

Dallas International Film Fest opens

Queer offerings are to be found at 11-day festival
From ballet to a taboo relationship to comedies and a doc on Vito Russo, there's plenty to see

■ SCREEN, Page 24



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Established 1984 | Volume 28 | Issue 48

FREE | Friday, April 13, 2012



As Lee Hirsch's documentary featuring Kelby Johnson's story premieres in N. Texas, the transgender Oklahoma City teen wants to use the film as a platform to help end the type of harassment that nearly drove him to suicide

■ Page 16



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Photos courtesy of The Weinstein Company.

Cover design by Michael Stephens.

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Richland Hills hate crime victim launches his own organization

The 25-year-old victim of a hate crime in Richland Hills March 28 is taking preventative measures into his own hands with a new organization to help those who have been attacked to speak out.

Lloyd Guerrero was beaten with a cane by his 71-year-old neighbor Wanda Derby while he was trying to help her son move in to his family's apartment next door.

Derby allegedly attacked him and called him "fag-got," later allegedly telling police she thought he would give her son AIDS because Guerrero is gay.

Although he sustained minor bruises from the incident, he said other incidents that his friends have encountered over the years from people that were never caught pushed him to use his personal experience to help others speak out for justice. The next day, March 29, he started working on Project: Blue Voice.

"I'm not so much doing it for me anymore. I'm doing it for all those people who can't or won't speak out," he said. "If it helps one person, then that's awesome and that would make me feel like I helped."

The project originally began on Facebook, he said, as a page to bring hate crime attacks to the attention of the public and encourage those who have survived attacks to come forward and report them.

But Guerrero said the page was not enough. The project grew into an organization and Guerrero has filed for nonprofit status with Texas. He launched a

website Sunday, April 8, and is now incorporating videos on YouTube. He has already filmed a video speaking about his experience but has not yet uploaded it to the sites.

Videos are intended for victims of hate crimes to wear half of a plain blue *Phantom of the Opera*-type mask to hide part of their identity while sharing their story. Family members who share stories of loved ones whom they have lost to violence should wear the entire mask to show that they are speaking for someone that can no longer speak for themselves, he said.

The blue mask is a symbol of the organization, and Guerrero said he took the color from Facebook because that's where the group started and also decided to use blue because of the black and blue bruises that physically heal but remain emotionally intact after violent acts.

He said he wants the project to go national with input and participation to make the public aware that hate crimes happen everywhere but are not always reported.

"What we want to accomplish nationally is that these things [hate crimes] are happening and people are getting away with it," he said. "People aren't talking about it. If they see other people speaking out, then maybe they'll feel more comfortable talking about it."

Guerrero said he has received more than 100 emails and Facebook messages from LGBT youth and family members who have contacted him to share their stories. The stories brought tears to his



POOCHES ON PARADE | Thousands gathered for Easter in the Park on Sunday, April 8, before the rain set in. To view more photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

tears and made him realize the potential he has to help prevent future violence.

"It made me cry because people can't say anything because they're too scared to," he said. "The further we can go with [the project], the better chance we have of preventing things from happening."

— Anna Waugh

Brookhaven GSA seeks musicians, bands for Poverty & AIDS Benefit

Adrianna Thompson, the president of the Brookhaven Community College's gay-straight alliance, announced on the group's Facebook page

that she is organizing the first Poverty & AIDS fundraiser to be held May 1 on campus benefiting Resource Center Dallas. She's lined up the school's Urban Dance Crew and Dallas County's Zach Thompson will speak. She's handling it all on her own and said she could use a little help.

"I want to have local bands there and even a drag performance," she said. "The thing is I just don't know a whole lot of people in the community."

The Poverty & AIDS benefit will have a \$2 cover or a food donation of two cans. All proceeds will go to directly to the Resource Center Dallas. For anyone wishing to donate their time and/services, email me here and I can put you in touch.

— Rich Lopez

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EARLY DETECTION | Resource Center Dallas' Daniel Palma labels a blood sample for a Nuclear Acid Amplification Test, which is accurate as early as 10 days after exposure to HIV. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

HIV infection rate hits 5-year high in Dallas

County sees most new cases since 2005; 'men who have sex with men' account for 70 percent of diagnoses

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County's rate of new HIV infections hit a five-year high in 2010, according to a newly released surveillance report from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Dallas County also recorded its highest total number of new HIV cases since 2005, the statistics show, and had the highest HIV infection rate of any urban county in Texas.

The category known as "men who have sex with men" accounted for 70 percent of all new cases in Dallas County in 2010.

"We can't claim any victories right now," Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zachary Thompson told Dallas Voice this week. "These numbers are showing there must be a comprehensive prevention effort."

According to the statistics, 908 new infections were reported in 2010. The number of new cases was the highest in five years and translates into an infection rate of 37.3 per 100,000 population, also the highest since 2005.

Although more total new HIV cases were reported in the Houston area, Harris County's larger population translated into an infection rate of 30.1 percent. Travis County, which includes Austin, had a 19.8 percent rate; El Paso County had a 15.1 percent rate; and Tarrant County had a 12.4 percent rate.

Resource Center Dallas Health Services Direc-



NEW STRATEGY NEEDED | Zach Thompson, director of county Health and Human Services, said in response to the statistics: "We need to regroup and look at how prevention is done in Dallas County." (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

tor Bret Camp said multiple factors may be contributing to Dallas having the highest rate.

"One reason may be we have some very good testing initiatives here," Camp said.

The number of people living with HIV in Dallas County climbed to 13,883 in 2010. In 2002, fewer than 9,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS in Dallas County.

In 2010, 635 of Dallas County's new HIV cases were among MSM. The category includes gay men as well as men who probably contracted the virus through sexual contact with other men but do not necessarily identify as gay.

■ HIV, Page 15

GLSEN to Awaken in D-FW with star-studded reception, Day of Silence

Joel Burns, Drew Ginsburg, Bonnie Blossman to headline kickoff at Dish on eve of annual in-school protest to draw attention to anti-gay bullying

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The new Greater Dallas chapter of the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network will be formally unveiled at an event at Dish on Cedar Springs Road on April 19. That precedes GLSEN's National Day of Silence the next day.

The local GLSEN was rechartered and has operated since early this year. Area celebrities who

have spoken out about bullying will introduce the new chapter at an event called Awaken.

"We wanted to have some sort of coming out," GLSEN Greater Dallas Chair James Tate said.

Among those appearing at Awaken will be Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns, who will speak about how his "It Gets Better" speech went viral, changing his life and the lives of others.

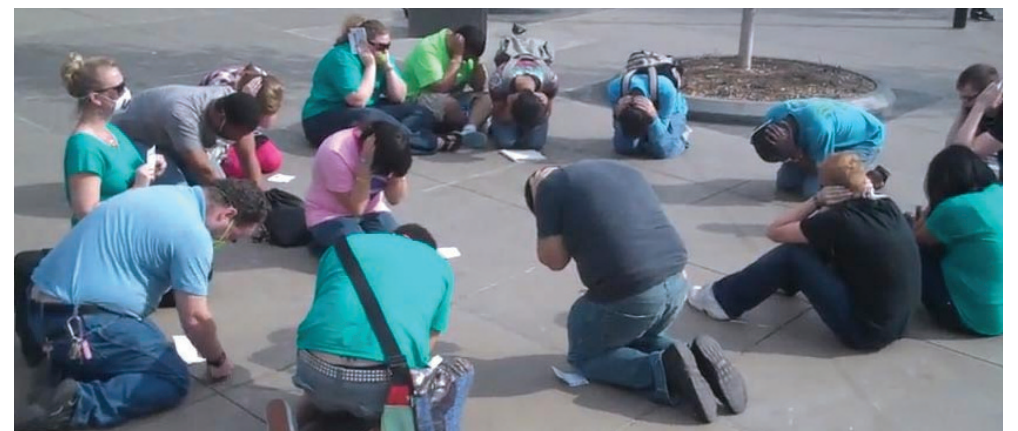
Two reality TV stars will also appear. Drew Ginsburg from *Dallas Most Eligible* will speak about his personal experiences with bullying.

"My hope is GLSEN brings bullying to the spotlight in Dallas," Ginsburg said.

Ginsburg was bullied because of his size, because he was dyslexic and because he was gay.

"I was called gay before I knew I was gay," he

■ GLSEN, Page 11



KEEPING IT DOWN | A group from Youth First Texas held a silent flash mob at Rosa Parks Plaza in downtown Dallas on the Day of Silence in April 2010. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

A male model with short brown hair and a light beard is shown from the waist up, wearing blue briefs with a yellow waistband. He is standing in a modern setting with large windows overlooking a city skyline at dusk. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his physique. The brand name '2(X)IST TOUCH' is prominently displayed in the upper right corner.

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localbriefs

Gay LULAC chapter elects officers

LULAC 4871—The Dallas Rainbow Council has elected its new officers for 2012.

Raul Hinojosa Jr. was chosen to serve as the group's fifth president succeeding John Trevino Jr. Hinojosa has served as an at-large board member, and has also held leadership posts with GLSEN Dallas and the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance. The new board will be sworn in at an Officer Installation Ceremony and Monthly Meeting on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Havana Bar & Grill, 4006 Cedar Springs Road. Mayor Pro-Tem Pauline Medrano will be the special guest.

"It is a tremendous honor to serve as president of the nation's first LGBT LULAC Council," Hinojosa said. "We must continue to advocate for the rights of the LGBT and Latino communities at all levels. This board and I are committed to this cause at the local, state, and federal level."

In addition to Hinojosa Jr., the officers elected at the March 15 meeting were: Jesse Tafalla Jr., vice president; Juan C. Contreras, vice president of youth; Felix Arrieta, secretary; Bernice Gonzalez, treasurer; Patricia Mancha, chaplain; Elias Cantu, sergeant-at-arms; and John Trevino Jr., parliamentarian. In addition, three individuals have been appointed as at-large board members: Sean Lozano, Melinda Rios and Arturo Rivas. LULAC 4871 meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For more, visit www.lulac4871.org or email lulac4871@gmail.com.

Bloomin' Ball set for May 5

AIDS Interfaith Network presents the sixth Bloomin' Ball in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Anatole Hotel at 6 p.m. on May 5.

The opening reception includes a drinks and a silent auction surrounded by spring flowers and live music. The evening continues with a seated three-course dinner with live entertainment, a live auction and the Crystal Hope Awards. Andy Smith is this year's individual award winner. First United Methodist Church wins this year's faith-based award. Sterling's Bookkeeping and Tax Service is the business winner. Sam Bowers and Glenn Romero are the event chairs. Table and ticket information is available at BloominBall.org

HRC Families to celebrate Earth Day

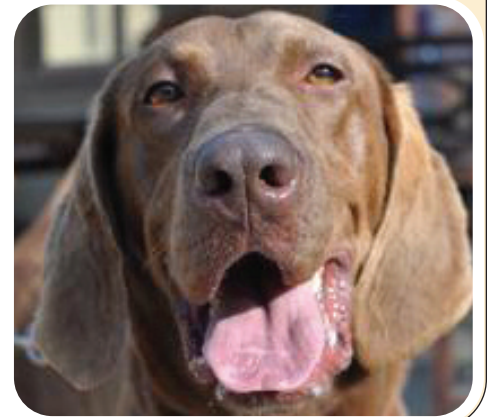
HRC Family Project will hold its first social event of the year Earth Day in Oak Cliff on April 21 at noon.

LGBT families and allies will meet at the rocket ship in the playground in Lake Cliff Park. Bring a picnic lunch. After lunch, the group will walk to the Earth Day celebration. Lots of LGBT and LGBT-friendly exhibitors will participate in Earth Day including AIDS Arms, the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League along with some of neighborhood associations, Oak Cliff garden clubs and a number of animal rescue groups. Hunky's and Spiral Diner will serve food. ■

pet of the week / GUSTAF

Gustaf is a great dog. He gets along with other dogs and loves to ride in the car. He was adopted quickly after he first arrived; however, he was returned later because of a change in the owner's employment. He would not be able to care for the dog properly. Gustaf is a hound/retriever mix. He will make a great pet for the right family and surroundings.

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



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Stonewall Dems prepare for 3-day, 57-candidate endorsement marathon

Group's screenings for primary run from Friday night through Sunday morning and are open to the public, but only members can vote on slate

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

With 57 of the 77 Democratic candidates in Dallas County scheduled to interview with Stonewall Democrats this weekend, the group is preparing for a tightly scheduled, three-day marathon endorsement meeting.

The screenings begin from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 13, at CWA Local 6215, 1408 N. Washington Ave. They continue Saturday and Sunday in the Vixin Lounge at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton. The screenings are open to the public, but no audio or video recording is allowed. Only Stonewall members who are current 30 days prior to the meetings can vote, participate in deliberations and ask the candidates questions. But to vote they must be present for all candidates in a race.

"If you vote in a race, you have to be witness to the interviews of every candidate in that race," Stonewall political chair Clinton said.

Stonewall President Omar Narvaez said the endorsements are very important because Stonewall is the largest Democratic group in the area and has a 70 to 75 percent success rate in endorsing candidates who are later elected.

Many organizations also rely on Stonewall's decision to base their own endorsement because some clubs don't conduct their own screenings, he said.

"It's so important to get the right person and to screen for the right person," Narvaez said.

Clinton was appointed last year by Narvaez to serve as the political chair. As such, his main job is to organize and run the endorsement screenings.

Screenings are each 10 minutes long and consist of a three-minute intro that allows the candidates to address the audience. Candidates are then asked three questions that have been selected prior to the screening and are not revealed until the interview, Clinton said.

"The questions generally fall into specific LGBT-issue questions and perhaps questions related to a candidate's activity as far as campaigning or issues related to the Democratic platform," he said. "I wouldn't say they're gotcha questions."



Stonewall political chair Tracy Clinton

The questionnaires sent out to the candidates ask them eight to 10 questions in preparation for the endorsement screening, Clinton said, adding that the interviews help the members who have not seen the questionnaire answers better understand the candidate's views.

"We want them to have a sense of what Stonewall is interested in, which has a dual purpose of working to improve the quality of life for members of the LGBT community, but it's also a Democratic club," he said. "Sometimes those work hand in hand and sometimes there's a little bit of distance between the two."

Clinton said about 30 percent of the decision is from the questionnaire answers, 30 percent from the research individuals have conducted into a candidate and the other 40 percent is from the questions the audience asks in the candidates' remaining time.

While the scheduling has been a bit hectic with one of the most compact schedules for the screenings planned, Clinton said his work and the work of the endorsement committee will prove successful when the members vote on who to endorse.

"My wife could probably attest that I've had better days, but I see light at the end of the tunnel, and I think we're going to have a good endorsement process," he said. "There are some races from my conversations with people there might be some surprises."

For a full schedule of the candidate screenings, visit StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.com. ■

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Crafting community

Tarrant Pride's inaugural art fest on Saturday is 1 of several new events designed to bring Cowtown LGBTs together in a centralized location

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Keeping the momentum going from last year's creation of Pride Days, the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association is expanding the number of annual events they plan for the LGBT community, including the Spring Out Art and Street Festival set for Saturday, April 14.

The festival is the first-ever street arts fair the organization has planned.

It will include more than 60 vendors and is expected to draw a crowd of 1,500, TCGPWA Treasurer Tony Coronado said.

With several bands, performers, DJ Soul and

booths for ceramics, photography, jewelry, painting and glassware, he said the event is one that will grow and expand as it continues in future years.

Coronado also said having more events in Downtown Fort Worth will help the LGBT community create a central location to gather because it is "literally all over Tarrant County."

"We're hoping that having these events at Jennings and Pennsylvania will inspire people who really do want to have a central location for commerce and residents to build off of that," he said.

Todd Camp, chair of the media and souvenir booklet committee, said it is always TCGPWA's goal to grow the organization with new and bigger events. Camp said the art festival is an event to bring out the community in a central location

with a big venue of artists and performers.

