to say they have decided to take advantage of the help being offered them.

If the homeless youths are LGBT, Williams and Amspoker will refer them to Youth First Texas for counseling and support.

When a youth enters Promise House, which can temporarily house 20 people ages 10 to 17 and eight people ages 18 to 21 at a time, every individual is first offered a meal and a shower, said Sonja Parkhill, an outreach manager. The staff has worked with a transgender individual more than once who has wanted help finding a place to live, she noted.

"Some of them wind up on the streets again," Parkhill said. "They go to another place, and they

don't make it there and go back on the streets. Sometimes, they call us and ask if they can come back. Unless they've done something that prevents it, they can come back."

One of the resources for homeless young people is the City Square Transition Resource Action Center, or TRAC, which provides transitional housing for homeless people struggling to become stable. In one program, individuals of the same sex who are moving toward employment or full-time schooling are temporarily provided a private bedroom in a three-bedroom apartment and food. In another program the individual is provided with their own one-bedroom apartment for which a Section 8 voucher temporarily pays for a portion of the rent based on their income. The organization also manages a permanent housing program for disabled people.

Jerry Sullivan, assistant director for TRAC, said the organization is a safe place for minorities, including LGBT people. He also noted that the majority of young people becoming homeless appear to be those who are aging out of foster care.

"In the youth we see on a daily basis that identify as LGBT I do think the national statistics play out locally," Sullivan said. "At one point in the last year we noticed that two-thirds of the youth we were serving were LGBT, but that's not always the case."

Sullivan noted he met with Resource Center Dallas officials recently to share information about what resources his organization has available for homeless LGBT youth. Referrals are welcome, he said.

"There's a fair amount of resources," said Sullivan.

Cece Cox, executive director and CEO of Resource Center Dallas, said it's clear that the number of homeless LGBT youth is disproportionate to the general population of youth, and the organization is dedicated to working with TRAC, Promise House, Youth First Texas and Metro Dal-

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- **Promise House**
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- **North Texas Youth Connection**
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las Homeless Alliance to address the issue. More attention needs to be raised about the problem of homelessness among LGBT youth, she said.

Over the years Resource Center Dallas leaders have provided cultural competency training to law enforcement personnel, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents and others who might come into contact with homeless LGBT youth, Cox said. But there needs to be more education about LGBT youth and their increased risks of becoming homeless, she said.

"There hasn't been a voice in the past, and we're bringing that issue to the table," Cox said. "If Dallas is addressing homelessness, they certainly need to include the issue of LGBT youth."

Faenza, of Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, said there has never before been a good count of the homeless young people in Dallas, but he hopes the one that occurred in late January will remedy that. The documentation is needed to get more resources dedicated to young people, he said.

"We're trying to develop political will," said Faenza, who has been involved in social work for more than three decades. "We need to do more for kids."

Faenza said there are many ways that the LGBT community can get involved in helping homeless LGBT youth. Anyone who is aware of a homeless LGBT youth should refer them to any of the agencies working with homeless youths.

People can also get involved by becoming educated about the issue and volunteering to help with advocacy, Faenza said. Speakers are available to attend gatherings such as small receptions to discuss the issue, he said.

For people who have the room and time to give, temporary housing is also needed for youths, Faenza said.

"We need help," Faenza said. "We need people to get involved. That would be wonderful, and there is a world of things that can be done. We would love to talk with anyone who is interested in helping." ■

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Sex abuse becomes an epidemic

LGBT people no more likely than heterosexuals to be perpetrators, but all organizations should take precautions to protect youth

The seemingly never-ending reports of lawsuits and criminal complaints being filed by people alleging they were sexually molested by members of the clergy might make one wonder if directing worship is, or ever was, the main objective of those seeking ordainment.

Since my youth I've heard people grumble that the pastors, priests, rabbis and others calling the faithful to their churches on Sunday mornings were interested primarily in personal glory and how much cash they could raise from their flocks, but I never heard anything about them expecting a donation of flesh as well. That is, I never heard about it until the mid-1980s when the scandals involving Catholic priests sexually abusing male youths began surfacing.

When the media first began covering the scandal I imagine the reaction of most people was that a few cases would surface, and that would be the end of it. Who would have ever dreamed that 25 years later the scandal would have grown to epidemic proportions and spread worldwide to other religions and institutions as well?

Just recently after reporting about a pastor who was the subject of a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a church member, I heard from the executive director of an organization of which I knew nothing. The organization, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP (snapnetwork.org), was founded 23 years ago, and it now boasts 10,000 members around the globe.

David Clohessy, who has led the St. Louis, Mo.-based group for more than two decades, said it has expanded far beyond its original mission of providing support to people who were sexually abused by Catholic priests.

"Despite the word priest in our title, we have members who were molested by religious figures of all denominations, including nuns, rabbis, bishops and Protestant ministers," Clohessy said in his e-mail to me. "And in recent years, we've heard from and helped many who were hurt in other institutional settings such as athletic programs, schools, camps, day care centers, etc."

The scope of what he is talking about is mind-boggling, but a quick review of the news headlines covering only the past year or so confirms what he is saying. There is an epidemic of sexual abuse of young people under way in almost every walk of life they might encounter.

Male-on-male sexual abuse seems to stand out more in my mind in connection with the problem, but another scan of the headlines reminds me of the many cases of female high school teachers accused of seducing male students and



HELPING THE VICTIMS | David Clohessy, right, executive director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, appears at a press conference in Vermont in 2007 alongside a victim who didn't want to be identified. Clohessy said the St. Louis-based SNAP, which began 23 years ago, now has 10,000 members around the globe. (Associated Press)

male teachers seducing female students.

Obviously, the problem is universal. SNAP notes on its website that half of its members are women.

The SNAP literature maintains that "homosexuals are no more likely to be pedophiles than are heterosexuals." It explains that reports of boys being molested are more prevalent because men tend to express their anger outwardly as in litigation, whereas women are more likely to direct it inward. It adds that women are more likely to resolve their pain through therapy and support groups, and that male-on-male sex is more salacious and more likely to attract attention.

Whatever the nature of the revelations, it is clear that all young people are at risk of being sexually abused in some area of their lives. Unfortunately, their relationships with members of the clergy, school teachers, caregivers and all other people with whom they come into contact must be closely monitored by parents.

It's a world of worry that is hard to fathom based on my own childhood experiences. I never had a teacher, a Sunday School instructor or any-

one else charged with my care ever make any sort of inappropriate move on me, but it's been 50 years since I was a child. A friend of mine with whom I grew up assures me that neither he nor his brother ever experienced anything inappropriate at his Catholic Church. It was just unheard of at the time, but that could be attributed to a reluctance of victims to come forward.

A pastor I spoke with recently told me that his church had already taken steps to ensure that no employee or volunteer of the church has private access to children or other church members. All of the offices will have windows in the future, he said. Other steps will also be taken to make sure everyone behaves as they should, he said.

Those are pretty drastic steps, but it would probably be a good idea for all organizations to implement such precautions in light of what we now know about sexual abuse and harassment. It appears this unfortunately is the way all organizations need to be run today.

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has covered LGBT issues for the mainstream and alternative media for three decades. He can be e-mailed at david-waynewebb@hotmail.com.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

St. Luke belongs on list of gay-affirming Methodist churches

Article on lawsuit raises questions about whether predominantly African-American congregations are subject to different standards

Editor's Note: The number of gay-affirming Methodist churches in our Feb. 10 article was based on an online database maintained by GayChurch.org.

In a Feb. 10 article in Dallas Voice describing a lawsuit filed against the St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church and our recently resigned senior pastor, Tyrone Gordon, contributing writer David Webb distinguished St. Luke from the "six gay-affirming Methodist churches in the Dallas area" and stated that the "congregation includes some LGBT members."

Although Webb's statements were an attempt to illustrate St. Luke as gay accessible, his comments unintentionally reduced the congregation's track record of fighting for human rights, social justice and inclusion.

As a member of St. Luke for nearly six years and as an active member of the LGBT community, this causes me to question the required ac-

tions needed in order to deem a church "gay affirming" — especially in light of St. Luke's efforts not only for the liberation of its gay members, but for all sexual minorities within the state of Texas.

A core value of the St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church is to be an advocate and a prophetic voice in the community for all oppressed peoples. Although the membership is largely African American and heterosexual, homosexuals are included in the churches understanding of "Community."

In my opinion, St. Luke has not only served as a place for spiritual development, but also as a safe haven for members of the African-American LGBT community.

It was not uncommon for Pastor Gordon to clarify God's inclusion of gays in his lineage within his sermons. Gordon has preached sermons where he stated, "Gay or straight, you're a child of God," and, "The church needs gay fish and straight fish." Gordon even facilitated the removal of a member of the St. Luke ministerial team a few years ago when she preached a very homophobic sermon. But these statements of gay

Christian identity and affirmation and creating a safe space for sexual minorities didn't start with Pastor Gordon.

His predecessor, Pastor Zan Wesley Holmes, described by Webb as a "a respected civil rights leader," was also known to preach of and create an environment of inclusion. Additionally, Pastor Holmes was an avid supporter of the passage of hate crimes legislation in Texas, a position that he has stated he took not only because of the crimes committed against racial minorities but also because of those committed because of one's sexual identity. Holmes' support and work with State Rep. Helen Giddings, a St. Luke member, led to the church being vandalized in 2001.

The St. Luke church, under the leadership of Pastor Holmes, was also a forerunner against the fight of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Dallas. As an early responder, the church created care teams to provide aid and services to people living with HIV and AIDS and made it a point not to discriminate against the gay men who were disproportionately affected by the epidemic.



Harold Steward
Contributing Columnist



And this list does not include the very personal actions that Pastors Holmes and Gordon have taken to provide pastoral care to St. Luke's LGBT membership, myself included.

Since the only requirement detailed for something to be considered "gay affirming" is to affirm gays, I wonder how only six local United Methodist Churches acquired that designation — or are there other requirements needed in order to gain membership into the sisterhood? And are the inclusionary practices of St. Luke not a valid source of gay affirmation?

But more importantly, who gets to decide what levels of affirmation are needed even for consideration and are African American's and other people of color left out of that conversation? Surely that has been the case on other issues related to the wants and needs of the overall gay community, such as things like marriage equality.

For me, my spirituality is based on my individual relationship with my higher power and in that same vein, I believe individuals determined how their spiritual institutes affirm them based on individual desire and need and multiple local United Methodist institutes (more than six) can potentially offer that. But if the very well documented gay affirming actions of the St. Luke "Community" United Church does not position it to be a source of affirmation for sexual minorities, then we are working off of a broken metric system — and it is our work to create an evaluation and reworking of that structure.

