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## 02.24.12 | Volume 28 | Issue 41



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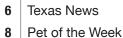
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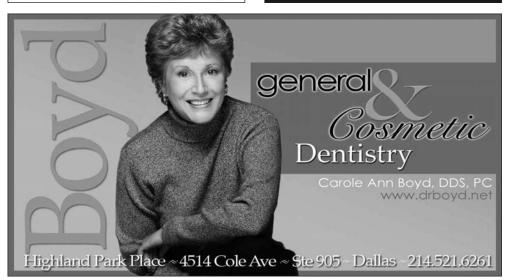
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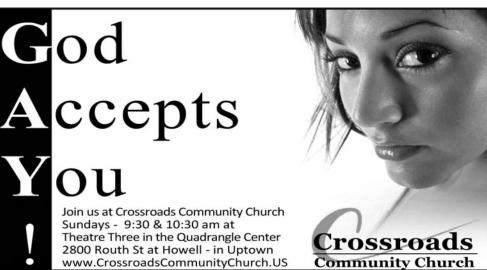
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#### Out lesbian Judge Tonya Parker refuses to perform marriages

Out lesbian Dallas County Judge Tonya Parker touted her refusal to conduct marriage ceremonies in her courtroom on Tuesday night, Feb. 21.

"I have the power, of course, to perform marriage ceremonies," Parker said. "I don't."

The mention of her decision to not perform marriage ceremonies came while the 116th Civil District Court judge addressed the audience at the monthly meeting of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, of which Parker is a member. While Parker highlighted her progress in her first year as judge in what had been "the worst dis-



Tonya Parker

trict court at the courthouse" with more old pending cases than the other 12 district courts, she also spoke about the importance of having an LGBT person on the bench.

Parker is the first LGBT person elected judge in Dallas County and is believed to be the first openly LGBT African-American elected official in the state's history. As such, Parker said she takes into account the importance of her position to make members of the LGBT community feel comfortable and equal in

her courtroom by "going out of my way to do things that other people might not do because they are not who I am.

Using the example of turning young couples away who want the court to marry them quickly because they are often pregnant and desperate, Parker said she refers them to other judges because of the state's marriage inequality, informing them that that is why she will not marry them.

"I use it as my opportunity to give them a lesson about marriage inequality in this state because I feel like I have to tell them why I'm turning them away," Parker said. "So I usually will offer them something along the lines of 'I'm sorry. I don't perform marriage ceremonies because we are in a state that does not have marriage equality, and until it does, I am not going to partially apply the law to one group of people that doesn't apply to another group of people.' And it's kind of oxymoronic for me to perform ceremonies that can't be performed for me, so I'm not going to do it."

Parker also said she refused to allow a prosecutor to use the terms "child molester" and "homosexual" interchangeably in her courtroom, saying that just because the man on trial was accused of assaulting boys, the term "heterosexual" wouldn't be used in place of "child molester" in cases where a man is accused of assaulting a girl.

And Parker said she includes the term partner when jurors are informed of the Texas Supreme Court directions that instruct jurors not to discuss cases with their husband or wife.

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LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ | Revelers wave from a float during a Mardi Gras Parade in the Bishop Arts District on Sunday, Feb. 19. For more photos from the parade, Dash for the Beads, and Station 4 and Sue Ellen's, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

"What I want to do is help those folks to have dignity in that moment that they are with me to know that I see you," she said. "I see you and in that I have

reflected to them that I have respect for them." When asked about declining to perform marriage ceremonies in a follow-up phone interview on

Wednesday, Parker said the decision was simply about equality and having to turn certain people

"I do not perform them because it is not an equal application of the law. Period," she said.

– Anna Waugh



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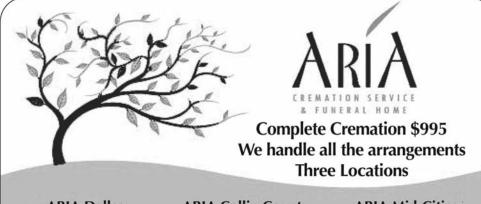
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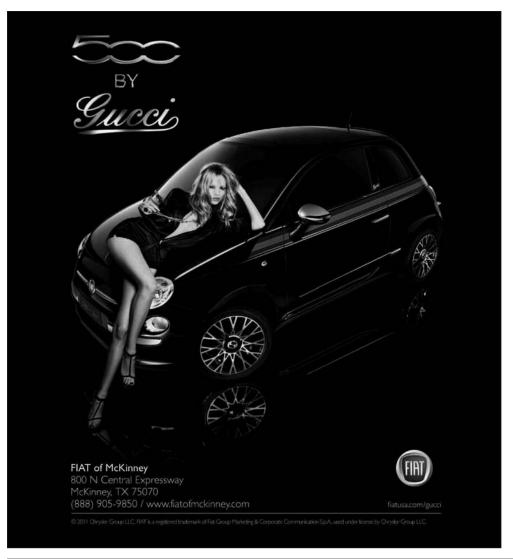
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**GAME-CHANGER** | Former TCU football player Vincent Pryor, left, said he had become suicidal by his junior year until his future partner Alan Detlaff, stood before their social work class one day and announced that he was gay and was beginning a group for LGBT students called TCU Triangle. They would later meet again at JR.'s in Dallas, and have been together ever since.

## Bleeding purple

Ex-TCU football star Vincent Pryor to accept award for courageously coming out to teammates in 1994

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer waugh@dallasvoice.com

Vincent Pryor will be in Austin on Wednesday, Feb. 29, to accept the Atticus Circle Award for his courage to come out to his football team his senior year at Texas Christian University in 1994.

Atticus Circle, a group that educates and rallies straight people to advocate for LGBT equality, selected Pryor for the award because "he showed an extraordinary amount of courage to come out as a gay athlete," Executive Director Ruth Gardner-Loew said.

Pryor said the recognition for inspiring other youth athletes was an honor, but his journey to the confident, gay football player standing before a group of teammates and strangers and owning his sexuality was long and painful.

Knowing he was gay since about the third grade, Pryor said growing up Southern Baptist in

San Antonio made him begin to constantly worry that school kids would eventually find out and pick on him.

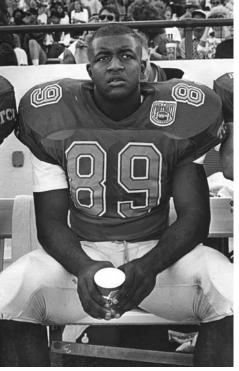
Instead of being the inevitable target, he became the bully, picking on effeminate boys because he was "trying to destroy that thing that was inside of me." But his façade was shattered one day in seventh grade when one of his victims confronted him in the bathroom about why he tormented people like himself.

"Then he kissed me on the lips," Pryor recalls about the life-changing day. "And then I knew."

Although the two of them became friends and Pryor ended his ridiculing days, the fear of people knowing he was gay stayed with him.

Then came days at TCU as a linebacker, where he would go on to set the record of 4½ sacks in a single game against Texas Tech in 1994, only a few weeks after revealing his sexuality. His record still stands today and helped TCU earn a conference title and bowl game invitation at the time.

While the Texas school appealed to him for the access to family back in San Antonio, as well as the family atmosphere of the campus, Pryor worried that his closeted life would be revealed.



**FINDING HIS GROOVE** | Pryor set the school's single-game sack record against Texas Tech only a few weeks after coming out.

"The whole time what I was trying to do was basically hide in plain sight because I always knew

■ PURPLE, Page 12

## Gay GOP leader calls attacks on Leppert over gay Pride 'repugnant'

Senate rivals rip former mayor for appearing in Dallas parade

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Editor wright@dallasvoice.com

One local gay Republican leader called attacks against GOP Senate hopeful Tom Leppert for appearing at gay Pride while Dallas mayor "reprehensible" and "repugnant."

And another said the attacks have actually prompted him to support Leppert over tea party favorite Ted Cruz — despite the former mayor's perceived betrayal of the LGBT community when he stepped down to run for Senate last year.

Cruz, the former Texas solicitor general, along with ex-pro football player Craig James and long-shot candidate Lela Pittenger, ripped into Leppert for twice appearing at gay Pride during a debate luncheon hosted by the right-wing Eagle Forum at the Dallas Country Club on Wednesday, Feb.

The exchange featured some virulently antigay language, with James saying he believes homosexuality is a choice that goes against the Bible and Pittenger comparing the Pride parade to a drunken orgy.

"There was much that was said at the senatorial debate about gays and lesbians that was reprehensible and, at times, repugnant," Thomas Purdy, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, said in a statement Thursday. "In an instance such as this, it would be easy to throw in the towel, but it really is a testament as to why Log Cabin Republicans must exist: to ensure the Party of Abraham Lincoln remains so and does not become the Party of Anita Bryant."

Former Log Cabin President Rob Schlein, who now heads the gay GOP group Metroplex Republicans of Dallas, said Cruz's attacks against Leppert for appearing at Pride — which began last month at a forum in Fort Worth — have prompted him to support the former mayor.

"In terms of a personal favorite, even though I was very disappointed with his tweet six months ago, I would probably look beyond that and choose Tom Leppert," Schlein said. "I eliminated Ted Cruz when he came out and attacked Leppert. That was enough to dissuade me from supporting his campaign. ... All else being equal, then I will support the candidate that doesn't attack the gay community."

**■ GOP,** Page 10



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#### localbriefs

#### Brite hosts therapy discussion

FORT WORTH -Brite Divinity School will host an evening conversation addressing practices of therapy for the LGBT community on Monday, Feb. 27.

Speakers will discuss "reparative therapy" as well as "factors that contribute to a helpful experience of affirming therapy for LGBTQI Joretta Marshall persons."



Speakers include Dr. David Jenkins from Brite's School of Social Work who will share some of his research on what makes for good and helpful therapeutic work. Brite's newly appointed dean, Joretta Marshall, and Cody Sanders will also serve on the panel.

The discussion, which is free and open to the public, runs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Brite Divinity School, Bass Conference Center, 2925 Princeton St., Fort Worth.

#### RCD unveils new website

Resource Center Dallas has redesigned its website to provide easier access to its assortment of services and events.

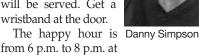
One of the new features on the website is "Share Your Story," and RCD wants to hear from people in the community. Drawings will be held April 15, Aug. 15 and Dec. 15 to win tickets to GayBingo. To enter, go to www.rcdallas.org/about-the-center/share-your-story.

"How has Resource Center Dallas changed your life? Perhaps our education and advocacy made things better in your workplace. Maybe volunteering with one of our programs reinforced your reasons for giving back to the community. Did our services help improve or restore your health? Or, maybe the Center's staff and volunteers went above and beyond to assist you."

#### **Lone Star Ride** kick-off party

Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS hosts its first fundraiser of the season on Wednesday, Feb. 29.

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## Some HIV providers stop taking Medicare patients

Other local doctors say they'll follow suit if Congress follows through with reductions in reimbursement rate

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

Some doctors have opted out of the Medicare system because Congress has threatened to cut reimbursement payments.

Bob Hutchison, 58, has HIV and is disabled from injuries he sustained on the job. He said his HIV is under control, but he needs care for his disability. He receives social security and recently qualified for Medicare. But he can't find a doctor who'll treat him.

The Trinity Health and Wellness Clinic can treat Hutchison for his HIV. But the facility isn't equipped to deal with his other conditions unrelated to the virus.

Last year, Congress proposed cutting Medicare payments by almost 30 percent. A current proposal would cut payments by 27.4 percent.

Some doctors say they were already losing money on Medicare patients, but with the additional cuts they won't be able to pay their staffs.

Trinity referred Hutchison to Parkland hospital to treat his injuries from a broken back.

But Hutchison lives in Rockwall, which has no public hospital and where residents aren't eligible for free or sliding scale treatment at the Dallas facility

Hutchison qualified for Medicare because of his disability. That program, known primary for covering medical costs for people over 65, also covers the disabled.