"I think it's a great chance for us to kind of go back to a model that worked really well, which

Party in the gayborhood

The Spring Out Art and Street Festival is noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at South Jennings and Pennsylvania Avenue in Fort Worth. For more information, visit tcgpwa.org.

■ **COMMUNITY**, Page 12



TAKING PRIDE IN HIS WORK | Todd Camp, founder of Q Cinema and sometimes called the 'gay mayor of Fort Worth,' also serves as chair of the media and souvenir booklet committee for the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association. (Dallas Voice file photo)

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said. "It took an emotional toll on me that took years to get over. Children need to learn in a positive learning environment."

Bonnie Blossman from *Big Rich Texas* has supported the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Trevor Project, and is now also backing the work of GLSEN.

"I will attend to continue our campaign against bullying and make a strategic move to increase awareness and promote the prevention of bullying in Dallas and surrounding area schools," Blossman said. "By empowering schools with a solid plan and support of the prevention of bullying, we hope to do our part to make a difference for our youth who struggle with bullying by their peers."

One of GLSEN's signature events is the National Day of Silence — which this year will be the day after Awaken, on Friday, April 20.

Day of Silence is an action where students in thousands of schools remain silent for all or part of the day to call attention to discrimination, harassment and bullying of LGBT students.

According to Lambda Legal, students have a right to participate in most circumstances.

School officials may not discriminate against students because they do not like the message. However, a student does not have the right to refuse to answer a question in class.

A Lambda Legal document released in March 2012 said, "Students who want to remain silent during class on the Day of Silence are less likely to encounter problems if they seek permission from their teachers beforehand."

"What they can't do is discriminate on the basis of message," Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton said.

He said that in some schools, refusal to speak in class is considered disruptive, and he recommended answering questions. Schools do need to protect the right of a student to participate in the Day of Silence during extracurricular activities, lunch or between classes.

He laughed at the idea that any teacher would think that a class full of quiet students is disruptive.

"Silence, in and of itself, is not disruptive," he said. "If someone senses their school is not allowing them to participate for other reasons, contact the Lambda Legal help desk."

Tate said schools with Gay Straight Alliances are more likely to be cooperative, but he has already heard from students in schools without GSAs.

For students at schools without GSAs, he suggested students follow live-tweeting of the day from GLSEN's national office to be part of something bigger.

"We expect more schools than ever to participate," Tate said.

Since GLSEN Greater Dallas was rechartered this year, he has worked with a number of new groups including a GSA at Richland College. He's also heard from students and faculty from schools across the Metroplex looking for help on how to take part.

On Friday evening, GLSEN will be part of a

GLSEN DAY of SILENCE



Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence (DOS), a national youth movement bringing attention to the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by anti-LGBT bullying, name-calling and harassment. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward building awareness and making a commitment to address these injustices.

Think about the voices you ARE NOT hearing today.

DAYofSILENCE.org

SPEAKING CARDS | GLSEN recommends handing out cards like this one on the Day of Silence.

Breaking the Silence party.

"Youth First Texas reached out to us and offered their facilities," he said.

YFT Board Chair Chris-James Cогnetta said the group has materials related to the Day of Silence at the youth center.

"Anyone who wants to participate can pick up buttons, stickers, fliers, information cards," he said.

He said that his group is recommending using surgical masks or bandanas rather than duct tape over the mouth and recalled some duct tape-mouth mishaps at last year's Day of Silence.

On Day of Silence, YFT's doors open at 4 p.m. The group will break the silence together at 6:30 p.m. A sit-down dinner begins at 7 p.m., followed by a dance with a DJ until 11 p.m. Everyone 22 and under is welcome.

"Over age 25, anyone can volunteer," Cогnetta said.

A counterprotest to Day of Silence is planned by the hate group Focus on the Family, which has designated April 19 as the Day of Dialogue.

"In contrast to the whole idea of silence, this is a day that encourages open dialogue," the organization explained on its website.

However, the purpose does not appear to promote understanding but to preach the group's version of Christianity.

"The Day of Dialogue gives you, as a student, the opportunity to express the true model presented by Jesus Christ in the Bible," they wrote.

"His example calls us to stand up for those being harmed or bullied while offering the light of what God's Word says."

Tate doesn't expect many students locally to participate in the hate group's event.

Instead, he said he was happy with the progress GLSEN has made in just a few months in Dallas. School administrators, faculty and students have begun finding his group and using it as a resource. His Day of Silence will begin when he speaks about diversity at UT Dallas.

For Pride Month, Frito Lay reached out to GLSEN Greater Dallas to do an exhibit on bullying for its Plano corporate headquarters. Tate said his group is working on a series of story boards featuring local LGBT youth who have been bullied that will be exhibited at the company in June.

"It's really coming together much faster than we expected," Tate said. ■

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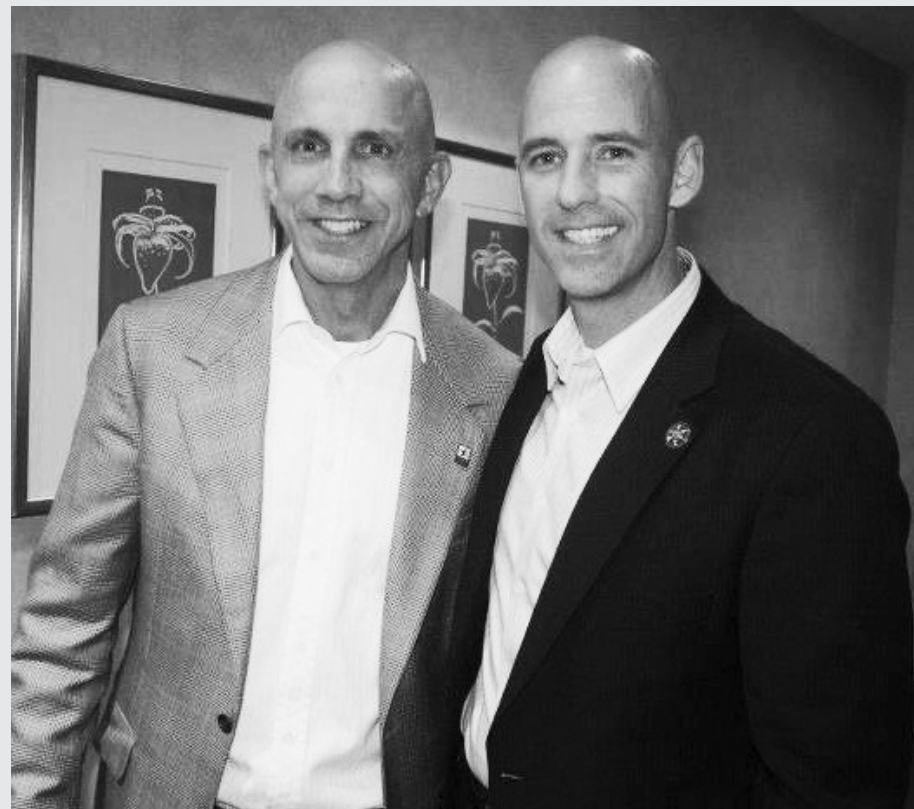
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SHERIFF PAUL BABEU VISITS DALLAS



TWO OF A KIND | Gay Republican U.S. Congressional candidate and Arizona Sheriff Paul Babeu, right, poses with Vice President of Metroplex Republicans Rudy Oefftering at a fundraiser in Dallas on April 7. The event drew about 25 supporters to donate a little more than \$4,000 to Babeu's campaign. (Courtesy of Rob Schlein/Metroplex Republicans)

■ COMMUNITY, From Page 10

was to have an event right there in the heart of our gayborhood to get people out and to support the cool businesses," Camp said.

The long-term parade committee transitioned this year into a long-term development committee after the parade was moved to Downtown Fort Worth, Coronado said. Now the development committee has developed a two-year plan to increase the number of events throughout Tarrant County in the months leading up to Pride in October.

"The two-year plan for this committee is to get these monthly events solidified," he said, adding that laying the groundwork for monthly events will help grow them in years to come. "What [the arts fest] is going to be in four or five years is going to be totally different than what it is now."

Because January is the Titleholders pageant and Valentine's Day sales is a large effort in February, Coronado said March 24 was the first new event planned with a community Easter egg hunt at Trinity Park. Coronado said about 100 people showed up for the festivities and it was a good start for an event that he wants to make a new tradition.

With the arts festival Saturday, he said participation will help draw more members from the community together for something other than Pride, the Q Cinema Film Festival and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, which he said are the only large annual events for the community in the

county.

"That's pretty much it, so we're just developing other events and doing business a little more mainstream," he said. "It's just a matter of developing the organization and our GLBT community in Tarrant County."

Last year the organization had a few Pride Day events such as a Six Flags event and a day at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium, but the plan is to continue to grow the events each year, holding them in various locations around Tarrant County to draw in the large LGBT community.

"Our community is Tarrant County isn't built like Dallas or Houston or Austin, where you have that congregation of folks and businesses, so we have to do business a little bit different," Coronado said.

Although a May pet fest and November event will not occur until 2013, and planning for events in June and July is still in progress, the August event will be Cowtown Hoedown, on which the organization will collaborate with TGRA for the first time. A September event is also still in the works, as is a December Christmas show. Next year will also feature the first-ever event after Pride in October with a Halloween street festival, Coronado said. The ultimate goal with creating and continuing events each month leading up to Pride is for the community to come together more often than a few times a year, he said.

"We want people to buy into their own GLBT life in their own community and then participate with us as a whole," he said. ■

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Santorum's departure could signal end to gay-bashing in 2012 presidential race

Romney, backed by most LGBT Republicans, likely to veer toward center as primary's most socially conservative contender steps aside

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum was one of the most virulently anti-gay candidates in the large field of Republican presidential wannabes who started out last year. And most political observers said early on and often that Santorum's harsh positions against gays and same-sex marriage were dooming his chances to carry the GOP mantle into the general election where moderation wins votes.

Santorum stayed in the race, even as more viable Republican candidates dropped out and threw their support to the more moderate former Gov. Mitt Romney.

But Santorum announced at a press conference Tuesday, April 10, in Gettysburg, Penn., that he was suspending his campaign. And in doing so, he gave a subtle nod to Romney.

"While this presidential race for us is over for me and we will suspend our campaign effective today, we are not done fighting," said Santorum. He pledged his support for defeating President Barack Obama's re-election, for keeping Republicans in control of the House, and to help Republicans assume control of the Senate.

Ironically, especially to LGBT people listening to his remarks Tuesday, Santorum counted among his supporters, "people who are overlooked by society or don't seem to be as valuable as others in society."

Santorum repeatedly made statements during nationally televised debates and elsewhere on the campaign that undermined LGBT citizens.

He said he wanted to reinstate the ban on gays in the military and said nothing, during one debate, in defense of a gay soldier being booed. Instead, Santorum characterized the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" as "tragic" and said it gave gays a "special privilege."

He also boasted of his active campaign to oust three Iowa state supreme court justices who had ruled that the state constitution guaranteed gay couples the same rights as heterosexual couples seeking marriage licenses. And Santorum promised that, if elected president, he would travel the country to try and repeal state laws that allow marriage equality — even in states where voters want to keep those laws. Santorum's departure now enables Romney to take a great deal more lat-



EXITING STAGE FAR RIGHT | Rick Santorum, shown at a fundraiser in Texas this year, promised that if elected he would travel the country to repeal state marriage equality laws. (Patrick Hoffman)

itude in playing for voters in the vast middle of the political spectrum, a place that should mean a lot less prominence for positions such as Republican opposition to marriage equality.

Santorum noted that his daughter Bella was hospitalized over the weekend and that she is doing "exceptionally well" now, but he acknowledged that her illness "did cause us to pause and think" about her well-being.

Santorum said his campaign started out as being an effort, as a good parent, to ensure that the "American dream" was possible for all children.

But Santorum or his supporters often tried to exploit hostility toward LGBT people and their families. One group of supporters sent out robo-calls and emails saying that Romney "promoted homosexuality in our elementary schools, and unconstitutionally ordered state officials to make Massachusetts America's first same-sex marriage state."

A woman on the recording claimed Romney supported "open homosexuality in the military, the appointment of homosexual judges, and the ENDA law, making it illegal to fire a man who wears a dress and high heels to work, even if he's your kid's teacher."

Straw polls and informal surveys and interviews with gay Republicans indicated that most were supporting Romney and none were supporting Santorum during the party's primaries and caucuses in the early states.

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■ HIV, Continued from Page 6

"We are constantly striving to identify men who have sex with men who don't identify as gay and are at risk," Camp said.

Heterosexual transmission accounted for 216 cases. Intravenous drug use and one perinatal case make up the rest of the Dallas County new diagnoses.

By race, blacks had the most new diagnoses and make up the largest group of people living with HIV. Of the 908 new cases, 452 were among African-Americans, who have an infection rate of 91.5 per 100,000 population.

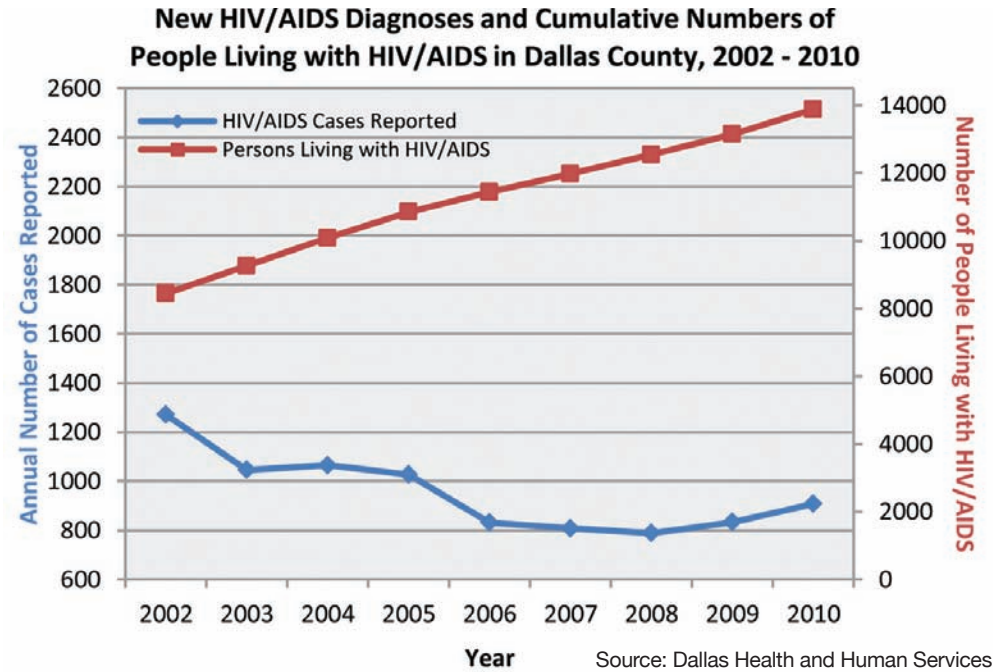
"Numbers are increasing among black MSMs," Thompson said. "There and among African-American women."

Whites were the second-largest group with 219 new cases and second-highest infection rate at 28.5 per 100,000.

Hispanics were third with 217 new diagnoses, with a rate of 21.1 cases per 100,000. An "other" category accounted for 20 of the new HIV cases.

Doran Senat with United Black Ellument, a program of Resource Center Dallas, said his group spreads the safer-sex message in the African-American community but has a lot of ideas to reach more people in his community.

"We're figuring out more ways to do things with churches," Senat said. "We have to address church-based bias."



To encourage testing, the group hands out vouchers for items at grocery stores or condom dog tags.

"We need more permanent testing locations in empty buildings," found throughout African-American neighborhoods, Senat said. If those testing sites also provided free computer access and

meeting rooms, he said they'd be used by the community. He also suggested more mobile clinics.

People ages 25 to 34 made up the largest group of new infections with 270 of the new diagnoses, but the biggest category increase was among those 13 to 24 years old.