The St. Luke Community United Methodist Church has and continues to be a prophetic voice for all oppressed people. That is partially the reason many gay notables such as Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas, continue to call it their church home. And every Sunday when we proclaim through song that "we are the church that reaches up to God and out to everyone," take it from me, gays are included. ■

Harold Steward is artistic director of Fahari Arts Institute and editor in chief of BlaqOut Dallas. He can be contacted at info@blaqoutdallas.com.

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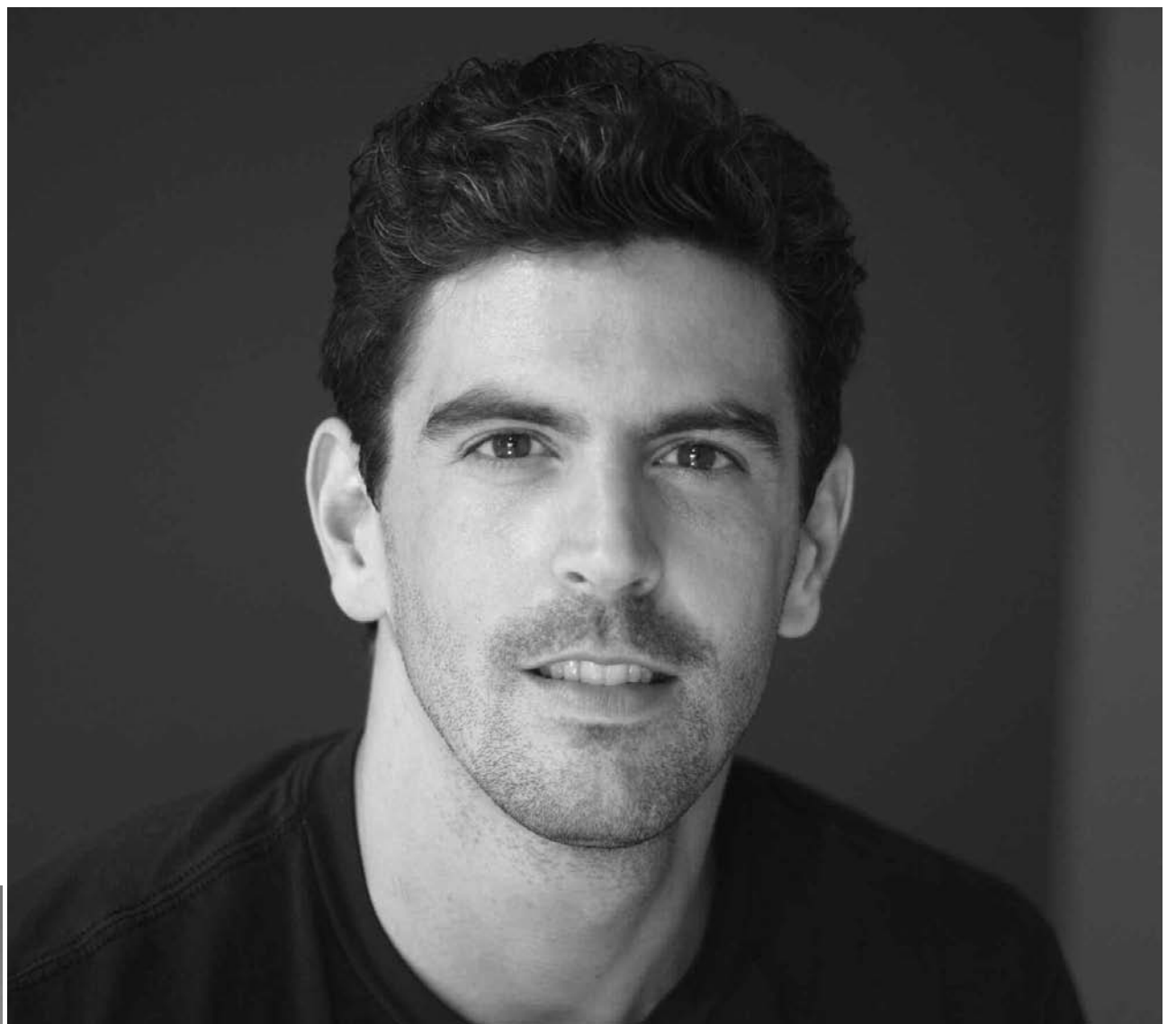
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Mason, ajar

Gay novelist **Richard Mason** likes doing things the hard way



CLARK KENT OR SUPERMAN? | Despite techno aspects of his new novel that include an upcoming smartphone app, Richard Mason wrote 'History of a Pleasure Seeker' in longhand. (Photo courtesy Michael Lionstar)

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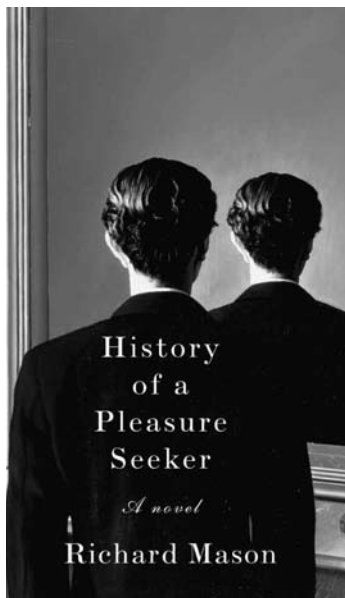
The charm that novelist Richard Mason exudes is undeniable. Words fall from his South African accent crisply, enunciated to perfection even as he talks rapidly. Rarely at a loss for words, ideas seem to flow in his head at a river's pace and while he brushed on myriad topics, including his just-released fourth novel, *History of a Pleasure Seeker*, and his plans for his already-plotted next book. Yeah, he's that guy — the over-achiever we all want to be.

But Mason's personable aura instead makes you root for him. And it's refreshing to know the handsome gay writer isn't Superman ... despite an unavoidable resemblance to Clark Kent.

"Well, it is hard to juggle while doing this and researching a new book," he admits. "You really got to keep on putting creative energy to the new book, but then I struggle to read whatever everyone else thinks and do these sorts of interviews. Both are distracting."

Mason was 18 when his first novel, *The Drowning People*, was published during his first year at Oxford. Rave reviews and bestseller lists cemented his place in pop-lit, so he took his time with his follow-up, 2005's *Us*, which continued his winning streak.

Mason's complexities may lie in his being bipolar; his heart is set on the memory of his sister Kay, who died when he was a child. With that and an exposed life to arts and literature across Europe, Mason has created a universe of characters in his rich, sophisticated novels.



this constellation of novels in that you could read my first six books in any order," he says. "This character demanded a book of his own. I made him Dutch, because I wanted to write about Holland."

Mason is glad to have an audience, though on his Twitter feed, he confessed disappointment that people weren't getting the true point of the book. "So far no one has noticed that *History of a Pleasure Seeker* is a story about God," he tweeted, and not just the tale of a social-climbing Dutch boy. Mason makes the strong point that to create a fictional world without the notion of God or spirituality, a chief element of humanity would be missing.

"Every character relates to God quite strongly, they've made pacts with God," he says. "Nobody seems to notice that. They think it's about sex. You can't create a fully dimensional charac-

ter without talking about their spiritual life, but it's the same about talking their erotic experiences. All that is what it means to be human." Mason moved to New York City in 2010 with his partner of 12 years. The demands of the city didn't offer him much quiet time to write, but at the same time, he thrives in the artistic atmosphere and excites over the endless collaborative possibilities. He says the jury is still out on his living there because he finds himself yearning for his tent in South Africa, where he did research.

"I really want to create

an unambiguous world, but with a computer, you never see the architecture of the text," he says. "The app came about having spent a year in that tent. The way I write has real buildings, things to see and hear. When you're reading where Piet says goodbye, a man playing music in the back. You can set the level of your own imaginable engagement to the book. I think it's an inspired

new way of telling a story and I got to work with terrific artists to make it exciting." Mason doesn't write gay books *per se*, but he applies his same philosophy to queer characters as he does the notion of God. "It's important to give the exposure of gay characters," he explains. "Once you've written a number of novels, you can't create a world without them. There is a more profound truth from that now. I don't know how you can avoid writing about gay experience."

For an international, jet-setting author, Mason leads a very normal-sounding life. He and his partner recently celebrated their 12-year anniversary but they don't "do" Valentine's Day. He complains about the emails he has to trim down which is an ongoing saga on his Twitter feed and he's prefers a healthy and Zen way of life over "the raunchy gay scene" of New York as the London Evening Standard described in an interview with Mason last year. He cleverly responded, "You can throw yourself into a life of debauched hedonism or you can live a sober life of self-improvement, meditation, personal trainers and 12-step programs. I'm trying to stick to the second, with just a little bit of the first for fun."

But first he has to concentrate on his next novel.

RICHARD MASON

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Go with the flow



Yoga instructor Petri Brill strikes a pose at her studio YogaSport, which provides beginners' classes for the uninitiated. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Trying yoga for the first time can be an intimidating experience. But that misses the point of this ancient practice that combines stretching, breath ... and peace

JEFTINGLEY | Contributing Writer

Some do it for their mind, some do it for their body, some do it for both. But all yoga students have one thing in common: Making the first step and taking up the practice. And while this age-old combination of stretching and breathing is meant to calm the mind and strengthen the muscles, a maiden voyage into a posterior-lifting position like downward-facing dog in a room full of strangers can send one's heart racing. But that doesn't have to be the case.

"People new to yoga should remember that everyone in class was a beginner at one point," says Petri Brill, manager of YogaSport Dallas on Lemmon Avenue. "Yoga is a journey, not a destination. There is no perfect practice or perfect yogi or perfect yoga body. I think people worry about they'll look [or] feel foolish in their first down-dog [and] that they'll be judged. Our [yoga] community is diverse, encouraging and accepting: no judgment here!"

Mary Pierce Armstrong, who teaches at MarYoga, agrees that you should always look inward. "Yoga will come to meet you no matter where you are starting from. As long as you take the breath and the breaks you need, you will be doing awesome."

For Wendy Moore, a 44-year-old yoga newbie, has taken these words of wisdom to the mat — literally. Moore recently completed her second MarYoga class as part of her new year regime. Any inhibitions she had about the experience were dispelled during her first visit.

"[I was] concerned about my general lack of bendy-ness, and not knowing where to put what arm and leg," she says, "but if you look around you will figure out where your limbs are supposed to be by what others are doing." Moore has continued to work on poses between classes with some slight variations mimicked by "what her cats are able to do."