And unlike patients using private insurance who can go out of network, pay higher rates and bill the provider themselves, Medicare users must use a doctor that accepts the program. An individual cannot choose to pay the doctor in full and then bill the government for reimbursement, even at the lower rate.

Not all Oak Lawn physicians will take new patients on Medicare. What was uniform at their offices this week was a long pause and sigh when asked about the program.

"We're only taking Medicare from existing patients if they transfer over," said Rick Porter, a spokesman for Dr. Steven Pounders' office.

Pounders also has contracted with three Medicare HMOs. He said that as good as one of those plans that his office accepts is, Baylor Hospital doesn't take it, presenting those patients with another problem.

Porter said an additional problem is that unless a patient with HIV on Medicare has a good Part D prescription plan, it's hard to switch medications. And if the patient has to change drugs dur-



Dr. Jaime Vasquez

ing the year, a plan that covered an existing regimen may not cover the new treatment.

Dr. Jaime Vasquez also continues seeing existing patients who have converted from private insurance to Medicare. New patients on Medicare are accepted on a case-by-case basis.

"We're keeping a quota," his office manager said.

She said Vasquez's office simply can't afford to take many additional patients with the minimal payment Medicare provides for services — which Congress is threatening to cut further.

According to the Texas Medical Association, almost half of Texas physicians are considering opting out of Medicare altogether.

Although the proposed cut in payments for 2012 hasn't gone into effect yet as Congress remains deadlocked on this and other issues, the number of doctors accepting new patients on Medicare continues to decline.

Orthopedic surgeon Diane Litke still accepts new patients on Medicare, but she said many of her patients see her for an injury and not for longterm care. But she sided with doctors who have stopped accepting the coverage.

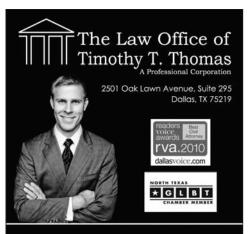
"I think Congress should take a 30 percent pay cut," she said. "As soon as they cut it [Medicare], I'm going to drop it."

Part of the problem is the uncertainty. Each year, Congress threatens to cut Medicare payments. Payments usually remain frozen.

This year, the cuts were part of a bill that recently passed extending the payroll tax cut. Before the bill passed, Medicare payment to doctors was stripped from the legislation, and so reimbursement rates remain up in the air.

Although some local doctor's offices said they aren't taking new patients on Medicare, some said they are.

At least three local practices with HIV specialties are accepting new Medicare patients: Uptown Physicians; Dr. Nick Bellos, who recently returned his business to Oak Lawn; and Dr. Patrick Daly.



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#### ■ texasnews

#### ■ GOP, Form Page 6

Leppert appeared at gay Pride in 2007 and 2009 as Dallas mayor. He also employed an openly gay chief of staff — Chris Heinbaugh — and repeatedly expressed support for the community.

But when Leppert stepped down to run for Senate, he sent out an anti-gay message on Twitter, and came out against both same-sex marriage and civil unions on his campaign website.

But Leppert's position on those issues appears similar to the other candidates in the GOP race.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, whom polls show is the frontrunner, didn't attend Wednesday's debate. But Dewhurst has been touting his support for Texas' 2005 marriage amendment, which enshrined a ban on both same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state's Constitution.

Earlier this month, Dewhurst told a Houston radio station that marriage has been between a man and a woman "from the origins of the Bible, and this is a Christian nation, this is a Christian state, and that's what we were reflecting."

Cruz, meanwhile, has played up his role several years ago, when he worked for Attorney General Greg Abbott, in blocking a gay couple from obtaining a dissolution of their Vermont civil union in a Beaumont court.

And James said during Wednesday's debate that same-sex couples shouldn't receive any federal benefits from civil unions.

The fireworks began when debate moderator John C. Goodman, president and CEO of the National Center for Policy Analysis, noted that Cruz had attacked Leppert for appearing at gay Pride last month.

Goodman then asked Cruz, "Do you have something against gay people?"

"I have something against gay marriage," Cruz responded. "I don't support gay marriage. I think there is an onslaught right now in this country to tear down traditional marriage, and I don't think it's right."

Goodman asked Cruz whether he was suggesting that Leppert supports same-sex marriage.

"When the mayor of a city chooses twice to march in a parade celebrating gay pride, that's a statement, and it's not a statement I agree with," Cruz said.

Leppert then responded by referring to himself in the third person: "The mayor is against gay marriage. He believes that marriage should be defined as one man and one woman.

"My job as mayor was to represent everybody in this city," Leppert said. "I visited with groups that didn't agree with what I said. I talked to groups that I didn't agree with what they said, but it was my obligation to represent everybody. I engaged everybody, and I will continue to do that."

When Cruz attacked Leppert for appearing at gay Pride last month, Leppert responded by comparing himself to Jesus. This time, although he took a similar approach, he stopped short of invoking the lord's name.

"I will tell you my role as a Christian is to reach out and touch everybody," Leppert said. "I wish I could have made stands only when I was in a courtroom, but I didn't. I was criticized time and time again for showing my faith and being open with it, and standing pro-life. In fact, The Dallas Morning News criticized me for taking a position of pro-life. It was the right thing to do, I will continue to do it. But I did it when I put my neck on the line as a leader standing up for what exactly was right. I was pro-life unabashedly, and I said it.

"I am against gay marriage," Leppert said. "I believe marriage should be defined as one man and one woman. It is very clear. But I had a responsibility to represent everybody, and everybody understood exactly where my faith was, and if there's any question you can see pastors like Robert Jeffress and David Dykes and those folks, who don't understand me from the business standpoint, but they sure understand who I am, and they have stood unabashedly and endorsed me for this office."

Goodman then noted that gay couples are denied more than 1,000 rights because the federal government doesn't recognize same-sex marriage. Goodman asked the candidates whether, in lieu of legalizing same-sex marriage, the federal government should merely grant gay couples those benefits by recognizing civil unions or other partnerships.

That's when James, the former SMU football star, chimed in.

"I think right now this country, our moral fiber is sliding down a slope that is gonna be hard to stop, if we don't stand up with leaders who don't go ride in gay parades," James said. "I can assure you I will never ride in a gay parade. And I hear what you're saying, Tom, but leaders, our kids out there and people need to see examples. Now, I'm a guy that believes in a man and a woman being the greatest governance occurring in a home at night between a husband and a wife, Adam and Eve and what the Bible says. And the backbone, and I know you're a Christian, I'm not doubting that, Tom, but man you've got to stand up, if you are chosen as our senator, and be a leader, and not do things like that. We need examples for our kids."

Goodman then asked James and the other candidates whether they think being gay is a choice.

"I think it's a choice, I do," James responded. "You have to make that choice, absolutely.... Same-sex marriage, if someone chooses to do that, then that's them, and God's going to judge each one of us in this room for our actions, but in that case right there, they're going to have to answer to the lord for their actions. We should not give benefits to those civil unions. It should not occur. We have to stay strong on this. This is important, man. I tell you what, we have a fiscal issue in this country, but we also have a moral issue in this country, and as Christians we better stand up."

Pittenger, a longshot candidate, was next to weigh in.

"I think what you see on the stage pretty much explains why we have so many denominations in the church," Pittenger said. "Everyone kind of has a different perspective on what they think Christ would have done and how he would have acted. Now, I respect what Tom was saying, that he felt like he was to engage the entire community. I personally disagree with his approach, just because if there was a Republican club that was openly homosexual, and they wanted to talk issues, any number of issues, I'm happy to go visit with them about the issues. But I'm not going to walk down the street with them celebrating what I believe to be a sin. But I respect Tom's approach. Christ reached people in many different ways. The Pharisees hated him because he ate dinner with sinners. And Jesus said, 'The doctor doesn't come for the well, he comes for the sick.' And we just have to, each one of us has to stand before God, and make sure our heart is right with God about how we engage those who are living in sinful ways. Now while he ate dinner with them, I don't believe he marched along with them as they were going down to have an orgy or have any sort of drunken revelries. But they came in his space, and he engaged with them there. This is about different perspectives on how we engage people we believe are lost, and you just have to decide which one's better."

Finally, Leppert was given an opportunity to respond to James and Pittenger.

"I've addressed the issue," Leppert said, and the debate moved on to the topic of illegal immigration.

#### Deaths



Larry Wayne Summers, 44, passed away Monday, Feb. 12, at Medical City Hospital in North Dallas.

Summers was an avid reader, largely of the sci-fi and fantasy genres. He enjoyed

playing softball in leagues both in Seattle and more recently here in Dallas. In his spare time he enjoyed watching movies, playing video games, playing with computers, boating with friends, grilling and collecting books - but above all just enjoying time spent with

One of his longtime interests was sitting for hours watching cartoons from his childhood. In recent months he picked up knitting again, a hobby he shared with his mother.

Summers was an easygoing man with uncomplicated demands. He was a loyal friend to many, and will be remembered as a softspoken, sweet man. Although a man of few words, he had an understated charm, sweet smile and an infectious laugh. He was always in a good mood regardless of the stresses in his life, which is a testament to the genuine good soul and the good person that he was.

Services were held in his hometown of Mart, Texas. He is survived by his parents, Leo and Frances Summer; his younger brother, Michael; his grandparents, Roy and Virgie Summers and Annie and William Beck; and his cherished cat, Alex.



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#### texasnews

#### ■ PURPLE, From Page 6

I was gay," he said. "I just didn't want anybody to know about it."

His confidence in his closeted persona was shattered at the start of his sophomore year when a new defensive coach began a meeting by asking if anyone on the team was gay. Pryor said he remembers the coach asking the question repeatedly, and while questions of his sexuality had arisen with little interest in girlfriends, he worried the coach was singling him out.

"Each time that he said it his voice got angrier and his face turned red," he said. "I was petrified."

Depression consumed Pryor as the coach's anger over possible gay players continued to seep into his thoughts throughout the season, leading him to eventually decide that he wouldn't return to TCU the next year.

"When that coach did that, made that proclamation to the meeting room, it was pretty frustrating and I remember getting really, really depressed," he said. "I don't talk too much about it because it was such a dark time, but I actually thought about killing myself."

Admitting that he actually had a plan to commit suicide by junior year, he said he found courage in the welcoming atmosphere at TCU to push through to the fall of junior year, with the most inspirational event happening shortly after the semester began.

It was Pryor's current partner Alan Detlaff that stood before their social work class one day and announced that he was gay and was beginning a group for LGBT students called TCU Triangle.

After class, Pryor expressed interest in Detlaff's group, saying that he supported the LGBT community, and they discussed his sexuality on the phone that night.

Several years after the two graduated, they ran into each other at JR.'s in Dallas and began dating. They live together in Chicago now.

"We saw each other at the bar, and the rest is history," Pryor said. "We started talking, and here we are 13 years later."

Pryor's time in the support group gave him strength, while the rumors of his sexuality started in the locker rooms and hallways, until he eventually agreed to be a speaker at a confer-



**ROSY REUNION** | Pryor, shown at the Rose Bowl with Super Frog in 2011, now hopes to tackle the stigma of being gay in sports.

ence on campus about homosexuality. Many of his teammates were present, but Pryor said his worries about the ridicule he would face afterward never came true.

"I was concerned that I would not be accepted as one of the guys and that people would treat me differently, and none of that happened," he said.

Even the same coach who once tried to call

him out supported him after asking if the declaration was true, and later hugged him on the field after a game and told him he was proud of him, something that will always stay with Pryor.

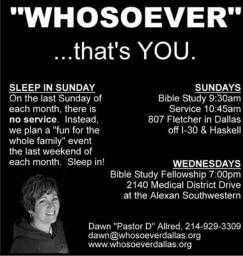
"That was vindication enough for me, and I really felt like I could be 100 percent. I felt like I could be who I needed to be," he said. "I'll never forget that."

The stigma of being openly gay in sports is

false, Pryor said, adding that in his circumstances in 1994 of a gay football player at a Christian university coming out and still being successful on the field is an example that being truthful about sexuality will not hinder someone's passion or achievements.

"What I can do is live my life out, loud and proud and serve as that beacon and I think the stereotypes will change," he said.







