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■ CLUBS, Page 22



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Established 1984 | Volume 28 | Issue 49

FREE | Friday, April 20, 2012

BUILDING A BEACON

Resource Center Dallas to begin work at site of \$12 million facility that will better serve LGBT community's needs — and reflect its maturity

■ Page 14



THE GENERATION THAT FOUGHT HARDEST TO COME OUT
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GEN SILENT

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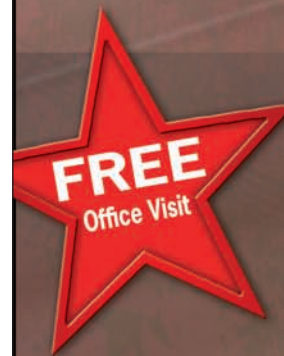
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9

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 6 Cedar Springs in line for police cams
- 6 Stonewall endorses for primary
- 9 Activist Bettie Naylor dies
- 10 Gay candidate challenges House ally

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 24 'Next Fall' at Dallas Theater Center
- 26 Lee Park's gourmet festival
- 30 Out coach now leads a gay chamber

■ COVER ART

Photography by Anna Waugh.
Design by Kevin Thomas.



26



30

departments

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | Texas News | 22 | Life+Style |
| 8 | Pet of the Week | 40 | Starvoice |
| 8 | Briefs | 42 | Scene |
| 20 | Viewpoints | 44 | Classifieds |

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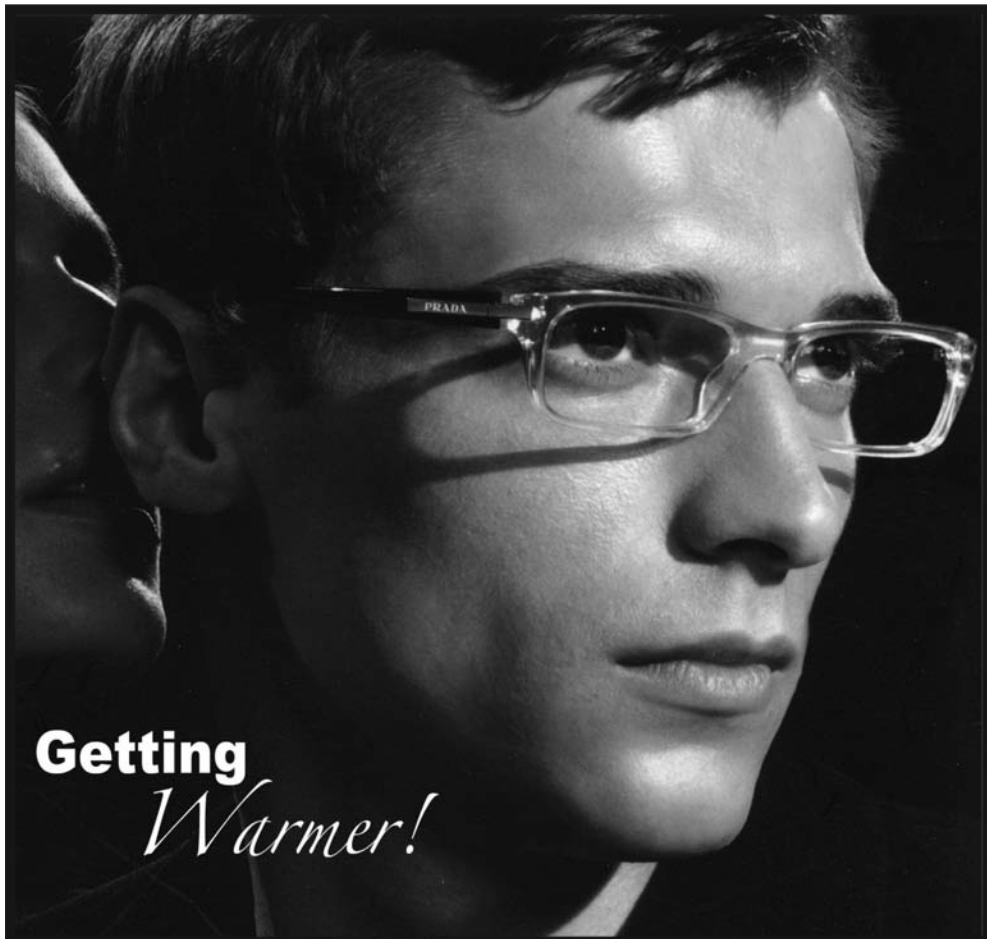
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HATE CRIME OR PRANK? | On April 1 at about 2 a.m., Pastor Charles Curtiss found blood covering statues and a sign in the yard of The One Church, a gay-affirming congregation on Rawlins Street in Oak Lawn. Police said it was fake blood and suspected an April Fool's Day prank. Curtiss wants the incident investigated as an anti-gay hate crime. He said fliers were left scattered on the lawn from a Satanic church in Grand Prairie. (Photo courtesy Pastor Charles Curtiss)

2nd suspect pleads to hate crime

The victim of a brutal anti-gay hate crime in East Texas last fall said Wednesday, April 18, he was "grateful and comforted" after the second of three suspects in the attack was sentenced to 10 years in prison this week.

Micky Joe Smith, 25, of Brookston pleaded no contest Tuesday to a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, plus a hate crime enhancement, in the beating of 26-year-old Burke Burnett, according to Burnett's attorney, Don Haslam.

Burnett, who's gay, suffered second-degree burns and needed more than 30 stitches following the attack at a private Halloween party in Reno, a small town just east of Paris and 100 miles north-east of Dallas, in the early morning hours of Oct. 30.

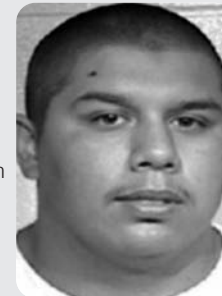
Burnett's attackers yelled anti-gay slurs as they sucker-punched him in the eye, stabbed him in the back and arm with a broken beer bottle, and threw him onto a lit burn barrel. The case made national news after graphic photos of Burnett's injuries were posted on Instant Tea.

"I am grateful and comforted to hear of the sentencing of Micky Joe Smith," Burnett said Wednesday. "So many people who have endured similar experiences of hate crimes have not been afforded the opportunity to see justice served. The gay community in North Texas is a safer place today."

Burnett declined further comment.

In February, 32-year-old James Mitchell Laster of Paris pleaded no contest to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, including a hate crime enhancement, and was sentenced to eight years in prison in Burnett's attack. A third suspect, 33-year-old Daniel Shawn Martin of Paris, was scheduled for a jury trial April 18, but the proceeding was postponed, Haslam said.

Martin is charged with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, as well as a hate crime enhancement.



Micky Jo Smith

NTTA adds LGBT protections

The North Texas Tollway Authority Board of Directors approved an amendment Wednesday, April 18, to add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the company's Equal Employment Opportunity policy.

One of the nine board members was absent, but the amendment was approved with seven members in favor and one abstention.

Before the vote, Maeve O'Connor, a Resource Center Dallas board member, spoke about her experience a "woman born with a transsexual medical condition."

She encouraged the board to add the protections and explained the difference of sexual orientation and gender rolls, calling gender expression the "in between space of gender identity and gender role."

"From personal experience, I can tell you that my path of transition has not always been an easy one," she said. "A person must be able to express their gender identity in order to fit the ascribed gender role ... and it makes it difficult for an employee that's working in your workforce to move onto that next step and realize the identity that they've always know of themselves."

O'Connor concluded by encouraging the NTTA to consider working with RCD to help employees understand gender identity and expression.

Rafael McDonnell, RCD's communications and advocacy manager, said he was surprised but "exceptionally pleased" that seven of the board members voted in favor of the amendment. He said he was counting on five votes for approval with the two members from Dallas and Tarrant counties and support from a member from Collin County. NTTA's board consists of nine members, two from Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton counties, as well as one member appointed by the governor.

After RCD and Fairness Fort Worth approached NTTA in December, McDonnell said he was impressed with the board's proactive approach to quickly adopting LGBT protections without an incident of discrimination to spark the additions later. He said he would follow up with NTTA in the next few weeks to offer additional support and help in possible diversity training.

"We'll be glad to work with them in any way," he said.

— John Wright

— Anna Waugh

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Cedar Springs in line for police cameras

Crime hot spot encompassing gay entertainment district also likely to get bait cars, license plate readers

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

The area surrounding Dallas' gay entertainment district is one of 10 crime hotspots in the city expected to get surveillance cameras, bait cars and license plate readers by early summer, according to police officials.

The remainder of the city's 27 major crime areas, known as Target Area Action Grids, will be equipped as part of the technology initiative by the end of the year.

Assistant Chief Tom Lawrence said police are planning a new program to target smaller areas within the TAAGs, in an effort to bring down crime citywide for an eighth straight year in 2012.

Police have seen improvements with the existing 115 cameras citywide and want to increase the cameras by 300, he said. An added 28 bait cars will also be distributed among the spots, in addition to a wider use of 28 license plate readers. The readers will scan plates' information so stolen vehicles are

identifiable and the vehicle information will display for officers when they stop drivers.

"We're trying to get ahead of crime," Lawrence said.

Previously known as the Cedar Springs-Wycliff TAAG and the Maple-Wycliff TAAG, the Wycliff-Lemmon hot spot is currently No. 7 for overall crime in 2012 as of April 15, despite crime falling 18 percent from April last year. But end-of-April stats combined with numbers from last year will determine the final ranking, and the worst 10 hot spots will receive the new technology first, Lawrence said. Wycliff-Lemmon is currently ranked No. 10, with two more offenses than the

No. 11 TAAG, so things could change by month's end, affecting when the technology will arrive. The Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG stretches from Maple Avenue to Lemmon Avenue and from Oak Lawn Avenue to Kings Road.

The cost of equipping the areas with the new technology is \$300,000 per hot spot, Lawrence said, though the department is still reviewing different vendor pricing. While the funds are still needed to provide the technology to every area, he said the top 10 should have the new equipment in place by early summer and the remaining 17 spots stocked by the end of the year.

■ CEDAR SPRINGS, Page 13

Plenty of drama was on slate at Stonewall Dems endorsements

Group overrides committee, backs John Wiley Price, Eric Johnson

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas' endorsement process came under fire this week after a committee failed to make recommendations in four races during its April 13-15 screenings.

Stonewall's general membership eventually voted to endorse in the four races Tuesday, April 17, but not before some controversy.

Internal squabbles over the Dallas County Commissioners Court District 3 race and the state House District 100 race were most heated.

About 150 Stonewall members crammed into Ojeda's on Maple Avenue for the general meeting to vote on the committee's proposed slate and any changes. The slate minus the four races passed.

After sometimes-fiery speeches from supporters of the candidates, the membership then voted to endorse incumbents Commissioner John Wiley Price and State Rep. Eric Johnson, as well as Dominique Collins for Criminal District Court No. 4 and Sean Hubbard for U.S. Senate.