Keith Murray, a 37-year-old registered nurse, tried yoga for the first time more than eight years ago and was immediately hooked. He was taking classes three times a week before long. "I was a little intimidated about the whole thing at first," he says, "but after my first couple of sessions my intimidation grew into excitement."

A busy work schedule has kept Murray from his regular routine over the years, but he is trying to change that. "I still maintain a crazy life and work routine, but building yoga back into my life has really helped me to find balance again."

According to yoga teacher Jennifer Lawson of SYNC Yoga & Wellbeing, it's not just busy schedules and bundled nerves that keep people from the practice of yoga; it's also our cultural fixation on success. "There tends to be so much emphasis on achievement and perfection that many of us are becoming accustomed to playing it safe in order to avoid the possibility of shame."

Lawson recommends coming together as a group in a class with experienced and inexperienced yogis to create an environment that emphasizes the experience and process of yoga and not the destination or end result.

For Anisha Mandol, a 42-year-old business development manager who has been practicing yoga for about two years, these words ring true. "Once you understand your expectation from practicing, no one else's matters. The benefits of yoga are fluid and dynamic, and each person has their own unique experience. Own yours," she says.

And so it would seem that just as the journey of a million miles begins with one step, the journey toward a yoga-filled life begins with a single stretch on the mat (and maybe a little Namaste for good measure).

SAY NAMASTE: WHERE TO GET YOUR YOGA FIX

Options are plentiful for the budding yogi looking for a class. Get your stretch on at these studios in and around the gayborhood. You can also find information on their class offerings and schedules on their websites.

Yoga Sport Dallas
4140 Lemmon Ave, Suite 280
214-520-YOGA
YogaSportDallas.com

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Dynamic duo

Couple Jennifer Pickert and Kara Robinson pursue fitness goals together and apart



In most relationships, uttering phrases like “take a hike” or “just walk out that door” would be a telltale sign of discord. But for couple Kara Robinson and Jennifer Pickert, it’s a term of endearment. And while they

may have separate workout routines, they come together to chat and cheer each other on and occasionally to show some true *love* on the tennis court.

— *Jef Tingley*

Names and ages: Kara Robinson, 46, and Jennifer Pickert, 39.

Occupations: Robinson: editor; Pickert, consultant

Length of relationship: 12 years

Sports & activities you participate in: Tennis, walking, hiking, yoga, circuit training and riding bikes.

Exercise regimen: Robinson: I run three times per week, walk two times, and I take a yoga class two times a week (plus I do a little bit everyday on my own).

Pickert: I’m doing a self-designed circuit workout at home three or four times a week. It includes kettle bells, free weights, core exercises and cardio. I also play tennis at least once a week and ride my bike. Soon, I will be adding in hiking.

Fitness resolutions for 2012: Robinson: I want to lose 15 pounds this year. I’ve lost three in January, but not having the usual holiday meals and treats around has made that pretty easy.

Upcoming fitness goals: Robinson: I would like to run a 10K in March and a half-marathon in November.

Pickert: We are going to Colorado this summer, and I want to be able to do some challenging hikes. All the exercising I’m doing right now is about being ready to meet that challenge.

Greatest athletic achievement: Robinson: I finished the White Rock Marathon in 2009.

Pickert: In 2010, I walked in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day. I didn’t want to be the one to slow my team down, so I really dedicated myself to the training. Having a team that was counting on me and establishing a fitness routine that helped achieve my goal was really an amazing experience. The 3-Day itself felt like a celebration of all the training and work that went into being able to accomplish it.

Workout: mornings or evenings? Pickert: Mornings, without exception. If I don’t work out before 8 a.m. it’s not going to happen.

Ways you stay fit or workout together: Robinson: We play tennis and like to go kayaking and hiking. We don’t work out much together because of our schedules and our preferences. But we definitely support each other and celebrate our accomplishments together.

Pickert: We play tennis, and we enjoy taking long walks together. But more than that, we encourage each other to take whatever time necessary to do the things we enjoy doing to keep fit. Kara loves to run and do yoga, and I would much rather play basketball or go bike riding.

How do you motivate yourself to workout? Pickert: I set a significant goal, and I know that exercising is going to enable me to achieve that goal. Also, I have to have other people involved. When I trained for the 3-Day, my friend met me at the corner down the street every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 a.m. to walk with me. Knowing that she was going to be there, and that she was depending on me to be there just as much I was depending on her, made getting up at 5:30 a.m. super easy.

And words of advice for people trying to work fitness into their life? Robinson: I totally empathize with people who believe they are too busy to workout. I felt that way in 2010, which was the most stressful year ever. I didn’t workout because, with everything that was going on, I couldn’t justify spending an hour at the gym or going for a run. I wish now that I hadn’t bought in to this way of thinking, and instead just made even a little bit of time to go for a walk or do something physical. But now I know that exercise is a gift you give yourself, and you’re the last person you should be stingy with.

How does your partner motivate you to workout? Robinson: Witnessing all the preparation and dedication she put into [the 60-mile 3-Day] and seeing her finish all three days of the event and seeing how happy she was snapped me out of my 2010 fitness funk.

Pickert: Kara sets a great example. In 2009, she ran a marathon, and I so admired her dedication and determination each and every day as she trained for the race. Seeing her cross the finish line and the joy she had in her accomplishment made me want to achieve more for myself in regard to fitness. It made me realize I need a significant goal to keep myself motivated.

Favorite healthy/low-cal snack? Pickert: Pickles totally satisfy that salty, crunchy craving.

Favorite song or play list for workout? Robinson: These three wind up on just about any playlist I make: Lupe Fiasco, the Roots and Mary J. Blige.

Pickert: Barbara Streisand singing “Don’t Rain on My Parade” is my anthem. That song makes me want to conquer the world. Silly? Perhaps. But true nonetheless. (Kara is going to tell you her favorite singer to work out to is Lupe Fiasco, but the truth is, it’s Liza Minnelli.)

If you could become an Olympian in any sport, what would it be and why? Robinson: Fencing. The outfits are fantastic, and there is no ball to catch or throw.

Which celebrity or athlete’s physique would you like to have and why? Robinson: She’s not really a celebrity, but I’d love to have a physique like Michelle Obama. Every time I see her in a sleeveless dress, it makes me want to do more push-ups.

Though Pickert and Robinson have different fitness interests — basketball versus tennis, for example — they motivate each other to do more. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)



Feet don't fail

Recently all but dead, Lin Wang helped Frontrunners catch its second wind

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer

When Lin Wang came to Dallas and thought about joining the DFW Frontrunners, he encountered a fizzled-out band of running enthusiasts with an expired website.

"I found an email to an old contact, but no one answered," Wang says. "Then I learned from someone that it died out a few years ago."

But Wang's enthusiasm is infectious, and his spirit has helped bring the group back to life.

Frontrunners isn't just a Dallas thing — it's an international affiliation of LGBT running and walking clubs that first began 28 years ago in San Francisco. Wang had been an active member of both the Pittsburgh and New York City chapters, so when he moved to Dallas in the summer of 2010, he was surprised to find that in a city of its size, the group basically didn't exist.

"I don't know why it went away," he says. "With all the other sports groups, there is such a demand for athletics in this large LGBT community."

So he started the rebuilding.

DFW Frontrunners had been so out-of-date that the international association told him to just register the group as "new." With the help of Julio Chong, the group changed its meeting place from White Rock Lake on Saturday mornings to a more central spot in Lee Park. For the group to succeed, Wang felt it needed to be closer in the 'hood.

"Julio and I did this together," Wang says. "We started small, but the biggest group we've had is about 15 members and we now have close to 20 active members."

Wang recalls the decisions to have the first group meeting last June.

■ FEET, Next Page

DFW Frontrunners members Steven, left, and Kevin, right, set the pace with new members like Moe, center, to powerwalk for fitness with the group when they meet every Saturday morning to hit the Katy Trail.

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"It was a horrible time to begin because of the summer," he laughs, recalling the sweltering heat of 2011's record-breaking season. "But we had to prove this was not a dead organization. We welcome anyone who wants to join us."

With a diverse group including some straight members, Frontrunners meets at the Robert E. Lee statue and then proceeds to the Katy Trail. Groups can then walk or run in their preferred direction, eventually meeting back at the statue. Then it's off to breakfast.

Like any gay sports organization, Frontrunners also pushes the socializing aspect of a club. Fellowship is a booster among those working on their fitness levels. Local activist Latisha McDaniel has met some of her personal goals as a member along with broadening her circle of friends.

"[Frontrunners has] been a great experience and has really increased my love of running," she says. "It has given me a new jump start and a good way to meet new people."

McDaniel even improved her fitness level. She started with the walking group, but has graduated to running and even surprised herself with her abilities.

"I've participated in two races since joining and about to run in another one," she says. "I did a few races in college but haven't really done anything since moving to Dallas."

"We're not gonna scare people away who like walking," Wang adds. "We always make sure one person walks so others feel

fine to join in."

Wang intends for Frontrunners to be much more than the weekly meetup. He's used Facebook and Twitter to get the word out on the group and to entice online members to join them in person. He has had the group participate as volunteers for the White Rock Marathon as a water station team and expect to repeat that this year. He also wants to push the group into hosting Dallas' first Pride race.

"We're focusing hard on doing the first-ever event," he says. "St. Louis has one and we think that it could be an integral part of our Pride festival. It would be a different way to have and witness a different Pride involvement. And we'd like to tie it in to an organization and the race can be a viable fundraiser."

Although Wang would like to accomplish all this in 2012, it's more realistic to expect everything in place by Dallas Pride 2013. In the meantime, the group hopes to expand membership and enjoy the health and fellowship that accompanies it. And for now, you can join *without* paying membership dues.

"We're in the process of becoming a non-profit and so we may have to charge in the future," he admits. "but we expect it would be very minimal. We don't want to push anyone away." The only running away he wants to see is on the trail.

For more information, visit [Frontrunners Dallas.org](http://FrontrunnersDallas.org) or meet up with them Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. under the statue at Lee Park.

IF THE SHOE FITS

The innovations in these shoes strike the right balance for walkers and runners of all types. They sound like cars with multi-systems interplayed in their designs, but the results can be a dynamic fit providing the most comfort. And they look cool too. All are available at major sports apparel retailers.



ASICS Gel-Tech Walker Neo 2



shock for a smoother run. An inner sleeve bootie covers the foot complementing the hugging heel wrap. The Flywire panel supports the midfoot as does the stabilizing arch. Retails from \$90-\$125.