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## A Work(room) in progress

**BRIDGE-O-RAMA** 

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information, go to

MHHBridgeCelebration.com.

Gay-owned shop anchors W. Dallas development boom as area awaits opening of Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge

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

When Nick Troilo opened The Workroom on Singleton Boulevard in West Dallas, he did what many gay people have done before him: He became an urban pioneer opening a business in an area most others avoided.

Although a designer by trade, Troilo's interest

in the neighborhood began when he worked a few blocks away at Jack's Backyard.

Although business had started to flourish along Fort Worth Avenue, Single-

ton Boulevard was still an example of some of the city's worst urban blight — lined with junkyards, auto repair shops and nondescript buildings with iron bars on the windows.

"The idea for the store came out of the reces-

sion," Troilo said. "I was working at home not meeting clients and was waiting tables at Jack's."

While working at Jack's, Troilo met a customer who was buying up property in the area. Speculators have been preparing for the boom that is expected after the March 2 opening of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, which will replace the Continental Street viaduct and link Singleton Boulevard to Woodall Rodgers Freeway and downtown.

Troilo's future landlord showed him a variety of properties, and Troilo selected an old warehouse to lease, three blocks from the bridge adjoined by plenty of parking. When he first opened in October, Troilo was definitely a pioneer, but plans for other businesses in the area have since

progressed. Standing outside of his store recently, Troilo pointed to a number of bright, recently painted buildings surrounding his.

Behind Troilo's store is an abandoned strip that

will become a retail center. Across the street, a microbrewery is scheduled to open. Next to that is a planned "restaurant incubator" where companies will test-market new concepts in dining.

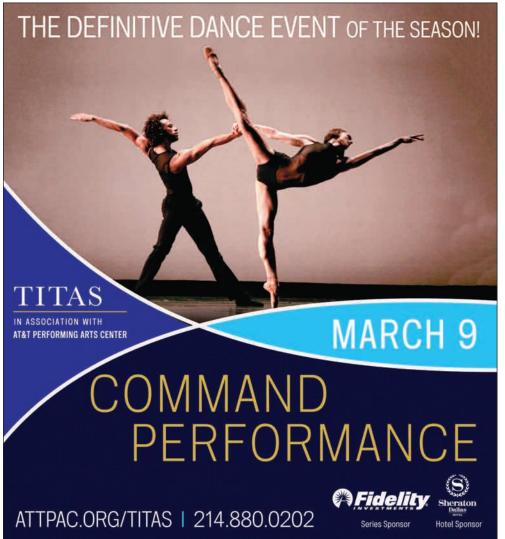
**■ PROGRESS,** Page 14



**URBAN PIONEERS** | Nick Troilo, left, said the store wouldn't have been possible without his partner, Jim Wright. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)









#### LESBIAN ARTIST'S WORK PART OF BRIDGE OPENING

As part of the opening celebration for the Calatrava bridge to West Dallas, lesbian artist Jolene Decle will exhibit some of her paintings in a converted warehouse.

Decle, originally from the Caribbean, has lived in Dallas for 18 years. She has participated three times in Art Rage Us, an annual fundraiser for Resource Center Dallas, exhibited at Cathedral of Hope in a show sponsored by Hope 4 Peace and Justice and has donated work to Black Tie Dinner and Toast to Life.

"My paintings for the show will include some flowers, abstracts and watercolors, but the signature piece will be of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge," she said.

The show will be held in a warehouse just over the bridge in West Dallas. Look for the first blue building on the right, with the Sheppard Fiery's mural of a woman's head and the word "OBEY" across it.

Caribbean Art Show, 331 Singleton Blvd. March 2 at 6 p.m.–10 p.m. March 3–4 at 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

— David Taffet

#### ■ PROGRESS, From Page 13

Troilo has been talking to developers about working with them on interior designs. He designed the interior of Veracruz in the Bishop Arts District, one of the most successful new urban neighborhoods also largely pioneered by gay entrepreneurs.

One reason Troilo chose this warehouse for his shop, he said, is because it had two garage doors — one in front where he created a patio to serve coffee and pastries, and one in back for deliveries.

"Coffee is free," he said. He wants The Work-room to be a place people can come and shop but also a place to gather.

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tony Vedda said, "Traditionally we have had the ability to find those diamonds in the rough and work those visions into a reality."

And LGBT consumers have a history of seeking out and supporting those businesses.

Troilo describes the mix in his shop as "distinctive fresh florals, arts, crafts, interiors and antiques."

He's stocked the store with an eclectic variety of goods at various price points. The walls are currently filled with his own artwork, but exhibits by other artists are planned. In addition to Troilo's work, the store features everything from carvings by an artist from Poland to custom metal work to a T-shirt commemorating the opening of the bridge.

"I wanted to have something so people could walk out of here for \$5, to things in the thousands," he said.

Troilo rented out a floral design station to Tommy Dodd, a florist who is moving his business from Southlake to the new West Dallas location where he plans to continue working with Saks Fifth Avenue and his private clientele as well as find new customers — possibly right across the street at the test restaurants the area will be incubating.

In addition to subletting the space for floral design, as well as his retail and design businesses, Troilo hopes groups will schedule special events at the shop.

"The space is available for lease for private parties," he said.

He's hosted West Dallas Chamber of Commerce meetings, has a wedding rehearsal dinner scheduled and is talking to the local GLAAD chapter and Black Tie Dinner about holding winetastings or receptions.

And he credits his partner, Jim Wright, with helping in every aspect of creating the store.

"He sacrificed to pull this together," Troilo said of Wright

Although the store has been open since October, Troilo said the official opening was in January. He expects business to take off once the bridge opens and traffic along Singleton Boulevard increases dramatically as the road once again becomes an alternative route to Oak Cliff that's been cut off through much of the recent construction.



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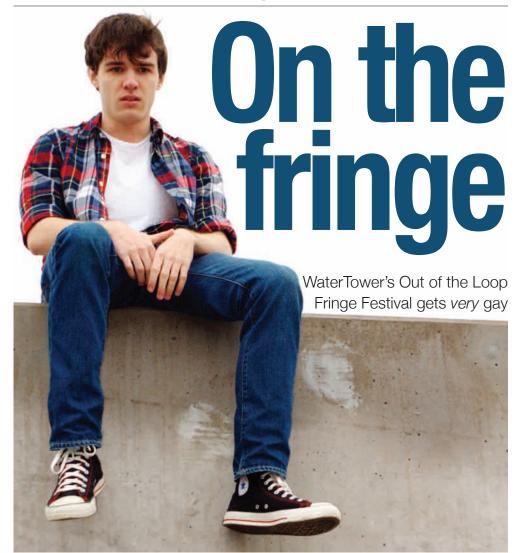


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## coverstory



**STALKER TWINKS** | 'Dark Play or Stories for Boys,' pictured, looks at online relationships with an eerie, gay twist.

ringe theater festivals always push boundaries — that's kind of the point — which often entails racy, "alternative" material ... and that frequently touches on queer content.

We're used to finding some gay-interest shows at WaterTower Theatre's Out of the Loop

Fringe Festival, but this year is something else — of the 22 artists and companies performing at the fest, more than one-third are members of or tied to the LGBT community. That's a lotta gay in a short time frame.

And there is of course more than just gay content — dance and music and just entertaining performances from the likes of spotlight selection Charles Ross, whose one-man show encapsulates the entire *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in about an hour. (He previously did *Star Wars* in its entirety at OOTL.)

But here are the artists who will bring a little bit of gay to Addison next week and for 10 more days of theater after. There's certainly something you'll wanna see there.

Contributing writers: Arnold Wayne Jones, Steven Lindsey, Rich Lopez, Mark Lowry, Jef Tingley.

#### Highlights

- One Man Lord of the Rings, March 1-4. \$15.
- Amy Stevenson cabaret in the lobby, March 2 and 10. Free.
- *Sweet Eros*, March 1, 3, 7 and 9.
- Dark Play or Stories for Boys, March 2, 3, 4 and 10.
- A Most Happy Stella, March 3, 7 and 11.
- Strange Dreamz, March 3, 6 and 10.
- Waking Up, March 3, 6, 8 and 10.
- The Screw You Revue, March 9 and 10.
- *Bill Bowers: Beyond Words*, pictured left, March 9, 10 and 11 (movement workshop March 10).

WaterTower Theatre's Out of the Loop Fringe Festival, Addison Theatre Centre, 10560 Addison Circle. March 1–11. All single tickets \$10, except as indicated. Festival wide pass available. Visit WaterTowerTheatre.org for a complete schedule of events.



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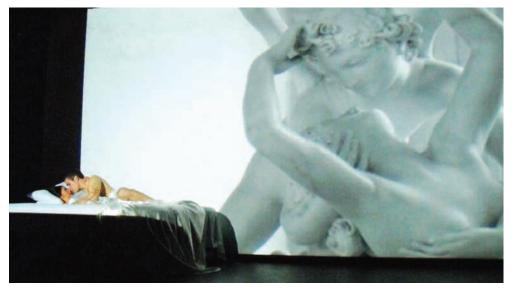
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#### **Sweet Eros**

Interview with director Adam Adolfo

What's gay about it: Everything. It was written by Terrence McNally "and provides people the opportunity to reexplore [his] work as contemporary dramatist," Adolfo says. It's produced by QLive!, the stage arm of Q Cinema. Sweet Eros is one of the featured presentations at OOTL.

How gay audiences can relate: "Sweet Eros is a slightly subversive play in the idea that it's about a man who feels on the outside of society," explains Adolfo. "He struggles with his demons to define a sense of place and hope for himself, [which] leads him to a self-awareness that is both revelatory and terrifying. We liken his struggle to what many gay men experience in their own comingout process.

"Unlike most men, though, our hero takes a very dark, frequently erotic and unsettling journey to self-discovery, forcing us to question his choices and sense of self. I'll say this for our hero: His sense of sexual virility and his heightened attention to fine detail makes him a very alluring aggressor and his predatory skill is both sensual and sadistic.

He is a very complex young man. But then again, aren't we all?"

Adolfo's relationship to the Q folks goes back several years, after he cast founders Kyle Trentham and Todd Camp as a bumbling pair of soldiers in his production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. "Before that I had worked with Kyle as an actor, directing him as Bottom in my staging of *Midsummer Nights Dream*. That production hit upon gay marriage equality and coming-out issues in a very subtle way, and was my introduction to Kyle. The guys are just phenomenal to work with and when they started up QLive!, I was very glad to be a part of their inaugural reading of S*pring Awakening*, the play that inspired the hit Broadway show."

Why Out of the Loop?: "This is my first time to be a part of the festival. I've come in years past and fallen in love with shows and companies whose work I had not been exposed to and being able to access it so freely," says Adolfo. "It's a cornucopia of talent, skill and artistry."

**Performances**: March 1 and 7 at 7:30 p.m., March 3 at 2 p.m. and March 9 at 8 p.m.

**EROS-ION** | Q Live!, the stage arm of Fort Worth's Q Cinema film fest, makes its OOTL debut with 'Sweet Eros,' pictured at left; gay playwright David Parr, below, offers the Texas premiere of his comedy 'The Most Happy Stella,' a play on the title of the musical 'The Most Happy Fella.'

#### Dark Play, or Stories for Boys

Interview with actors Adam Garst and Jacob Aaron Cullum

Cast and story: The five-person cast is headlined by Adam Garst and Jacob Aaron Cullum playing, respectively, a teenager who stalks other teens online, and his victim. The show features costumes by rising local star Justin Locklear.

Background: This is the first production by Outcry Theatre, another area theater founded by students of Waco's Baylor University (others include Second Thought Theatre and Rite of Passage Theatre Company). In this case, Becca Johnson-Spinos, who directs Dark Play, received her master's in directing at Baylor, worked in North Carolina and then moved to Dallas with her husband. Fort Worth's Amphibian Stage Productions gave this play its area premiere in 2008, but it was written several years before that. It uses AOL instant messaging and chat rooms as its means of cyber-bullying, which already feels dated in a world run by Facebook and Twitter.