Openly gay Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons, a founder of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, was noticeably angry at the start of the meeting. He distributed letters written by himself and by pioneering lesbian activist Louise Young in support of Price. The letters mentioned Price's support for adding LGBT protections to the



COUNTING CARDS | David Bradley of Stonewall Democrats tallies votes during the group's meeting at Ojeda's Restaurant on Tuesday, April 17, where members decided to endorse candidates in four races in which a committee didn't make recommendations. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

county's nondiscrimination policy and the commissioner's vital role in highlighting the importance of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the '80s.

Fitzsimmons called the personal views of those against Price "disgraceful" and "political madness" in his letter, later telling Dallas Voice that the recommendation failed to pass the committee be-

cause of abstentions from people who still hold a grudge against Price for sending a mailer six years ago in support of Republicans for county office.

Saying he understands the outrage that Price didn't support the Democratic straight ticket, Fitzsimmons added that people need to put aside those feelings and recognize what Price has done

for the gay community and what he will continue to do in the future by supporting domestic partner benefits for county employees.

Fitzsimmons said members who hold grudges and show up for endorsement committee meetings skew the result because it doesn't represent

■ DRAMA, Page 11

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localbriefs

'Gen Silent' doc on LGBT aging to screen at Angelika on April 24

A panel discussion will follow a free screening of the documentary *Gen Silent* on Tuesday, April 24, at the Angelika Theater at 6:30 p.m.

The film deals with aging and end of life issues in the LGBT community.

Filmmaker Stu Maddox will be in attendance along with Bob Linscott, the assistant director of the LGBT Aging Project in Boston, who appears in the film.

The panel includes Maddox, Linscott, Resource Center Dallas Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox, the Rev. Shelley Hamilton of Cathedral of Hope and Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor Terry Thompkins.

Nancy Lieberman to kick off Women's Success Forum on April 25

Nancy Lieberman brings her leadership and coaching ability to the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce Women's Success Forum on Wednesday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m.

Lieberman will teach professional women the same rules of success she teaches her players. Lieberman was a two-time Olympian, WNBA player, coach and general manager, and broadcaster, motivational speaker and author. This is a women's-only event. Register on the chamber's website.



Steve Dutton

CEO Steve Dutton to retire from Samaritan House after 15 years

Steve Dutton announced that he will retire as President and CEO of Tarrant County Samaritan Housing, Inc. at the end of the year. Samaritan House provides housing and support services for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The nonprofit organization was founded in 1991. Dutton has headed the agency for 15 years.

With the opening of The Villages at Samaritan House in 2006, the agency's capacity doubled. Today more than 400 men, women and children are housed by the agency.

Many residents are employed through a partnership developed with Z's Cafe that operates in two locations including the Fort Worth Community Arts Center.

The search for a successor will begin soon. ■

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Bettie Naylor remembered as 'creator of the equal rights movement in Texas'

Founding member of Equality Texas, HRC, Annie's List dies at 84

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

AUSTIN — Legendary Texas lesbian activist Bettie Naylor died Wednesday night, April 18, in her sleep. She was 84.

Naylor's partner, Libby Sykora, and longtime friend Carol Adams found her Thursday morning, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

A founding member of Equality Texas, the Human Rights Campaign and Annie's List, Naylor began lobbying for women's rights in the '60s and began fighting for LGBT rights in the '70s, said Chuck Smith, Equality Texas deputy executive director.

While she was married to a man for 30 years, she later came out and embraced her sexuality, Smith said.

The original lobbyist for Equality Texas, Smith said that Naylor helped "change the face of women's rights and gay rights in Texas."

"In most respects, she was the creator of the equal rights movement in Texas," he said.

While Naylor was fierce in her political fights, Smith said she was also funny and sweet.

"It was still easy to like Bettie because she was just so downright charming and fun to be around," he said.

Although Naylor stopped lobbying in 2009, Smith said she and her partner remained activists in the LGBT community and in Austin.

"The two of them were quite the power couple," he said.

Dianne Hardy Garcia, former Equality Texas executive director, worked with Naylor for many years in the '90s.

"We lost a great leader last night. Bettie was a loyal friend, a wise teacher and a generous soul," she said. "She was also damn fun! I will forever be grateful to have learned from her and to have loved Bettie Naylor!"

Naylor was honored with Travis County Democratic Party's Trio of Stars award in 2011. During an interview with the party, she was asked to describe the changes she's witnessed during her activist and lobbying career.

Her response: "I'm amazed at the changes, although I would like to see things change more rapidly. But I think we're far more acceptable to people now than we ever were," Naylor said. "I think some of that has to do with the young gay people who don't keep their sexuality a secret any more. They're comfortable being who they are,



Bettie Naylor

and they're not ashamed. You know, I was married for 30 years to a military pilot, and I was 'outed' by the San Antonio News-Express — on the front page and with a picture! Because of that, I have never hidden my sexuality, and now I'm very proud of it."

Amid the sadness of her loss, Smith said Naylor will forever remain in the hearts of activists and the communities she changed for the better.

"She will be hugely missed, but I think that the work she's done has made us better off," Smith said. "She'll always be a part of the LGBT movement in Texas."

Equality Texas and HRC released statements addressing Naylor's loss.

"Bettie Naylor was a force to be reckoned with, and played a central role in bettering the lives of LGBT people at both the national level and in Texas," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

"As a founding board member of the Human Rights Campaign, and a leader in starting our Austin Steering Committee, Bettie was a tireless advocate and never stopped working to ensure that members of our community received the rights, dignity, and respect that all people deserve. Bettie was driven by a desire to create a future where kids never had to be ashamed of who they were, but could instead live openly and without fear. Today, we live in a country where many loving, committed same-sex couples can marry and start families, where many students can thrive in their communities without fear of violence, and where a growing number of businesses are recognizing the importance of protecting their LGBT employees — these are all part of Bettie's lasting legacy."

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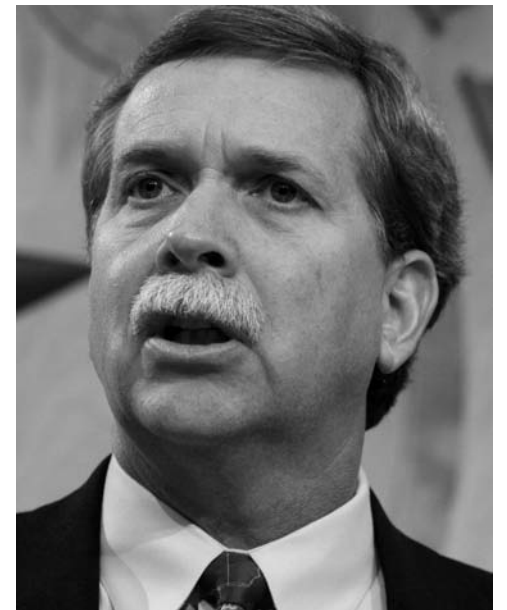
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Carlos Vasquez



Lon Burnam

Out school board member takes on staunch LGBT ally in Fort Worth House race

Carlos Vasquez says education cuts led to run against Lon Burnam, who touts perfect record on gay issues

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Openly gay Fort Worth school board member Carlos Vasquez is challenging state Rep. Lon Burnam, a staunch LGBT ally, for the Democratic nomination for House District 90. The area covers most LGBT neighborhoods in Fort Worth.

Burnam has served in the Legislature since 1997. Vasquez was elected to the Fort Worth Independent School District's Board of Trustees in 2008. He represents District 1, which covers the northwest part of the city, and his term ends in 2013.

"The \$5.4 billion cut to education was the deciding factor," Vasquez said of his decision to enter the House race, adding that he also feels it's important to have an openly gay member of the Legislature.

Burnam agreed that the Legislature's slashing of education funding is a disaster for public schools in Texas. And he called the governor's position on women's health equally horrible. On LGBT issues, Burnam said he's always worked closely with Equality Texas, the statewide gay

rights organization.

Equality Texas Deputy Executive Director Chuck Smith said, "Lon is one of the strongest allies we have in the Texas House of Representatives."

Burnam said he understands the priority of the LGBT community to elect openly gay candidates to the Legislature, but feels there are better seats to target.

"It's in the best interest of the community to elect a 100 percent friend," he said.

Burnam was a founding member of Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats. During the anti-marriage amendment battle in 2005, he said he not only campaigned against the measure but contributed money.

"Where was Carlos during those battles?" he asked.

After the Rainbow Lounge raid, Burnam said he worked closely with Fort Worth city council members Joel Burns and Kathleen Hicks.

"I was working [Mayor Mike] Moncrief, because he didn't get it right away," Burnam said. "By July 4, [Police Chief Jeffrey] Halstead admitted to me he made mistakes. Where was Carlos?"

The Texas Tribune suggested in a recent article that Burnam's biggest opponent could be Domingo Garcia. Garcia is running for the new Congressional District 33 seat, which overlaps

■ **ELECTIONS**, Page 12



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■ **DRAMA**, From Page 6

the feelings of the entire membership, which he said could be changed if all members had a final vote on each race.

"We, the gay community, are very vulnerable. We need leaders like John Wiley Price to fight for us," he said. "We don't have the luxury of putting petty partisanship before the issues at hand."

The issue with Johnson was that he opposed precinct chairs who didn't support him when he ran in 2010 by finding supporters to run against them, Fitzsimmons said.

Johnson did that because, in the event that incumbent Rep. Terri Hodge dropped out, the precinct chairs would vote on the nomination. In the end, Hodge resigned before the primary and Johnson won the election, but Fitzsimmons said some Stonewall members are still angry.

Juan Ayala, an openly gay Stonewall member and a spokesman for Johnson's campaign, said although Johnson is unopposed in both the primary and general election, past bad feelings resulted in no recommended endorsement instead of recognizing Johnson's support for the LGBT community.

"It appears that some people are interested in using Stonewall and the endorsement process to settle personal vendettas," Ayala said. "Instead of focusing on what's best for the gay community and the Democratic Party, there's some people who want to push their personal agenda."

Collins said she earned the endorsement for Criminal District Court No. 4 because she was "judged by the quality of my experience, not my quantity."

She said the vote was split at the committee meeting Friday, April 13, when about 30 people showed up for her screening and were unsure whether her 12 years in the Air Force and seven years as an assistant district attorney were enough to convince the group.

However, Cook's arrest history, with DWIs in the '80s, is what put her in the good graces of Stonewall, she said. Cook, an associate judge for the 304th and 305th districts, responded by addressing his DWIs to Stonewall at the general meeting, Collins said. But the vote tipped in her favor.

"I think it's about your heart, your gut instinct and doing the right thing," she said.

Hubbard said he was "honored to have the endorsement of my local Stonewall chapter and that they think I'm the best candidate to fight for their equality."

Stonewall political chair Tracy Clinton said he spoke in favor of Hubbard at the general meeting because of his energy and straight ticket support. Clinton said the committee's decision not to make a recommendation in the race was the result of the uncertainty between Hubbard and Salder.