"We need an educational curriculum through-

out Texas to address that alarming rate, especially among 13-to-18-year-olds," Thompson said.

He said he believes school districts need to look beyond abstinence-only education to something that works.

Although the number of new cases is up from the previous year, it's still down from a peak in 2002, when about 1,300 new cases were reported.

Statewide, the number of new cases of HIV reported increased by 12, but the infection rate per 100,000 actually decreased since 2009 because of population increase.

Since 2003, the number of new cases in Texas has also declined.

Daniel Palma does HIV testing at the Nelson Tebedo Clinic. He said rapid testing returns results in 20 minutes but only detects the virus three months after exposure. The Nuclear Acid Amplification Test done with a blood draw is accurate as early as 10 days after contact with the virus.

The clinic only tests people older than 18, so Palma said he isn't seeing the increase in cases among younger people. Those under the age of 18 are tested only by the county.

"The majority we see are MSMs," Palma said. "But we're also seeing an increase in the number of straight males and females."

Thompson said: "We need to regroup and look at how prevention is done in Dallas County."

Statistics for 2011 won't be released until March 2013. ■



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DRIVEN TO THE BRINK
Kelby Johnson attempted suicide three times before her parents, with nowhere else to turn, contacted Ellen DeGeneres, who in turn put them in touch with Director Lee Hirsch. (Courtesy of The Weinstein Company)

The 'Bully' pulpit

As Lee Hirsch's documentary featuring Kelby Johnson's story premieres in N. Texas, the transgender Oklahoma City teen wants to use the film as a platform to help end the type of harassment that nearly drove him to suicide

DANIEL VILLARREAL | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

As a child, Kelby Johnson excelled at softball and basketball, had many friends and generally liked school.

But around sixth grade, Kelby's schoolmates started noticing she always wore short hair, baggy jeans and loose T-shirts. On the basketball court and softball diamond, teammates stopped catching Kelby's throws and wouldn't protect her from opponents anymore. Some didn't want play with her at all.

Although Johnson now identifies as a transgender male, in eighth grade, she came out as lesbian. And in Tuttle, Okla. — a town of 6,000 people just southwest of Oklahoma City — that made her an

outcast.

Lifelong family friends stopped talking to Kelby's parents. Their house was repeatedly egged at night.

Kelby's classmates would change seats when she sat nearby. One teacher joked by calling Kelby's name separately from the boys and girls during roll.

One day Kelby found a note on her locker: "Faggots aren't welcome here."

"My parents had been to the school multiple, multiple times, and we had done just about everything we could, and no one was there to support us," Johnson said recently. "No one really had anything to say. So where do you go when the teachers don't help?"

After three suicide attempts, Kelby's parents finally turned to lesbian talk show host Ellen De-

Read a review of 'Bully'
Screen, Page 26.

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Generes, whose producers put the family in touch with Lee Hirsch, an Emmy and Sundance award-winning filmmaker who spoke to Kelby about being bullied as a kid himself.

As a boy Hirsch dressed funny, had funny hair and awkward social skills. Every day when he walked home from school, several boys would beat him up, even if he changed his route. His friends and teachers told him they were just boys being boys and that if he'd shut up it would eventually stop. It didn't. And his shame prevented him from ever telling his elderly parents.

"That daily walk turned into, you know, black and blue marks," Hirsch said, "which became permanent yellow marks which, you know, carried on into my memory."

Hirsch wanted to make a film to give a voice to bullying victims.

So he began recording the experiences of Kelby and four other kids from rural areas for a documentary called *Bully*, which opens Friday, April 13, at the Angelika theaters in Dallas and Plano, as well as the AMC Parks at Arlington 18.

Rating controversy

For months before its recent premiere in New York City and Los Angeles, *Bully* gained notoriety over the Motion Picture Association of America's

■ **BULLY**, Next Page



CONFRONTING THE MPAA | Katy Butler, 17, a once-bullied lesbian high school student from Ann Arbor, Mich., is shown delivering some of the 500,000 petitions she gathered calling for the Motion Picture Association of America to change the film's rating. After MPAA agreed to do so, Butler indicated she's not done: 'If we can't get the Safe Schools Improvement Act passed, we'll be visiting the home states of each lawmaker until it does.' (Associated Press)

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■ BULLY, From Previous Page

proposed rating.

Because *Bully* contained six instances of kids saying “fuck,” the MPAA suggested an R rating. The film’s director and producers at the Weinstein Company appealed, saying that word’s removal would make a weaker and less authentic film and that an R rating would prevent minors seeing it at theaters, and schools from showing it.

Lesbian Michigan high school student Katy Butler, who was bullied herself, began an online Change.org petition that garnered more than 500,000 signatures asking the MPAA to give *Bully* a PG-13 rating. However, the MPAA appeals board retained the R rating by one vote. In response, the Weinstein Company initially released the film unrated.

At the April 2 Canadian premiere of the film (where it received a PG rating), Hirsch criticized the MPAA saying, “There’s a great hypocrisy in allowing films that glorify — and even sexify — violence to get PG and PG-13 ratings time and time again. And for them to then bring down the hammer on a film like this, on behalf of family values, seems to me totally out of whack.”

Each of the nation’s three-largest theater chains planned on handling *Bully* differently: Regal would have forbade viewing by all minors under 17; AMC would have allowed minors with signed parental permission slips; and Plano-based Cinemark never shows unrated films, in support of

MPAA ratings.

However, on April 5, the MPAA approved a PG-13 edit of *Bully* that removed three swears while keeping three in a particularly cruel scene of bus ride torment against 12-year-old Alex “Fish face” Libby.

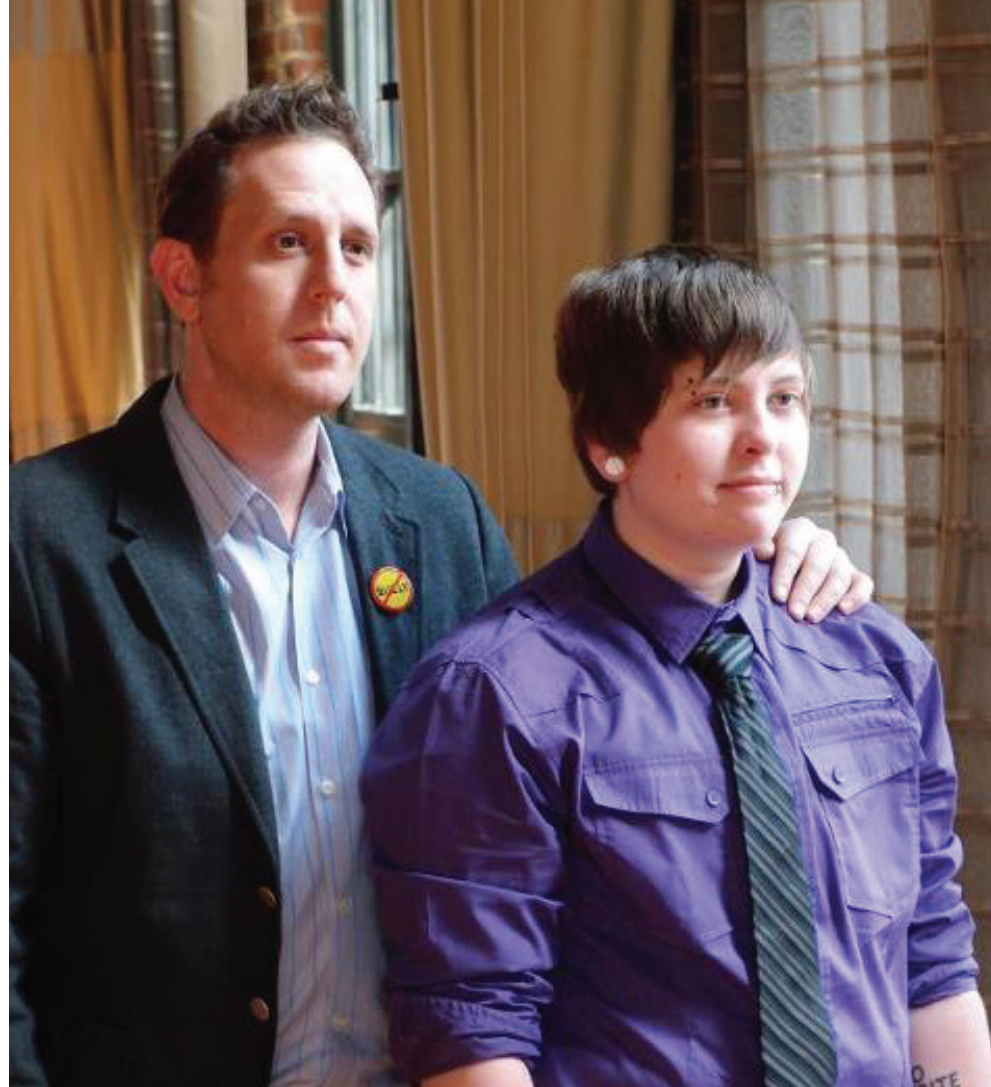
The Weinstein Company called the PG-13 rating “a huge victory for the parents, educators, lawmakers, and most importantly, children, everywhere who have been fighting for months for the appropriate PG-13 rating without cutting some of the most sensitive moments.”

Local LGBT groups plan screening

According to a 2007 study by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, 88 percent of LGBT-identified students get physically and verbally abused sometime during school (compared to 14 percent of students overall). LGBT students are also much likelier to attempt bullying-related suicide.

In Texas, in the fall of 2010, openly gay 13-year-old Hamilton Middle School student Asher Brown shot himself after years of abuse from classmates who mimicked gay sex in his gym classes, tripped him in the stairwell and kicked around his books.

Brown’s parents filed multiple reports, but Asher’s school did nothing. Likewise, the GLSEN study says one-third of the 39 percent of LGBT students who report bullying never see any school



VICTIM TO ACTIVIST | Johnson, shown with Director Lee Hirsch, currently supports the anti-bullying group Do Something and will intern with GLSEN in Washington, D.C., this summer. (Courtesy of Kelby Johnson)

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Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, said reliable statistics on bullying in Texas don't exist because school districts aren't required to report bullying incidences, something he'd like added to the state's new anti-bullying law, passed last year.

While the law doesn't specifically mention LGBT students, it does require schools to implement anti-bullying policies that teach students and faculty how to identify and report bullying.

Chris-James Cогnetta, board chair for the LGBTQ youth advocacy group Youth First Texas, would also like additional laws requiring schools and districts to report bullying statistics to the state — and penalizing schools that ignore bullying.

James Tate, chair of GLSEN's newly relaunched Dallas chapter, added that such laws provide students and parents legal pressure to ensure that schools respond to bullying, even if anti-LGBT bullies claim they are simply expressing "freedom of religion."

"There is no religious exemption to bullying a child," Tate said. "It is the law and is enforceable, and if [schools act] against the law, we need to get rid of people who aren't enforcing it. Fire teachers and school administrators."

Tate and Cогnetta are organizing an invitational screening of *Bully* where school counselors will be able to participate in a post-viewing Q&A on how bullying affects their campuses.

"Children are federally mandated to be in classrooms for seven hours a day. It's our responsibility to make sure they are protected no matter how they identify," Tate said.

On the federal level, anti-bullying advocates have garnered bipartisan support for the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which would require all schools to create bullying prevention and reporting policies. There's also the Student Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit schools from discriminating against students based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In its press release about the film's PG-13 rating, the Weinstein Company said, "Building support for the Safe Schools Improvement Act is the next step in this movement for change."

"Lawmakers and politicians are being sought out to back the efforts of anti-bullying supporters everywhere in creating legislation that will comprehensively address the issues of bullying and harassment," the company said.

Butler, who circulated the petition, added: "If we can't get the Safe Schools Improvement Act passed, we'll be visiting the home states of each lawmaker until it does."

Using his newfound 'Bully' pulpit

Needless to say, during Kelby Johnson's high school career, no such anti-bullying laws existed. And in his native Oklahoma, they still don't.

Johnson recalled another incident when, while walking with friends, a minivan with six boys repeatedly drove by yelling and throwing things. When Johnson walked into the street to ask them to stop, they sped up. Johnson's body hit the hood and then the pavement.

That's when his parents realized that if they



didn't do something, their child could end up dead — and contacted DeGeneres.

Johnson hoped the harassment would end, felt angry and eventually fell into a months-long depression. He would lie awake in bed each night reliving the ridicule.

Johnson initially wanted to remain in Tuttle and speak to high school classes about LGBT people and bullying. But when his teachers refused, he realized he couldn't do it alone. He dropped out, got his GED and moved away.

Now 19, Johnson lives in Oklahoma City — which is somewhat more progressive than Tuttle — with his girlfriend.

While promoting *Bully* and speaking to bullied teens nationwide, Johnson has realized he'd like to become an LGBT activist. He currently supports the anti-bullying group Do Something and will intern with GLSEN in D.C. this summer.

"There's always going to be something, but [the bullying] has calmed down a little bit for me after the film," Johnson said recently, "and there are a lot of things I can brush off now. The film has helped me grow stronger and be more aware of others around me. It's definitely been a positive experience, and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life."

Nevertheless, Johnson's moment of fame has refocused Tuttle's bullies against his 17-year-old brother in high school.

Recently, a gang of boys pinned him against the school bathroom wall and ridiculed him for being related to Johnson. Someone else torched his tires and broke his windshield. Despite all that, he'd still like to graduate in Tuttle, something his older brother couldn't do.

"What I want [young people] to get out of [the film]," Kelby Johnson said, "is that we can be the generation to stand up and say: 'This isn't gonna be us. We're gonna put a stop to this now so that our children do not have to go through this.' And that no matter what school you go to, no matter what parents you have, you deserve the love and respect that everyone else gets." ■

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viewpoints

Catholics face widening gay schism

As O'Malley becomes 5th Catholic governor to sign marriage equality into law in Md., archbishop gathers signatures to repeal it in Wash. state

I'm not Catholic. Which makes my fascination with the American arm of the Catholic Church a little strange, but it also means I can watch its contortions without fretting over its future.

That's good, because I think the church in this country, while not in its death throes, is suffering from a rupture and a nervous condition. The church's hold on its members has ruptured, and that's going to make any denomination nervous.

A couple of months ago came reports that 98 percent of Catholic women have used contraceptives. Although the statistic has been criticized, American women by any measure are as likely to stick with Catholic-mandated natural family planning as the Pope is to become a Zumba instructor.

Then there's the homosexuality issue generally, and the gay marriage issue specifically. When Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland signed marriage equality into law on March 1, he became the fifth Catholic governor to do so, in clear opposition to the will of Catholic bishops in those states.

As far as I know, none of these governors has been denied communion or excommunicated. But their trips to the confession booth must be deafening.

After grappling with her Catholic faith, Gov. Chris Gregoire of Washington happily signed a marriage-equality bill in February. Opponents are now gathering signatures for a referendum to axe the law. Seattlepi.com reported that the Archdiocese of Seattle sent a letter to the faithful, saying it plans to have parishes collect signatures.

I guess we can add a new Catholic sacrament to the current seven. Right up there with the Anointing of the Sick will be the Employing of the Bic.

Seattlepi.com noted that the push to kill the gay-marriage law might make lay Catholics twitchy.

For starters, the Archdiocese of Seattle has long championed civil rights. This time the Catholic hierarchy is battling for the other side.

Plus there's the fact that the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) is backing the campaign. NOM internal memos, recently revealed in litigation in Maine, advocated a strategy of pitting African-Americans and Hispanics against gay-rights groups.

Jesus would be nauseous. And a number of Washington Catholics don't feel so well, either.

A recent event in a Minnesota high school practically shrieked the disconnect between



GETTING THE GOVERNOR'S BLESSING | Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Catholic, hands a pen to a supporter after signing the state's Civil Marriage Protection Act on March 1. (Associated Press)

Catholic clergy and laity. At DeLaSalle, a Catholic high school in Minneapolis, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis held a required assembly, for seniors only, about marriage.