**Gay cred**: Clearly, the storyline, though Garst played the gay character Moritz in WaterTower Theatre's *Spring Awakening*.

Garst's view of his stalker character: "When I first read it, it seemed like Nick was extremely mean. But it's been interesting making him a real person. Like everyone else, he's desperate for something in the world. The thing he thinks he didn't need was love."

**Cullum's view**: "It's neat to play a character who is so naïve and gullible that he's easily fooled by this character because he wants to fall in love. Behaviorally, he's very similar to me."

**Performances**: March 2 and 10 at 8 p.m., March 3 at 2 p.m., March 4 at 5 p.m.

#### A Most Happy Stella

Interview with playwright David Parr

What to expect: We could tell you about David Parr's play *A Most Happy Stella*. But then he might shoot *us*.

"I want the audience to know as little as possible

FRINGE, Page 24



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## viewpoints

## **Surviving HIV, facing Hepatitis C**

As liver disease surpasses virus that causes AIDS as a killer, it should be a wake-up call for LGBT people to get tested, educated about risks

fter the emergence of HIV/AIDS and the devastation it caused in the 1980s, the identification of yet another deadly virus about the same time went virtually unnoticed by the general public.

News and concern about Hepatitis C understandably took a back seat to HIV, and so the liver disease apparently grew exponentially because it was a slower killer and asymptomatic.

Spread mostly by blood-to-blood contact, HCV is now thought to infect as many as 170 million people worldwide, many or most of whom are unaware of their status because of the absence of any symptoms they are ill.

Often people do not become aware of their in-



**David Webb** The Rare Reporter

fection until significant damage is done to their liver, and cirrhosis or cancer develops and a transplant is necessary.

Now, more people die from HCV-related illnesses than those associated with HIV, according to a study from the U.S. Cen-

ters for Disease Control that was unveiled this

CDC officials warn that Baby Boomers, anyone born between 1945 and 1965, should get a test to determine whether they are infected with HCV.

Federal health officials estimate that two-thirds of the people infected with HVC are in this age group, and that half are unaware of it.

Medical researchers and practitioners theorized since the 1970s that another hepatitis virus existed in addition to Hepatitis B because some patients who no longer exhibited traces of HBV in their blood continued to show similar signs of liver malfunction.

Finally, in 1989 Hepatitis C was proven to exist, and widespread testing of blood for the virus since 1997 has revealed its frightening spread.

Many people in the LGBT community were unaware of the existence of HCV and only learned about it if someone they knew was diagnosed with it or, God forbid, learned they themselves had contracted it.

After dodging the HIV bullet and vowing not to place themselves at risk of contracting it, many people no doubt were shocked to learn there was yet another virus they could have contracted through blood transfusions, shared intravenous drug use and sexual activity.

What's worse, there are concerns that the transmission of HCV might occur more easily than HIV through unsterilized medical and dental equipment, body piercings, shared personal items such as razors, toothbrushes and manicure tools — and no telling what else.

In contrast, HIV is thought to be less easily transmitted.

The possible presence of HCV was sometimes detected in the early 1990s among patients who got annual physicals because routine blood tests revealed irregularities in liver enzymes.

Further testing to identify the cause could reveal the presence of HCV when patients were in the care of doctors who stayed abreast of the medical developments.

It became clear HCV would become a chronic infection for most people who contracted it, and that it would eventually lead to severe health problems or death.

Only a few people would contract the virus and overcome it through the body's natural processes, as is thought to be the case with some people who are exposed to HIV.

Two people of whom I have known and were HCV-positive illustrate just how widespread the virus could ultimately be.

One individual was a gay man who was a former heavy intravenous drug-user and HIV-negative, but nonetheless a member of a high-risk group.

The other was an older married female who didn't even drink, let alone do drugs or engage in sex with multiple partners. She would surely be considered a member of a low-risk group, and I suspect she contracted the virus in a hospital setting long before its existence was known.

There are treatments available for HCV, but they unfortunately have different levels of effectiveness among patients, are expensive and can be intolerable to some people. Both of the people I knew were unable to tolerate the treatments. The heterosexual female has died, and I have lost contact with the gay man I knew who was HCV-positive. The last time I talked to him he had been declared disabled because of his HCV infection and the damage it had done to his liver.

In both cases, the months-long treatments that included injections and oral drugs caused flu-like symptoms and severe depression. They both abandoned the treatments.

Fortunately, other people managed to survive the treatments and the combination of drugs apparently eliminated HCV from their blood. The very fortunate discovered the infections and received the treatments before irreversible damage was done to their livers as was indicated by biopsies.

At the time the two people I knew tried the available treatments, only a combination of pe-

#### Silent epidemic

With new treatments for Hepatitis C now on the U.S. market, the government is working to get more people tested

For every 100 infected...

75 to 85 will develop chronic infection

60 to 70 will develop chronic liver disease

5 to 20 will develop cirrhosis

1 to 5 will die of cirrhosis or liver cancer

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

gylated interferon and ribavirin was available. Those treatments initially were prohibitively expensive, but they are considered less costly now.

Today, there are new protease inhibitors available for treatment showing promise, but the cost is astronomical.

The new drugs, Victrelis at \$1,100 per week, and Incivek at \$4,100 per week, must be taken for months, and they also can cause hideous side effects.

It's an agonizing situation, but most people are willing to spend whatever it costs if they can and endure whatever pain comes along in an effort to survive. That's why it's so important to get tested for HCV and to determine whether treatment is needed before it's too late.

For others who are uninfected, don't go there in the first place. Know how HCV is spread and avoid any possibility that it can imperil your life.

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

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## Efforts to resurrect local gay Catholic group are misguided

**Phyllis Guest** 

Taking Notes

Article on fledgling Dignity Dallas chapter raises questions about why LGBT people would want to be part of a faith that doesn't accept them

he Feb. 17 Dallas Voice informed us, under the eyebrow "Spirituality," that some locals are working to re-establish the LGBT Catholic organization, Dignity Dallas.

This is so weird it ranks right up there with Rick Santorum's assertion that, if one of his daughters was raped and impregnated, he would advise her to make the best of a bad situation.

It ranks right alongside Mitt Romney's sacred underpants, Newt Gingrich's moon base and Ron Paul's un-conservative earmarks.

I do not know Jim Davis, and perhaps he is a very nice man. Certainly, he seems sincere in wanting to re-establish a local branch of Dignity since he is willing to be quoted saying, "I want my name out there."

Out where? The Catholic Church does not rec-

ognize Dignity's existence. It certainly does not recognize Dignity's value. The DV article reports that, according to DignityUSA Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke, the group is "still a place

to take refuge from the mounting attacks by bishops and the pope."

Well, isn't that the problem? Hey, people, the church does not want you. It thinks your sexuality, gender identity and/or gender expression is a choice. It thinks you should turn straight. It thinks you should be celibate. It thinks you should at the very least keep your mouth shut. Not to mention other parts of your anatomy.

Here is some of what the church has to say about LGBT people:

According to published reports, on Oct. 31, 1986, under Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) made public a "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons."

In the letter, he calls homosexuality "a more or less strong tendency ... toward an intrinsic moral

evil" and "an objective disorder."

In other words, not only is homosexual activity wrong, but homosexuality itself is wrong. Evil. Disordered. Wrong.

Googling for items related to Catholic positions on homosexuality is fascinating and terrifying. For example, it is fascinating to note the many references to the Book of Genesis and its "creation" of Adam and Eve and their "union" as the basis for heterosexuality and hetero-only marriage. (There is no mention of who wrote the book, though many Catholics and other religions believe it was dictated by God.)

But it is terrifying to read the November 2000 "Statement" issued by

the Catholic Medical Association. The statement lists "considerations" — the first being all the bad childhood experiences it alleges turned some of us away from the path of righteousness, including not enough rough-and-tumble play for boys. In a sort of footnote to the list, it alleges that adult women are turned to homosexuality by having

66

I have nothing against the Roman
Catholic Church — nothing against any
Abrahamic faith. I simply do not believe
the practitioners should be passing
judgement on all of us or meddling with
marriage and abortion and contraception and military service and workplace
rights and intimate relationships
among members of our community.

99

an abortion. That's a new one on me and perhaps on you as well.

The statement then makes "recommendations," which include this questionable gem: "The priest ... is in a unique position to provide specific spiritual assistance to those experiencing same-sex attraction." Is this a joke? I'm not going there

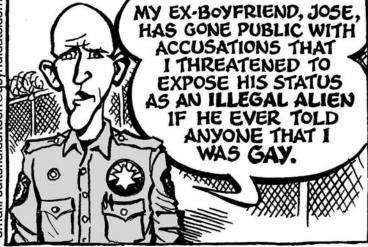
In any case, the Catholic Medical Association statement was issued years after the American Psychological Association changed its retrograde position and stated: "The research on homosexuality is very clear. Homosexuality is neither mental illness nor moral depravity."

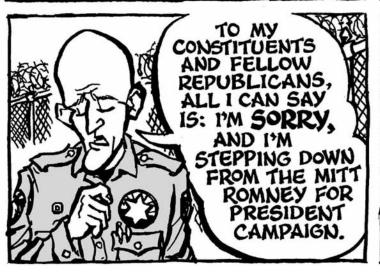
I have nothing against the Roman Catholic Church — nothing against any Abrahamic faith. I simply do not believe the practitioners should be passing judgment on all of us or meddling with marriage and abortion and contraception and military service and workplace rights and intimate relationships among members of our community.

And yet they do, or they try very hard to. So why would any LGBT seek to dignify such patriarchal, paternalistic views? It's a puzzle.

Phyllis Guest is a longtime activist on political and LGBT issues and is a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Send comments to editor@dallasvoice.com.











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#### **RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:**

Does the LGBT movement put too much emphasis on marriage?

- Yes: 41 percent
- No: 55 percentUnsure: 4 percent
- 241 Votes cast

#### LIFE+STYLE

concerts

#### SHOW VS. SHOW

## Alternadivas face off

From lez to Leslie, female musicians bring both the eccentric and the sophisticated to North Texas

he fates have convened once again to bring a healthy dose of live music to the area. From big to small, the concert calendar fills up with a spectrum of aural pleasures. Former New Kid on the Block Jordan Knight (not the gay one) headlines the Lakewood while alt-rock legends Radiohead make their American Airlines Center show an event next week. But we're stuck on a couple of ladies who speak to queers in vastly different ways.

For more than 20 years, Mary Gauthier has brought her lesbian sensibilities to her smart brand of Americana music. Touring in support of her seventh album, *The Foundling* and 2011's *The Foundling Alone* (a companion of acoustic demos), Gauthier continues to amass an impressive discography with graduating brilliance.

Cult singer Leslie Hall, with her band the Lys, let forth a trip of dance-ish tunes on 2011's *Destination Friendship*, with her signature rapping on cheeky songs like "Blame the Booty" and "No Pants Policy." But Hall is no joke. She veers toward the eccentric but she doesn't disappoint live, sweating up a storm with rambunctious energy and funky dance moves.

— Rich Lopez





#### **Mary Gauthier**

- ... sounds like a little bit of granola but served on a small silver dish.
- .... is, without a doubt, a member of the LGBT family.
- .... wears no-nonsense getups for her shows with a bit of fashionable edge.
- .... went to school for culinary arts and even owned her own restaurant, called the Dixie Kitchen (also the name of her 1997 debut).
- .... after a DWI incident in 1990, she began her music career, giving up drinking and writing her first song at 35.
- .... is a successful songwriter for other artists, with her songs recorded by the likes of Jimmy Buffett, Blake Shelton and Tim McGraw.
- .... usually performs solo onstage or with minimal help, most recently accompanied only by violinist Tania Elizabeth.
- .... has both gay and music cred, with winning best new country artist at the Gay and Lesbian Music Awards; her disc *The Foundling* was named one of the records of the year by the Los Angeles Times.
- .... performs at Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse, 9555 N. Central Expressway. March 2 at 8 p.m. \$15. Cary Cooper opens. UncleCalvins.org.