As for the other races that brought heated speeches and hard feelings, Clinton said he'd rather have informed members than ones with little knowledge about candidates.

"I would rather have a passionate, contentious meeting than a boring, lifeless meeting," he said. "People spoke their piece and people were respectful of the process, especially with the races

that were deadlocked."

Although the group's endorsement of Domingo Garcia for the 33rd Congressional District wasn't discussed at the general meeting, there was some anger from other candidates in the race because Garcia had paid staffers that joined and voted on the committee's recommendation.

Stonewall President Omar Narvaez said those who attended the screenings were checked to verify they had been members at least 30 days prior to the screenings. He said new members who are Garcia supporters were in attendance but was not sure how many of the roughly 50 people who

voted in the District 33 race were working for his campaign.

Colin Strother, a spokesman for Garcia's campaign, said the campaign followed Stonewall's bylaws and a few staffers were present at the screenings to vote for Garcia.

Strother said those members had been members for a while.

Calling the screening process "fair and open," Narvaez said the bylaws outline that anyone who is a paid member that met the time limit is allowed to vote, including those who work on campaigns.

"We uphold our bylaws. They're on our web-

site," he said. "We're open about them."

Narvaez said that while pettiness from the past may have prevented endorsement recommendations in some races, the membership "overwhelmingly" voted to back Price and Johnson at the general meeting, recognizing their efforts on behalf of the community.

"For the good of the organization, we need to support people who have supported us," Narvaez said. "We know as an organization that we have to put our personal views aside."

To view Stonewall Democrats' full slate of endorsed candidates in the May 29 primary, visit StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org. ■



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■ ELECTIONS, From Page 10

much of House District 90. In a district that is 71 percent Hispanic, Vasquez may be able to ride Garcia's coattails among Hispanic voters.

Both Burnam and Vasquez downplayed that idea but agreed Vasquez would receive some votes based on ethnicity.

Burnam said he isn't worried and is polling higher among Hispanics than Vasquez. And Vasquez said he expected votes from the Hispanic community and others who know his work on the school board.

"Most of the community knows me," Vasquez said.

Vasquez accused Burnam of being a partisan Democrat who can't get much done.

"Lon's a good guy, a good Democrat, but he hasn't been effective," Vasquez said.

Burnam said he was the only House member to vote against Tom Craddick for speaker in 2003. During Craddick's term, legislation with Burnam's name on it didn't move out of committee.

"You just have to be creative in how you do your advocacy," Burnam said.

This term, Burnam is co-chair of the House Democratic Campaign Committee. He cited that as an example of how fellow Democrats in the House trust him.

"We're going to pick up a bunch of seats," he said.

Vasquez said he has discussed his candidacy with the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, but the group that backs openly LGBT candidates nationwide has made no endorsement in the race.

Denis Dison, vice president of communications for the Victory Fund, said it's always hard to dislodge an incumbent.

"Most people serious about getting into public office wait for an opportunity," Dison said.

In considering potential endorsements, the Victory Fund looks at whether there's a path to victory, which can involve local party politics, scandals or other opportunities.

He pointed out that of more than 7,000 state legislators across the country, only about 90 are LGBT. Texas is one of 18 states that lack an openly LGBT legislator.

"We don't have the luxury of saying, 'We'll let our allies do the work for us,'" Dison said, noting that the group has backed LGBT candidates against incumbents who are strong allies. "It's about the [gay] candidate, not the incumbent."

Vasquez is one of two gay candidates who are taking on staunch LGBT allies in Texas House races this year, as activist Ray Hill challenges incumbent Rep. Garnet Coleman in Houston.

"If we don't have one of our own fighting for us, no one will bring our issues to the forefront," Vasquez said.

"We need a state representative who will represent all of us. We need a gay legislator." ■

GEAR marks anniversary, presents awards



Resource Center Dallas' GEAR program marked its sixth anniversary with a banquet and awards ceremony Saturday, April 14, at Youth First Texas. GEAR is dedicated to empowering transgender men and women through educational and social opportunities, outreach and medical services. Dr. Jaime Vasquez, far left, received the GEAR Lifetime Achievement award for his work as part of the center's transgender health night. Also pictured are Blair High, coordinator of GEAR; Johnny Humphrey, center programs coordinator; Jamila Davis, Nelson-Tebedo Clinic supervisor; Bret Camp, center health services director; and Oliver Blumer, GEAR steering committee member and board member, Transgender Education Network of Texas. Rafael McDonnell and Felesha Porter received the GEAR Ally Awards for outstanding work in the community by an ally of the transgender community. Lilit Calbridge and Nell Gaitther received the Katherine Walton Award for outstanding work in the community by a transgender person. The attendees also heard from Omar Narvaez, community educator from the south central regional office of Lambda Legal, about recent legal and governmental victories involving the transgender community.

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Scott Whittall, president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, said he's grateful for the additional security measures. In February his brand new truck was stolen from outside his home a few blocks away from Cedar Springs. He'd had the truck fewer than two weeks.

Without a surveillance camera on his property, Whittall said he was hoping an apartment complex across the street had cameras, but it didn't.

"I literally live blocks away and had a new truck stolen in February in front of my house," he said, adding that burglary and theft of motor vehicles is high in the Cedar Springs area. "On a personal standpoint, I would definitely welcome surveillance cameras or bait cars or whatever has to happen to get the stats down."

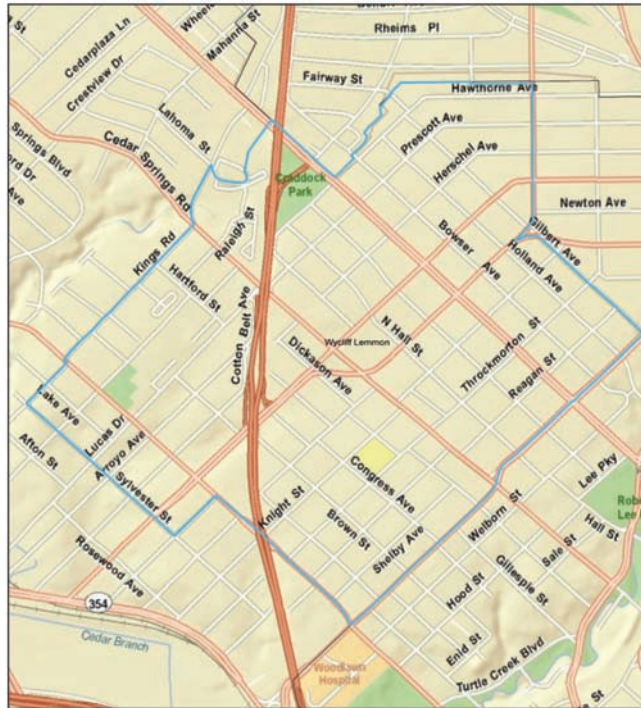
Additional cameras have been discussed several times for the Cedar Springs area, Whittall said, but nothing has come to fruition. He said the CSMA was in favor in the past of cameras in parking lots, and privacy issues have not arisen in the discussion. While the issue of license plate readers hasn't been discussed by CSMA, he said he would address any concerns with members.

"We are all for protecting the patrons of Cedar Springs and the customers for all the merchants' businesses and making it a much safer area," he said. "Privacy issues are always a fine line, but there's almost nowhere you can go without being on surveillance."

Richard Longstaff, owner of Union Jack on Cedar Springs, said he remembers when in the late '70s police would keep a record of people who attended gay bars for potential lawbreaker files. He was a victim of it himself.

He said people had to park at least two blocks away to avoid their license plate numbers from being recorded.

Wycliff Lemmon TAAG



GAY HOT SPOT | The area is outlined in blue on this map from DPD.

But the mindset has changed on the strip, Longstaff said, because many people are out and open when they frequent the gayborhood. Anyone who is "deeply closeted" these days wouldn't go to a gay bar, he said.

"The average gay person doesn't really have concerns with that issue anymore," he said.

Longstaff said he supports efforts to keep the crime down near his business and doesn't think police target the gay community anymore.

Lawrence said police would strategically place cameras throughout areas where the most crime occurs, in order to better utilize them.

The City Council's public safety committee heard the new technology plan in early April and supported it, said Councilwoman Pauline Medrano, who chairs the committee. "These days and age, I think people want the newest technology, they want safety — who doesn't want to be safe?" Medrano said. "And [people] want it safe around their business because that's their livelihood."

Medrano said she's seen areas that show signs warning potential thieves that there are bait cars in the area and said she supports the police's transparency. "I don't think they're targeting anyone," she said. "You let people know. It's not like it's covert. You tell people, you have signs, and you let them know."

Medrano said the ultimate goal of the initiative is to stop crime and change behavior by displaying that there are security devices.

Lawrence called the project "predictive policing" to know where crime happens and catch it when it does. "We want to be very open about it," he said. "We want everyone to know they're there."

He said an advising committee has been formed for community members to express ideas and concerns about the initiative. The first meeting was in early April and had about 20 people in attendance. However, he said he didn't recall that anyone at the meeting said they lived or worked near Oak Lawn or Cedar Springs.

Anyone interested in attending an advisory committee meeting to give input on the technology initiative should email Assistant Chief Tom Lawrence at t.lawrence@dps.dallascityhall.org.

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Building a beacon

Resource Center Dallas to begin work at site of \$12 million facility that will better serve LGBT community's needs — and reflect its maturity

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

After years of fundraising and planning, Resource Center Dallas will celebrate the demolition of a strip center Saturday, April 28, at the site of its new \$12 million building slated for construction in 2014.

The 38,000-square-foot facility will double the center's current place and house the Nelson-Tebedo Community Clinic, the AIDS food pantry and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center under one roof, Executive Director and CEO Cece



FUND RAZERS | Resource Center Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox, center, poses with capital campaign co-chairs Gary Olsen and Linda Moore at the strip center that will be torn down to make way for the center's new home. About \$4 million has already been raised for the project. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Cox said.