Adidas AdiPure Trainer Shoes

Adidas jumps into the five-toe shoe fray with its AdiPure line that keeps this shoe to simple mechanics. The stretch upper gives a flexible fit while the sole's durable rubber gives extra protection on rougher terrains and traction for all surfaces. The toe sleeves allow the foot to move in its natural motion putting all toes to work. Retails for \$90.

With an improved cushioning system and heel plug, ASICS walking shoe standard just upped its game. Memory foam molds to the heel for a personalized fit and the Trusstic System keeps the weight of the shoe low, without any structural breakdown. ASICS even configured the lacing to be anatomically correct to deter from any irritation. The Impact Guidance System helps maintain a natural gait. They even threw in reflective detailing for low-light or nighttime walking. Retails for \$100.



Nike Air Pegasus+ 28

Runners can find notable support in this Nike revamped running shoe. The shoe's structure and cushion works for those slight under- and over-pronation strides. The Zoom heel unit offers responsive cushioning and a crash pad absorbs



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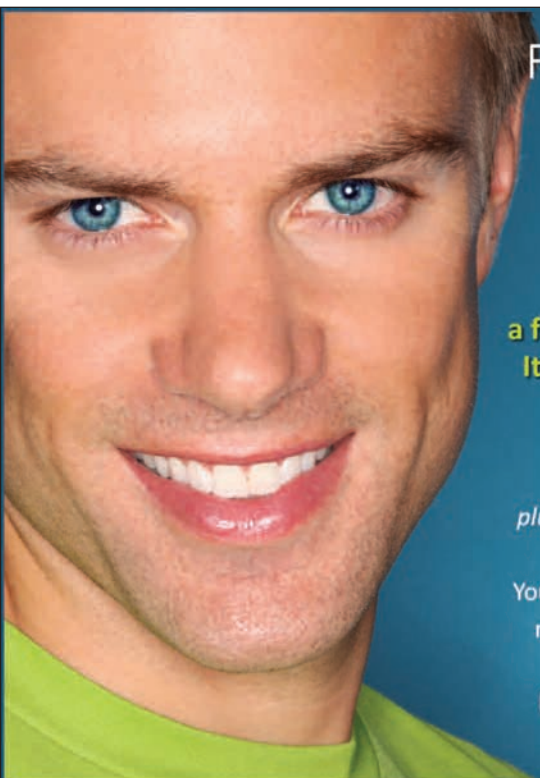


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No fangs needed



Advanced Skin Fitness takes a cue from vampires to give patients a youthful look

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer

Horrified by your wrinkles and other signs of ageing? It's a fact of life that simply sucks. But there's a revolutionary procedure that takes cues from those mythic bloodsuckers to achieve remarkable results. It's called the Vampire FaceLift, and it's one of the most popular of a suite of age-defying procedures available at gay-owned Advanced Skin Fitness.

ASF owner William A. Moore says patients are amazed by the outcome of the frighteningly named procedure. And they don't have to sleep in coffins, wear SPF 35,000 sunscreen or avoid garlic festivals to enjoy the benefits.

The name derives because the process utilizes a patient's own blood.

"Stem cell science is used to tell the body to grow new, younger skin," Moore says. "Unipotent stem cells, which grow only one specific tissue, can be found in every part of the body. For example, unipotent stem cells in the liver grow new liver tissue; the same cells in the skin grow new skin. The procedure takes cosmetic rejuvenation to a higher level."

It all starts with a hyaluronic acid filler (like Juvederm) to begin sculpting specific areas of the face.

The before (top) and after (below) photos of the Vampire FaceLift procedure show remarkable results, though the technology used to create it sounds like something out of science fiction.

"The filler acts like a sponge, holding water in the face providing a basic shape," Moore says. "This initial injection of the acid is the precursor to the desired form." Next comes the polishing and refining step of the sculpting process, "which contributes to the appearance of a younger version of you."

Moore adds that within minutes, the clinician creates autologous Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) to activate your own stem cells. (Vocabulary lesson for today: autologous means utilizing something from your own body.)

The three-step process is quite simple. A small amount of blood is drawn and then placed in one of those cool CSI crime-labby centrifuges to spin the blood and separate the platelets from the other components of the blood. Finally, the platelets are activated to produce your very own platelet-rich plasma. The PRP is injected into the desired areas (typically around the eyes, nasolabial folds, chin and cheeks) and just like a scab turns into skin over time, this process works to rejuvenate the treatment zones.

It takes four to six weeks to completely see the benefits of PRP injections, but according to Moore, there is also some instant gratification from the procedure.

There's a way to maximize the results of the non-surgical Vampire FaceLift through a procedure Moore created, called iReVival. The treatments together work well for someone with a loss of volume in the cheeks and face.

The exclusive procedure will be introduced to other skin care clinics in March because of its popularity and visible results. It combines CO2 laser resurfacing with the same PRP and unipotent stem cells.

"First, we treat the skin with CO2 laser to create microscopic wounds. When these wounds heal, they naturally build new collagen and firm and smooth the texture of the skin. Afterward, the PRP is applied topically to speed up the healing process and injected into problematic areas as with the Vampire FaceLift," Moore says. "PRP combined with microscopic wounds dramatically decreases fine lines, firms and tightens the areas around the eyes, evens out acne scars, eliminates sun damage, and brightens and enhances the color of the skin."

Both these treatments are ideal for patients over the age of 35 because everyone stops producing collagen around that age. Acne scar patients or anyone suffering from premature aging due to excessive sun exposure or cigarette smoking can also benefit. (The Vampire FaceLift

GETTING RAW — WITH YOUR FACE



What could be better than playing safe *and* going raw? And you don't even need to be in a relationship to do it.

Dallas-based cosmetics company **Raw for Men** produces a skin care line targeted at those among the population with tougher hides that still require a little pampering. And that has gay men written all over it.

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The Blue Agave Wash is an excellent start, a eucalyptus-y, aromatic scrub that energizes and even helps wake you up, while using the healing strength of agave (it's nice when tequila makes you feel better, not worse) to tingle the skin. (\$10/1 oz.; \$26/4 oz.)

Follow that up with a Stone Power toning rinse (\$8/\$24) which hydrates without being astringent. Cap your routine with the Daytime Cream (\$15/one-half oz.; \$32/1.7 oz.), which protects from sunline and fortifies.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

has virtually no downtime, but the iReVival requires about a week.)

Should you or someone you know need improvement further below the neck, Platelet Rich Plasma can also be used for rejuvenation and enlargement of the penis. Or as the vampires call it, raising the dead.

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Vampire FaceLift cost \$1,299; iReVival costs \$1,499.

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Part(y)ing shot

A little needle work can turn a dull soiree into a face-saving event

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer

How's this for a Saturday evening: You head to a friend's soiree, pick through the nibbly, grab a cocktail and then have someone stab a needle into your face.

That may not sound like your typical fun weekend get-together, but if there can be parties that peddle jewelry or give away swag bags, why not one that leaves you looking a little refreshed — even if it is with a shot?

Dr. John Proffitt and his team at Oak Lawn Dermatology have begun offering this new service, mixing a little bit of pain with a

lot of pleasure.

As a glorified house call, it's a chance to both *do* shots and *get* shots. Proffitt will come to your home with units of Xeomin (similar to Botox) and gladly inject those interested with a little touch-up around the eyes. He's found the domestic setting, while fun like any party, also has therapeutic advantages.

"The atmosphere is very relaxed and people can get to know me better," Proffitt says. "They can get comfortable if they are hesitant, and can see their friends do it. The procedure is simple and my syringes are tiny. Usually people have had it done before at these parties."

The idea for in-home transformations came to Proffitt when a patient was impressed with his results and thought his friends would be interested in getting the procedure. Instead of convincing them one at a time to make appointments, his client had a party with Xeomin on the menu.

"It was like any typical party. I brought food," Proffitt says. "Usually I'll give a talk before to explain everything and people get interested and watch others before them."

So you want to have your own party? There's nothing to it other than giving his office a call. Well that and shopping for liquor and hors d'oeuvres.

"All anyone has to do is just call our office. We'll talk about it and make the arrangements," he says. "We talk about prices for the injection units and even a reduction for groups."

His parties are also smart P.R.

He's won new clients from home parties and the firm hosts get-togethers at the office. For a firm that has only been present in the community for just over eight months, Proffitt knows how to make an impression — even if it is putting a needle in your face.

For more information, call 214-526-8100 or visit OakLawnDermatology.com.



Dermatologist John Proffitt, above, has begun offering Xeomin treatments in a more festive fashion. Injections are less stressful in a comfortable, fun atmosphere — and he even brings munchies.



learn more...

Turn to the *Classy+Body* section on page 48 for bonus tips on skin care for men.

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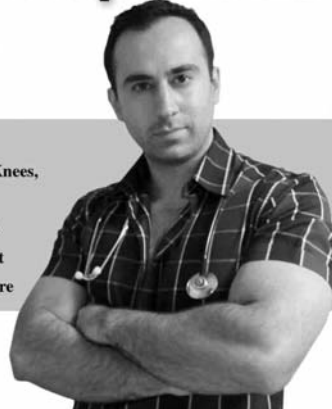
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Dallas is awash in places for fitness-conscious gay men to build muscles ... and show off a little

There's not a loss for gyms around the Oak Lawn neighborhood. Several fitness centers dot the healthy landscape from Uptown to Downtown and several in between. This is a list of health clubs that are among the favorites for the LGBT community.

— Rich Lopez

Club Dallas

Exclusively serving gay men for more than 30 years, this institution actually has one of the largest gyms in the city, and is open 24 hours, 365 days a year.

2616 Swiss Ave
214-821-1990
TheClubs.com

Diesel Fitness

Located on the third floor of the Centrum, it's right in the heart of the gayborhood.

3102 Oak Lawn #300
214-219-6400
DieselFitness214.com

Energy Fitness

This recent gym has gained a reputation for affordable memberships and solid service right in the West Village.

2901 Cityplace West Blvd.
214-219-1900
UptownEnergyFitness.com.

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214-443-9009
Equinox.com



The LA Fitness by Love Field has been a favorite for the community with its convenience to the Oak Lawn area and an impressive list of amenities and classes. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

Gold's Gym

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2425 McKinney Avenue
214-306-9000
GoldsGym.com

LA Fitness

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24HourFitness.com



Energy Fitness joins an already bustling roster of gyms in the Uptown area. Located in the West Village, this gym has garnered praise for its no-nonsense approach and competitive membership fees.