#### **Leslie and the Lys**

- .... sounds a whole lot like a boom box from the '80s, but made the quantum leap to today (having a baby on the way) with mid-'90s teen pop.
- .... may not be lesbian, but has earned her way into the hearts of hipster gays and camp-loving queens.
- $\dots$  proudly pushes the limit on gold lame space jumpsuits with her full figure and packs on the makeup with giant old-lady glasses.
- .... owns a sweater museum with her collection of more than 400 gaudy gem sweaters collected with the help of her fans. She also has a line of stretch pants under the moniker Midwest Diva.
- .... made front page news in her hometown of Ames, lowa, by wearing a secondhand pink gown, tiara and neck brace in a campaign for prom queen. She won.
- .... collaborated with Elvira, Mistress of the Dark and Yo Gabba Gabba.
- $\dots$  performs with the Lys, currently consisting of Mona Bonez, Scraps and Grazie. Past members have included Sassy Cassie, Obese E and Klassy K.
- .... was named one of the 40 Greatest Internet Superstars by VH1.
- .... performs at Bryan Street Tavern, 4315 Bryan St. March 4 at 8 p.m. \$9–\$12. Pennyhawk and Ramona and the Swimsuits open. FrontGateTickets.com.



#### Sleepy genius

Mike Hadreas — aka Perfume Genius — has grown into an ethereal messenger since 2010's *Learning*. Touching on themes that can apply to anyone, Hadreas is both a beacon of hope and a teller of dreamy tales on his new CD, *Put Your Back N 2 It* (Matador Records).

Hadreas starts the album on a sleepy, languid path with "AWOL Marine" and stays consistent throughout the 12 tracks. This can be a turn-off for someone looking for a more spirited album, but Hadreas is about depth and his lyrics reveal a major advance since *Learning*.

Finding inspiration from homemade basement

porn never sounded so exquisite as it does in "Marine," but the minimalist approach adds gravitas, not to mention beauty. He adds stunning emotions to "Take Me Home" (based on "hookerism") and "Floating Spit" (about overdosing). Hadreas is fearless about turning out butterflies from such depths of social standards.

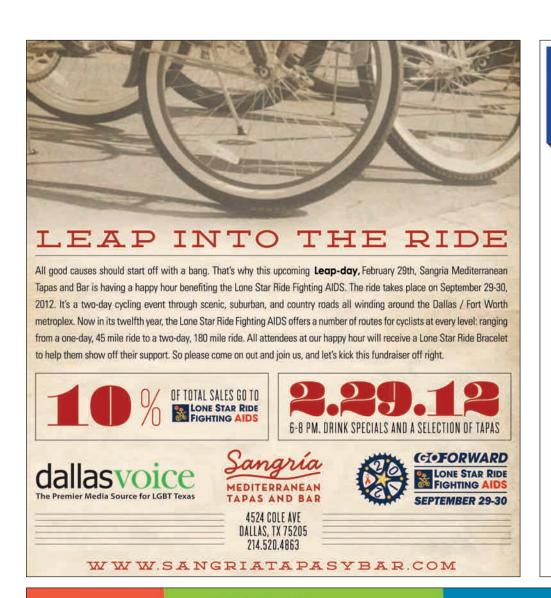
On "17," Hadreas writes an ode to gay men who have issues with image. He admits the song is a "gay suicide letter" (and a short one, too, at 2:30) but it's a shattering one. He doesn't shy from abstract lyrics but they still bring enough poetic power to have a heart-breaking impact. When he quietly sings In the body of a violin/String it up on a fence/Cover it with semen/I am done, I am done with it, the words are piercing even through his simple delivery.

From suicide to romance, the title track is a love song that floats on a lush piano and brings to light the feelings of budding love and awkward gay sex. Hadreas is gloriously blatant, but decidely poignant. Lyrics like *There is love with no hiding/Nothing you'll show me I will never leave here/Let me be the one to turn you on* whisper gently and before you know it, it's already on your mixtape to your beau.

Put Your Back N 2 It is impressionistic in its package and addresses life as a gay man, but also life in general. He sings about his mother, holding his boyfriend's hand and even death, all with a delicacy that speaks volumes if you listen closely.

Rich Lopez

Three and half stars.



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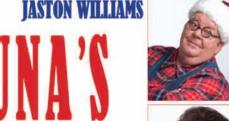


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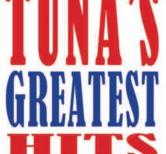
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L+S sports

## Balls & bulls

2 gay sports groups have 2 big weekends planned — and you're invited



There will be no lack of action this weekend. No, this isn't about a successful night of Grindring. All the action will either go down on a court or off a horse. The Oak Lawn Tennis Association (OLTA) and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) kick off their respective seasons over the weekend — in big fashion.

OLTA invites the community to "Friends of Tennis," which marks the beginning of the group's 33rd season. Tennis enthusiasts of all levels are encouraged to come out for the three days of mingling and playing and introduction

A mixer at Woody's on Saturday at 7 p.m. starts everything off, with opportunities to learn more about the association. For those itching at the bit to get on the court, play begins Sunday morning at the L.B Houston Tennis Center with the annual Promiscuous Doubles play at 9 a.m. The open court allows for all players to mix it up between various levels of experience. Lunch will be served after court time winds down.

L.B. Houston is located at 11225 Luna Road. For more information, visit OLTADallas.org.

The TGRA's big weekend isn't until March 2-4, with its annual Texas Tradition Rodeo in Fort Worth, but the cowboys are busy this weekend when the Rodeo Roundup hits the Hidden Door on Feb. 25, starting at 2 p.m. But it's the following Friday when things heat up.

This is the first year the association will hold a rodeo school for competitors wanting a refresher and for anybody else interested in rodeo events. Yes, anybody.

"Competitors can work with instructors on

techniques as a sort of refresher course," rodeo director Dan Nagel says. "But if someone's never competed and always wanted to, they can come on in too and work with a champion."

People can take courses on junior bull riding, chute dogging, calf roping on foot and steer decorating. And they'll be in good hands. Every instructor is an experienced rodeo athlete and likely has a few awards to his or her name. Once a class is completed, students can sign up to enter the competition.

Like any class, there are some prerequisites. For newbies wanting their inaugural ride. they must first register with the appropriate rodeo association. Locals can sign up with TGRA while out-of-towners need to apply with their area organization (most chapters are expected to be at the rodeo). A mandatory safety class is offered, too. Classes are \$15 each or \$50 the whole shebang. Other than that, Nagel says the only advice is to dress accordingly.

"Wear cowboy boots, jeans and a long-sleeve shirt," he advises. "A hat is OK to wear at school but certain events require long sleeves and a hat. If they come in without it, they're disqualified."

After classes are over, the events and performances begin March 3 at 9 a.m. at the Will Rogers Arena in Fort Worth. The Chris Brade Band, the Austin Babtist Women and the Free Ho Lay Sisters provide entertainment throughout the weekend. As a nonprofit, TGRA donates proceeds from the rodeo to various charities and has donated more than \$2 million to Texas agencies.

For more information, visit TGRA.org.

Rich Lopez

LEARN THE WAYS OF THE HORSE | This weekend kicks off the Oak lawn Tennis Association's 33rd season, and next week the TGRA begins a new tradition: A rodeo school.

## Kidd's stuff

When Chip Kidd is the designer, you can judge a book by its cover

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

hip Kidd takes the adage "you can't judge a book by its cover" seriously. On the other hand, part of his job is to get you to *look* at the book in the first place.

In the world of publishing, there is probably no more respected dust-jacket designer than Kidd. After more than 25 years at Alfred A. Knopf, Kidd's reputation is almost as solid as the authors for who he has designed covers: Michael

Crichton, David Sedaris, Cormac McCarthy, James Ellroy and Michael Ondaatje, to name a few; some writers even have it in their contracts that no one but Kidd may design their book jackets.

You might think such acclaim

would give Kidd an ego bigger than some of the novelists and essayists whose words adorn his art. But nothing could be further from the truth.

"Yes, a cover can be a sales tool, but it can just get your attention," he says. "The question I get asked with astonishing regularity, and have for decades now, is 'Do you read the books before you design them?' Oh my god yes! Yes yes yes

Everything he does is in service to the text. Which means he has to flex his creative muscle while still respecting the source.

"It's tricky — each book is its own particular case," Kidd says from his office in New York

study on [McCarthy's] The Road and how we ended up with what we did. But different authors want different things. I have been doing this 25 years and counting, and that's working nonstop. There is every conceivable story [of how a design came about]." Those stories, in fact, make up a presentation of his work that he'll bring to THE ART OF THE BOOK the Dallas Museum of Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Art this week. Harwood St. Feb. 27. 7:30 p.m. There are carefully \$37. DallasMuseumofArt.org. planned successes, and

City. "I could give you a whole case

unexpected failures, "such as the horrible [cover] you have to do again and again until everyone gives up," he says. "But the opposite of that is also true: The

one where everything comes together." Kidd is thinking about his design for Haruki Murakami's 1Q84, an experience "that was almost too good to be true. The [final design ] is exactly what I presented to our editor-in-chief. I usually do about three different things, but this one I thought was absolutely the best thing to do and everybody agreed. I would say that's my

Without even reading the book, its cover suggests something ethereal, dreamlike, unnerving

most favorite or my recent covers.'

— all words that Kidd says capture Murakami's writing to a tee.

The story begins with a woman in Tokyo navigating down a spiral staircase from a highway, but when she reaches the bottom, she feels she has entered a parallel universe. Kidd originally considered a Tokyo cityscape, "but faces work remarkably well on an emotional level and on an aesthetic level. I just started researching faces of Japanese women." Suddenly, an instant classic.

It's not always that easy. "We publish every conceivable kind of book cookbooks, crime fiction, literature," Kidd says. And he has to bring that creative bent to all of them.

"Genre stuff is hardest because you want to transcend the genre," he says. "Tech-



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK? | Dust jacket designer Chip Kidd, above, has created iconic covers for authors like David Sedaris and Haruki Murakami, below.

what I'm going to do, I've failed."

There is a shorthand that develops when he works with the same authors over and over, but even that's almost incidental, because "I try to wipe the slate clean every time." Still, no one can deny his covers for Michael Crichton's books, such are Jurassic Park, became part of the iconography of the novels. (I tell Kidd Disclosure is still one of the best dust jackets I've ever seen. "Yes, that's about as good as it gets," he agrees.)

nically, 1Q84 is science fiction — there is super-

natural stuff going on, though it is very subtle.

So a design ethos of mine is, if you can predict

Turning a hardcover jacket into a paperback soft-cover is a whole different beast, which comes with its own dynamics.

"There are so many different factors at play" in designing a paperback, he says. "Sometimes it's about whether the hardcover was perceived to have under-performed. Then you have the opposite and everything in between: Let's keep this and that element and change the rest. One of the things we follow here at Knopf is, at the end of the day you want the author to be pleased. You sometimes talk them into it or you compromise. There is a sort of buttered-side-down aspect to this business."

What does it take to make a lasting, memorable cover? Even Kidd's not sure. Certainly, though, he's agree that the original jacket for The Great Gatsby is iconic. Not so much.

"From a graphic designer's point of view, coming into it cold, it's not great — it's kind of silly! Eyes floating over a purple sky...? But the book is iconic so the cover became iconic. The most important thing is the text. ... though from a book collector's point of view, to find a first edition with a jacket is worth tons and tons of money."

Spoken like someone who understands art and business.

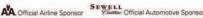


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#### **L+S** cover story

■ FRINGE, From Page 17

going in," he says. "It's become a gayer and gayer show as we worked on it and I didn't realize how many elements were in it altogether. A gay audience will appreciate them and would help the show."

Stella is made of six vignettes that riff on popular theater works mixed with camp and layered with a sophisticated jazz soundtrack. Parr's not going for satire, he says — he really just has one intention: "To celebrate all these plays and theater in general," he says.