Cox said he new building will only continue the work the Dallas LGBT community and RCD

have accomplished in the past. The demolition at the new site is a sign of the progress of the capital campaign toward the center's vision, she said.



rcdallas.org/campaign

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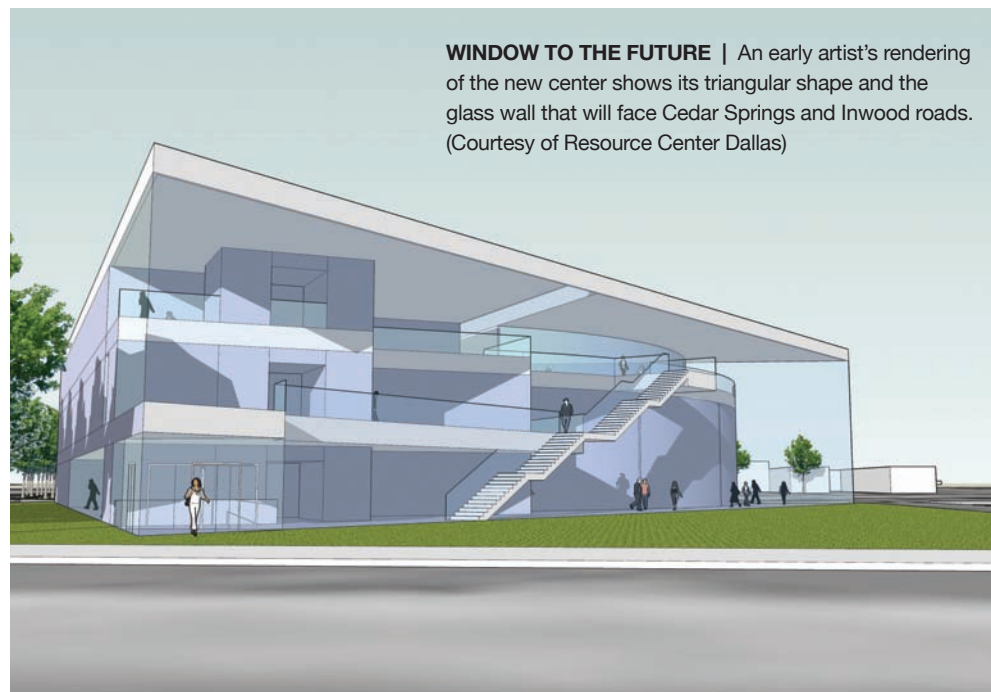
"It's a tangible sign that we are making progress and that we're creating something with the support of the community that will serve the entire community," she said. "This will be a better representation of what we've accomplished and where we're going."

Demolition of the strip mall that currently occupies the property now will begin at an event called "Brunch and Bulldozers" Saturday, April 28. The event marks the beginning of the work on the new center and will increase fundraising awareness, capital campaign manager Mack Campbell said.

"After years of work and years of fundraising, we're finally able to make significant progress toward construction by demolishing the structure," Campbell said. "It's a visible symbol that this campaign is happening, and the future of the LGBT community with this new building is bright."

Fundraising began for the new facility in 2008, when the 1.75-acre site at 5714 Cedar Springs Road was purchased from the Cathedral of Hope for \$1.2 million. Since then, \$4 million has been raised, Campbell said. The remaining funds are expected to come from members and supporters of the LGBT community, as well as corporations and foundations, he said.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2014 and should last about 12 months, Camp-



WINDOW TO THE FUTURE | An early artist's rendering of the new center shows its triangular shape and the glass wall that will face Cedar Springs and Inwood roads. (Courtesy of Resource Center Dallas)

bell said. The current building at 2701 Reagan St. will then be sold, he said.

Architect Jim Langford designed the new center, a three-story structure in the shape of a triangle — an iconic shape for the gay community that also signifies the three principles of RCD's mis-

sion: justice, equality and love.

The side of the building facing Cedar Springs and Inwood roads will be primarily glass to draw the attention of passersby to the activity inside, making it "engaging for the entire community."

"Because of its location and the iconic shape, it

'Brunch & Bulldozers'

'Brunch & Bulldozers' will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 28 at the future site of Resource Center, 5714 Cedar Springs Road. The free event will have food, entertainment and a demolition presentation. For more info, visit RCDallas.org/brunch-bulldozer.

really is going to be like a marker and a really important place in the city that is like a key to a bunch of doors that opens up a world of possibilities," Langford said.

Along with improving communication and efficiency of the staff working at one location, Cox said the center's clients will benefit from not having to travel to three places for different services.

"It's a hardship if they are challenged with transportation and income to pay for the transportation to go to multiple places," she said. "Now they'll just be able to come to one."

More space will also help accommodate the dozens of groups that meet at the center and allow services to expand, Cox said. A six-month evaluation process began in March to examine current and future programs and how best to allocate resources to them.

The new facility will also house the center's historical archives. About 400 boxes of documents

■ **BEACON**, Next Page

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THIS OLD HOUSE OF WORSHIP | Resource Center has vastly outgrown its current facility, the former Metropolitan Community Church on Reagan Street it has occupied since 1989. The new site, shown on the map below, is approximately 2 miles to the northwest. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

■ **BEACON**, From Previous Page

from LGBT organizations about the history of Dallas are stored off-site because the current library has no room for them, RCD librarian Sandy Swan said.

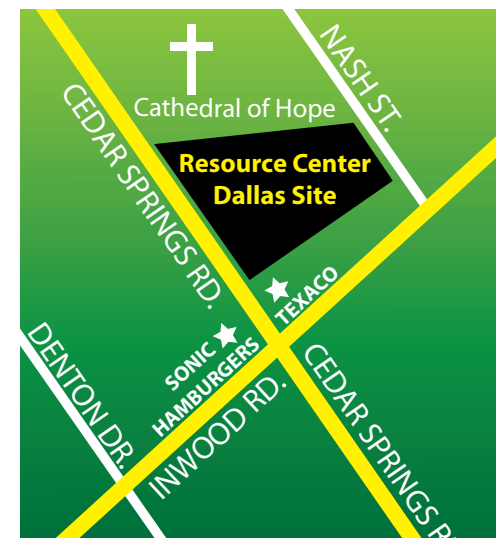
And more shelves will be able to hold the 8,000 books and growing number of materials the library offers the community as resources. The cramped space at the library with the cyber center makes it difficult for visitors to sit and work, Swan said.

The history of RCD goes back to when the Dallas Gay Alliance, now the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, rented space on Cedar Springs in 1983 that served as a community center, DGA co-founder William Waybourn said. The storefront was a visible location for the community and a place for groups to meet after the DGA office on Oak Lawn Avenue used from 1979 to 1982 became too small. By the mid-'80s, a clinic was operating in the 1,500-square-foot office space with a food pantry in the back, both of which stayed on Cedar Springs. After a fire in 1989 that destroyed the location, the facility moved to its current location at the former Metropolitan Community Church site on Reagan Street.

Cox said the history of RCD signified the need of the LGBT community in a time when many people were not out but needed resources. The community's needs transformed with time as more people sought them out to form groups and it became more acceptable to be open about sexuality.

"Now we've really outgrown our starter home in terms of size but also in terms of the maturity of the entire community and this organization," she said.

RCD is the fourth-largest LGBT center in the U.S. based on its budget, said Terry Stone, executive director of Florida-based CenterLink organi-



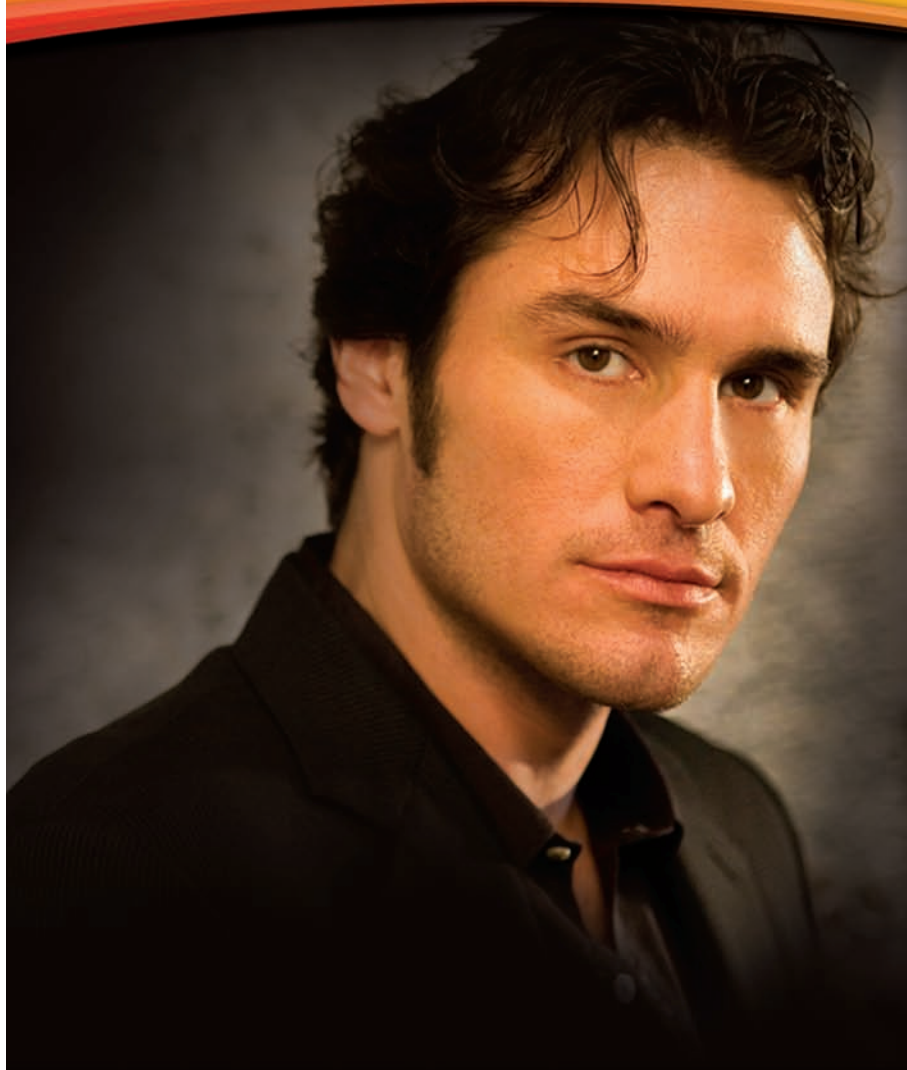
zation that supports the development of LGBT centers. As someone who once lived in Dallas, he said the expansion is a great opportunity to continue the support for the city's LGBT community, as all centers are vital to the communities they serve.

"Having that in your community adds such power to our community and the LGBT movement," he said. "Even though we can be out in the community, having those places that celebrate who we are make such a difference and have a huge impact in our lives and in the lives of our broad community."

Cox said the new facility will be more open and centrally located for the surrounding community to access.

"The physical space will serve as a beacon for the community," Cox said. "It's going to really put a mark on the footprint of Dallas that I think more accurately represents how successful he community is and how visible it is and how much we have contributed."

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SIGNATURE STRATEGY | President Barack Obama gives a thumbs-up after signing the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” in 2010. The LGBT community asked Obama for an executive order ending DADT, but instead he pursued a legislative route. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said last week Obama is taking a similar approach when it comes to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. (Associated Press)

Obama says we need ENDA, not an executive order; don’t expect either anytime soon

Administration compares decision on contractor nondiscrimination to DADT, but this time Congress lacks votes to accomplish president’s goal

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The Obama administration revealed a political calculation last week: Now is not a good time to sign an executive order prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people who work for federal contractors.