The kids suspected what was coming. Catholic education doesn't make dummies.

A priest and a volunteer couple spoke, and student Matt Bliss told the Star Tribune that all went swimmingly for the first three-quarters of the marriage presentation. Then the speakers implied that adopted children and children with one parent are lesser.

Since at least four of the students present were adopted, this was not just baffling but dippy.

"When they finally got to gay marriage, [students] were really upset," said Bliss. "You could look around the room and feel the anger. My friend who is a lesbian started crying."

The couple compared gay love to bestiality. Several students argued with the speakers, and one girl held up a sign that said, "I love my moms."

I'm betting the priest wished for a posse of nuns armed with two rulers apiece.

Student Lydia Hannah said the kids were suspicious when only seniors were required to attend.

"We put two and two together," she said, referring to Minnesota's constitutional amendment limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples. "All of us will be able to vote next fall."

Some clearly won't vote the way the U.S. Catholic Church wants them to. Even the students at a Catholic school aren't buying what the church is selling. The clergy better pray to the patron saint of ruptured relationships — if not lost causes.

Leslie Robinson lives in Seattle. Email her at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and check out her blog at www.generalgayety.com.



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety

Glowing LGBT tourism report preceded Dominica cruise ship arrests

It's some kind of law of human nature. Just when everything appears to be going hunky-dory, something totally unexpected always seems to blow up in the collective faces of everybody involved. That's what happened recently in the wake of the release in February of the 2012 United Nations World Tourism Organization's Global Report on LGBT Tourism.

The report, which included a glowing statement by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, noted that the growing acceptance of LGBT people around the world was allowing other countries to prosper from tourism while helping to spread harmony and understanding among cultures. The Madrid-based organization released the groundbreaking report in cooperation with the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association of Fort Lauderdale, and it included reports by several other experts on tourism from around the globe.

A few weeks later, all hell broke loose in the Caribbean, which was one of the areas where the report noted more work was needed in terms of greater acceptance of diversity. By now there probably aren't too many people left who haven't seen the photographs of the two naked men engaged in sexual intercourse on the stateroom balcony of their cruise ship in broad daylight in the port of Dominica and heard the stories about

their arrests on March 21, overnight stay in jail, guilty pleas for indecent exposure, high fines and early returns in disgrace to California.

For sure, it will be a long time before anyone forgets the story of what happened when the Atlantis Events-chartered Celebrity Summit cruise ship pulled into the harbor at Roseau, Dominica, with 2,000 queens aboard in late March and dropped anchor. The island's natives no doubt will never forget it, and that's good enough reason for an all-gay cruise not to return there in the foreseeable future.

That's how Bob Witeck of Witeck Communications, one of the participants in the creation of the LGBT travel report, sees it.

"The trends are global and encouraging, and it is good news for LGBT travel opportunities — but it is not at all a green light for us to be open and unafraid in a number of high-risk destinations around the globe," Witeck said.

The IGLTA said in a statement that it doesn't support "destination boycotts." NWTO officials couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Witeck said that while much progress has been seen in terms of acceptance in Europe, much of Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Africa and

the Pacific, other destinations are more problematic. He noted that a government sponsored anti-gay crackdown was under way in St. Petersburg, Russia. In fact, homosexuality is still illegal in 76 countries and punishable by death in five of them. The U.S. Department of State website warns travelers to know the laws of the countries they plan to visit and not to violate them. It adds a U.S. passport is of no help if arrested for a crime in a foreign country.

"With notable exceptions, the Caribbean is a challenge for organized gay travel entrepreneurs," Witeck said. "We know that Puerto Rico, Curacao, the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Barts and St. Maarten's, generally speaking, are welcoming and often popular with gay travelers. Jamaica is notoriously hostile, as have been some other destinations — including Dominica in this light."

Witeck said that he believes Atlantis Events tries to educate its passengers about laws, customs and expectations in its destinations, but the two passengers apparently "pushed the boundaries of public sex that would be problematic in many countries," not just in the Caribbean.

As it happens, Dominica is not listed as a

member nation on the United Nations World Travel Organization's website.

Immediately after the arrest of the two men in Dominica, the island's tourism minister, Ian Douglas, issued a statement saying officials do not promote travel to Dominica based on a group's "orientation." The official apparently made the statement in response to an outcry from island residents about the all-gay cruise being allowed to dock in Dominica. Many residents also claimed the men had not been punished severely enough.

Edison James, the United Workers Party leader of Dominica, said the international media had unfairly criticized the nation for its response to the men's actions and urged the government to "do something about it." Dominica News Online, which covered the arrests of the two men and subsequent developments, conducted an online poll about whether all-gay cruises should be allowed to dock in Dominica, and the response was favorable, although it is unclear how many of those who took part in the poll were island residents. The results showed 71 percent of the respondents saying yes and 27 percent saying no.

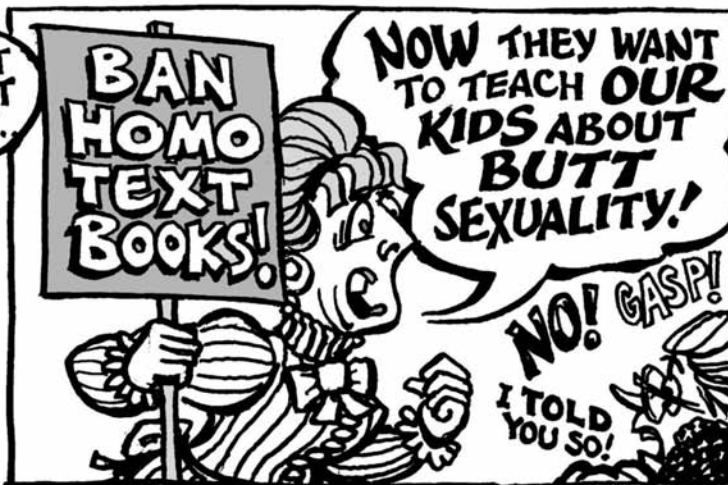
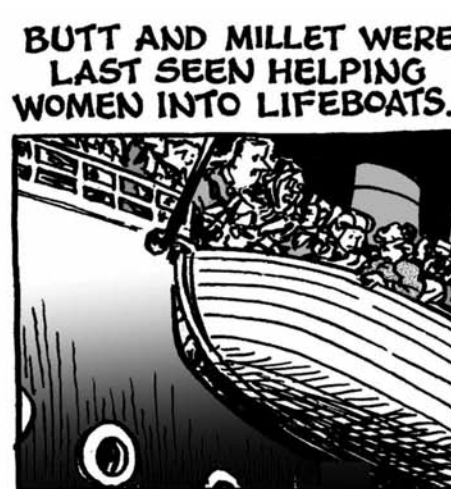
After the controversy broke and some critics called for a boycott of Atlantis Events, its president, Rich Campbell, said the travel planning company had done nothing wrong and he planned to return the cruise to Dominica in the future. Everything considered, Witeck said prudence should be on the agenda. One issue that apparently has remained unexplored is the impact of the controversy on any LGBT people who might happen to have been born on or live on the island. "I think it wise for any gay travel operator to avoid the likeliest hostile climates, simply because the potential for danger or risk appears higher especially for visible groups of gay men," Witeck said.

In terms of conduct, Witeck said "it should go without saying" that sex in public puts most people — straight or gay — at risk, especially in religious nations with the least tolerance.

David Webb has covered LGBT issues for mainstream and alternative media for three decades. Contact him at davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter



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Operatic duet

No opera plot is as fanciful as the 50-year romance between **Bliss Hebert** and **Allen Charles Klein**, collaborating (again) on 'La Traviata'

GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS | Contributing Writer
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com

Making the decision to work professionally with your partner in life can be one fraught with dangers. But for Bliss Hebert and Allen Charles Klein, it's been a genuine romance — like something out of a fairy tale.

Or more exactly, an opera.

Hebert, now in his mid-70s, and Klein, 71, will celebrate 50 years as a couple this June, and for virtually the entire time have pursued parallel, but different, careers in opera: Hebert is an internationally renowned stage director; Klein is equally respected as a production designer. As a team, they have premiered 70 operas, and are working together again on Verdi's masterpiece, *La Traviata*, which opens this week at the Winspear, courtesy of the Dallas Opera.

After so much history, they seem to have staked out their own roles in an interview: Klein is animated and loquacious in talking about a lifetime spent together in the footlights; Hebert is quieter and more reserved. But both are witty and regale with an endless supply of stories about everyone who was anyone in their field.

The collaboration — professional and personal — began in 1962, when Hebert was serving as general director of the Washington Opera Company. That summer, Klein arrived as an assistant designer.

"I was 21 at the time and Bliss was a just a few years older," says Klein. "Bliss was already an established director. He was one of the founders of the opera in Santa Fe and I was just a beginner, fresh out of school. We fell in love and that was that."

Back then, living as a gay couple was not as easy as it is now.

"Of course, you had to make accommodations, like twin beds," Klein says with a laugh. "And we had to use the term 'roommate.'"

"We called it being discreet," Hebert chimes in.

Around 1967, even that pretense was abandoned.

"We just gave up and let it all hang out,"

Klein says. "Of course, it was easy for us since we worked in opera and all of our friends were artists and singers. It would have been very different if we had an office job. We were lucky that we could live openly."

In 1974, the pair made their Metropolitan Opera debuts in a mega-production of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman* with a stellar cast that included Joan Sutherland and Plácido Domingo. It was a turning point in their careers, which soon carried them to the major opera houses of the world.

Over the years, each has worked with other artists, but Hebert insists they have accomplish their best work together.

"Directors and designers can be in separate worlds these days. Sometimes they don't meet in person until the show goes into rehearsals because the

Internet allows designs to go back and forth easily. We can talk about a production whenever an idea pops in our mind, even while we are doing the dishes," Hebert says with a laugh.

The pair has an impressive history with Dallas Opera. Hebert started his association with the company in 1958 as an assistant — and he means that in the most general way. "I assisted everybody. I was a rehearsal pianist, coach, prompter. Whatever was needed at the moment, I did. I was like Figaro [in Rossini's *Barber of Seville*], who is constantly being called on by everybody."

Hebert and Klein seem tremendously pleased with the current production of *La Traviata*, even though it opens ominously enough on Friday the 13th. ("Can you believe it?" Klein exclaims.) But one of the joys has been working inside the



OPERA IS BLISS ... AND ALLEN | Director Bliss Hebert, center, and designer Allen Charles Klein, seated, together nearly 50 years, rehearse the Dallas Opera's production of 'La Traviata' with tenor James Valentine and assistant director John de los Santos. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas/Voice).

Winspear Opera House. Klein is especially happy with how the sets and costumes (which he originally designed for the Florida Grand Opera) work on the stage.

They both enthused about the cast, including Myrto Papatanasu, who will sing Violetta. It was another Greek soprano, Maria Callas, who starred in this same opera in 1958 when Hebert was pressed into service as a prompter at the last

minute.

"Of course, I was nervous, but it went well," he says. "When it was over, she came to the front of the stage and handed me a rose while I was still in the prompter's box."

"I wonder what ever happened to that rose," says Klein, with a smile that hinted of secrets and a lifetime of shared dreams — still rich and full, and fragrant with possibilities. ■

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L+S screen

Gay flickers

DIFF isn't the gayest film fest, but some documentaries — one about ballet, one about politics — give queer-friendly cinephiles something to look at

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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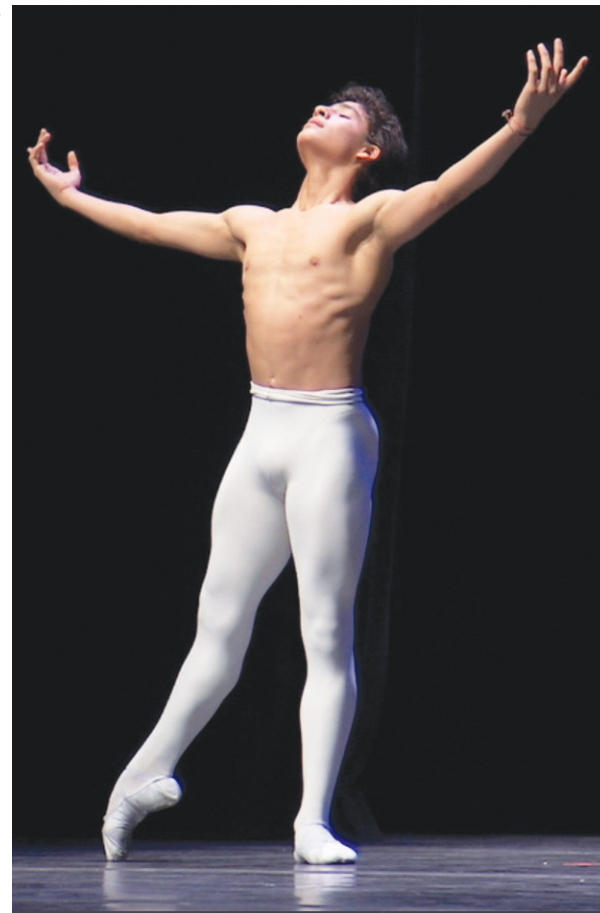
Unlike the USA Film Festival or the Dallas Video Festival, the Dallas International Film Festival has never had an LGBT series targeted to queer cinephiles. But there are still some films playing at the 11-day event (which has screenings at the Angelika Film Center, the Magnolia, AMC NorthPark, the Nasher, the Majestic and the Texas Theatre) with definite interest to gay filmgoers.

It's a cliché — a false one — that all gay men love ballet and opera, but that doesn't mean we aren't moved by such frou-frou art forms. In fact, there's no better way to experience the paradox of ballet — its arresting beauty and the torturous toll it takes on those who practice it, physically, emotionally and financially — than with the documentary **First Position**. Forget *Black Swan* and all its overwrought incipient insanity — this is the real deal.

What makes it all the more stark is who the director, Bess Kargman, chooses to profile: Children entering in the Youth America Grand Prix, an international competition that can make or break budding careers, separating the aficionados from the stars. Think *Hoop Dreams* in toe shoes.

The film profiles the families of six aspiring dancers, from a black girl (one of very few African-Americans in the ballet world) adopted from Sierra Leone to an Army brat whose family relocated to Italy to be near his teacher to my favorite, Sebastian, a handsome, sensitive 16-year-old from Columbia who arrived in New York not speaking English, engaged in an enterprise not seen as manly in his home country.

Anyone who doesn't think ballet requires toughness needs to spend a week in these folks' tights. The film draws you in, portraying the power and discipline required to execute such athleticism (and at tender ages) would shame a high school quarterback. Add to that conveying their messages with beauty while enduring the taunts of schoolmates, and the heartbreak of all that work without seeing your dream realized, and you get a unique insight into what it means to be driven to dance. After you see it, you'll want to call up someone at Texas Ballet Theater



ON HIS TOES | 16-year-old Sebastian conveys the beauty and sacrifice of ballet in the engaging documentary 'First Position.'

just to say "thank you."

Patriocracy lacks any specifically gay content itself, but anyone already engaged in the current

DALLAS INT'L FILM FEST

FIRST POSITION screens at **AMC NorthPark** on April 14 at 12:30 p.m. and at **Angelika** on April 15 at 8:30 p.m. **PATRIOCRACY** screens at **Magnolia** April 14 at noon and at the **Angelika** April 16 at 1 p.m. DallasFilm.org.

political climate, and how discourse has been replaced with shouting and turning people's beliefs, even their lives, into cultural footballs, will live vicariously through the film.