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Nissan's modern-family-friendly Quest: Finally a minivan that's (almost) cool

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
 crwauto@aol.com

Whenever my partner and I watch *Modern Family*, we see too much of ourselves in Mitchell and Cam's relationship. We debate which of us most resembles the characters — my partner would be the one to present our baby as *The Lion King*, and I can completely queen out over something trivial. However, it's another star of the show that would be welcomed by double daddies.

Nissan's product placement of the all-new Quest mini-van was *uber-smart*. Although driven by Claire in the show, it's easy to imagine two dads and their adopted offspring heading off to a fabulous vacation in that sleek bus. The streamlined toaster's distinguished wrap-around rear glass sits atop creased bodysides, 18-in. alloys and a chrome grille that could part wind for an Infiniti or two flaming queens.

As big as the Quest is — and it is huge — it comes off as a much smaller vehicle until you creep upon it.

Nobody thinks minivans are cool nowadays ... not that they ever did. But the joy of owning one sneaks up on you. The Quest's interior is absolutely dance-club spacious with seating enough for seven. If little ones are in your future, six of your nearest and dearest friends will love going anywhere with you. Point the nose in any direction and slide aboard.

Friends slip through the power sliding rear doors, open either of the dual sunroofs (rear riders get their own), and climate control their individual zones. You could throw Manny in the

back and never hear his adolescent pontifications again. Front passengers have heated seats and ride in thrones that smell like cow butter and are more luxurious than those in a Gulfstream jet; rear seats fold flat to throw in bicycles, a Nelson credenza or enough regalia for a production of *La Boheme*.

Play a CD of the opera through the van's 13-speaker Bose audio system, recline your seat and pretend you're there. Or put in a DVD to see it on the roof-mounted flatscreen. In-dash navigation, rear camera, blind spot warning system, Bluetooth phone connections, USB input for MP3 players and XM Satellite Radio bring you back to the current time with a full suite of toys.

My sister, who has three kids, was impressed with the Quest. Under the rear floor is a deep well to store valuables out of sight. Wide pockets in the doors are big enough for baby gear and have places to hold water bottles. Consoles between the front and middle-row seats hold drinks, iPads or anything else a modern family carries. If you can carry it, this van will haul it.

When Claire needs to make a quick get-away from another awkward situation, they'll throttle down on the standard 260hp 3.5-liter DOHC V6 engine, connected to the front wheels through a continuously variable transmission (CVT). Most CVTs reel up and down their gear ratios maintaining a shrill somewhere between a Weed Eater and a screaming cat. Not so the Quest's. It's quiet, smooth and enables excellent 19/24-MPG city/hwy. ratings — not bad for a 4,500-lb.

LIVE LIKE A DUNPHEY | Driver's seat styling doesn't take a backseat in the Quest LE ... though the backseat, with built-in DVD player, may be too good for the kids. (Photo courtesy Nissan)



truck. "Quiet" describes the overall experience.

Large mirrors are separated from the body to minimize wind noise as the aero body slips through air without causing a stir. The chassis absorbs bumps without drama, steering is tight and power is always at the ready. Cruising beyond 80mph was easy. I even took down a pickup truck on a hilly two-lane. Four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes, electronic brake force distribution, brake assist, and electronic stability control quiets the mind's fears.

Like Jay and Gloria's house on *Modern Family*, the overall sense of the Quest is understated quality. The seats feel and smell like they could be in a Bentley, padded materials cover even the rear doors, the leather-wrapped steering wheel

feels expensive, and the woodgrain and silver finishes on the center dashboard are nicely styled. My partner and I found ourselves really enjoying a long drive, ready to head out into the

vastness of America to find ourselves again, knowing full-well at any time we could stop, flip the seats, and find ourselves finding ourselves.

As everything about the Quest is tech-laden and high quality, it comes with a price tag that only a loaded modernist can afford.

Base prices start at \$27,750, but our well-equipped test model came to \$43,715. Still, you won't find a luxury SUV so well equipped with half the interior space for less. Minivans aren't cool, but the Quest is a fab choice for any alternative family.

'12 QUEST LE

Nissan. 260 horsepower, 3.5 liter V6 19/24-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$43,715.

DRIVE-BY TASTING: Carl's Jr.

I'm not ashamed to admit to being a virgin. Truth is, I was saving myself.

Oh, not for marriage. Sex? God, no — that boat left the dock, like, 30-plus years ago.

No, I mean that I hadn't eaten at a Carl's Jr. Not until this week.

Strange, maybe — the one on Lemmon Avenue has been there since early last year, and the chain first made entrée into the Metroplex market in late 2010. And I didn't let the paint on In-N-Out Burger dry before standing in line for their "animal" burger. I'm not sure why I waited. I just knew I wanted it to be at the right time.

And the right time was after running on a treadmill to get a stress test. Hungrifying, that.

I stuck to one item on the menu: the steakhouse burger with a single patty (though the doubles and triples weren't that much more expensive). I was curious how a fast-food joint would tackle something of a specialty burger.

As is usually the case, the one handed to me through the drive-up window did not look as mouthwatering as the picture menu, where the meat glistened with moistness and fat, the onion strings sat atop the burger like a coronet encircling the head of a new monarch, the blue cheese sprinkled like rose petals before a marriage bed.

No, my version was flat, the onions mashed down, the cheese lopsided favoring one side of the bun. But that didn't really matter: It still tasted good.

I'm a peculiar onion eater: I hate raw onions on burgers, and cooked ones in spaghetti sauce or pizzas. But caramelize them in soup, or deep-fry them in string form, and I love 'em. That's what Carl's Jr. does, and it's an improvement worth respecting.

Even pressed like a corsage in a yearbook, the onions still retained some crunch, and the blue cheese — while hardly the veiny, aromatic treat of an aged Maytag — melded well with the meat (overcooked, as all fast-food burgers are, but still satisfying) and the surprisingly crisp, fresh lettuce. The tomato, as we have come to expect, was mealy and pale, but it hardly mattered. At under four bucks, it sated my grumbling belly as only bad-for-you burgers can.

Yes, I'm no longer a virgin at Carl's Jr. But I was glad I waited. When you need a meal to hit the spot, you don't wanna miss.

Recommended: Yes



— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Whitty banter

Gay 'Ave. Q' scribe Jeff Whitty builds a pyramid of laughs in cheer-full musical 'Bring It On'

Jeff Whitty will probably spend the rest of his life living down the legacy of creating the musical that turned Muppets ... sorry, puppets — into sexed-up losers. *Avenue Q* became the surprise hit of the 2003-04 Broadway season, sweeping the Tony Awards (including one for Whitty's book) and forever changing our view of Sesame Street.

One of Whitty's collaborators on *Q* went on to co-write *The Book of Mormon*, but Whitty himself has been busy as well, opening two musicals in the past 13 months, including the cheerleading comedy *Bring It On: The Musical*, which opened this week at Fair Park.

The gay librettist, who is also an actor (he's in rehearsals to appear in a play he wrote, in which he'll star in drag — a first) chatted about his love of cheerleading, his failed promise never to do another musical and the filthiest show he's ever seen.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Dallas Voice:
Here's something the librettist never hears: My favorite thing about *Avenue Q* is not actually on the cast recording, it's the name of a character, Miss Thistletwat.

Jeff Whitty: Thank you. I was in Paris with one of the [French] producers and we had this great lunch with champagne at 1 in the afternoon and everything. I asked her, "How did you translate the name of Miss Thistletwat?" She got really embarrassed, but she told me; it would translate as, like, Miss Grassmuncher, which [is slang there] for lesbian.

I also love when Kate fingers Princeton. That's the audience's fault — they are putting that in, I don't actually say it. There are actually only 13 swear words in *Avenue Q*, and they are carefully placed — like five "fucks", one "pussy" and four "shits" By the way, I've seen four international productions of *Avenue Q* and Paris was the filthiest. Kate rimmed Princeton. Even to me, that's a little much.

Since last year, you've opened two other musicals: *Tales of the City* and *Bring It On*, which is now in Dallas. I didn't want to do another musical after *Avenue Q* after learning how hard they are. I said no to everything for quite a while. Then on a plane to London [while watching DVDs of the miniseries *Tales of the City*], suddenly a bolt of lightning struck that said there could be this really chewy, big musical made out of this material. I know Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters [who co-wrote the score] and we opened last spring. The show was not finished and we didn't have enough previews to nail it, but we're figuring out what the next step for that show will be.

Your colleagues on *Bring It On* are composer-lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda, who did the barrio hip-hop musical *In the Heights*, and Tom Kitt, who composed *Next to Normal*, a musical about mental illness. Who said, "Wow, those guys would make a great team to write a musical about cheerleading." It's a funny story, how that evolved. I have been wanting to do a cheerleading musical since 2004. Real athletic cheerleading is amazing to watch, if you see it on ESPN; plus, it has a built-in performance component that is so helpful in a musical. A cheerleading structure is perfect and it's something you can see live that a lot of

BRING IT ON

Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Feb. 26.
DallasSummerMusicals.org

CHEER UP | Whitty swore off writing musicals — but changed his mind to take on two new ones.

people haven't.

My agent knew [of my interest] and told me about *Bring It On*; I said "Sign me up!" I'd never done a movie adaptation but I was totally onboard. Plus at the first meeting, the [producers] said they'd be interested in doing an original story instead of basing it on the first movie or one of the four [direct-to-video] sequels, so this was a huge opportunity. [Director] Andy Blankenbuehler had choreographed *In the Heights* [so he had worked with Lin-Manuel]. So that's how that came together.

It's a different style for you, too, not just Miranda and Kitt. Yes, *Tales* is full of angel dust, pot-smoking and child pornographers and *Avenue Q* is called the "potty-mouthed puppet musical." So I really wanted to do a musical I could bring my nieces to. There are these warnings of sexual content, but really?

All three of the musicals have been excruciating. You have to get all of these disparate parts to have this one sensibility and have cohesion. I was working with great collaborators [in *Bring It On*], people I loved to be in the room with. When they start to click they are truly exciting. It's been a great

Here's a very gay question: Among you, Miranda and Kitt, who has the bigger Tony Award? You ever whipped 'em out and compared? They actually made the stand bigger since I won! But I'd say Tom [Kitt] wins, because he has a Pulitzer, too.

Where do you keep your Tony? I have this trophy collection I pick up from flea markets — weird, old stuff, like senior body building trophies. So my Tony sits among all those.

You're the only gay guy on the creative team for *Bring It On*. Do you still like to gay it up? It is a musical, after all. Absolutely, I always try to put gay characters in my shows. I didn't wanna go with a cliché in *Bring It On*, but without giving anything away, you'll see there's a character there that's definitely a first-of-her-kind in a musical. I found a fresh take.