There has been more than the usual expression of “disappointment” from various quarters, but not *much* more. The general tenor of comments reacting to the news on various gay and gay-friendly news sites has been “no one really gets everything they want,” “Rome wasn’t built in a day,” and “the president will probably have the same position as Mitt Romney.”

All four openly gay members of Congress signed a letter to the president April 3, urging him to sign the executive order, but they made no fuss when White House officials announced he would not. The only one to issue a statement, Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., stood behind the decision, saying, “President Obama has advanced protections for the LGBT community significantly, but there’s no substitute for having a bill for the President to sign. We have to focus on the importance of passing an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress.”

That was the White House’s message Wednesday, April 11, when senior Obama administration

officials informed five LGBT leaders that the president would not sign an executive order “at this time” and, instead, wants to work on a strategy to pass ENDA through Congress.

ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is more comprehensive than the proposed executive order. ENDA would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in both public and private employment. The executive order would prohibit such discrimination for those employed by federal contractors.

But the executive order could be activated with a signature from Obama, whereas ENDA requires approval of both chambers of Congress, one of which is currently controlled by Republicans who won’t allow the bill to advance. In 2009 and 2010, when Obama was in the White House and both chambers of Congress were run by Democrats, ENDA still didn’t move.

To be sure, there was some consternation over the no-executive-order announcement. Rea Carey, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said she was “extremely disappointed” and that NGLTF members “strongly disagree” with Obama’s strategy. Tico Almeida, head of a group dedicated to fighting discrimination against LGBT people in the workplace, Freedom to Work, said the administration gave not “one single valid reason” for not signing an executive order. Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, issued a statement saying HRC was “extremely disappointed.” And former HRC official Winnie Stachelberg, now with the Center for American Progress, said the executive order was the “best chance” of ending workplace discrimination and she was “disappointed” the White

House has a different timetable for seeing it done. Former counsel to Rep. Frank, Robert Raben, was the fifth LGBT leader at the meeting but could not be reached by deadline for comment.

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It's also interesting to note that the White House staff who met with LGBT leaders April 11 to deliver the bad news, including senior advisor Valerie Jarrett, openly gay OPM director John Berry and others, made clear that the president's "I'm not going to sign" message included a "not at this time" qualifier. That's not a promise to sign later, but according to accounts from several attending that meeting, the phrase was used repeatedly. And that's at least as meaningful as the president's overheard comment to the Russians that he'll have "more flexibility" after the election to negotiate their disagreements over a European missile shield.

It's easy to see how such "not at this time" comments, while frustrating for those on the waiting end, could come back to haunt the president. One of the chief weaknesses of Romney is that the apparent GOP nominee has often seemed to say what his audience wants to hear. The Romney camp will almost certainly try to argue that the president does the same thing. And given that Romney has stated explicitly that he is against discrimination against gays, Obama's "no" on the executive order will give Romney some power to hang onto the one in four gay votes that went to the Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

So, there are consequences for Obama's decision to decline, or defer, the LGBT executive order on federal contractors. And his campaign has, no doubt, done the math and figured either that they have no chance of persuading those gay Republi-

can voters to vote for Obama or that their numbers are too small to offset the potential fallout an executive order would cause.

The unanswered question for the LGBT community is whether Obama will sign an executive order after the election (assuming he wins) or whether he really intends, as some reports have suggested, to require such protection to come through Congress.

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This administration doesn't say anything on gay issues that isn't highly scripted ahead of time, and Carney's statement was not an off-the-cuff ramble. It said the president plans to pursue "a number of strategies" to attain "lasting and comprehensive" protection; and remember DADT.

The LGBT community clamored for an executive order to dismiss DADT, but Obama didn't sign one. Instead, his administration brought together all interested parties — including opponents of DADT repeal — and constructed a legislative repeal measure that opponents could not say no to without voicing blatant bigotry. Even so, it was a nail-biter that required three cloture votes in the Senate to get to the floor and six moderate Republicans to abandon their party's line. And it passed in the House largely because it was attached to a defense spending bill, which Congress had to approve.

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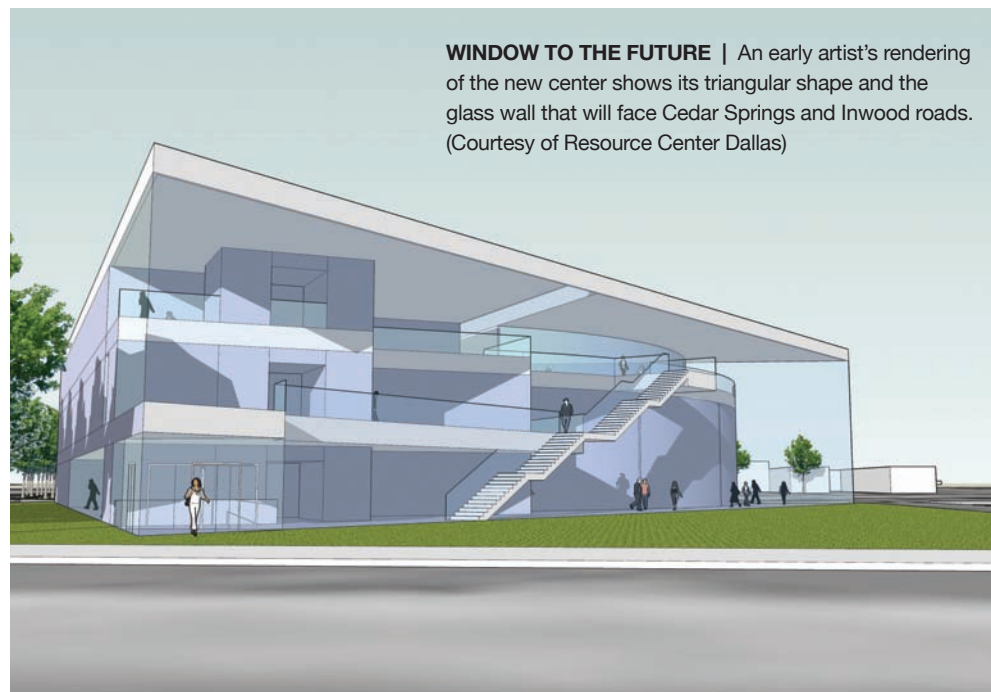
"It's a tangible sign that we are making progress and that we're creating something with the support of the community that will serve the entire community," she said. "This will be a better representation of what we've accomplished and where we're going."

Demolition of the strip mall that currently occupies the property now will begin at an event called "Brunch and Bulldozers" Saturday, April 28. The event marks the beginning of the work on the new center and will increase fundraising awareness, capital campaign manager Mack Campbell said.

"After years of work and years of fundraising, we're finally able to make significant progress toward construction by demolishing the structure," Campbell said. "It's a visible symbol that this campaign is happening, and the future of the LGBT community with this new building is bright."

Fundraising began for the new facility in 2008, when the 1.75-acre site at 5714 Cedar Springs Road was purchased from the Cathedral of Hope for \$1.2 million. Since then, \$4 million has been raised, Campbell said. The remaining funds are expected to come from members and supporters of the LGBT community, as well as corporations and foundations, he said.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2014 and should last about 12 months, Camp-



WINDOW TO THE FUTURE | An early artist's rendering of the new center shows its triangular shape and the glass wall that will face Cedar Springs and Inwood roads. (Courtesy of Resource Center Dallas)

bell said. The current building at 2701 Reagan St. will then be sold, he said.

Architect Jim Langford designed the new center, a three-story structure in the shape of a triangle — an iconic shape for the gay community that also signifies the three principles of RCD's mis-

sion: justice, equality and love.

The side of the building facing Cedar Springs and Inwood roads will be primarily glass to draw the attention of passersby to the activity inside, making it "engaging for the entire community."

"Because of its location and the iconic shape, it

'Brunch & Bulldozers'

'Brunch & Bulldozers' will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 28 at the future site of Resource Center, 5714 Cedar Springs Road. The free event will have food, entertainment and a demolition presentation. For more info, visit RCDallas.org/brunch-bulldozer.

really is going to be like a marker and a really important place in the city that is like a key to a bunch of doors that opens up a world of possibilities," Langford said.

Along with improving communication and efficiency of the staff working at one location, Cox said the center's clients will benefit from not having to travel to three places for different services.

"It's a hardship if they are challenged with transportation and income to pay for the transportation to go to multiple places," she said. "Now they'll just be able to come to one."

More space will also help accommodate the dozens of groups that meet at the center and allow services to expand, Cox said. A six-month evaluation process began in March to examine current and future programs and how best to allocate resources to them.

The new facility will also house the center's historical archives. About 400 boxes of documents

■ **BEACON**, Next Page

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THIS OLD HOUSE OF WORSHIP | Resource Center has vastly outgrown its current facility, the former Metropolitan Community Church on Reagan Street it has occupied since 1989. The new site, shown on the map below, is approximately 2 miles to the northwest. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

■ **BEACON**, From Previous Page

from LGBT organizations about the history of Dallas are stored off-site because the current library has no room for them, RCD librarian Sandy Swan said.

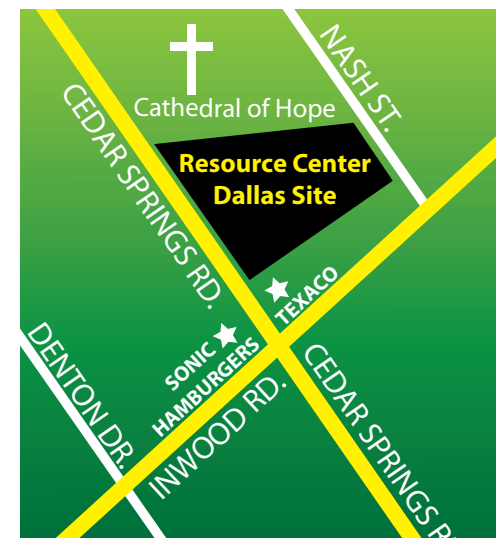
And more shelves will be able to hold the 8,000 books and growing number of materials the library offers the community as resources. The cramped space at the library with the cyber center makes it difficult for visitors to sit and work, Swan said.

The history of RCD goes back to when the Dallas Gay Alliance, now the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, rented space on Cedar Springs in 1983 that served as a community center, DGA co-founder William Waybourn said. The storefront was a visible location for the community and a place for groups to meet after the DGA office on Oak Lawn Avenue used from 1979 to 1982 became too small. By the mid-'80s, a clinic was operating in the 1,500-square-foot office space with a food pantry in the back, both of which stayed on Cedar Springs. After a fire in 1989 that destroyed the location, the facility moved to its current location at the former Metropolitan Community Church site on Reagan Street.

Cox said the history of RCD signified the need of the LGBT community in a time when many people were not out but needed resources. The community's needs transformed with time as more people sought them out to form groups and it became more acceptable to be open about sexuality.

"Now we've really outgrown our starter home in terms of size but also in terms of the maturity of the entire community and this organization," she said.