**Queerspiration**: With *His Girl Tuesday*, *Porn Yesterday*, *Long Gay's Journey into Night*, *Alas Poor Yorick* and the title piece, the inspirations for each scene is obvious — as is the queer appeal, whether comic or more serious.

"The gay theme [in *Yorick*] surrounds a bullied student who befriends a girl on the bus," Parr explains. "The bullying issue wasn't what I set out to do, but I felt that outsider element the character does and befriended this girl who's been a good friend ever since."

He amps up the queer content by turning the finale into a mini-musical version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. With a complete emasculation of Stanley, the show turns the famous "Stella" yell into a chorus and flips the perspective around on the characters.

"That show is over the top anyway, but also a really disturbing play," he says. "And Tennessee Williams' writing style lends itself to music. The elements just needed a little tweaking to verge into camp territory. It's kinda like standing on a ledge — we don't wanna fall all the way off — that disrespects the original work."

Living on the fringe: Parr thrives on creating works with a fringe element, as he did in his first success, Slap & Tickle, about a group of men coming out in a post-AIDS time and the tapestry of relationships they are involved in. Parr, though, is maintaining his focus on Stella, because he will just be seeing it all put together when he finally comes to Dallas from New York a week before the festival.

"I feel pretty good right now and the tone of it is playing how I want it to," he says. "But then, we haven't done our tech yet!"

**Performances**: March 3 at 2 p.m., March 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 11 at 5 p.m.

#### Strange Dreamz

Interview with performer Kevin J. Thornton

Try to decide what to call Kevin J. Thornton, and you'll probably come up as empty as Thornton himself. He writes, tells jokes, sings songs, performs scenes from his life ... he might even bus your table if you asked nicely. So it is with his world premiere show, *Strange Dreamz*: It's a little bit of everything.

"I'm trying to blur the line between this show and my Podcast, which is also called *Strange Dreamz*. I say it's about 'love, sex and the meaning of life.' But I also call it



**'VULGARITY WITH A CHRISTIAN EDGE'** | For his world premiere show, Kevin J. Thornton recounts coming out to his fundamentalist family.

'dick jokes that are good for the soul' and 'an hour of vulgarity with a Christian edge.' I'm truly a variety act — I guess the closest you could say is, I'm like a male Sandra Bernhardt."

Thornton grew up in a deeply fundamentalist Christian household, so his journey to out atheist has been a long and difficult one, but all the more material to fuel his comic rants.

"If you read it on paper, my stuff may seem pretty filthy. But I have this boy-next-door charm that keeps people in their seats," he admits.

That quality probably also landed him a job posing nude once for *Unzipped*, the gay porn magazine. So what was more difficult to expose: His body or his painful upbringing?

"Of course it's taking off my clothes!" he says without missing a beat. "I'm very vain and have a small penis. Getting onstage and spilling my guts is a piece of cake to me now. The closer I get to embarrassing myself, the better the material is. It seems to resonate with people."

**Performances**: March 3 at 5 p.m., March 6 at 7:30 p.m. and March 10 at 2 p.m.

#### Waking Up

Interview with playwright Kelsey Ervi

Only 22, Ervi's play *Waking Up* will be the first of her works actually produced for the stage.

What's gay about your play: "When I was writing this, I wanted to make sure to create a broad spectrum

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of characters. It's important to me as a playwright and a lesbian to have gay characters, so we have a scene with two men in their struggling relationship and then two women who are physically and emotionally into each other, but it's something they're uncovering about themselves.

"I knew it would be a good fit into this festival. The show is neither a comedy nor drama, but, um ... quirky is a good word. It has many different themes and storylines in small vignettes. The play revolves around 11 characters total and it's all set in a bedroom. We set it in realism to look at things people wake up to, wake up for or don't wake up at all. I think it can

touch audiences in a different way."

Past gay cred? "I was accepted for GLAAD's annual OUTAuction last November. I had a photograph accepted and was named one of the top five emerging artists in my medium. I was so happy to be a part of that. And I had a directing internship with ShakespeareDallas last fall under Rene Moreno working on *Hamlet*. That really pushed me to move to Dallas and I'll be working with [the company] again this summer for *Twelfth Night*. I knew I didn't want to wait in Waco any longer."

One last note: "I wrote Waking Up after an intimate experience with a girl in college. She was an inbetweener. But I want the audience to be reminded how emotions can be scary but great. Besides, it's short (30 minutes) and sweet. It's something different ages can enjoy, especially young people."

Performances: March 2, 5 and 11 at 7 p.m.

#### The Screw You Revue

Interview with Douglas McGeoch, aka Miss Didi Panache

Imagine a Sonny and Cher-style duo with the in-your-face satire of Lisa Lampanelli and you have *The Screw You Revue*. Real-life partners Dewey Chaffee and Douglas McGeoch star as Wayburn Sassy (Chaffee), a bigoted

curmudgeon who calls it as he sees it, and Miss Didi Panche, his lovely songbird accomplice, in this gay cabaret of *hiss-and-tell* humor.

Standup origins: The show began out of Chaffee's standup comedy routine with a biological girl originally playing the role of Didi. Chaffee later convinced McGeoch to step into the heels and "now, he can't tear the sequins from my back or the lashes from my eyes," says McGeoch. For its Texas premiere, they will be adding three things. "One, lots of local Dallas flair and commentary on the city. Two, multiple digs at Texas' Most Honorable Governor, Rick Perry. And the third addition will be ... um ... let me check my notes ... I forgot. Oops!"

Fair warning: For those easily offended, best to stay at home. This audience-interaction experience does not discriminate. During one of their most memorable shows, Wayburn encountered a quadriplegic in the front row. Ignoring typical social norms he approached the gentleman and said, "All right, someone needs attention. I'll bite. What the hell happened to you?" The audience went silent. The gentleman responded by saying that at the age of 12 he dove into a pool and broke his neck. Without missing a beat Wayburn replied, "So you're not only a cripple, you're an idiot, too."

According to McGeoch, the gentleman and his party roared with laughter. **Performances:** March 9 and 10, 10 p.m.

#### **Beyond Words**

Interview with mime Bill Bowers

**Cast**: Just Bowers, a professional mime who uses stories from his life growing up as a gay kid in Montana, then deciding to become a mime. *Beyond Words* is a personal story culled from Bowers' own life, with narration and movement telling the story. It played last fall off-Broadway.

Ooh, daddy: Whether he considers himself one or not, Bowers is a daddy — for real! He recently donated his sperm to a lesbian couple and became a biological father to their child. Both Bowers and his partner will have active roles in the son's life.

On how becoming a father affected his art: "We're not the official parents, they're raising him. But we're a big part of his life and I see him regularly. It's something I never imagined I would do, but they asked, and I became a father. So that is a huge part of this piece."

On becoming a mime: "I was surrounded by silence when growing up," Bowers says. "There was the silence of Montana, but although I was in a big



**LOTS OF PANACHE** | McGeoch and Chaffee, above, perform the sassy standup of 'The Screw Your Revue;' newly-relocated Kelsey Ervi, left, debuts her first produced play, 'Waking Up.'

family, I didn't talk much. And then the silence of being a gay kid, there was no conversation about that when I was little. When I got into high school and realized there was an art form about not talking, it just came to me. I started teaching myself what I thought mime was."

For those who wanna be mimes: In addition to his show, Bowers will also lead a movement workshop on March 10 at 10 a.m.

Performances: March 9 at 8 p.m., March 10 at 5 p.m. and March 11 at 2 n m



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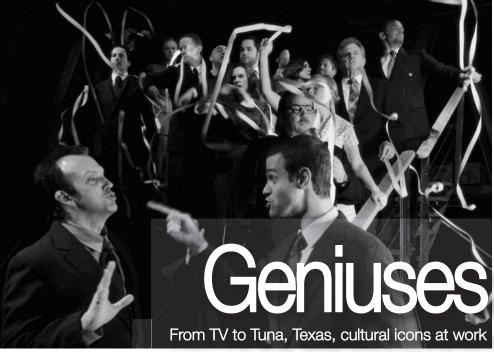
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#### L+S stage



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

There are two indispensable treasures of American culture being dramatized onstage right now: Television itself, and boys of Tuna, Texas. I can't imagine life without either.

Television — its history and creation — comes to us via the mind of Aaron Sorkin with **The Farnsworth Invention**. Philo T. Farnsworth (Alex Organ as an adult) was just an Idaho farm

boy when he came up with the essential theories (the use of pixilation, the way to seal a cathode ray tube) that would make television possible. He was in the game for the science.

David Sarnoff (Jakie Cabe) was in it to change the way humans communicate. A wunderkind himself, he saw the potential of

TV — and radio for that matter — when everyone else thought of them as novelties for rich folks. Some of Sarnoff's innovations: playing music and covering breaking news faster than the printed word. (He would have been bowled over by the Internet.) But Sarnoff was practical, and knew that to make his vision of a globalized society work, he needed to control not only the content, but the technology.

Sorkin, a TV icon with shows like *The West Wing*, is a master of the Tommy-gun dialogue delivery — a style that works well when you can edit a scene, but does it translate to the stage? It does with Jeffrey Schmidt directing excellent actors like Cabe and Organ, who enunciate so clearly, ever line imprints before they move on to the next. It's amazing how effortlessly and dramatic you can make complex theoretical science seem when you approach it smartly. (This is the best handling of this kind of material since Theatre 3 did *Copenhagen*.)

Sorkin takes many dramatic liberties, but what he captures is the conflict between vision-

aries, both driven not by personal glory but by a desire to make the world better. You want to peg one as the villain, but you end up turning on the idiot box and lamenting that, ultimately, neither succeeded in creating the utopia he imagined.

The folks of Tuna, Texas, are more radiofriendly than TV consumers — easier to get your Baptist sermon that way. The resident of Tuna are their own kind of pop icons, anyway. It's been 30 years since Joe Sears and Jaston Williams

first joined forces with co-author/director Ed Howard for *Greater Tuna*, spawning three sequels and countless converts who appreciation their satiric edge couched in closed minds of West Texas.

Tuna's Greatest Hits, now at the Eisemann, is a pastiche of the four shows in the Tuna tetralogy,

cleaving its plot mostly to the courtship between beset housewife Bertha Bumiller (Sears) and shy radio host Arles Struvie (Williams).

Boiled down like this show is — it covers about 25 years of creativity from first show to fourth — you get to luxuriate in some of the details that may have slipped by: Bertha's hideously colorful pant suits (fuchsia blouse, chartreuse vest and print bloomers send shivers down the tasteful spine); spot-on metaphors ("shaking like a faith healer"). And they reprise classic lines like good standup comedians or nostalgia musical acts on tour, some updated just enough to remind us of their relevance.

The shows are famed for their dry humor and flatly funny puns (the women's auxiliary? The Tuna Helpers). But in this breezy 90-minute walk through Patsy Cline territory, it's the heartfelt sentiment (never cloying) that reminds you what geniuses these guys are — not just gifted actors and savvy comedy writers, but insightful analysts of the Texas mind.

**LIGHT YEARS AHEAD** | David Sarnoff (Jakie Cabe) faces off against TV's creator Philo Farnsworth (Alex Organ) in T3's brisk production of Aaron Sorkin's 'The Farnsworth Invention.' (Photo by Jeffrey Schmidt)



#### The Oscar scorecard

Gay folks — both actors, characters and behind the scenes — are easier to find at the Tonys and Emmys than at the Oscars; it's one of the reasons we get so excited about *Brokeback Mountain* and *The Kids Are All Right*.

But the Oscars do occasionally have their queer appeal — one of the frontrunners this year is an elderly man who comes out as gay to his adult son's dismay.

Here's a scorecard for those keeping track, including who will win and who should ... and who might sneak in. Let the office pool begin!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Picture: Who will win: The Artist, pictured.
Who should win: The Help. Spoiler:
The Descendants.

**Director:** Who will win: Michel Hazavanicius, *The Artist.* Who should win: Terrence Malick, *Tree of Life.* Spoiler: Martin Scorsese, *Hugo.* 

Actor: Who will/should win: Jean Dujardin, The Artist. Spoiler: George Clooney, The Descendants.