Patriocracy seeks to evoke a politically neutral framework, criticizing Glenn Beck and Keith

Olberman, Bill O'Reilly and Rachel Maddow, for being entertainers, not newsmen. Sometimes, its point feels like retreads of points made on *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report*, but when it really starts to chug along is in its wonkier moments, spouting off statistics and showing graphs and talking to legislators (hearing Alan Simpson says "bullshit" to excess is oddly funny and humanizing). It's also remarkably up-to-date, tracking the debt ceiling debate from last summer. It even suggests practical ideas for improving our political discourse. Too bad you know it's just whistling in the wilderness — someone needs to listen. ■

'Wolf' man

Texas filmmaker Ya'Ke takes on a predatory gay relationship and the church in the film fest drama 'Wolf'

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



CHURCH AND SEX | Arlington-based filmmaker Ya'Ke Smith explores a complicated relationship between a minister and a boy in 'Wolf,' which screens at the Dallas International Film Festival this week. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

It's hard to tell as you watch *Wolf* if the story is about a gay relationship that just happens to involve the clergy, or is a story of betrayal within the church that happens to revolve around gay sex. But for Ya'Ke Smith, the writer-director of the film, the two are inextricable.

"I grew up in the church — I still am in it," he says over an iced tea in the lounge at Private | Social, "I was exposed to the good and the bad [of it]; I knew people who had been molested. I knew I had those stories inside me and one day would do something about them."

The trigger for Ya'Ke (as he prefers to be known) was the documentary *Deliver Us From Evil*, about a priest who sets out to make amends with the parishioners he had wronged. It opened his eyes in a new way.

"I had never thought of a pedophile as being humanized," he says. "I wanted to show how the cycle continues."

In the film, playing this week at the Dallas International Film Festival, a protestant bishop engages in a sexual relationship with an underage boy in his congregation. The situation is complicated, however, because the boy, rather than frightened by reprisals of coming forward, professes love for the minister and refuses to accuse

him. It leaves the boy's family to seek satisfaction.

Is the boy really in love, just confused or so victimized he has become brainwashed into false feelings of love for his abuser?

One thing is clear: *Wolf* is not a "what happened" mystery. Despite the church's denials, there's never a doubt that the minister committed the abuse. That was something Ya'Ke wanted no uncertainty about.

"An important question for me was, how do you get past [such events]?" he says — not just the victim, but the church membership as well. "When a pedophile [is revealed], you realize he's always had two faces, which means you've been duped. It's not even about knowing, but about exposing this to the broader world."

But Ya'Ke also wanted to flesh out the complexity of such relationships. In the film, we learn through flashback how the minister, Bishop Anderson, was abused as a boy; in the present day, his victim, Jaymund, has an absentee father who doesn't offer the support his son craves.

"[Anderson] fills a void his father has left," Ya'Ke says. "It was important to me not to villainize the bishop. For him, sleeping with this

guy is how he shows love. It's what he learned."

The self-financed production (he won't say how much) scored one coup of casting: The great North Texas stage actress and sometime Hollywood star Irma P. Hall plays the boy's steely grandmother. How did he snag her?

"She saw a short film I made and said, 'What's he doing next?'" he explains.

Ta'Ke knows this is not the kind of film one would expect to be embraced by the church. So far, though, the reaction has been positive. In fact, after some initial resistance, the bishop at Ta'Ke's church in San Antonio finally gave his blessing to the film. (Ta'Ke now lives in Arlington, and is a member of T.D. Jakes' church.) He hopes all kinds of churches will want to screen the film — if only "to start a conversation."

"I wanted [to explore] the broader issue of how religion could be abusive," he says. "You see how people use religion, use God to manipulate others. More than about sexual abuse, it's about betrayal. And what a man does can cause others to turn away from God."

But he doesn't want to stop there. Ta'Ke, who is straight (his wife, Mikala Gibson, plays Nona in the film), has already been approached by several gay film festivals about screening the film. All of which is fine with him. The more people who can see it, and embrace his message of healing, the better. ■

WOLF

Screens at **Landmark's Magnolia Theatre** on April 14 at 12:30 p.m. and at the **Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station** on April 18 at 10:15 p.m. DallasFilm.org.

QUEER CLIP: 'Blue Like Jazz'

Organized religion takes it on the chin not just in *Wolf*, but in *Blue Like Jazz*. Also set in Texas, the Baptist-raised Don (Marshall Allman) is active in the church, appearing as a soldier for Christ in the Sunday school lessons and headed to a Christian college. But he decides to divert to Portland, attending a university where hippie-like experimentation is the norm. There, he befriends Lauryn (Tania Raymonde), a lesbian who has a crush on a girl who may not be as into her as she appears.

Based on a memoir by Christian writer and blogger Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz* is quirkier (and funnier) than its hipster-ish title would suggest. "Funny," though, is a relative matter: Men running around town dressed as the pope and jokes about Don's mom sleeping with the sexy Mexican yard guy are more amusing than laugh-out-loud hilarious. But this is a comedy with heart and, almost counterintuitively, values. Despite targeting religion with a mocking irreverence, a Christian message comes through — the kind gay people of faith have often fought for: One based on respect and acceptance, not judgment. Amen to that.

— A.W.J.

Two and a half stars. Opens today at the Cinemark 17.



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Erick Swenson, *Schwärmer* (in process), 2012. Acrylic and oil on urethane resin and silicone, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist, Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, and James Cohan Gallery, New York.
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L+S screen

It's hard out there for a kid

F-bombs aside, the controversial documentary 'Bully' really is shocking



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

Probably the best thing that could have happened to **Bully** was the controversy over its rating.

The documentary, which follows about half a dozen teens and tweens in small town America, being physically and mentally abused by other kids and, in most instances, the system, got slapped with an R rating for language. The director, Lee Hirsch, and the distributor, The Weinstein Co., objected, and with good reason: The F-bombs were all dropped by kids to other kids (and essential parts of the bullying experience) and a hard R might prevent the film's target audience from even seeing it.

As with all forms of censorship, even those as mild as this, the newsworthiness fueled interest in the film. How bad could the language be?

What was silly about the MPAA rating was that language was the deciding factor *at all*. What's *really* disturbing about *Bully* is less what's said than the acts of domestic terrorism it chronicles on school buses and playgrounds across the nation. The movie *will* be hard for kids to watch, but I can hardly imagine a more necessary and provocative way to get kids (and their parents) to talk about what's going on in their lives. It's shocking and disturbing.

Not that the film is perfect; it's not. Hirsch takes a rangy approach to the subject, covering (in unequal fashion) several threads. Some, like 14-year-old Alex of Sioux City, Iowa, garner the lion's share of screen time; others, like two different boys named Tyler, we see other through the eyes of friends and family; they had been driven to suicide.

Of the bullied kids profiled, only one — 16-year-old Kelby of Tuttle, Okla. — is specifically LGBT. The recounts of her ordeal are vile but probably all too familiar to some; messages reading "Faggots aren't welcome here;" teachers diving her class into three groups ("boys, girls and

Kelby"). But none of these actual events are filmed for *Bully*, and Kelby's story goes away for long stretches.

Not that the gay kids' experiences are anything unique. The pride Tyler's dad shows toward his victimized son is sincere and heartfelt, and what Alex endures borders on the unreal: The nickname "Fish Face;" the physical attacks on the school bus in plain sight of the driver; the appalling indifference and insensitivity of the adults.

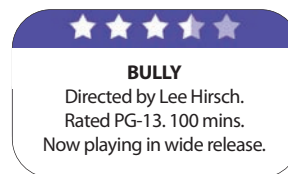
In fact, if there's a villain in *Bully*, it isn't the sad, mean teens who inflict such thoughtless cruelty on their weaker classmates, it's the adults who seem to have

turned a deaf ear to the calls for help. Kim Lockwood, a middle school assistant principal, actually blames victims as much for being the *target* of a bully as the bully himself. She does all but say if he wore a hoodie, he'd deserve to be shot.

Another principal, hopelessly bureaucratic and ignorant to the realities of life in her school, doesn't believe it when she's told a warning to an abuser doesn't stop the abuse.

Perhaps worst of all is Ja'Maya, a 12-year-old sent to juvie after she snapped and brought a handgun on a bus to confront her tormentors. The cops seem totally unconcerned at the root cause of her behavior, instead once again victimizing the child who, rather than suicide, acts out against the bullies.

There are more than a few raise-your-fist and stand-up-and-cheer moments in the film; like *An Inconvenient Truth*, it outrages you at times, and gives you hope at others. While its through-line isn't as focused as it could be — for an even better youth-centered documentary, check out this year's Oscar winner, *Undeclared* — *Bully* is a must-see experience for parents and kids ... and anyone else who cares about justice, and wants to understand what it means to be different today.



VICTIMIZED AGAIN | Fourteen-year-old Alex suffers the physical and verbal abuse of students, but also the thoughtlessness of adults, in 'Bully.'

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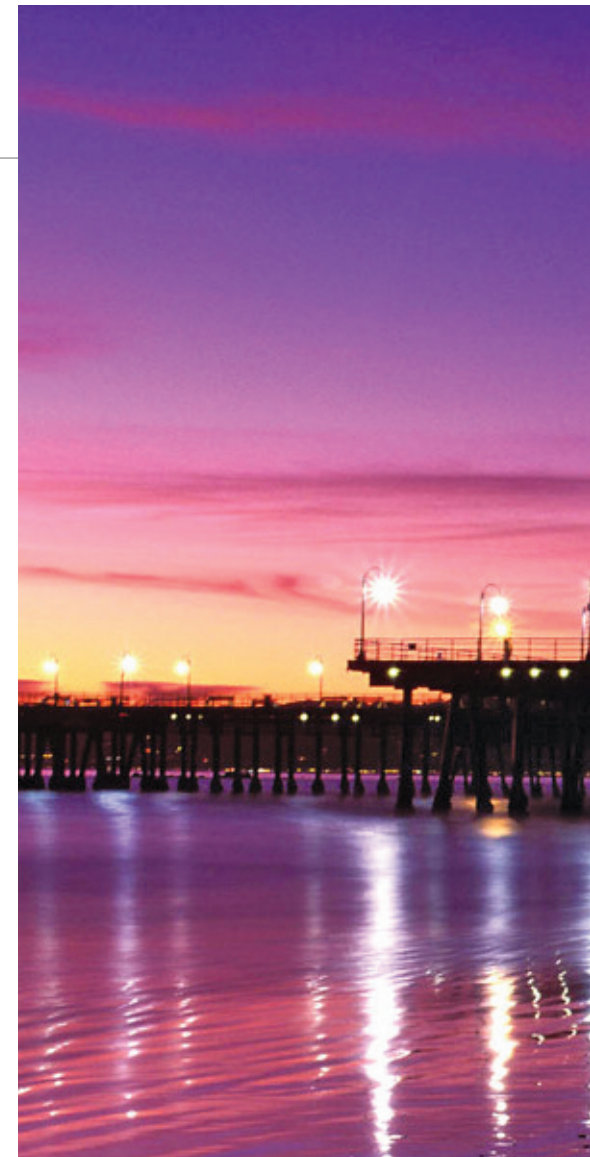
Yes, most LGBT travelers know West Hollywood is the focal point of gay and lesbian life in the greater Los Angeles area.

Granted: WeHo offers great clubs, restaurants and boutiques, making it a bona fide queer mecca.

But what's the one thing you won't find in this metropolitan gayborhood? Surf and sand. If you're gonna be on the coast, you wanna be *on the coast*. So if you're not interested in going on an expedition through the concrete jungle, head west to Santa Monica. Very fab, *very* gay.

Santa Monica, about 10 miles west of WeHo, is known for its laid-back atmosphere, world-class hotels and beautiful beaches. What gay tourists might not realize is that there are several activities geared toward LGBT travelers. (If 10 miles doesn't sound that far, keep in mind: This is the gridlock capital of the world. A straight shot down Santa Monica Boulevard could take you an hour.)

First and foremost is getting accommodations: Finding a great hotel located close to the beach is a necessity (otherwise, why not just stay in-



land?). The Loews Santa Monica is a luxurious, gay-friendly property that even hosts same-sex commitment ceremonies on-site.

After you've checked in, strip down, throw on your bathing trunks and head to the beach. Less than two miles from SM, you'll find the most well-known gay beach in the Los Angeles area, Will Rogers Beach in Pacific Palisades. Admittedly, Will Rogers is a little disappointing compared to Black's in San Diego and other gay



COASTAL SUCCESS | The Santa Monica Pier may be a tourist trap, but it's a fabulous one — as is the entire beach area of Los Angeles' surf-bound alternative to the concrete jungle of West Hollywood, with great shops, dining ... and even a gay bar. (Photos courtesy Santa Monica CVB)



beaches. It's a small, nondescript area but fine if you want to get a tan or play a game of volleyball with some bronzed hotties.

Getting to the beach can be a pain if you're driving, so your best bet is to rent a bike from one of the beachfront shops and get a little exercise before you tan. When you're tired of hanging out in the sand, take part in an outdoor yoga class. The point is to take advantage of the sunshine — the biggest draw for out-of-towners.

Feeling a bit peckish after a long day lounging in the sun? Head to Ocean Street, Third Street Promenade or Mid-City for a fantastic meal. Whether you're looking for a great steakhouse, sushi or amazing Thai, there's a venue for every taste and preference. Seafood lovers will definitely want to experience The Lobster located next to the iconic Santa Monica Pier. The surf and turf is just as incredible as the view.

As far as tourist traps go, the Santa Monica Pier is pretty fabulous. Once you get past the gaudiness of the amusement park, you'll find that the Heal the Bay Aquarium is phenomenal and the street performers are a sight each visitor must experience at least once. What sets the Pier apart from other over-the-top iconic landmarks is the breathtaking view of the ocean.

Gay nightlife in the Santa Monica area is more low-key than WeHo, and you might consider a short trip into neighboring Venice. The city is a haven for artists, surfers and anyone who enjoys the wafting scent of marijuana on every corner. Abbot Kinney Boulevard is the heart and soul of the Venice community, lined with coffee shops, eclectic boutiques and restaurants serving exotic cuisine. This is also where you'll find the area's

only gay bar, Rooster Fish.

For more than three decades, Rooster Fish has been the only game in town for the gay and lesbian Westside. When you first walk in, you feel like you're in a straight college bar, not a beach city gay bar. It's a small venue with two rooms but it's a popular spot that attracts a wide variety of patrons — straight and gay, male and female — and a great happy hour. There's also an outdoor patio barbecue each Sunday.

If you're in the Venice area at the beginning of the month, be sure to check out First Friday. This is an incredible event where a slew of restaurants, galleries and boutiques stay open late, allowing locals and tourists to meet shop owners in a festive setting.

Santa Monica, Venice and the rest of the communities located on the Westside of Los Angeles offer gay visitors a vibe that can't be found in any other area. This beachfront area attracts Hollywood celebrities, college students, artists, executives and musicians. Whether you live in Minneapolis or Downtown Los Angeles, you instantly feel like you're on vacation when you arrive in town.

So what's the most important thing each and every visitor must do in Santa Monica, gay or straight? Nothing! Whether you're hanging out on the beach, lounging by a hotel pool or sipping espresso on a café patio, take time to rest, relax and soak up the sun. Just make sure you tweet lots of pictures to make your friends jealous.

— Jon Fairbanks

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Popsicle shtick

Amy Sedaris brings crafting acumen, and quirky humor, to *The Kessler*

Gay humorist David Sedaris may have his spot on the New York Times best-seller list, but he's not the only member of the family making people laugh for a living. Best known for her role as Jerri Blank, a 46-year-old former junkie and ex-con who returns to high school with hopes of a fresh start in the *Afterschool Special* mockumentary *Strangers with Candy*, Amy Sedaris has carved her own niche playing eccentric characters. She's also penned two books on the worlds of entertaining and crafting, drawing from this same off-the-beaten-path well of humor.

Sedaris combines her kooky characters with real-life crafting lessons for *An Evening With Amy Sedaris*, her show playing Thursday at the Kessler Theater in Oak Cliff. *Dallas Voice* caught up with the woman of a thousand faces to talk about the show, her life and how she convinced Dallas designer Todd Oldham to create for her a felted faux vagina as a gift for Chelsea Handler. ■

—Jef Tingley

AMY SEDARIS

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Dallas Voice: Have you been to Dallas before? Amy Sedaris: I'm pretty sure I have, but I can't recall when. I just finished watching all 14 seasons of *Dallas* the TV show. I am all Dallysed out.