RCD is the fourth-largest LGBT center in the U.S. based on its budget, said Terry Stone, executive director of Florida-based CenterLink organi-



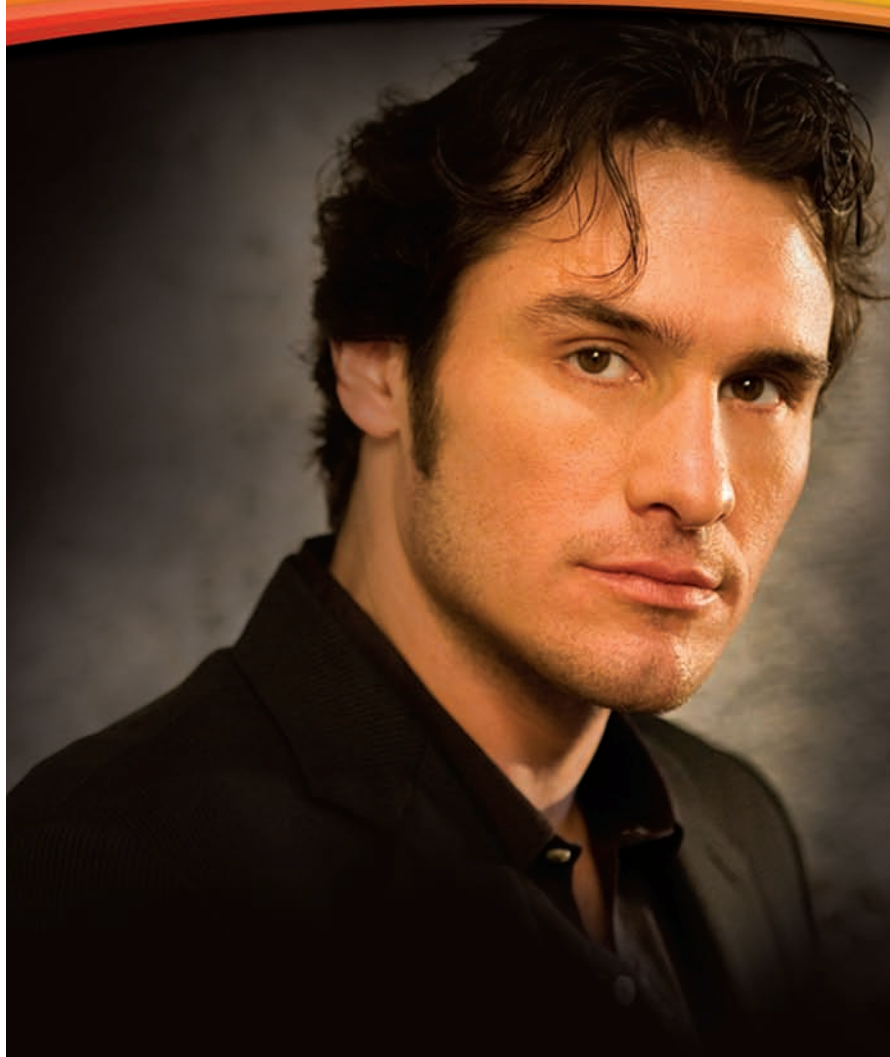
zation that supports the development of LGBT centers. As someone who once lived in Dallas, he said the expansion is a great opportunity to continue the support for the city's LGBT community, as all centers are vital to the communities they serve.

"Having that in your community adds such power to our community and the LGBT movement," he said. "Even though we can be out in the community, having those places that celebrate who we are make such a difference and have a huge impact in our lives and in the lives of our broad community."

Cox said the new facility will be more open and centrally located for the surrounding community to access.

"The physical space will serve as a beacon for the community," Cox said. "It's going to really put a mark on the footprint of Dallas that I think more accurately represents how successful he community is and how visible it is and how much we have contributed."

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SIGNATURE STRATEGY | President Barack Obama gives a thumbs-up after signing the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” in 2010. The LGBT community asked Obama for an executive order ending DADT, but instead he pursued a legislative route. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said last week Obama is taking a similar approach when it comes to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. (Associated Press)

Obama says we need ENDA, not an executive order; don’t expect either anytime soon

Administration compares decision on contractor nondiscrimination to DADT, but this time Congress lacks votes to accomplish president’s goal

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The Obama administration revealed a political calculation last week: Now is not a good time to sign an executive order prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people who work for federal contractors.

There has been more than the usual expression of “disappointment” from various quarters, but not *much* more. The general tenor of comments reacting to the news on various gay and gay-friendly news sites has been “no one really gets everything they want,” “Rome wasn’t built in a day,” and “the president will probably have the same position as Mitt Romney.”

All four openly gay members of Congress signed a letter to the president April 3, urging him to sign the executive order, but they made no fuss when White House officials announced he would not. The only one to issue a statement, Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., stood behind the decision, saying, “President Obama has advanced protections for the LGBT community significantly, but there’s no substitute for having a bill for the President to sign. We have to focus on the importance of passing an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress.”

That was the White House’s message Wednesday, April 11, when senior Obama administration

officials informed five LGBT leaders that the president would not sign an executive order “at this time” and, instead, wants to work on a strategy to pass ENDA through Congress.

ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is more comprehensive than the proposed executive order. ENDA would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in both public and private employment. The executive order would prohibit such discrimination for those employed by federal contractors.

But the executive order could be activated with a signature from Obama, whereas ENDA requires approval of both chambers of Congress, one of which is currently controlled by Republicans who won’t allow the bill to advance. In 2009 and 2010, when Obama was in the White House and both chambers of Congress were run by Democrats, ENDA still didn’t move.

To be sure, there was some consternation over the no-executive-order announcement. Rea Carey, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said she was “extremely disappointed” and that NGLTF members “strongly disagree” with Obama’s strategy. Tico Almeida, head of a group dedicated to fighting discrimination against LGBT people in the workplace, Freedom to Work, said the administration gave not “one single valid reason” for not signing an executive order. Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, issued a statement saying HRC was “extremely disappointed.” And former HRC official Winnie Stachelberg, now with the Center for American Progress, said the executive order was the “best chance” of ending workplace discrimination and she was “disappointed” the White

House has a different timetable for seeing it done. Former counsel to Rep. Frank, Robert Raben, was the fifth LGBT leader at the meeting but could not be reached by deadline for comment.

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But few expressed surprise at the decision. Obama is running for re-election this year. Everything he says and does will be used against him in a court of public opinion. And anything LGBT seems inherently vulnerable to manipulation in the political arena in ways. Efforts to prohibit discrimination based on transgender identity are routinely characterized as threats to women and children in public restrooms. Opposition to same-sex couples obtaining marriage licenses is often stoked by the fear that children will easily cast off hard-wired genetics and decide to become gay.

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'They've got a fight on their hands'

Ellis County Observer publisher Joey Dauben battles sex-abuse charge, effort to seize domain name, saying both are part of plan to silence him

A legal drama playing out in two counties south of Dallas involving a former muckraking website publisher appears to be raising First Amendment issues, and it might also offer a good lesson in decorum for anyone who likes to get online to express an opinion or repeat what they've heard or seen.

Joey Dauben, publisher of the Ellis County Observer, is fighting back against law enforcement agencies' efforts to seize the domain name EllisCountyObserver.com in connection with his prosecution in Ellis County on charges of "fraudulent use or possession of identifying information."

Dauben sent out a flurry of press releases this week to local, state and national publications in an effort to draw attention to his battle. The releases included a copy of his answer to the petition in the case by the plaintiff, The State of Texas, which asks Judge Bob Carroll of the 40th Judicial District Court in Ellis County to order Dauben to forfeit the domain name.

The case is odd because journalists charged with crimes in connection with their reports usually are working in foreign countries, not within U.S. boundaries. Civil lawsuits typically are the route disgruntled subjects of media reports take when they seek remedies, but in Dauben's case the Red Oak Police Department filed criminal charges.

Dauben, who is serving as his own attorney in the proceeding, asked the court to dismiss the action pursuant to the Texas Citizens Act because it "constitutes a retaliatory action initiated by the State of Texas in regards to communications made on this forum by the owner of the website and domain name."

The Ellis County District Attorney responded in a letter that First Amendment rights are not relevant in asset forfeiture cases, and he argued that the publisher should not be afforded a court-appointed attorney in the criminal case because he is no longer in jail, according to Dauben.

Authorities maintain Dauben should forfeit the asset because he allegedly committed a felony in the summer of 2011 by publishing on his website copies of documents that revealed the name, address, phone number and work history of a Red Oak man whose ex-wife accused the man of molesting their child.

Dauben also allegedly threatened the man with violence on his website, according to an indictment returned by an Ellis County grand jury in January. The publisher said in a telephone in-



Joey Dauben

terview that he wrote the man should "die" if he had molested the child.

The man's ex-wife, who provided Dauben with the copies of the documents, was later charged with filing a false police report, and Dauben issued a public apology to the man on his website. Dauben claimed in his recent press release that Ellis County officials are now "criminalizing a civil matter."

Dauben also alleged in the press release that law enforcement officials who fear and resent his commitment to exposing corruption are attempting to permanently silence him and ensure that all of the websites and newspapers he published under the Freedom of the Press LLC banner are shut down as well.

"By criminalizing the publication of news articles or opinions, no matter how controversial, with indictments, imprisonments, and now seizures of the media properties, especially a website that has demolished the political corruption in this county for several years, it validates everything I've been writing about and exposing," Dauben said in the press release. "Freedom of the Press is under a full-fledged assault by the forces I have spent more than a decade exposing, but despite this latest attempt and other restrictions placed upon me by other powers and principalities, I will not cease my main role in exposing evil."

Dauben has enraged many public officials in the small counties south of Dallas, including gay former Seven Points Mayor Joe Dobbs and his partner, a police officer, who were the subject of Dauben's criticism. Dobbs wound up resigning as mayor before his term expired after being charged by Henderson County officials with abuse of office and in connection with allegedly interfering with a law enforcement investigation. Dobbs' partner, Michael Tayem, also was charged in connection with a complaint filed by a citizen alleging he was brutalized by police.

Dauben, who is 31, initially was arrested at his home office on Cedar Creek Lake in late December 2011 on charges he engaged in sexual activity with a 15-year-old male teenager four years ago in 2007 during a church camping trip. That case

was filed by the Navarro County District Attorney following a Texas Rangers investigation.

Dauben, who has proclaimed his innocence of the charges, was jailed for two months on a \$200,000 bond. The publisher said although he asked for a court-appointed attorney after declaring he was indigent, he didn't receive representation until after the Dallas Voice made phone calls to the judge's office and published a story on its blog, Instant Tea.

The Ellis County indictment, which was issued in connection with a raid on his home office last summer that resulted in his computer equipment being seized, was returned against him while he was in jail.

The bond on the four-count sexual assault charge was lowered to \$50,000 after Dauben obtained legal representation, and he was released on the condition that he refrain from using the Internet, wear an ankle monitor, remain in the area of Ellis and Navarro counties, report to probation officers in both counties weekly and not get within 200 yards of any children.