Actress: Who will/should win: Meryl Streep, The Iron Lady. Spoiler: Viola Davis, The Help.

Supporting Actor: Who will/should win: Christopher Plummer, Beginners. Spoiler: None.

**Supporting Actress**: Who will/should win: Octavia Spencer, *The Help.* Spoiler: None.

**Original Screenplay:** Who will/should win: *The Artist.* Spoiler: *Midnight in Paris.* 

Adapted Screenplay: Who will/should win: The Descendants. Spoiler: Tinker Tailor Solider Spv.

**Cinematography:** Who will win: *The Artist.* Who should win/spoiler: *The Tree of Life.* 

**Film Editing:** Who will win: *Hugo*. Who should win: *Moneyball*. Spoiler: *Descendants*.

Art Direction: Who will/should win: Hugo. Costume Design: Who will/should win:

Anonymous. Spoiler: Hugo.

Score: Who will/should win: The Artist.

Song: Who will/should win: The Muppets.

Sound Mixing: Who will win: *Hugo*.
Sound Editing: Who will win: *War Horse*.
Visual Effects: Who will/should win: *Rise of* 

the Planet of the Apes. Spoiler: Real Steel.

Makeup: Who will/should win: Albert Nobbs.

Spoiler: The Iron Lady.

**Foreign Language Film**: Who will win: *In Darkness*. Spoiler: *A Separation*.

Animated Feature Film: Who will win: Chico and Rita. Spoiler: Rango.

**Documentary Feature Film**: Who will win: *Undefeated*. Who should win: *Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory.* Spoiler: *Pina*.

**Live Action Short Subject**: Who will/should win: *Raju*. Spoiler: *Tuba Atlantic*.

**Animated Short Subject**: Who will/should win: *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*. Spoiler: *La Luna*.

**Documentary Short Subject**: Who will win: *The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom.* 

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HO LAY SISTERS

## What's new, Buenos Aires

Argentina's capital is a gay mecca, but for the most rewarding experience, explore its lush tropical countryside to the north

JOEY AMATO I Contributing Writer

lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

In gay culture, the must-visit South American country has always been Brazil — especially Rio, with its *carnivale* and sexual abandon. But while neighboring Argentina may live in Brazil's shadow, the nation's rich history and beauty make it a destination serious travelers will love to explore.

Upon arrival into Buenos Aires, you'll quickly realize the enormity of the city. With a population of approximately 12 million, it is easily one of the largest cities in the world. And while south of the equator, B.A. exudes a distinctly European vibe. You'll notice signs of the city's Ital-

ian influence and see hints of Spain scattered throughout the Argentinean capital. Palermo is the largest neighbor-

hood in Buenos Aires, adorned with cobblestone sidewalks, outdoor cafes and a mix of traditional and modern architecture. One of the swankiest properties there is the Vitrum Hotel, which fuses fashion, art and cuisine. The hotel's restaurant, Sushi Club, has been voted one of the best Japanese restaurants in B.A. Vitrum is every-

thing the modern day traveler needs, not the



cobblestone sidewalks, outdoor cafes and a mix of traditional and modern water that thrills you on a trip to the province of Misiones in Argentina. (Photo courtesy Joey Amato)

least of which is complimentary wireless Internet throughout. It's perfect for a quick business trip or a vacation with your partner.

Buenos Aires is divided into many neighborhoods, with likeable Puerto Madero one of the

newest and trendiest. Filled with upscale residential apartments, restaurants, offices and lofts, it's centered along picturesque canals. Locals spend afternoons strolling along the docks, riding bikes on the wide pathways, and lingering







**GAUCHO LIFE** | You can live like a South American cowboy at Santa Cecilia, a century-old resort where guests are invited to engage in outdoor activities such as horseback riding. (Photo courtesy Joey Amato)

over coffee and pastries at riverfront cafes.

Puerto Madero attracts businessmen during the day and a fashionable, and affluent crowd at night. It is lined with elegant restaurants serving Argentine steaks and seafood specialties. The Argentine Catholic University campus and a private art museum also call this area home.

Although Gay Pride in B.A. isn't as large as it is in Sao Paulo, its parade is still a sight, as thousands of revelers partied in the streets until the wee hours of the morning.

Gay life in Buenos Aires sizzles. The locals are friendly and it boasts many nightlife options, from LGBT-owned restaurants to traditional bars to swanky ultra lounges were all within walking distance of the city center. Sitges, Zoom and Glam are all clubs meriting a look-see, as is the Axel Hotel, widely popular for its Sunday T-dance.

But Argentina is more than Buenos Aires; much of the country consists of sub-tropical rainforests. The northern province of Misiones is a great place to discover that fact.

One of the highlights of this region is the incredible San Ignacio ruins. Founded in 1632 by the Jesuits during the Spanish colonial period (the original mission was erected in 1610), in the 18th century the mission had a population of around 3,000 and enjoyed a rich economy, helped by the nearby Paraná River. After the Suppression of the Society of Jesus of 1767, the Jesuits left and the mission was eventually destroyed in 1817.

What remains is a remarkable display of beautifully preserved ruins. A tour guide can walk you through the sprawling compound. There is a mystique about the ruins that lingers. At sundown, guests are invited to enjoy an incredible laser and light show, which rivals most shows you would expect to see at Walt Disney World.

If you have time, stop by one of the small shops that surround the ruins. This is the best place to find local crafts and souvenirs at bargain prices. Argentina is a fairly inexpensive country to visit, especially compared to Brazil.

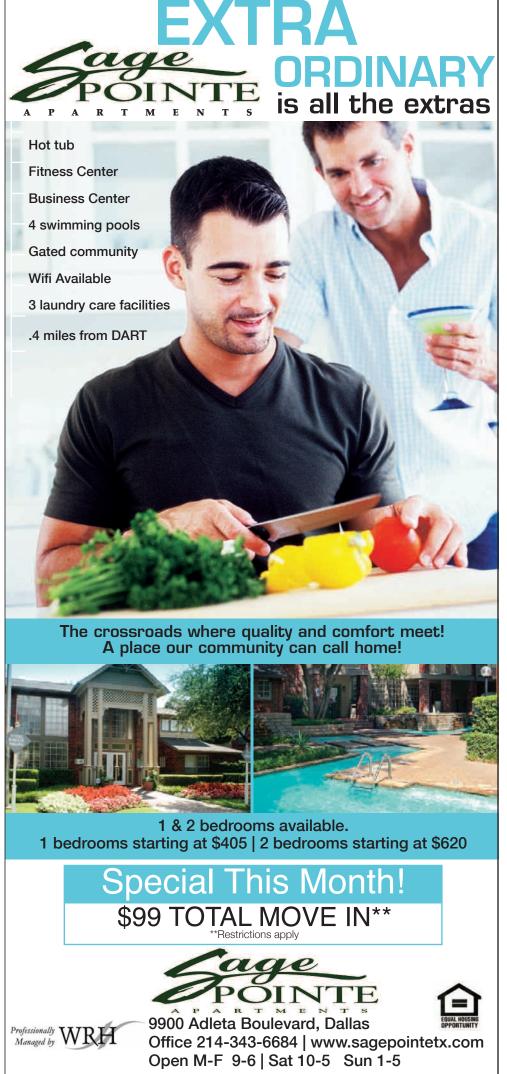
For a truly unique Argentinean experience, check into Santa Cecilia, a historic Estancia built in 1908, located in close proximity to the ruins. The property features a large main house consisting of four guestrooms each with private bath, a charming sitting area and an expansive dining room. Guests here will indulge in traditional cuisine prepared by a private chef while partaking in conversation with fellow travelers and the gracious hosts.

Guests at Santa Cecilia are encouraged to live like the gauchos, including horseback riding adventures and a variety of other outdoor activities which take you along the spectacular countryside.

It is a short ride from Santa Cecilia to Iguazú Falls, one of the greatest natural wonders of South America — and the world, for that matter. After a short walk through the lush jungle, you can soon begin to hear the thunderous falls, but it is that first glimpse that's undeniably breathtaking.

Iguazú is actually a network of more than 275 different waterfalls spanning 23 kilometers. The most impressive waterfall, the Devil's Throat, is 80 meters high. Three ring-shaped balconies allow visitors to get a close look at Devil's Throat, which spans 492 feet.

One of the best places to stay while visiting Iguazú is Loi Suites. The hotel, set on a large patch in the Iryapu jungle and only 15 minutes from the falls, has 162 beautifully appointed guest rooms. Built in 2009, the resort features a spa, restaurant, tiki bar and game room. Swinging bridges connect multiple buildings, which was actually enjoyable, but could be dangerous if you've had one too many cocktails.





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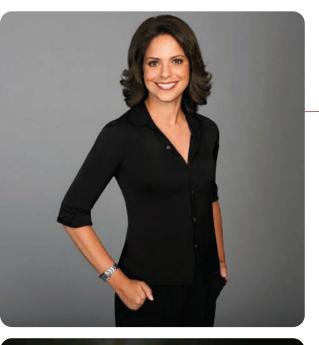












#### Friday 02.24

#### Up close and personal

CNN's Soledad O'Brien struck a chord with the LGBT community in her 2010 special *Gay in America* following up on her Latino and African-American coverage. She comes to Arlington giving a lecture on "Diversity in America."

**DEETS:** Texas Hall, 701 S. Nedderman Drive (on UT Arlington campus). 7:30 p.m. Free. UTA.edu/MaverickSpeakers.

#### **Saturday** 02.25

#### Raise your glass

The Toast To Life Gala brings together culinary delights and luxury auctions together for a dazzling night of fundraising. The annual event celebrates 14 years with all proceeds from the night benefiting Resource Center Dallas. Who doesn't like a night to dress up fancy like while raising a toast to the years of work the Center has done?

**DEETS:** Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. 8 p.m. \$100–\$150. ToastToLife.org.

#### **Wednesday** 02.29

#### Comic appeal

Bond over Marvel team-ups or Archie love triangles when Zeus Comics owner Richard Neal hosts The Return of the Mighty Zeus LGBT Mixer. The new Leap Year tradition features special guest Tim Fish, the out cartoonist behind such queer comic tomes like *Cavalcade of Boys* and *Young Bottoms in Love*. He'll sign copies of his work, but at least buy him a thank you drink.

**DEETS:** Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 5:30 p.m. ZeusComics.com.





LIFE+STYLE

best bets



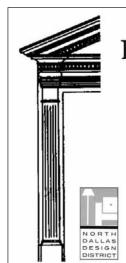
by Tim Fish





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#### **FRIDAY 02.24**

#### **COMMUNITY**

**Country dance Lessons.** Line dancing and Country/Western instruction. Promise Worship & Community Center, 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. Through April 27. 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. BethElBinah.org.

**Lambda Pride Toastmasters**. Regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.RreeToastHost.us.

**Business Network Collin County** luncheon. Fox Sports Grille, 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano. 11:30 a.m. \$20. BusinessNetworkCC.org.

**Oak Lawn Group for Gays Lambda** meets 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.

#### MUSIC

Responsible Johnny, Magic Astro Cult and Toxi-

**fix.** Local bands battle it out for free music video production. Punk rockers Responsible Johnny features out musician Rebel Quel on bass. Muddy Waters, 4314 Live Oak St. 10 p.m.

#### THEATER

**Cultural Awareness Series** featuring three works of music and dance including *The Nina Simone Project* and *Angelitos Negros* presented by the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. Through Sunday. \$10–\$65. DBDT.com

*Little Women*. Rockwall Community Playhouse, 609 E. Rusk Ave., Rockwall. Through Sunday. \$20. RockwallCommunityPlayhouse.org.

**Pluck the Day**. Bryant Hall at Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sunday. 7:30 p.m. \$25. SecondThoughtTheater.com.

*Tristan and Isolde*. The Dallas Opera stages the Wagner production as a concert. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Saturday. \$25–\$275. ATTPAC.org.