What can we expect from *An Evening with Amy Sedaris*? Song? Dance? Some no-holds-barred crafting (hot glue gun optional)? First of all, bring a book. I was told that the audience wants me there because I played loser Jerri Blank, which tells me to expect to meet a lot of misfits and outcasts, which equals ugly people — my favorite people. I plan on demonstrating some crafts from my hit craft book *Simple Times*, and then I will do a long Q&A so I can answer Jerri Blank questions. I will sell a few items like lighters and pillboxes and sign some books.

You once gave a "how-to" demonstration on vaginal hygiene for Chelsea Handler, using a plush vagina made by North Texas native Todd Oldham. How did you two become friends? Who now has that designer lady-part? I met Todd when he called me and asked me to do a photo shoot with him, and we've stayed friends. I asked him to make that vagina for me. I had to send him a lot of reference pictures because he had no idea what a vagina looked like. As far as what I did for him to make it, well, my lips are sealed. And I gave my vagina to Chelsea — she needed one.

***Simple Times Crafts for Poor People* is filled with great photos of your various characters, as well as actual home crafting ideas. Our favorite is where you and co-author Paul Dinello wear matching shorty-short canary yellow robes in "Making Love for Craft Lovers." Do you have a favorite?** That's one of my favorite chapters. I don't know anything about making love, so Paul pretty much wrote that chapter by himself. I love seeing guys in short robes. I came up with that chapter just so I could have a short robe made for Paul to wear.

What's your next big project after taking the world of entertaining and crafting by storm? I am in the process of doing a hospitality show.

What would we find if we raided Amy Sedaris' medicine cabinet (which coincidentally is the title of a Facebook page created in your honor)? You would be able to give yourself a really

BLANK SLATE

Amy Sedaris will get crafty after Dallas appearance and talk up her famous Jerri Blank character.



great facial. I have lots of creams and lotions in there. Also a small ceramic bunny and a jar of fake gem rings. No drugs, though. I'm no idiot — that's the first place people look.



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Bette & Barry, reborn

They may not work The Continental Baths, but Amy and Freddy might be the second coming of Midler and Manilow, with a decidedly fraternal bent



RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

After 15 years together, Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen couldn't get much closer. The duo has made themselves a gay household name with their headlining performances on many LGBT cruises over that time, and with a few albums under their belt and countless live performances behind them, it took heartbreak to bring them even closer.

"We hadn't done a CD in five years and in the meantime, we both went through divorces," Armstrong says. "So we spent a lot of time together and in a way, this is a breakup album, but it also just deals with life any of us go through. I love this album so much."

"This album" is their fifth CD, *We Get Along*. On it, they don't get all Adele on their listeners, but they do touch on some of the ache that comes with the loss of a relationship through a mix of jazz and blues. Armstrong feels that tone resonates with anyone and that music really has a healing power.

"I wrote a couple for Amy and she sings them so beautifully," Allen adds. "These songs are our songs, but people can hear themselves in them. This experience really brought us close."

"Yeah, he's like my brother," Armstrong says. "But not my gay husband like everyone says."

And then there's the comedic side of the two. Even with an album that weighs heavy with emotion, the two don't stay serious for too long. As musicians, it's clear they appreciate the connection they can have with listeners, but Armstrong is quick to add, "I wanna make 'em laugh!"

Local comic Paul J. Williams (who will be the opening act when they perform this Friday at Station 4) compares them to the reincarnation of Barry Manilow and Bette Midler. Armstrong

basks in this compliment. Midler is her inspiration along with Mae West for dirty, risqué comedy — that and the bathhouses they were famous for playing.

"I've been in those bathhouses, but it takes 11 towels to cover me up, so I don't have much fun," she says.

"I think I've been in more of those, but she gets more action than I do," Allen zings.

The two were open to simple questions about each other and discovered they make themselves laugh as much as they do their audiences.

Who's funnier? "I'm not a funny person at all," says Allen. "I try to keep my mouth shut and be like Ed McMahon."

"He'll start telling a joke and I just say 'uh-oh,'

■ **REBORN**, Next Page

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■ **REBORN**, From Previous Page

May Day! You hear the plane. But he'll pull out these zingers from nowhere and I'm like, 'Where'd you come from?'" says Armstrong.

Who's dirtier? Armstrong: "I'm dirtier on stage but he can be dirty when he wants to. But- tless chaps. All I'm sayin'."

Who's on top? "Would you say we're both power bottoms?" Armstrong laughs. "I like the top but I'm kinda enjoying the bottom a little. Oh, who needs labels?" says Allen.

Musical indulgences: "He loves Liberace. And he admits it," accuses Armstrong. Allen has his own take. "She listens to all this hardcore punk stuff and heavy metal shit. I'm like, 'What is this?'"

Who is gayer? Armstrong: "He is gayer, but I have my queeny moments."

"She's had more pussy than I have," says

Allen ... "Except that I love cock," replied Armstrong.

Who works the cruise perks the best? "We both do that and I get so spoiled," says Armstrong. "It's gonna be hard to date a straight man when all these gay men give me fabulous gifts."

"Yeah, I have sex with a lot of guys and I don't get anything," Allen says. "Except a rash," she zings.

Hidden talents: Allen: "She makes people happy. She lights up and then they light up. That's really hers."

"Aww ... I think that's pretty awesome," blushes Armstrong. "I think yours is that you know how to bring people together. You love entertaining and it's harder to have groups hang out when people get older but with you, they always wanna hang out."

How sweet. Just like brother and sister. ■

New kid on the block

Indie singer D. Alexander holds a defiant attitude toward the corporate labels of the music industry — strange for a dance-pop singer whose genre relies big-time on that kind of backing and radio play. But the young singer is intent on having his pop career his way, even if it means forgoing all the swag and perks of the mainstream.

"I said to the producers, you can keep your money, cars and chicks. Just give me a mike and some glitter," he writes in his biography.

Alexander *does* like dazzle, though, which is probably why Razzle Dazzle Dallas brings him to town Thursday to perform at the Rose Room's Rising Star night. This is the first that Razzle Dazzle has endeavored outside of its summer event, and Alexander's first performance in the Metroplex.

Although he opts to go his own way, Alexander hits the music biz at just the right time. As boy bands like One Direction and teen heartthrobs such as Justin Bieber are cycling back around to the top of the charts and the pages of Tiger Beat, Alexander's boyish good looks and chipper tunes fit right into the mix, only with an androgynous edge.

"Today's youth are the first to realize that music doesn't have to be black and white," he says. "I sing songs that might be considered more appropriate for female singers but my ability to show a different side of masculinity is what sets me apart from other male artists. I pull off the femininity the song demands, so why shouldn't I sing it?"

Last year, he released his debut EP *Evocative*, a collection of five tracks with some major sexual charge likely not found by the aforementioned artists. And his appeal to the gay community could expand with his sound that's ready for the dance floor. His beats remind of early 'NSync, but tunes like "Sleeping With the Enemy" and "Touch Me" don't leave much to the imagination save for whether he's directing his attentions to a girl or a boy. And it's kind of a brilliant move.

Alexander does play to some obvious pop formulas in *Evocative*, but he steers clear of any major mistakes. His songs never fall into dance track traps of throwing his voice over a pulsing beat. The electronica background of "Secret Love" has an impressive layer of sounds and Santilli's rap gives it an extra punch. The EP's final track "Tell Me" might use a little too much Auto-Tune, but like another budding singer, Adam Tyler, Alexander sounds like he's done his homework in pop music to create something refreshing.

— R.L.

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Jetting Jetta

VW's new GLI gives the baby Benz
a run for its money

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com



I was a weird little kid — but not for the reason you'd think. Though Camaros and Celicas were cool, I loved my grandmother's Mercedes more. Her 190E was a great car, but the revered 190E 2.3-16, harboring a 167hp Cosworth-developed 16-valve four-cylinder engine, was the one to get. The idea of a compact sedan that could show tail to sport coupes seemed quite rational to my teenage mind. So does the VW GLI.

While deceptively understated, the Jetta's sleek body is as visually conservative as the 190E's. But look closer at the 2.3-16, you'll notice flared rocker panels, lowered front fascia and fabulous rear wing. The GLI gets about the same makeover to convert it from a commuter compact to weekend club kid.

Its sportier look includes a honeycomb grille, deep front spoiler and vertical fog lamps up front; red-painted brake calipers behind 10-spoke 17-in. alloy wheels on the side; and smoked taillamp lenses and dual chrome exhaust tips out back. Eighteen-inch Motorsport Black rim alloys are available for more contemporary styling.

Appropriate for mature Gen-Xers, cabin style takes the tone of a gentleman's sports car. Large analog gauges, wide dash with center control stack and acres of black plastic are seriously German. Thickly-bolstered canvas sport buckets with red stitching, flat bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel, aluminum pedals, leather-wrapped shift knob and silver door trim add some flash. Piano-black finish around the center controls, chrome detailing on the steering wheel and thick grabs on the steering wheel touch refinement. Clicking the Autobahn package adds a sunroof, dual-zone climate control, heated seats and Fender audio system (I'd add the package just for Fender audio — your ears deserve it).

VW is catching flak for the hard interior plastics. While the décor doesn't feel as expensive as the previous Jetta, judging a car by the quality of its plastics doesn't tell the entire story. This sedan is a noticeably larger family-friendly car,

with cavernous rear seat space that challenges full-size sedans. The trunk, especially when expanded by flipped-down rear seats, will hold anything from bikes to strollers to hiking gear.

Beyond trim debates, what's under the sleek hood would make the 'Benz jealous and your boyish self wish for another cruise through the '80s so you could put a pesky Eclipse in its place. Stoking fire is a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine that produces 200hp and 207 lb.-ft. of torque — 33hp more than the baby Benz. The standard six-speed manual transmission shifts with a light touch and works well, but drivers can also choose VW's DSG dual-clutch automatic transmission with paddle shifters. Fuel economy is rated 24/32-MPG city/hwy.

You truly won't care about how the GLI's exterior looks when you put the car down the road. Step on the throttle hard and

you feel a rush of turbo power that sets you into your seat while the exhaust note sings to your ears. The XDS cross differential system diminishes inside wheelspin during aggressive cornering and squelches torque steer when stomped hard. A track-tuned performance suspension system, lowering ride height by 15mm, is firm, but soaks up broken pavement like a fine German touring machine should. Cuddle into the car and forget about the four doors, roomy back seat, or large trunk. It's a hoot to drive, but won't make you feel like an adolescent. This is an affordable performance sedan for adults who live to have fun.

The Volkswagen GLI is the perfect car for those of us raised on Japanese sport coupes, and who may wish for a Mercedes, but don't yet have the budget. True car aficionados who grew up in the '80s hold the 190E 2.3-16 and Celica in high regards — we wanted both in our youth and couldn't have either. Both cars are now gone. But, pump your kicks into a VW dealership to get a better car in one.

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Hollywood notes

Tom Hardy goes gay (again), Vergara and Stone get it on and Babs wants to be Momma Rose



Tom Hardy in 'Warrior'

Tom Hardy as a gay rugby star? We buy it

It wasn't *bad* news to hear that **Mickey Rourke** wanted to play Welsh gay rugby star **Gareth Thomas** in a new film about the athlete's 2009 professional coming out process, but it was, at least, odd. After all, Rourke is in his late 50s and Thomas in his mid 30s — how would *that* work? Then came news that even Rourke wasn't convinced he was up for the role's physical demands.

Enter **Tom Hardy**, currently in talks to take on the part. Talk about easy casting. This is a man whose body is more than

up to the challenge (see *Warrior* or *Bronson* for the proof) and whose chameleon-like abilities can see him dance around the edges of a film like *Inception* or practically into the woodwork in films like *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. And as for gay? He did that already too, slow-dancing with Gerard Butler in *Rock-n-Rolla*. Somebody teach this guy the finer points of rugby and get the cameras rolling.

Vergara in bed with Sharon Stone and ...

Take one actress best known for an iconic lesbian role and another actress that lesbians simply wish would switch teams, put them both in a new film and what do you have? **Sharon Stone** and **Sofia Vergara** in bed together in something called *Fading Gigolo*. And while you're pretending that the title of the film isn't inherently off-putting and that you're just happy to hear about a lesbian component in a new comedy, here's a bit of a twist in the fantasy good news: Their sex scene will also involve **John Turturro**, the writer and director of the project. They star in the *Hung*-like film as a man forced into prostitution out of economic necessity. Look, don't blame the messenger. And besides, it could be **Woody Allen** in that three-way instead of Turturro — *The Woodman* co-stars in the film, as well. Count your blessings.



Gay-for-pay Adam Pally

Another happy ending for Adam Pally?

Adam Pally isn't gay, he just plays one on TV as slovenly, irresponsible, no-rule-or-stereotype-abiding Max, on the hilarious, fast-paced sitcom *Happy Endings*. Max is unlike any gay character yet seen in primetime on a major network anyway. So it's good news to see the likeable Pally taking on a film role, during the show's summer hiatus, in *A.C.O.D.* (which stands for "Adult Children of Divorce"). The comedy also stars **Amy Poehler**, **Adam Scott**, **Jane Lynch**, **Jessica Alba** and **Catherine O'Hara**. Weirdly enough, while Poehler and Scott play romantic partners on *Parks and Recreation*, here Poehler will be Scott's stepmother, the third wife of his older father. No word on what Pally's character gets up to, but he's showed a very specific kind of range on the other TV projects, notably as the "Young Hollywood Douchebag" on *Californication*. Here's to future typecasting.

Barbra and Downton Abbey creator takes on Gypsy

The sharp-tongued Dowager Countess might look askance, eyebrows at full arch, at a man who actually *works* for a living, but the man who invented her, Oscar-winning writer and *Downton Abbey* imagineer **Julian Fellowes**, can't seem to stop. Not only is season 3 of the hit Brit period soap already shooting, but now Fellowes has been hired by Universal to take a pass at the screenplay for their upcoming adaptation of *Gypsy*. **Barbra Streisand** and **Joel Silver** are producing the feature based on the **Jule Styne-Stephen Sondheim-Arthur Laurents** Tony Award-winning musical. For the young people out there, it's the story of famed burlesque dancer **Gypsy Rose Lee** and her relationship with her mother, **Momma Rose**, which already hit theaters in 1962 with **Natalie Wood** and **Rosalind Russell**. As producer, it's Streisand's prerogative to play Rose. And that's *just* what she's doing. Get ready, gays. ■

— Romeo San Vicente

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Must like animals

Rita Mae Brown may be a queer literary lion, but she prefers a different cat

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
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Thirty years ago, *Rubyfruit Jungle* entered the ranks of the lesbian must-read curriculum, one of the most acclaimed gay books ever. That's great for its author, Rita Mae Brown — but she'd rather talk about the secret lives of animals.

"I don't feel any pressure by that sort of reputation," she says. "If someone wants to read it, then that makes me happy. I think we can learn from every single thing out there even if our primary sense is sight. But animals can sense so much more and they get to really experience life. We don't as much."

Brown not only has a penchant for all animals, she's even credited her cat Sneaky Pie as co-author on a popular series of cozy mysteries. They just released their 20th book, *The Big Cat Nap*.

Brown comes to Dallas for a book-signing at Barnes and Noble on Friday and appears at the Federal Club's Her HRC mixer on Saturday. Famous for her activism and feminism in the '70s, Brown's interest in the battles for equal rights hasn't waned, but she picks them better.

"I don't think the answers are in the legisla-

tion," she says. "Laws are useless if you can't enforce them, and if you can't eat. I want to address how people get education and make a living."

Her concern for the social welfare comes with the admission that she's not a social person — with people, at least. She jokes that she was fox hunting in her mother's womb (not the killing kind) and wouldn't mind having four legs of her own to go off into the wild. Her passion ignites when the conversation switches from books and politics to the wild kingdom. Brown goes so far as to maybe prefer a pet to a lover.