Dauben vowed that he would continue to fight all of the charges against him and resist the state's efforts to seize his website's domain name. He has asked for a jury trial.

Ellis County officials managed to get several other of his websites in Texas shutdown, but a Florida judge barred them from closing down one in Tallahassee on First Amendment grounds, Dauben said. "They've got a fight on their hands," Dauben said. "I don't give in or give up easily, no matter the odds."

Prosecutors in Navarro County reportedly offered Dauben a 10-year prison sentence in exchange for a guilty plea. If convicted at trial, his punishment could amount to life in prison.

Dauben said in the press release he was also still committed to exposing corruption in government. "If I'm left with a crayon and construction paper, I'll keep exposing the cesspool I've fought for years to drain," Dauben said.

Dauben, whose media career has spanned 11 years since he started work as a reporter for a local newspaper, launched the Ellis County Observer in October 2005. In 2009 Dauben was jailed for 12 days in lieu of a \$1.5 million bond for publishing the mug shot of a Combine police officer in connection with one of his investigative news reports.

After his release from jail, Dauben sued and received a financial settlement from the city of Combine in 2011.

If Dauben, who said he believes all of the criminal charges facing him are the product of a conspiracy to silence him, manages to get out of the jam in which he currently finds himself, he has vowed to operate his publications with more restraint. And that's a good point for anyone who wants to become a blogger to remember. ■

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



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

More on those countries where homosexuality is illegal, punishable by death

Last week, David Webb stated in his column about the recent gay cruise ship arrests in Dominica that, "homosexuality is still illegal in 76 countries and punishable by death in five of them."

In fact, the latter figure is disputed, as some human rights groups list seven, and the International Gay & Lesbian Association (IGLA) wonders about another. But the point remains: While LGBT equality is steadily advancing in the U.S., being gay is in many nations an invitation to punishment or death.

The reasons and excuses? Religion or culture or some combination of the two.

Just days ago, for example, a reporter asked Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf about gay rights. Her answer: Decriminalizing homosexuality would be counter to cultural tradition.

Why would a 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner disparage one group? Because she is under enormous pressure to disregard our human rights. On Monday, April 9, *The Informer* newspaper in the nation's capital, Monrovia, slammed her administration for opposing the Movement Against Gays in Liberia (MOGAL), which vows to hunt down, flog and kill LGBTs. The paper demanded that Sirleaf uphold African values and her "African womanhood."

What brought on this furor is bleakly amusing. The Obama administration recently announced it would cut off U.S. aid to countries that fail to recognize gay rights. "Liberians would rather choose to die with (sic) starvation or [be] obliterated from the face of the Earth than to accept gay rights," according to *The Informer*.

Fine by me.

In Uganda, American evangelicals led a 2009 conference entitled "Exposing the Truth about Homosexuality and the Homosexual Agenda." In 2009 and 2010, MP David Bahati fought for legislation making homosexuality punishable by death. In 2011, gay activist David Kato was bludgeoned to death.

Two African nations already punish homosexuality with death: Sudan and Mauritania. Swaziland practices the death penalty by default. It has the world's highest rate of HIV infections, a tradition of extramarital sex, and a refusal to admit either homosexuality or HIV-positive status.

Even in South Africa, despite more legal tolerance, gays experience violence. Lesbians, bisexuals, and presumably trans women are in danger

of "reparative rape." It is illegal, and of course ineffective, but human rights groups report 10 cases per week in Cape Town alone.

Moving to the Middle East, you may have read my column on Turkey awhile ago. Although proud to proclaim its secular government, Turkey marginalizes and punishes its LGBT citizens.

And you know Muslim nations treat us harshly. Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen punish gays and lesbians with death. The IGLA asserts that the United Arab Emirates may do so as well.

Still farther east, Afghanistan and Pakistan both execute LGBTs. The

other 'Stans may not, but they are far from gay friendly. Human Rights Watch recently reported that Kyrgyzstan's males are raping lesbians to "cure" them. No word yet on whether self-proclaimed straight men also rape gay men to change their sexual orientation and trans persons to change their gender identity and/or gender expression.

To the south, the picture is mixed. LGBTs seldom flaunt their sexuality, but India has some activists, and China recently allowed at least one



Phyllis Guest
Taking Notes

gay Pride parade. Sexually, Japan and both Koreas keep low international profiles. Cambodia and Laos are conservative; Vietnam is less so. Tibet and Bhutan? I found no word on either.

Then there is Thailand. If you cannot afford to go, as I cannot, do yourself the huge favor of reading John Burdett's mysteries. They feature the nation as a whole, the city of Bangkok in particular, and some Royal Thai police detectives with very interesting backgrounds and even more interesting relationships.

Meanwhile, still in the Southern Hemisphere but across the Pacific, the international gay rights group AllOut recently reported that, in Ecuadorean clinics, lesbians were subjected to "reparative rape," otherwise tortured, and locked away. Once details of the rape rehab clinics went viral, Quito's mayor expressed disapproval, and President Rafael Correa ordered the clinics closed.

In Chile a few days ago, the House of Deputies approved a nondiscrimination law urged by President Sebastian Pinera. Although welcome, it came a month too late for Daniel Zamudio, a gay 24-year-old who was brutally murdered in a Santiago park.

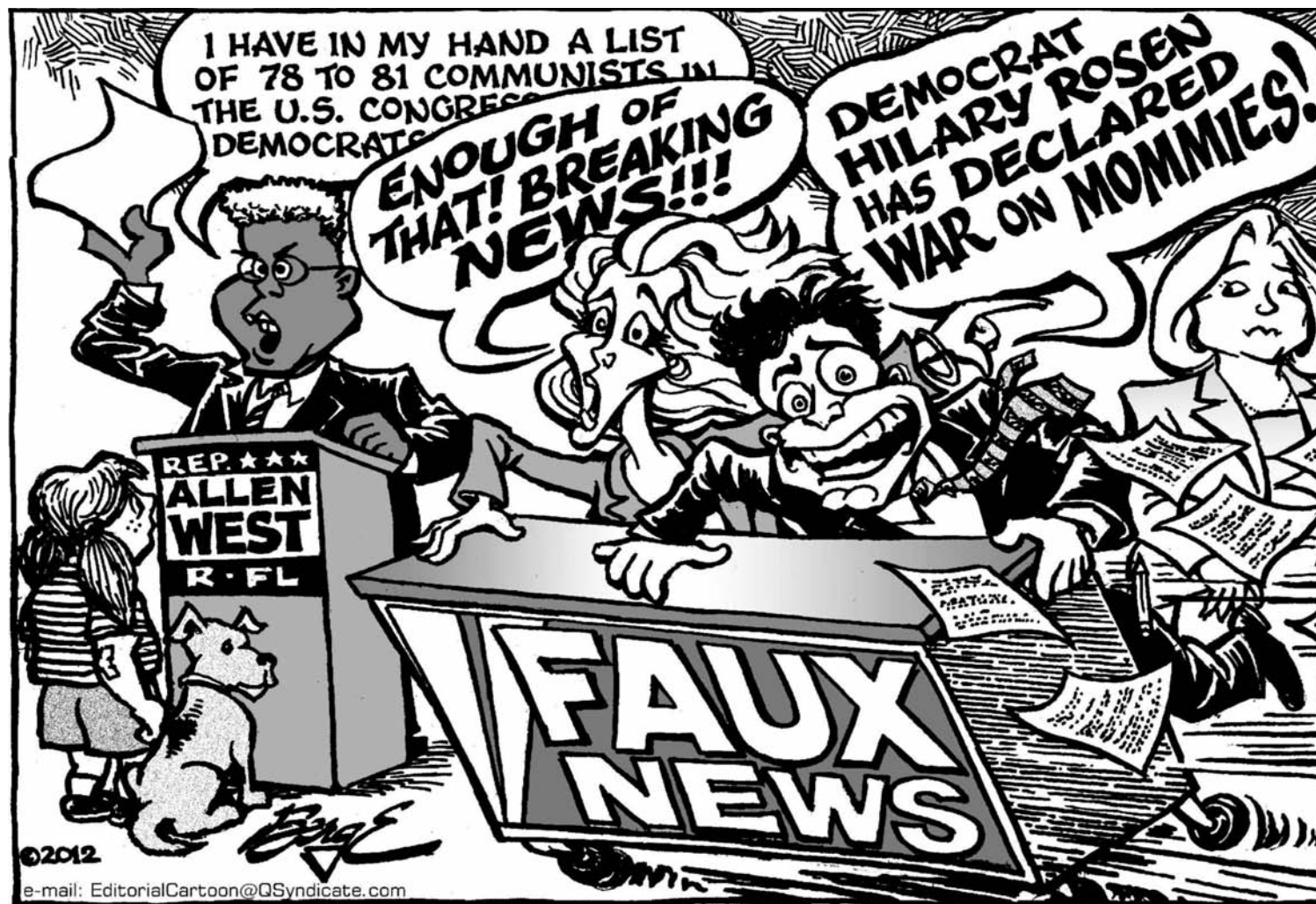
Meanwhile, most South American and many Caribbean nations sanction or punish not just women accused of loving other women, but all LGBTs.

In Central America, Honduras made the UN's 2011 list of nations where the human rights of LGBTs are violated with appalling brutality and regularity. In the last two years, Tegucigalpa has admitted to 62 LGBT murders. A special anti-crime unit was set up in late 2011, but results so far are negligible.

More soon about what is happening in some more welcoming nations.

And so much is happening in Russia and the Baltic States that the former Soviet Union will get a column all its own.

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



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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

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- Yes: 53 percent
 - No: 28 percent
 - Somewhat: 19 percent
- 176 votes cast

Dance in the dark

Lord Byron's Panoptikon dance parties provide a high-energy alternative for Deep Ellum clubgoers (Hint: No hip-hop allowed)

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Panoptikon sounds like a dark, mysterious empire borne out of *Star Wars* or 19th century Utilitarians. Conjuring an industrial, aggressive image, there's nothing to say it isn't — save for Byron Laszlo. His weekly dance night in the old Club One space has thrived with the support of a devoted fan base. But the atmosphere is far from that darkness he so masterfully plays off.

"The objective of Panoptikon has been the same," Laszlo says. "People come to have an awesome time. We welcome all crowds and anybody who wants to feel comfortable in their own skin."

But it has been a hell of a road. Laszlo — who goes by the handle Lord Byron, the Romantic poet his mother named him after — has overcome a wild youth, a battle with alcohol and living in the closet all to pursue his passion for the nightclub scene.

Laszlo grew up with the classic rock and disco of the '70s but started hitting Deep Ellum clubs as an underage teen in the New Wave '80s. That fascination grew into infatuation with the hip, older crowd and underground venues like Video Bar and Aqua Lounge. He was hooked.