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STAGE BRIEFS

The Night of the Iguana.

As if we need further evidence that Rene Moreno is Dallas' best director, we have this remarkable production as Exhibit A, pictured right. Tennessee Williams' last great play is set in tropical Acapulco, so most productions emphasize its steam sexuality. But Moreno — at least in Act 1 — discovers Williams' biting humor, staging the action with the pacing of a farce. He saves the sultry stuff for Act 2, allowing the melodrama to sneak up on it.

Set at a run-down motel in the off-season, it features a hurricane, a failed clergyman (Ashley Wood, appropriately manic) tied to a hammock, a slutty proprietress (Cindee Mayfield, who could unleash a whole new career as a bad girl) and an underaged nymphomaniac. Hey, it is Williams.

It clicks along so spritely, with the cast (including Elizabeth Van Winkle, and Terry Vandivort delivering his best performance in years) capturing the exaggerated Southern melody or Tennessee's overwrought dialogue, you get easily lost. Imbuing a classic with fresh energy is one fine feat.

Contemporary Theatre of Dallas. Through Mar. 4.

Pluck the Day. It's been almost 10 years since Second Thought Theatre produced *Pluck the Day*, a comedy about quirky Texans set entirely on a ramshackled porch littered with beer cans and forgotten dreams. The original was a longish two-acter about lost 20somethings.

The revisions by STT's co-artistic director, Steven Walters, of his rambling play tighten a lot of the action, but the major accomplishment is one that the calendar gets the most credit for: The maturing of the characters. Now they are in their 30s, when the malaise of realizing your best years were more than a decade back really sets in.

The men at the center are an unusual trio, de-



spite their similar upbringings. Duck (Clay Yokum) is a dumb, married redneck and proud of it; Fred (Mike Shrader) is his bachelor counterpart, about to pop the question; and Bill (Chris LaBove) the smart gay one who has hung around this one-stoplight town for far too long. But just how gay is Bill?

The plot revolved around a did-they-or-didn't-they plot you might have caught on *Three's Company*, but there's a sweetness to it all and a full share of laughs, especially when Duck — who wouldn't know a metrosexual if he gay-bashed him — wonders why Bill isn't attracted to him. Been there.

Second Thought Theatre. Through Feb. 26.

Bring It On: The Musical. Talk about the power of the pyramid: Cheerleading onstage *kicks ass*. Oh, say what you will about it being a cheesy faux-sport practiced by mean girls (there's a lot of that here, no question) — when you see a man in a tank-top and shorts do a running back-flip across the stage, it's hard not to fall in love.

Or at least in serious, serious like, which is the reaction you'll have to *Bring It On*, pictured left. While based on the teen rom-com, the touring production now at Fair Park creates its own story about Campbell (Taylor Louderman), a flighty senior cheer goddess and team captain gerrymandered into an inner city school district. In predictable fashion, she rallies the hip-hop girls (including one sassy black trans, given an overdose of spunk by Gregory Haney) into turning their dance crew into a cheer squad.

Like *Legally Blonde*, or even *Hairspray*, it's a sunny, silly story about the redemption of a teen queen through the power of (fill in the blank: Law, cheerleading, dancing). But like *Wicked*, it's also underhandedly smart, with a catchy, contemporary score and clever lyrics.

The tour hasn't made it to Broadway; it probably doesn't need to go there. New York audiences probably imagine themselves too sophisticated to appreciate a musical about cheering; here in the hinterlands, we're not ashamed to stand up and rah-rah at impressive displays of athleticism that come with singing as well. Go, team!

Dallas Summer Musicals. Through Feb. 26.

The Secret Life of Girls. Thank God I don't have kids — and am not one anymore. Dallas Children's Theater tackles teen bullying in its studio production, but not in a way you might expect. There are no hate crimes here, nor even an obvious hero or villain, just continually readjusting cliques among teen girls. It's the darker side of *Bring It On*, where sniping doesn't warrant a "snap!" but leads to cutting and bulimia. Though gay issues are not directly addressed, it's an instructive and shockingly timely show (followed by a therapist-led talk-back) that all families can walk away from with new insights into how hard it can be to grow up.

Dallas Children's Theater. Through Feb. 26. Suitable for teens and adults.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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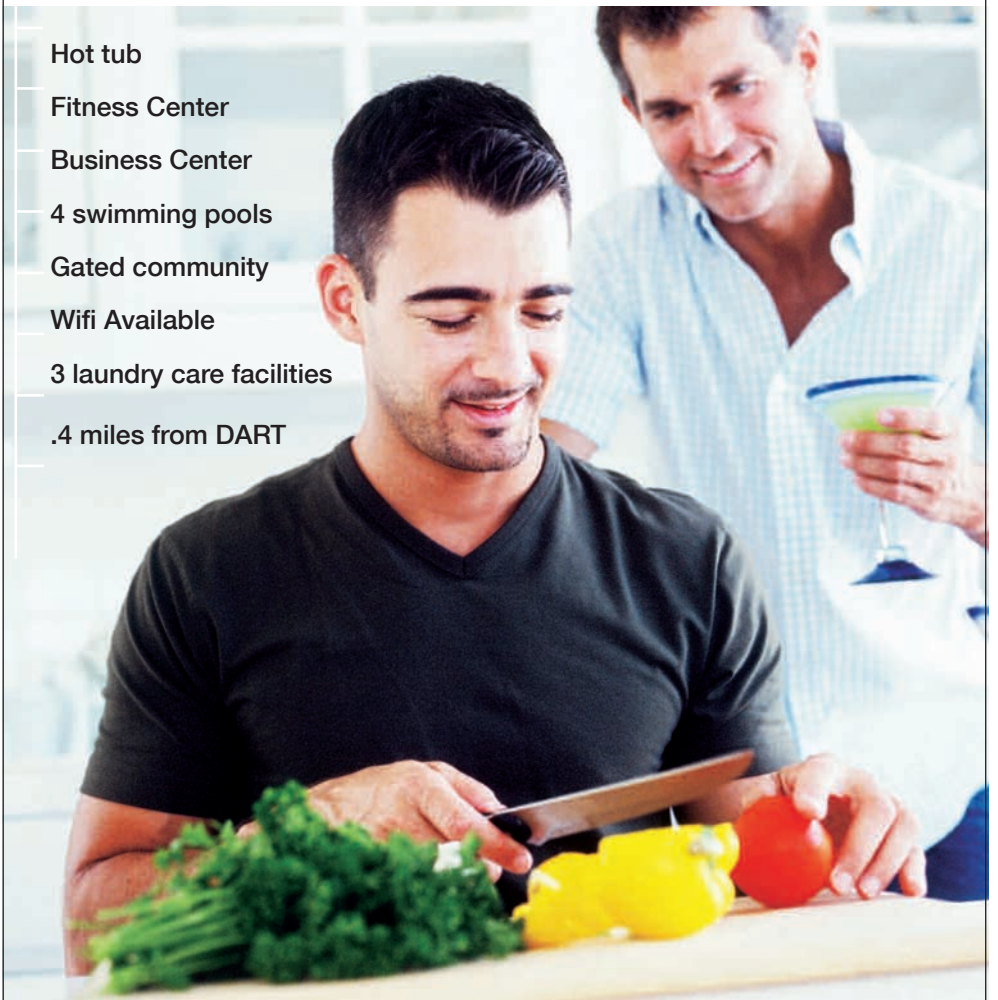
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Friday 02.17

Time to get funky up

While the late Whitney Houston recharged one of Chaka Khan's biggest hits, there's no denying the funk queen's own style. Khan comes to Dallas for a night of some legendary R&B with The O'Jays, Jeffrey Osborne, The Mary Jane Girls and Ohio Players as part of the *Love Train* show. What's better — that's not even the *entire* roster.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 6 p.m. \$24.50–\$79.50. Ticketmaster.com.

Sunday 02.19

Knight in shining armor

The Dallas Opera gets all soap opera like in their production of Richard Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*. Sparks fly between a princess and a knight, but her husband isn't too thrilled. He also happens to be the king. The tale is a classic and doomed love story, but the show gets a refreshed touch with this modern production.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 2 p.m. Through Feb. 25. \$25–\$275. ATPAC.org.

Tuesday 02.21

No helper needed for this Tuna

Joe Sears and Jaston Williams reprise our favorite roles for *Tuna's Greatest Hits: 30 Years of Laughter*. Vera, Bertha, Petey and the rest all get a bit older, but only get better as they remind us why we can't get enough of some Tuna.

DEETS: Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. Through Mar. 4. \$44–\$55. EisemannCenter.com.




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Fri, Sat, Sun





LEG MAN | Actor John Leguizamo brings his performance piece 'Ghetto Clown' to the Majestic Theatre this Friday and Saturday.

FRIDAY 02.17

COMMUNITY

Line Dancing and Country/Western dance lessons. Promise Worship & Community Center, 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

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.

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.

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 Saturday. \$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 Sunday. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

John Leguizamo. The actor brings his new show *Ghetto Clown* to Dallas. In his performance piece, Leguizamo recounts life adventures and the colorful characters he's come across. Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. Through Saturday. \$29.50-\$75. Ticketmaster.com.

Little Women. Tony Carpenter directs this adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel. Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk Ave., Rockwall. Through Feb. 26. \$20. RockwallCommunityPlayhouse.org.

SATURDAY 02.18

COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet under the statue at Lee

Park at 8 a.m. They sometimes convene after for breakfast in the area. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

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

GayBingo Mardi Gras. With hosts Jenna Skyy, Patti Le Plae Safe and Beaux Wellborn. The Rose Room, inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.org.

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 02.19

COMMUNITY

The Set, serves as a safe environment for mature-minded SGL African-American men to create a community. The Jefferson Clubhouse, 1001 Ross Ave. 6 p.m. LOSF.org.

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

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

Family Pride Coalition, a monthly support group for gay and lesbian parents and their children, meets at a private home. For information on meeting times and location, call 214-521-5342 ext. 1708.

Friends Associating and Relating LGBT social group, meets for potluck dinners, game nights, and more. Newcomers welcome and there are no dues. For information call 214-328-6749.

Unemployment Support Group meets weekly explores employment search and unemployment concerns and led by a professional career advisor. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2:30 p.m. CareerAssistanceMinistry@gmail.com.

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

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

MONDAY 02.20

COMMUNITY

Self esteem support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. AOC.org.

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

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

TUESDAY 02.21

COMMUNITY

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

JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets on the third Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for meeting dates if they change due to author's availability. RCDallas.org.