"They truly love you for yourself and don't care what you look like or what sex you are," she says. (Brown famously dated tennis legend Martina Navratilova in the early 1980s.) "You'll never find that in another human being. You always have to be *something* to someone and those categories are intrinsically false. Animals are so much smarter."

This is something she says she learned while fox hunting, which she still participates in. Again, for PETA's sake, she doesn't kill foxes. But the activity has yielded far more life lessons than caging a wily fox.

"You learn to be quiet, because if you don't,



THE BROWN VERSION | Lesbian author and activist Rita Mae Brown shares credit with her cat Sneaky Pie on a series of mystery novels.

you'll miss something vital," she says. "We live in such a chattering age and it's the hardest thing to shut people up. We used to know how to communicate with animals and now we completely ignore what they do for us. I learned that so vividly. This really is the joy of my life."

Brown had a busy 2008, publishing four books in one year, and she continues to write prolifically. But she has strayed away from her poetry and screenplays. She doesn't watch television unless she has to (she does as a member of Television Academy and Emmy voter), but television

now doesn't impress her and she's not on board writing for today's audiences.

"The business has changed so dramatically," she says. "I prize wit and there's very little of it. What passes for funny are insults. If I watch anything, it's gonna be football."

And Sneaky Pie Brown won't likely be far away.

Brown appears at the Lincoln Park Barnes & Noble, 7700 W. Northwest Hwy. April 13 at 7 p.m. and at the Irvin and Bardwell residence, 7219 Robin Road, April 14 at 11 a.m. DFWFederalClub.org.

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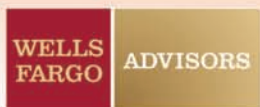
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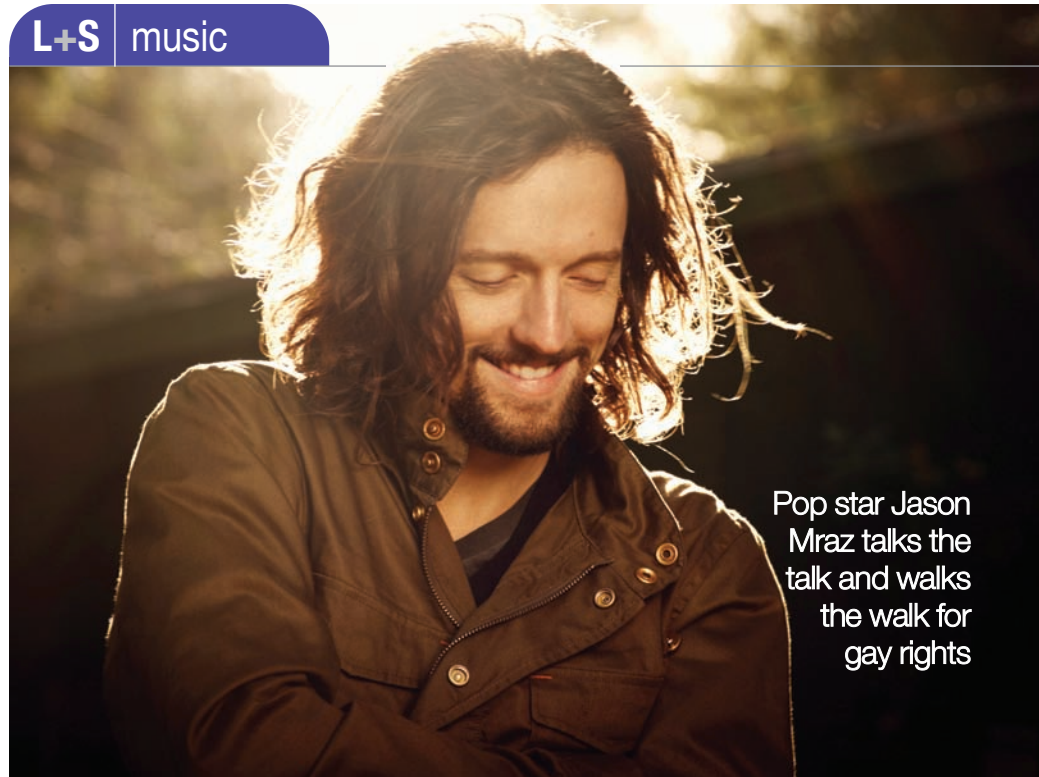
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L+S music



Pop star Jason Mraz talks the talk and walks the walk for gay rights

Mraz: The gay interview

How cool is Jason Mraz? His unwavering fight for equal rights led him to shoot a Human Rights Campaign video recently; he's also waiting to wed until everyone can and, not long ago, united with Cyndi Lauper to tell the world that he, too, gives a damn.

And hey, it doesn't hurt to know that he's laid-back in the sack. Not just as a curious kid, but even now as an adult who — as he told us during this interview — is down for some three-way fun. As Mr. Feel-Good releases his fifth album, *Love is a Four Letter Word*, we got Mraz on the phone for a candid catch-up on music, marriage and the evolution of his wordplay — and set a few things straight, including his misleading quote in *Instinct* and how, when it comes to sex, he's "keeping his options open these days."

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: So, the grunge look: Is that what happens when you make an album about freedom and love and everyone getting along? Mraz: Yeah, maybe so. I certainly admire John Lennon, George Harrison and David Crosby — the guys before me that did it. I think it's a rite of passage that not necessarily every artist has to go through, but I feel that I have to experience. And I'm enjoying it.

What about the boyish geek in pink? Is he still in there? Yeah, of course. From that I sprang.

How have you changed since *Waiting for My Rocket to Come*? You know what? I'm still scared. And from that fear, I'm still hopeful. I still don't know what I'm doing and from that not knowing, I'm very excited. And those contradictions are what keep me going. That's the kind of stuff I continue to write about. I guess how I've changed is that I've learned to just accept what is. I certainly try to influence and inspire, but I am also not attached to the outcome, and I didn't know those things during *Rocket*. I was just like, "Give me a pack of cigarettes and let's go." And now I don't smoke anymore. I have more tools under my belt.

So your rocket finally came? Yeah. But I want it to get off! I tried to get it off. I jumped off several times actually, like "Ooh, OK, this is what this feels like. Yeah, no thanks. Let me start over."

Between doing the Human Rights Campaign PSA recently, a Give a Damn video and being on the cover of *Instinct*, how do you feel being a poster boy for gay rights? I love it, because this is my way to finally fight back. There were a few kids in high

school who called me a fag or just would always intimidate me, and I didn't know at that time what I was going to grow up to be or who I was going to grow up to be. I hadn't had enough intimate experiences to know, so as a young man I questioned how my sexuality was going to evolve.

My best friend in high school came out when I was a senior and I thought that was the bravest thing anybody could do, to stand up and truly be themselves. I'm not bashing my town, but at that time in my life there were other kids who bullied those who were gay or different. I ended up just leaving town for many reasons, for pursuing a dream mostly, but I didn't feel encouraged or inspired by my peers.

Now that I have this opportunity to shine a light on the subject and be a straight man and be outspoken, I'm making up for that lost time. I'm making up for that kid, that geek in the pink, that didn't stand up, and I'm using my voice now for good, and it makes me feel really darn good.

You should. We need our allies. The civil rights movement happened because all parties got involved. And this, I think, is one of the final steps in the civil rights movement.

You mentioned experimenting as a young person, but now you identify as straight. Early in your career, however, I recall you stating that sexuality is fluid and that everyone is somewhat bisexual. Have you changed your mind? Are you still keeping your options open? Yeah, I'm keeping more of my options open these days. The older I get, the more fearless I become. That's not to say I'm ab-

solutely fearless. Man, I should be really careful with my words, especially with this question.

Talk about the “straight” label itself — do you dislike labels? Were we to live in a society that was equal, those labels wouldn't really exist or matter — except maybe at the DMV or someplace where, for some reason, you have to put down gender, race or age. I don't get it. I don't get why sexuality has to be such a big deal. You know, I've been invited by couples to join them, and I'm really turned on by that! I've never taken them up on it, though.

We can leave it at that, then. Your decision to wait to wed until there's marriage equality was a bold move to make, especially since, according to the Instinct interview, it became one of the reasons your relationship with Tristan Prettyman ended. To people who might not understand your decision to wait, what kind of message are you hoping to send? I would like to add that my words in Instinct may have been written or may have been spoken incorrectly. It wasn't that my partner wasn't into the fight for equality — she absolutely was — but it was the frustration in the partnership, the waiting, that was one of many factors that made it difficult.

I can't speak for her anymore because we're not together, but for me it was a great opportunity to experience what it feels like to only be able to go so far in a relationship, which I know some of my gay and lesbian friends have experienced. They're like, “Well, we've been together for seven or eight years, we've even got a kid, yet we can't get married. We can't get the tax benefits. We can't visit each other in the hospital.” It just seemed very unfortunate.

So, my personal protest really gave me that kick in the stomach that I wasn't expecting: “Oh man, this really is frustrating,” because my partner really wanted to

get married and I saw that and I acknowledged it but I'd already committed to this and I surprised her with it. She said, “All right, let's go for it.” But it wasn't easy.

“I Won't Give Up,” the first single from your upcoming album, could be a love letter to the gay community. Have you thought about it that way? I wanted the song to be able to connect with anyone who has something worth fighting for — whether it's the fight for equality or someone who just wants to lose five pounds. The song is available for anybody's fight. Hopefully, though, I never see the song on two sides of the same fight. That would be awkward.

Love is a Four Letter Word lacks the scatty wordplay we've come to know from you. What's that all about? It shows up in a different way now. That scatty rap and wordplay is still in the core of my writing and what I do; for instance, the bridge of “I Won't Give Up:” *I don't wanna be someone who walks away so easily / I'm here to stay and make the difference that I can make.* The essence of that is a scatty, rappy wordplay all about alliteration and rhythm. On this album I wanted to have an intention with the words and have an intention with the lyrics rather than just pass it off as goofy wordplay.

Since the album's all about love, and without quoting Whitney Houston, what's the greatest love of all? Oh, man. I think it's the love of oneself, because it's once you truly love and accept yourself that you can accept others loving you and you walk around with the confidence and strength to love others and actually be of service to the world, so it's that — accepting and loving oneself. And it has nothing to do with being self-absorbed. It's just getting over your shit so you can step out into the world and make a difference.

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‘La Cage aux Folles:’ It is what it is

Even when it opened on Broadway nearly 30 years ago, **La Cage aux Folles** wasn't really groundbreaking. Sure, it featured gay men, many in full drag, shown in a romantic setting, but no show with a Jerry Herman score could ever be called “edgy.” Herman is the master of the traditional book-musical format: Scene, set-up, joke, song (in equal parts ballads, anthems and production numbers); repeat. In fact, repeat a lot — the songs are not musically diverse and the same musical phrases come back over and over.

Of course, one shouldn't undervalue the presence of the gays at the center of this story, even if the story feels slightly dated: Longtime gay couple Georges (George Hamilton), owner of La Cage, the most famous drag club in St. Tropez — and Albin (Christopher Sieber), his star performer, have a son who wants to marry a girl. Only her parents are about on the same color of the political spectrum as Rick Santorum, and unlikely to put up with queer in-laws. So Albin must disappear.

Of course, this is based on a French farce, so mistaken identity, cross-dressing, uncomfortable coincidences, etc., are par for the course. But director Terry Johnson fails to mine much farcical pacing from what should be a tight fit. The decision not to cast any women among the small cast of Les Cagelles dancers (a common gimmick since the beginning) is a bad one.

Most of the comic responsibility lands on Sieber's shoulders, and he's up to the task. Blowzy in his petticoats and bustiers, Sieber delivers the good as a fussy drag queen both to tickle and to touch, as he does powerfully on the Act 1 anthem “I Am What I Am.” That song, trite as it has become, still delivers chills from a largely gay audience on opening night. That's the real legacy of *La Cage*: Not its plot or its music or its fabulousness, but its message of self-acceptance.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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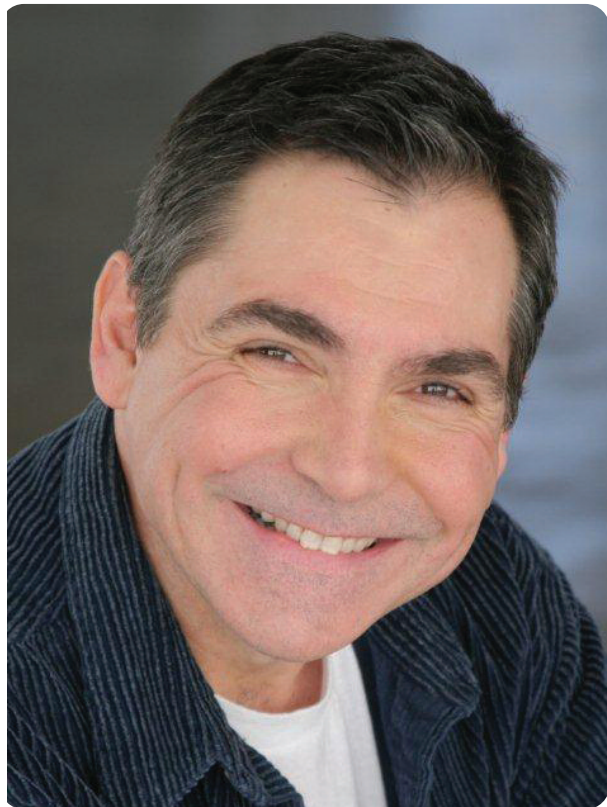


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Friday 04.13

Fall guys

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FRIDAY 04.13

COMMUNITY

Deep Ellum Food Truck Rally features an array of food selections and live music. The event will close down Main Street between Crowds St. and Malcom X Blvd. 5 p.m. DeepEllumMarket.com.

Lambda Pride Toastmasters. This is the regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills within a constructive environment. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.FreeToastHost.us.

Business Network Collin County luncheon. Fox Sports Grille 5741 Legacy Drive. 11:30 a.m. \$20. 469-335-0606.

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

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

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

Oak Lawn Group for Gays meets weekly. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 7 p.m. For more information, call 214-868-7350.

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.

ART

Dallas Art Fair. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. Through Sunday. \$25-\$50. DallasArtFair.com.

Modern 'Til Midnight 2012. The museum extends its hours offering gallery activities, films and a lineup of national and local music acts. The Modern, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$15. TheModern.org.

FILM

Rocky Horror Picture Show. Presented by Amber Does Dallas, the night includes prop packs to join in the film's antics. Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Parkway. 11 p.m. \$11. LakewoodTheater.com.

SATURDAY 04.14

COMMUNITY

2012 Dallas Diamonds Season Kickoff Party. The world champion all-female football team hosts a day with live music, food and refreshments, meet and greet and six-man volleyball tournament. Yucatan Beach Club, 1850 E. Beltline Road, Coppell. 4 p.m. DallasDiamondsFootball.com.

Razzle Dazzle Day at WinStar Casino. Take a day trip for a day of casino action and entertainment. Buses depart Dallas at 8:30 a.m. Return by 4:30 p.m. \$100. Visit RazzleDazzleDallas.org for details.

Choctaw Casino/Bingo trip leaves the second Saturday of every month from 709 Magnolia St., Arlington. \$7. 817-548-8110.

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

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet under the statue at Lee Park at 8 a.m. They convene after for breakfast in the area. FronrunnersDallas.org.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 04.15

COMMUNITY

Spring Out Art and Street Festival features a day of art from all mediums and presented by the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association. S. Jennings Road at Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth. Noon. TCGPWA.org.

The Set, a group of the Legacy of Success Foundation that serves as a safe environment for mature-minded SGL African-American men. The Jefferson Clubhouse, 1001 Ross Ave. 6 p.m.

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

Family Pride Coalition, a support group for gay parents and their children, meets at a private home. For time and location 214-521-5342 ext. 1708.

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

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

MONDAY 04.16

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at member's residence. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

United Black Ellument's Hot Topics. A weekly discussion group for black gay and bi men, 18-29. U-BE in Deep Ellum, 3116 Commerce St., Ste. C. 7 p.m. UBEDallas.org.