Tuna's Greatest Hits: 30 Years of Laughter. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through March 4. 8 p.m. \$44–\$55. EisemannCenter.com.

#### SATURDAY 02.25

#### COMMUNITY

**Dallas FrontRunners** fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. The group meets under the statue at Lee Park at 8 a.m. and proceed to the Katy Trail. They convene after for breakfast in the area. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

**Legacy** social group of adults 50 or older from Cathedral of Hope. Activities vary from potlucks to outings and more. Call 972-387-3345 for more information.



PLUCKED OFF | Second Thought Theatre's 'Pluck the Day' finishes its run Sunday at Bryant Hall.

**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.

**Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous**. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., # 108.

#### **BROADCAST**

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

#### **SUNDAY 02.26**

#### COMMUNITY

Unemployment Support Group meets to explore employment search and unemployment concerns. 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.

**The ONE Church**, 2515 Inwood Road, Ste 213. Services at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

**Resounding Harmony** holds weekly rehearsals at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. 7 p.m. Resoundingharmony.org.

#### THEATER

**Ebony Emeralds Classic Theater** put on their annual special performance celebrating Black History Month. Blue Room at South Side on Lamar, 1409 South Lamar St. 8 p.m SouthSideonLamar.com.

#### **MONDAY 02.27**

#### COMMUNITY

**Log Cabin Republicans**. Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

**PFLAG Denton**. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

**Self esteem support group**. 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 02.28**

#### COMMUNITY

**Prime Timers Prime Diner**. Meso Maya, 11909 Preston Road. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

**JEWEL Writing Discussion & Exchange** meets on the fourth Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for the discussion topic and assignment for the month. RCDallas.org.

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

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

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

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

**Miracle Workers** meets in Fellowship Hall. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. CathedalOfHope.com.

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

#### **WEDNESDAY 02.29**

#### COMMUNITY

**FUSE Activity Nights.** The "official FUSE hangout night" with games, food and more meets weekly. 7 p.m. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com.

**El Sol** support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

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

#### BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Dallas Voice arts critic Arnold Wayne Jones discussing the Oscar results. Hosted by David Taffet, Patti Fink and Lerone Landis. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

#### THURSDAY 03.01

#### COMMUNITY

**PFLAG Fort Worth** (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays) meets first Thursdays of each month. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. Pflagfortworth.org.

**First Thursday Gallery Walk** where all showrooms and galleries along Dragon Street in the Design District will remain open until 8 p.m. each month.

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

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

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

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. 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.

Have an event to share? Upload it directly to our online calendar. Visit DallasVoice.com/Cal and follow the prompts from Add Event.



#### this week's solution



#### **CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig

Antonio Sabato Jr. turns 40 on Wednesday. The handsome actor has made women and men swoon since his days as a Calvin Klein model and soap opera star. He embraced his appeal to gays by appearing on the cover of The Advocate in 2006. He played the "gay best friend" in an episode of Hot in Cleveland last year and appears in this year's Celebrity Wife Swap.



#### PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Focus on being a better partner. That means allowing some space, being less co-ependent. Enjoy your birthday, but impulse spending would prove surprisingly expensive.

#### ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Staying calm, focused and cooperative on the task ahead is a real challenge. Keep faultfinding to yourself; be mature, stoic and farsighted. It will get easier next week.

#### TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Friends feel like they're more trouble than they're worth. Go hide and relax. Social obligations at work are especially difficult. Prioritize; do what you must and save time to recharge your batteries.

#### GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Make the impossible work with a balance of inspiration and practicality. That crazy idea that comes out of nowhere could be the key. Test it before you commit, but at least check it out.

#### CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

New situations are overwhelming, even confusing. Resist temptation to retreat. Push through the fog. Not only can you rise to the occasion, but you will find the effort rewarding.

#### LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Efforts to smooth over problems backfire big time. Face the music and deal with it. Put that sunshine to work rallying support for a real solution.

#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Even well intended advice can go very wrong. Pay attention and receive it politely. If it sounds like a good idea, consider it very carefully before acting on it.

#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Don't take anything for granted. It may seem tedious work to spell out all the little details, but it is worth the trouble. The less you boast, the more attractive they will make you.

#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Losing friends without creating trouble is hard. Be gentle and polite. If they accuse you of being overly-critical, smile agreeably. That's just a harsh way of saying you have higher standards.

#### SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

You're on a power surge. It could build momentum at work and push you into a better job. If you are considering any big risks with your work, this is the time to take them, but think ahead.

#### CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Your goals are realistic, but you need to get your ego out of the way. Negatives overshadow the issue now. Bring those to light. Soon you'll see the positives more clearly.

#### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

A good argument could cost you. Be restrained and pragmatic; keep your ears open. Elicit information, but don't contradict. You could learn something very useful, even profitable.

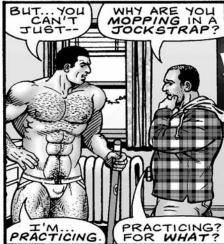
#### **THIS WEEK**

The sun in Pisces opposing Mars in Virgo starts lots of picky. whiney, hyper-critical arguments. Put aside your own "needs" and offer what you can to others.

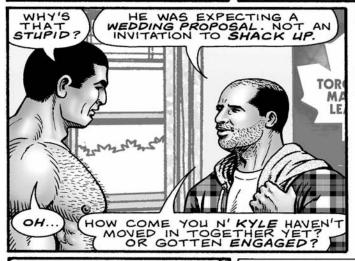
Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

#### Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



















E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com



bitter girl









dallasvoice.com ■ 02.24.12

#### 12 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 25 26 28 30 24 32 34 36 38 40 41 42 43 45 50 46 49 56 52 53 55 59 58 61 60 62 63 64

### A Couple of guys® THANKS FOR INVITING Dave Browssam US TO JOIN YOU, ERIC. THIS WAS FUN!

IT'S FUNNY ... AT FIRST I ASSUMED

HE WAS BLIND









#### Solution on page 33

#### Across

- 1 Chain with fruit syrups
- 5 Guy who cheats on his boyfriend, e.g.
- 8 Billy Budd, for one
- 14 Loose cannon
- 16 Cause of chaotic weather
- 17 Oz city shades
- 18 Some housewarming gifts
- 19 Start of a line from a Whitney Houston song
- 21 Bears org.
- 22 Worship service, for Malcolm Boyd
- 23 Says a word to Mary
- 27 Lover that you can't get over
- 29 Have fun with the Kneelers
- 32 Out, at the library
- 34 Title for French ladies
- 38 More of the line
- 40 Tolerate homophobe Robertson?
- 41 Gracefully slender
- 42 Little bit
- 43 Copies of a feminist mag.
- 45 That is, to Cicero
- 46 Site of a Lara Croft raid

I, UH, SAW YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW MARTY

HE'S ALWAYS WEARING THOSE

DARK GLASSES, EVEN INDOORS

BU-U-URP

WE THINK SHE'S

OR AT NIGHT.

AT YOUR WEDDING, AND I'VE SEEN ADS

ON TV FOR HIS RADIO SHOW.

49 Was out in front

- 51 End of the line
- 57 Stew slowly
- 58 Service later in the day
- 60 Bore that isn't penetrating
- 61 Corsage favorite
- 62 Be too single-minded
- 63 It's over your head
- 64 Hoarse sound

#### Down

- 1 Land of writer E. Donoghue
- 2 Prefix with sphere
- 3 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_ Love"
- 4 Roz portrayer on "Frasier"
- 5 Ariz. neighbor
- 6 Crackhead, e.g.
- 7 Ball lover
- 8 Old photo color
- 9 Fashion designer Perry
- 10 Lover of Henry and June
- 11 Skimpy skirt
- 12 "No" voter
- 13 "I have a headache" and "Not tonight, honey"
- 15 Challenged
- 20 Philip Johnson contemporary
- 23 Get up
- 24 Antigay crusader Bryant
- 25 Story of Greeks that busted some Trojans
- 26 Pork purchase
- 28 Doesn't use
- 29 Word from Tom Bianchi, perhaps
- 30 Salmon that has spawned
- 31 Place to stop when cruising
- 33 Tuck's partner
- 35 Liza, to Lorna
- 36 Stockholder's bonus
- 37 Blown away
- 39 Shakespeare's feet
- 44 Eastern European language
- 46 Wrap it around your package
- 47 Sites for dates
- 48 Powers portrayer
- 50 Sondheim's "\_\_\_ Day a Little Death"
- 51 Mubarak, for one
- 52 Actor Jude and family
- 53 Staying power, in "Variety"
- 54 Belgian river
- 55 Sometime Capote associate Chaplin
- 56 United, to Vivien
- 57 "Liquor not provided" letters
- 59 Noticeable opening, with The





#### LIFE+STYLE

scene



Denise at TMC: The Mining Company.



Bryan and Brad at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Josh, David, Larry and Michael at the Dallas Eagle.

Ready for the weekend? We'll go better with your hotspots for the week .... Sister Ophelia Nutz says goodbye to Dallas at Sister Ophelia Goes to Greenland at **Cherries** on Saturday. The fundraiser benefits **DFW Sisters** as she bids farewell for now. We hear she'll return to the area next year  $\dots$  Lesbian rocker **Rebel Quel** and her band Responsible Johnny will blow your ears out Friday night at Muddy Waters .... Place your hard bets at Pocket Rockets' Texas Hold 'Em Charity Poker Tournament for AIDS Interfaith Network at the Brick on Saturday afternoon. The third annual WinterGreen Party goes down Saturday night. Mowlawn Rouge, lowna Traylor and more headline the night with all proceeds benefiting LifeWalk 2012. We're kind of jealous of Olivia Oasis doing double duty. She hosts Wednesday's Best Chest contest and then Thursday's Strip Off contest. Tough life .... Another send off party goes down this weekend. Peker's and Totally Twisted Karaoke throw the HIP-pie Karaoke Party for Voice of Pride winner and karaoke host Robert Olivas Saturday at the bar before his leave of absence for surgery .... The Kathy Corbin Band starts the weekend off Friday night at Sue Ellen's. Ciao Bella kicks it on Saturday and Anton Shaw and the Reason round out a weekend of live music on Sunday .... The Dallas Eagle host the Dallas Diablos Third Half event Saturday afternoon followed by DJ Blaine Soileau's Release party. The Texas Gay Rodeo Assocation holds its Rodeo Kick Off Party Thursday night at the club .... Rave out at the **Show Me Love** party with **DJ Dik** headlining at the Lizard Lounge Friday night. J-Ro, Teezy and Sickone add to the fan appreciation night .... Go forth and party.

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



Erica, Michelle and Eva at 1851 Club.



Sandy, Noel and Brad at the Rainbow Lounge.



Matt and Ronnie at Station 4.



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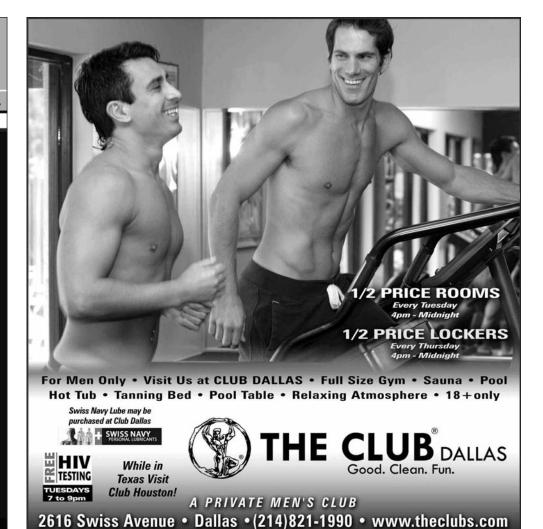
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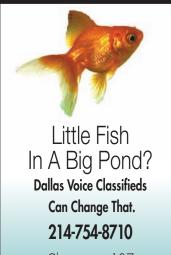
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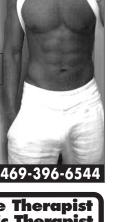
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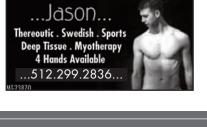
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