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

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

WEDNESDAY 02.22

COMMUNITY

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

Prime Timers Prime Lunch at Sal's Pizza and Restaurant, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Noon. The group meets later for bridge at member residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

FUSE Activity Nights. The "official FUSE hangout night" with games, food and more. 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. AOC.org.

FILM

The Wise Kids. This premiere of Stephen Cone's film about three teens with one facing his homosexuality opens QCinema's Spring Film Series. Four Day Weekend, 312 Houston St., Fort Worth. 8 p.m. \$10. QCinema.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 02.23

COMMUNITY

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

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.

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

The Rotary Club of Dallas-Uptown meets every Thursday. All visitors are welcome. Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Hully and Mo's, 2800 Routh St. 11:45 -1:00 p.m. DallasUptownRotary.org.

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



David Geffen turns 69 on Tuesday. The out record executive and film producer has been among the richest Americans according to Forbes magazine having an estimated net worth of \$4 billion and some change. He was recently awarded the President's Merit award for his contributions to the music industry at this month's 53rd Grammy Awards.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Don't be afraid of arguments. New angles of discussion open your mind to intriguing new ideas. A little shock adds extra value. The trick is to accept challenges more than you offer them.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Being garrulous, will open doors. Some you may want to shut again in a hurry. Still the good outweighs the bad. Listen more than you talk, but speak up and you'll hear something important.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Use any disagreement as a test of your diplomatic skills. The voices in your head are offering advice, not orders. Think before acting but don't worry, you're not crazy.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Make social commitments as tentative as you can. Your friends want your company and social occasions are advantageous, but you might be even better off quietly with a few well-chosen pals.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Don't let social temptations distract you from your career. Use them to network. Be attentive to moves behind the scenes and disappointments that could prove to be blessings in disguise.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Engage confusing new ideas. Clarity will come. Intellectual and aesthetic challenges bring opportunities to advance professionally and socially. Don't be afraid to ask friends or experts to help.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Your sexual allure opens erotic treasures or Pandora's box. Sublimation can help your career. Dangers lurk at indulgence. Use foresight and look for opportunities outside the bedroom.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

A long phase in your life begins where relationships are more complicated. Impulses open hidden depths and new communications with your lover. Mixed signals are part of the process.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your efforts to help are easily seen as aggressive meddling. Ask first if your suggestions would be welcome. Attending to your own tasks is usually the better way to set an example.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

As strong as your feelings are steel yourself to welcome constructive criticism as an opportunity to improve. Real friends are not flatterers, but tell the truth.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Uncovering family treasures helps you realize how much you have to offer in your work. Talking with family elders? Pay special attention to the family's health history.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

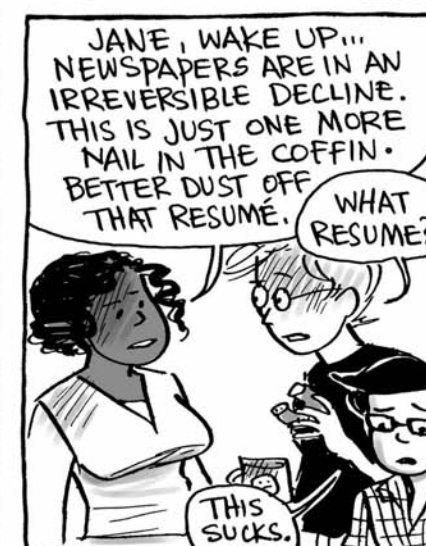
Check and double-check your facts very carefully. Right or wrong, you are also likely to anger people in charge. Take it slow and easy; be diplomatic.

THIS WEEK

Mercury in Pisces now semi-sextilite to Venus in Aries suggests one of those old screwball comedies where mad impulses and misunderstandings lead to love and happiness. Charm and humor will conquer all.

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

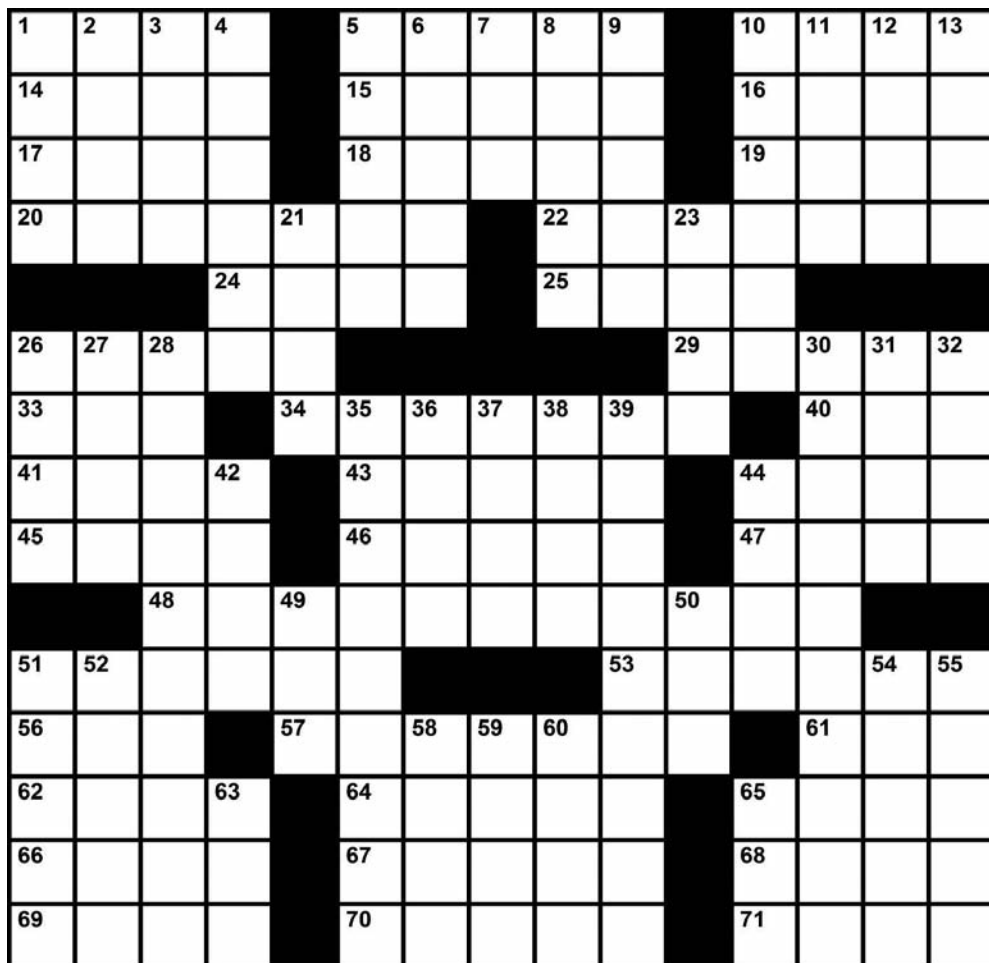
JANE'S WORLD



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Guerrilla in the Midst

Solution on page 43

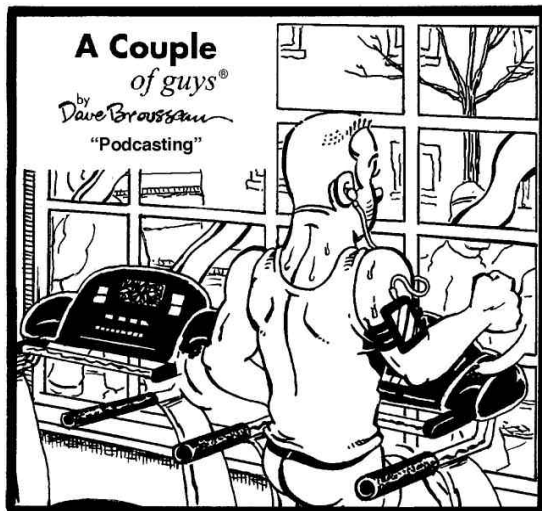
Across

- 1 Tune type
- 5 See 48-Across and 57-Across
- 10 Did the vocals
- 14 Like Saint Joan, say
- 15 Speedy train
- 16 Food thickening agent
- 17 Julia Morgan wings
- 18 Ophelia and Hamlet or Claire
- 19 New Rochelle, N.Y. college
- 20 International Mr. ____
- 22 John of "Arthur"
- 24 Top-flight
- 25 "Here ____ go?"
- 26 With 29-Across, Will Ferrell's humor web site
- 29 See 26-Across
- 33 Mil. hangout
- 34 Suckers
- 40 Classic TV
- 41 "West Side Story" gang
- 43 Be a snitch
- 44 Places to discover the "gay gene"
- 45 Lesbos, e.g.
- 46 Bow on the screen
- 47 "All ____" (1984 Tomlin film)
- 48 With 5-Across, Guerrilla TV show

- 51 "Cancer in Two Voices" co-author Butler
- 53 Tavern with naked dancers?
- 56 Fag follower
- 57 With 5-Across, veteran of the comedy venues of this puzzle
- 61 Bullring bravo
- 62 Like phone sex?
- 64 N.F.L. coach Don
- 65 Sonny and Cher's "I Got You ____"
- 66 It covered Caesar's Johnson
- 67 Track athlete
- 68 First name in Dodger pitching
- 69 Type of balls
- 70 Harold's facial marks in "The Boys in the Band"
- 71 Poems of Sappho

Down

- 1 Silverstein of kiddie lit
- 2 "Baby Doll" band
- 3 Spanish cooking pot
- 4 Auden's first name
- 5 Former German state
- 6 Words of empathy
- 7 Sportscaster Berman
- 8 Hispanic family org.
- 9 Chairman Arafat
- 10 Jack-tar
- 11 With mouth wide open
- 12 When doubled, Mork's good-bye
- 13 New alum
- 21 Singer/songwriter Axton
- 23 Alfred Douglas' school
- 26 Honshu peak
- 27 Treats as a sexual object
- 28 In the recent past
- 30 It used to take unwilling men
- 31 Silo contents, for short
- 32 Smooth sailing
- 35 Boys that don't like girls, and others
- 36 Hardy cabbage
- 37 JFK predictions
- 38 Put into slots
- 39 Like a debt-ridden top?
- 42 Tickle pink
- 44 Theater chain name
- 49 Threesome for Michelangelo
- 50 Stud site
- 51 Doses in the rear
- 52 Composer Copland
- 54 "Seascape" author
- 55 Rods' partners
- 58 Like a Marc Jacobs ensemble
- 59 Oahu dance
- 60 NY Met or LA Dodger
- 63 Perry Mason's field
- 65 Radley of "To Kill a Mockingbird"



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Becky and Jewel at Sue Ellen's.