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters meets to improve public speaking and leadership skills. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m.

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

TUESDAY 04.17

COMMUNITY

JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit the website for meet-



DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH | Four time world champions, the Dallas Diamonds launch the start of their 2012 season with the Season Kickoff Party on Saturday at the Yucatan Beach Club. (Photo courtesy Debra Gloria)

ing dates if they change due to author's availability. RCDallas.org.

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

QLive! Open Mike Night for comics trying out their punchlines on an audience. Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave. 10 p.m. QCinema.com.

Q's Day Potluck. This friendly and casual LGBT gathering meets 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.

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

WEDNESDAY 04.18

COMMUNITY

Legacy of Success Community Mixer encourages community networking and meets every third Wednesday. Catfish Blues, 1011 S. Corinth St. 6:30 p.m. LOSF.org.

FUSE Activity Nights. The "official FUSE hangout night" with games, food and more. 7 p.m. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. DFWFuse.com.

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

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is David Chard, dean of the School of Education at SMU. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 04.19

COMMUNITY

The House of Glamour is a monthly event by the Legacy of Success Foundation for African-American women to meet and caucus. Brooklyn's Jazz Café, 1701 S. Lamar St. 3 p.m. LOSF.org.

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

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

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

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

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



America Ferrera turns 28 on Wednesday. The actress gained big time attention as the title character in *Ugly Betty*, a show that had major gay appeal. She was nominated in 2010 for favorite female star by the Gay People's Choice awards and the Lesbian/Bi People's Choice awards. Who knew? In 2011, she made her stage debut as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* in London.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Stop making trouble. It's nobody else's fault you're cranky. The hypersensitivity will pass. In the meantime you need time alone for meditation, moderate exercise and simple housekeeping.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your lucky day isn't happening this week, but you should be getting your share of them soon. Fun with friends can go way over the top. How much trouble do you really want to handle?

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Slow and easy does it. Breathe. Meditate. No matter how badly your parents screwed you up, you're a grown-up, have to be responsible and fix your own problems.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

New friendships could last forever. Cultivate important connections, but be certain you can be counted on. Charge your batteries, but too much seclusion is an unhealthy indulgence.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

All eyes are turning to you. Strut your stuff and show off your best work. Just don't pull anything sneaky. That's not to rule out private pleasures. Have fun, but don't slide into excess.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your naughtiest secrets are about to be revealed. You might be able to control which ones. Good luck with that. Opening the right discussion with the right person could open a lot more.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Discussions with your partner helps set limits. It won't be easy or pleasant, but you'll know where you stand and where to go from there. Whether it creates freedom or security you're better for it.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Vent about stress at work safely away from your job. Sure you have legitimate complaints, but let off the steam and get others' perspective so you can cool down and deal with it constructively.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

What looks like innocent fun gets you caught up in arguments that just distract from valued work and pleasures. There may be no avoiding it, but you can easily walk away.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Defending your turf is more contentious than you expected. Set limits, but you may have to give a little to protect a lot. Think ahead and be sure you can defend whatever lines you set.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

New ideas lead to brilliance. Discuss everything openly. Keep your BS filters up, but resist the urge to argue. Friendly advice about your partnership is worth listening to. Be polite anyway.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

A secret isn't safe in your mouth. Stay focused. You could stumble onto a great deal, but is it really? Check it out as carefully as you can, but act fast or forget it. It won't last long.

THIS WEEK

While the sun is entering Taurus, Mercury in Aries is semi-square Jupiter in Taurus. It's too easy to start an argument over minor details and dig in your heels. Relax, let go and consider priorities.

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

JANE'S WORLD

WE'RE NOT STAYING. YOU AREN'T?

JANE, I'VE GIVEN THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT. I THINK WE SHOULD JUST BE FRIENDS.

WHAT?? ...AND... I THINK I WANT TO DATE MEN AGAIN.

ARE YOU JOKING?!! No.

WELL, SOME "FRIEND" YOU ARE!! YOU MOVED IN! I MADE ETHAN MOVE OUT! NOW I HAVE TO COME UP WITH ALL THE RENT BY MYSELF... ARGH... DOROTHY, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS!!!

YOU ALWAYS LET EVERYONE ELSE DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS!

I'M SO STUPID! I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

LIKE WHAT?? HAVING AN HONEST EMOTIONAL REACTION TO THE SITUATION?!!

YOU'LL THANK ME SOME DAY.

THIS IS BETTER FOR YOU. LIKE WHEN YOU TOLD ME TO EAT MORE BROCCOLI?!

I CAN'T TALK TO YOU WHEN YOU ARE LIKE THIS...

I HATE BROCCOLI.

THE NEXT DAY

YOU'RE A GATEWAY LESBIAN. A WHAT?

WOMEN DATE YOU RIGHT BEFORE THEY GO BACK TO MEN.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT MEANS? I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SURE IT'S NOT GOOD.

© PAIGE BRAADDOCK

bitter girl companionslip

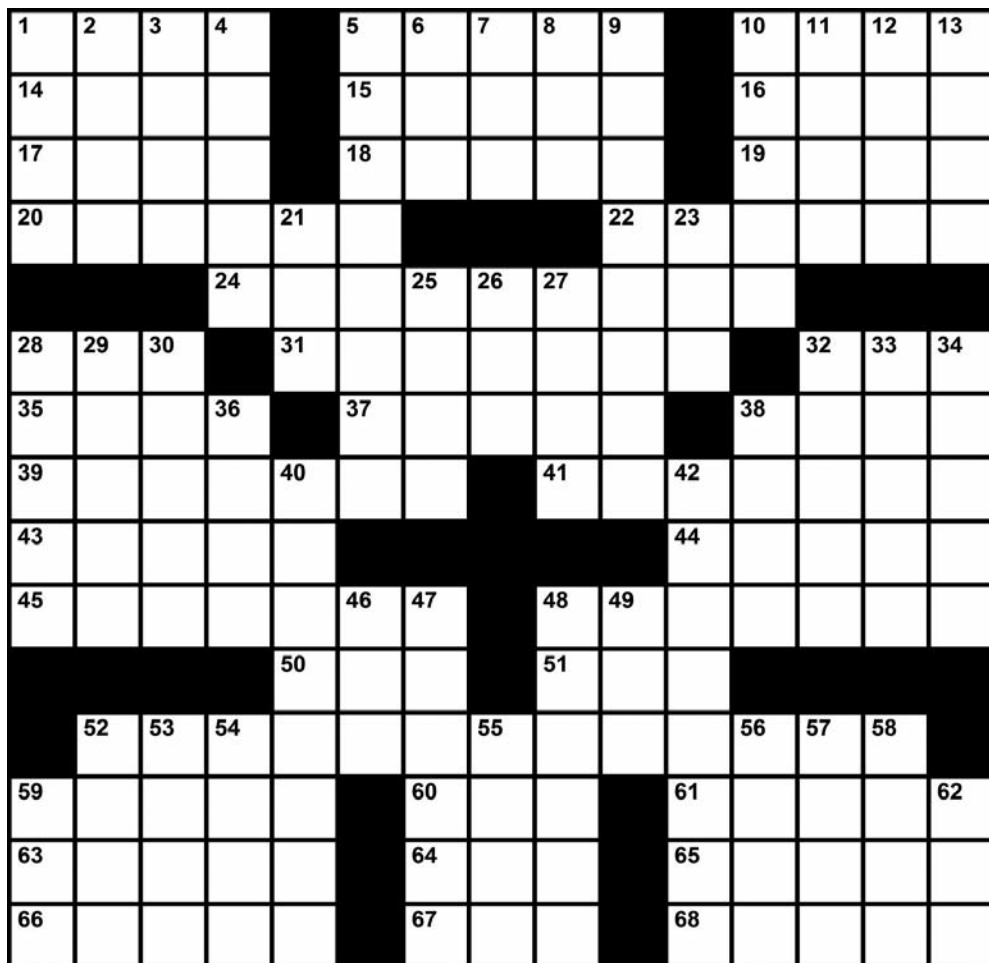
I BET YOU LIKE BEING PETTED JUST LIKE THIS! YES, YOU DOOOO!

TASTY, RIGHT, BOY? IT'S A DOUBLE I.P.A.!!

MEET YOUR NEW PAL, PROOKIE! YOU'LL BE SEEING LOTS AND LOTS OF EACH OTHER!

"MUST LOVE DOGS..." NO, NO, NO.

email: joan@joanhilty.net www.joanhilty.net JOAN HILTY ©2012



What's He Doing with Her?

Solution on page 41

Across

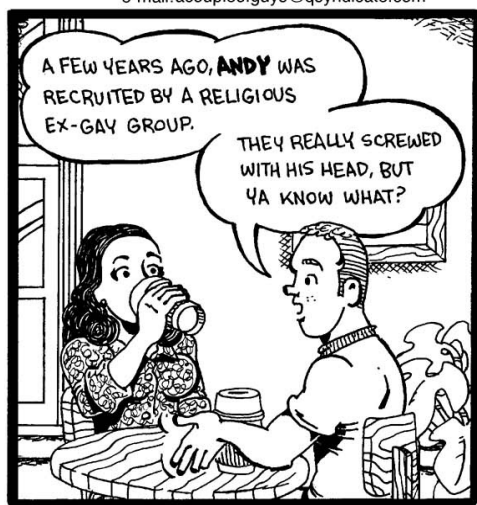
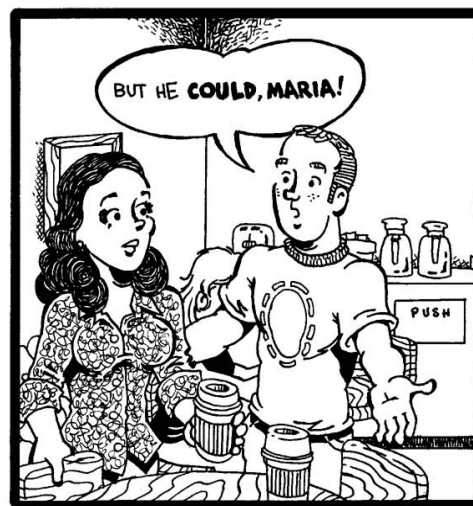
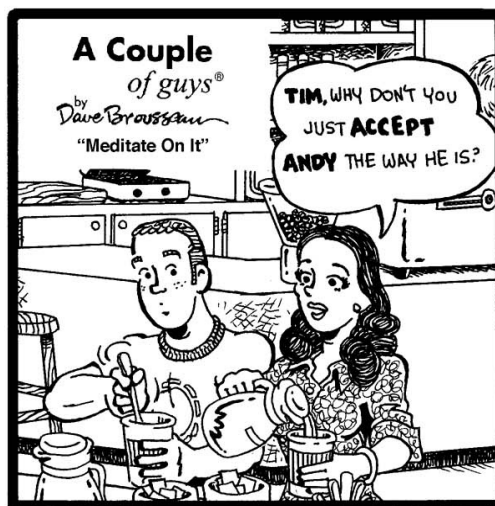
- 1 With 5- and 10-Across, Andrew's mom on Desperate Housewives ____
- 5 See 1-Across
- 10 See 1-Across
- 14 NG: Feels poorly
- 15 The Remains of the Day director James ____
- 16 NG: Petri dish medium
- 17 Wraps around drag queens
- 18 Poet Vivien
- 19 NG: Wear down
- 20 Not straight
- 22 Uses one's head
- 24 Start of the objection of 1-Across when Andrew got engaged to a woman
- 28 NG: Trifling amount
- 31 Cult members that drop trou?
- 32 Great serve from Navratilova
- 35 NG: Marine eagle
- 37 NG: Used brooms
- 38 NG: Stuck-up sort
- 39 Old coins of Lorca's land
- 41 Stick in a rubber?
- 43 More of the objection
- 44 More of the objection
- 45 Willa Cather character
- 48 "____ It Be Lovely"

Down

- 50 NG: Tiny bit
- 51 Giant quarterback Manning
- 52 End of the objection
- 59 Ballet bends
- 60 NG: Hosp. worker
- 61 NG: "Otherwise ..."
- 63 Female lead in The Rocky Horror Picture Show
- 64 Randy's skating partner
- 65 Be a ham in Hamlet
- 66 Moves the ball between your legs
- 67 NG: U-turn from NNW
- 68 NG: Be aware of

Down

- 1 NG: Small rum cake
- 2 Rivera's rivers
- 3 Carrier to Tel Aviv
- 4 A Room of One's Own____, e.g.
- 5 NG: Whiz
- 6 NG: "Ciao, Caesar"
- 7 No to Rimbaud
- 8 Eminem's mentor Dr. ____
- 9 NG: Some canines
- 10 Holmes of Wonder Boys
- 11 Opposed to, to Jethrene Bodine
- 12 NG: Letter from the teacher
- 13 NG: LBJ or JFK
- 21 NG: Name in Nantes
- 23 NG: Lots of mins.
- 25 NG: Spreadsheet lines
- 26 NG: Hydrocarbon ending
- 27 RuPaul swings them
- 28 "So long!"
- 29 Husband of 1-Across
- 30 NG: Not edited for TV
- 32 Paid for a hand
- 33 NG: "Suzanne" composer Leonard
- 34 NG: Reviewer Roger
- 36 Current currency of Sitges and Ibiza
- 38 NG: Israel's first king
- 40 They're down in the mouth
- 42 They may be sold in a bear market
- 46 NG: "How Dry ____"
- 47 NG: Grownups
- 48 Member, in slang
- 49 Arsenic and ____ Lace
- 52 NG: Alda of The West Wing
- 53 NG: Actress Foch
- 54 Bottomless
- 55 Where women might sweat together
- 56 "All ____" (1984 Tomlin film)
- 57 Party to
- 58 NG: Rug rats
- 59 Duds in the bedroom
- 62 Where drivers go swinging





Steven, Jorge, Sean and Kyle at the Red Party Launch at the ilume.



Osualdo, Mike, Ish, Crystal and Yvonne at Havana.

These goings on will make it seem like **Spring Break** all over again. ... Feel the fur at the **Dallas Eagle's Fetish Friday Fuzz** followed by **DJ Perry's Resinbicher**. Congratulations to **Synn** who won **International Ms. Leather** last weekend. The club celebrates with a victory party in her honor Saturday. **DJ Paul Kraft** then takes control of the music and your feet for the night. You don't hear this too often but **The United Court** hosts **Sock Hop** on Sunday. We're trying to picture that in our heads. ... We can't wait to hear the new stuff when **Sue Ellen's** hosts **Coles Whalen's CD Release Party** on Friday. **Kathy Corbin** and the **Barefoot Hippies** play on Sunday. As always, **Little Chalupa** does his thing as only he can do on his weekly **Thursday Karaoke Night**. ... **The Brick** presents the **Super Show** benefiting the **Dallas Dragons**. **Anita Protest** MCs the night featuring **Miss DIVAs Candie Munchies, Emma Gratton** and **Summer Clearance**. The show is also co-sponsored by the brand new **Dallas Gay Basketball Association**. ... **The Dallas Tavern Guild** says to "witness rampant beauty" at the **Bar Owners Drag Show 2012** on Sunday at the **Rose Room**. You know they'll be just gorgeous. Ahem. ... **The Round-Up Saloon** presents vocal impressionist and comedian **Mark Alan Smith** on Monday. ... Can you handle **Ligature Couture by Grottesque Burlesque**? Find out Friday at the **Lizard Lounge** with **Miss Malicious Scarlett Switches** and **Lilith Grey of the Gloryhole Girls**. ...OK, we are intrigued by that one. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES, CHUCK DUBE AND ARNOLD WAYNE JONES



Bonneted picnicker at Easter in Lee Park.



Pooch Parade entrant at Easter in Lee Park.



Dena and Sam at Sue Ellen's.



Chris and Mike at the Dallas Eagle.



Bunnies at Easter in Lee Park.

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