Aimee, Steven and Laura at BJ's NXS!

No time for chatter. This is a busy week! ... **Voice of Pride** winners **Mi Diva Loca** are working it big time. They appear at **Tradewinds Social Club** in **Oak Cliff** on Friday and then take the show to **Alexandre's** on Saturday **Hope for Peace and Justice** hosts the **Hold 'Em High for Hope** poker tournament with **Pocket Rockets** on Friday at **Axiom Sushi Lounge** **Bearracuda** hits Dallas over the weekend. The international party starts with a kickoff party at the **Dallas Eagle** on Friday. **Jean Philippe Meteigner** DJs the night The official Bearracuda party makes it **Dallas debut** at the **Brick** on Saturday with **DJ Paul Goodyear**. On Wednesday, the club flips to a different kind of show of oldies but goodies tunes by spending **An Evening with Dave Garner** Former Twist LGBT performers **Suzanne Kimbrell** and **Jay Bean** perform Saturday in the downstairs bar of the **City Tavern** downtown for the **Peace, Love and Dallas Music CD** release party The Eagle keeps the rest of its weekend filled starting with the **North Texas LeatherSir, Leatherboy and Community Bootblack** contest on Saturday followed by **Paul Kraft** on the turntables Party with a bang at the **7th Annual Carnivale Mardi Gras** event on Cedar Springs on Saturday. **New York's Corey Craig** DJs at **Station 4** with a performance by **aerial acrobat Neal Everett** Sue Ellen's will have their own daredevil act with shows by aerialist **Amber Monson** The block wide event benefits **AIDS Arms of Dallas** Were we wrong? Busy, busy. ■

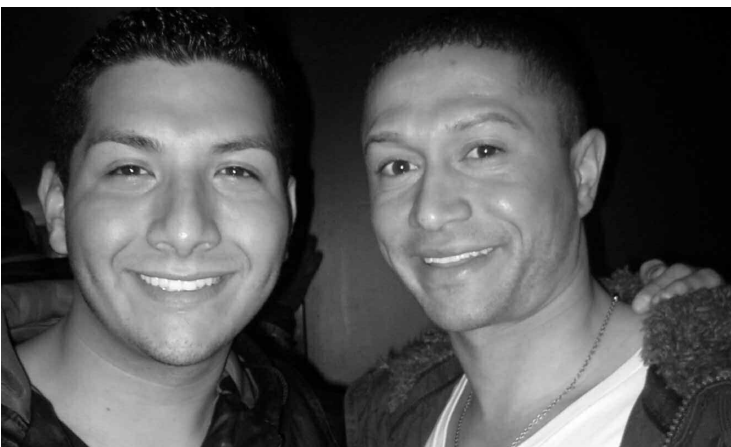
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



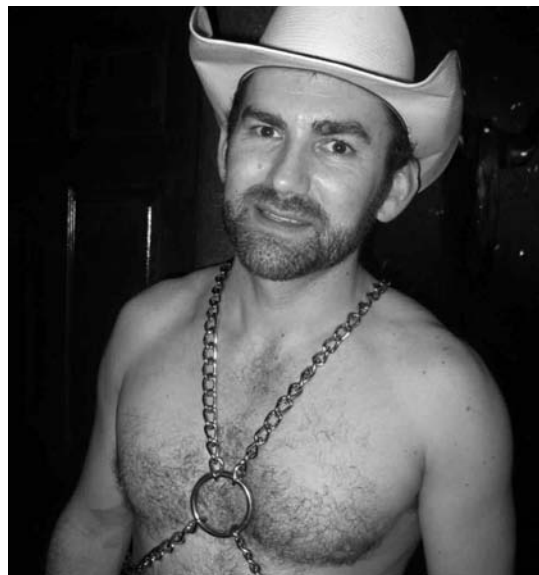
Lucien, Henry, Arthur and Larry at TMC: The Mining Company.



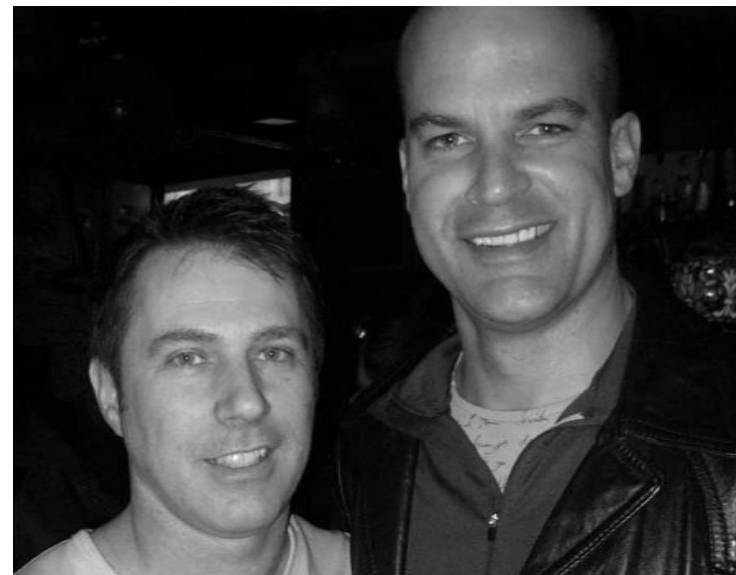
Katy and Brittany at Alexandre's.



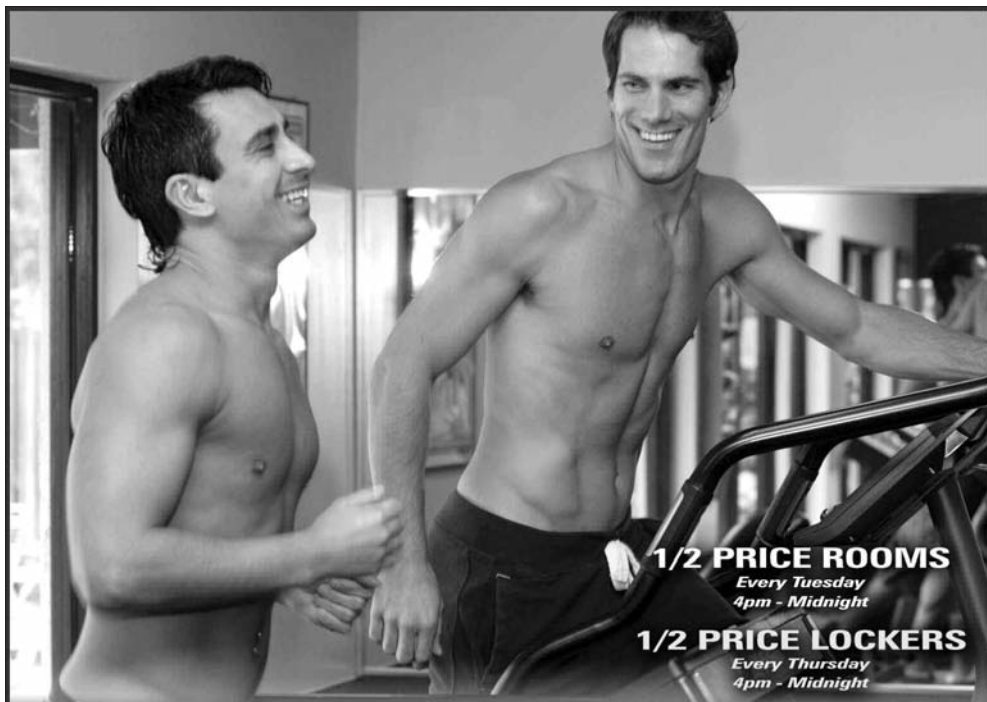
Joel and Cassian at Cherries.



Casey at Reflections.



John and Mark at the Grapevine Bar.




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Skin Time

Quick tips for men to reconsider their current skin and face care

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer

When you reach for that soap or that shaving cream, how do you know it's the best one for your skin? It may not be. The simplest products may be doing more damage than good and who wants to accelerate the aging process? Rethink your skin care with these five tips that men often overlook.

Bar fly

Toss that bar soap at your sink. Or at least forget about washing your face with it. While it's good for refreshing and cleaning the rest of your body, they do no good for the face that contains more oil than the rest of your skin. They will strip away your natural moisturizers that will leave your face looking like a vintage leather bag. Search for specific face cleansers and a moisturizer to follow.

~ **Michael J. Salas** ~

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body

Switch hifter

Just because dad used aftershave, doesn't mean you have to follow. Skin burns when you put that stuff on, so skip it altogether. Think Home Alone. If you just need to have that extra something post shave, go for a balm. The smoothing sensation will wake up your face, but not slap it with a sting.

Hand job

Handshakes say a lot about a man, but hands may say more. Rough, dry hands aren't the kind people like to shake or hold during a movie. Hand moisturizer can vary, but that's why testers are available. Go through them all, but find which absorbs into your hands and leaves them wonderfully soft. Don't skip the nails either. Dirty nails are unattractive but bacteria and fungi could grow under them creating more damage. Keep them clean, trim and moisturized. Use a small scrub brush while washing hands to keep the cuticles under control.

Good head

Don't forget your scalp. A dry scalp can lead to dry hair and flaky skin. A combination shampoo and conditioner keeps it simple for a healthy head and hair. But keep the heat to a minimum. You may like your hot showers, but that water is killing your hair and scalp. The heat takes away the oils that allow for shiny hair and healthy skin. The same goes for blow drying. If you find your hair is getting brittle or your scalp is a little itchy, go for a leave-in conditioner to bring it back to par.

Pucker up

If you pride yourself on being a good kisser, then back it up with soft lips. Keep those kissers hydrated and not by licking them. First of all, it's not sexy when you do that and second, saliva only makes them dryer and the skin gets all flaky. Not cute. A buck or so on a lip balm will do wonders. Or invest in a high end stick for maximum protection. For a tastier option, don't get cherry when you can get a flavor far more interesting — like bacon.



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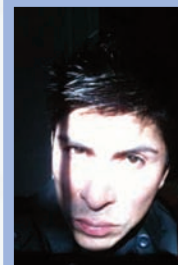


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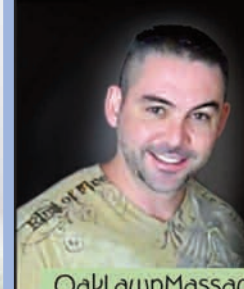


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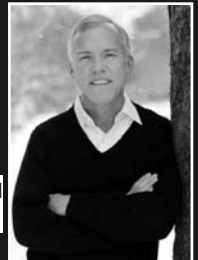
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