"I never really had that DJ talent — I just wanted to play music," he admits. "It was about 1991 where I wanted to be on that side of the business and so I made this mixtape of music and I was hired at Aqua Lounge."

Laszlo went on to become a staple in the scene, but in 2000, he pulled away from it all. He had to.

"I was drinking heavily and I wasn't handling those consequences very well," he says. "It was very fortunate I never went to prison."

After five DWIs, he realized his problem and immediately quit alcohol altogether — even mouthwash. Laszlo asserts that while he may not crave a drink anymore, he hasn't been perfect. And his

healthier path didn't come without worry.

"I missed being involved with clubs and I wanted to get back into it, but I didn't know if I could do it sober," he says.

Six years ago, Laszlo boldly walked into Club One to pitch his idea to the Martinez family, the new owners. While Deep Ellum was undergoing a surge in hip-hop music, he had to convince them to host a weekly party featuring everything but that. Such a decision at that time could only be poison for a nightclub.

"Hip-hop was hot, but I wanted something that would get more people to want to go out," venue manager Shelley Martinez says. "I felt Byron was the perfect fit and his music helps people get to a place of happiness. That's why I continue to stay beside him."

Panoptikon will celebrate six years next month, overcoming any stigma from the hip-hop environment, the lingering gay aura of the old Club One and the general fear of Deep Ellum. He has reconfigured the Friday night event, adding bands and burlesque to the usual mix. His changing recipe keeps a devoted crowd and offers something for new fans as he reaches out to SMU students, the Cedar Springs regulars and anyone else willing to party for the mere fun of it.

"Shelley stuck with me the whole time. I've fought like hell for this and succeeded," he says. "Some people may look at us and call us Gothic, and while I'll play that sometimes, the music is universal from Robyn to German electronica to the Yeah Yeah Yeahs."

Laszlo started out Panoptikon on a more musically aggressive note. Over the recent past, that music has taken on a happier vibe. Coincidentally, Laszlo came out about two years ago. His partner Jiri noticed the evolution.

"Every year I make an anniversary CD and he told me he could hear this progression," he says. "Taking a step back to look at it, it

made sense."

Laszlo lived a sheltered life abetted by depression. Fearing judgment, he even remained closeted during the first year of their relationship. He gives his partner the credit to face facts.

"I have a very wonderful partner and he was so encouraging," he says. "I fought it very hard and wore a lot of masks. Then we just decided to let everyone know. I was already the black sheep of the family; I might as well be the *gay* black sheep. And it's been the best thing."

He has expanded his party empire to the monthly throwback Disco Versus Retro, a night of '70s and '80s music that brings him full circle to the music he grew up with. He hadn't realized April's event was the night's three-year anniversary.

Where Panoptikon veers in all directions with an eclectic mix of people and sounds, D v. R celebrates trash disco and the irreverent '80s with attire that includes afro wigs, shiny clothing and even roller skates — and not even in an ironic fashion.

"It is such a blast and our way to reach out to patrons who might not come to Panoptikon," he beams. "Plus, the club has this big wooden floor and it's so great for skates!"

As for getting the Cedar Springs crowd to stop in to one of his nights, Laszlo is quick to offer a spiel. It's nothing rehearsed because Laszlo has a way of speaking that every word comes out heartfelt.

"We've always had an LGBT crowd and I know our location is probably the biggest wall for the Cedar Springs crowd but I would like them to just venture out one night our way and have just as much fun if not more. Just once. And I think they'd come back — even with friends."

Visit PanoptikonDallas.com for Laszlo's calendar of events.



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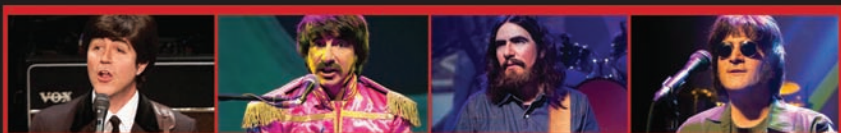
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Matters of life & death

With 'Next Fall,' DTC consciously pushes buttons about faith and sexuality

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

In four seasons programming shows as the artistic director of the Dallas Theater Center, Kevin Moriarty has hired gay actors of course, and done plays with fairies, sprites, butch female ranchers, men in tights from Krypton and actual "friends of Dorothy." But aside from a few secondary characters in the musicals *Bring It On* and *Cabaret*, Moriarty has not yet put on any shows with any out gay characters in them where that fact had anything to do with the plot.

Not that some audience members have noticed.

"Every show since I got here, there have been emails from patrons who have said some variation of, 'That artistic director and his gay agenda are *destroying* this theater!!!" Moriarty recounts.

"Each time, I think, 'I haven't done *any* plays with gay characters in them!' It's mystifying."

He changes that this week. And in a big way.

Next Fall does what Moriarty has long been falsely accused of doing: Making a gay story front-and-center at the DTC. In it, a gay couple faces a crisis when Luke (Steven Walters), a religious man who never came out to his family, is in the hospital on life support while his partner, Adam (Terry Martin), an atheist, has to deal with his lover's parents. Who gets to make end-of-life decisions for Luke? And whose wishes predominate?

Next Fall is an emotionally charged play, fraught with discussions of being gay *and* Christian, both as confronted between the couple and the broader society. It's a conflict that resonates with many gay men.

For Martin — who by day is the producing artistic director for WaterTower Theatre in Addison — it was a rare opportunity to branch out across the Dallas theater community.

"I've been called by Kevin and Lee [Trull, DTC's casting associate] to read several times, but nothing ever worked out," he says. But the timing on this occasion was perfect: Martin felt comfortable entrusting WTT's current show, *August: Osage County*, to Rene Moreno, and his schedule permitted committing to *Next Fall*. More than that, the subject matter resonated with him.

"I've been blessed," Martin says. "[My partner] Chris and I have very open families," so the conflict between gay-accepting and homophobic families was not one he personally has endured. But equally important was how the play deals with issues of faith. He wasn't the only one.

"What brought me to tears was the portrayal of religion. American theater has been very comfortable talking about sexuality and the culture is catching up. But in theater, there are not a lot of good discussions of faith," says Moriarty.

THE GOD QUESTION | Religion and sexuality meet when a gay couple — Luke (Steven Walters, bottom) and Adam (Terry Martin, top) — face a crisis when one enters a coma in the Tony-nominated play 'Next Fall,' which is officially Kevin Moriarty's first 'gay play' at the DTC. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)



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L+S dining

Lee Park's gourmet experiment



'Rock star' Dallas chef Matt McCallister organizes a festival in Lee Park to bring attention to the way food should be

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

With his tattoo sleeve (one arm only, natch), T-shirt-and-jeans casualness and aggressive, well-respected cuisine, Matt McCallister is as close as Dallas comes to a rock-star chef. He fusses over food so that people can enjoy it un-fussily — high-end without being high-brow.

And like a true rock star, when he does something single-mindedly, he does it *big*. That's why, for the food festival dubbed Mixin' It Up on the Boulevard — which takes place in the gayborhood's Lee Park on May 6 — he has assembled 40 chefs from across Texas and half-again as many food purveyors and farmers ... though he's never done anything like this before.

Rock on.

It all arose out of an organization McCallister started about a year ago, Chefs for Farmers, which sought to cross-pollinate cooks around Dallas with growers who provide the ingredients for their dishes.

"It's hard for chefs to find out what's out there," McCallister says over a table at Scardello, an artisan cheese shop on Oak Lawn. "A lot of chefs know a few farmers, but not many will, on their day off, drive around [North Texas] seeing what's out there ... I mean, I do it all the time, but I'm a little weird."

McCallister founded Chefs for Farmers as a networking opportunity, where chefs and ranchers could exchange business cards. He introduced a chef to a goat-cheese maker who now supplies all that chef's cheeses.

"At first, it was just meant as a party with some of my friends who are chefs — just to drink wine and cook for some people," McCallister says.

But when your "chef friends" include the likes of Stephan Pyles, Kent Rathbun and Dean Fearing, it's easy for "a little get-together" to become a big deal. Which is what Mixin' It Up has become.

Already Chefs for Farmers has held a series of successful dinners, but the event on May 6 will be of an order of magnitude bigger.

"The first dinner, there were 105 people; for this, our first food and wine festival, we're expecting about 1,000 people to attend," he says.

Those participating are a who's who of the Dallas culinary scene: Abraham Salum (Komali), Brian C. Luscher (The Grape), Bruno Davailon (The Mansion), Garreth Dickey (Dish), Janice Provost and Chad Houser (Parigi), Tiffany Derry (Private | Social) and Tre Wilcox (Marquee Grill).

It's the first time McCallister has ever organized an event like this, and

there's a lot more involved than he expected. They decided early on to locate the festival in Lee Park (McCallister likes the neighborhood — he lives across the street), but because the park is city-owned, countless permits with concomitant fees were required. Then they discovered a loophole.

"If we were holding not a *public* even but a *private* party, then we didn't have to get any permits," he says. "That means we can't sell tickets at the event, but that's OK. We just get the word out beforehand."

That means thousands of more dollars can go toward the charities: Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County and Water for Chizavane, an African relief project and pet charity of honorary lead chair Stephan Pyles. Rathbun and Fearing will also be honored for their support of local growers.

It's a bit of a homecoming for McCallister, who rose to prominence at Pyles' Downtown restaurant, rising to the position of executive chef before branching out on his own. Last year, he was the consulting chef establishing the menu as Campo in Oak Cliff; this summer, he'll open his own restaurant, FT33, in the Design District.

He says FT33 will showcase "farm-inspired modern cuisine," but there's one buzzword he will *not* use to describe it.

"I hate the term 'farm-to-table,'" he says — not because he doesn't endorse the concept, but because the phrase has become "little more than a marketing gimmick. Only in America can we take what people should be doing anyway and

[make it seem unique]. In Europe, that's how they've always done it."

It's not always possible to be completely local. "There are some ingredients I can't get locally, like foie gras, so I have to outsource it." And if you want tea, coffee or chocolate, there's nowhere in the continental U.S. where you can get those. But that doesn't diminish his commitment to local produce — and not just the conventional wisdom about seasonal items.

"Because of the weather we've had lately, I can get heirloom tomatoes right now. Sometimes in Texas, we get a second season of artichokes in the fall," he says. He's looking forward to getting these ranchers, farmers and artisans under one tent with chefs.

Well, not really one tent — McCallister is intentionally pairing restaurants with purveyors they *don't* usually work with in order to cross-pollinate. To do that, however, he first needs to get back all the worksheets (now overdue) from some of the chefs. Getting creative people to comply with deadlines, he has discovered, is like herding cats.

"I've been that guy before, and I'm paying for it now," he sighs.

The life of a rock star isn't as glamorous as it seems. ■

MIXIN' IT UP

Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.
May 6, 1-5 p.m. \$60.
ChefsforFarmers.com

CASUAL FIERCENESS | Matt McCallister loves seasonal cooking — just don't call it 'farm-to-table.' (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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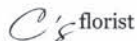
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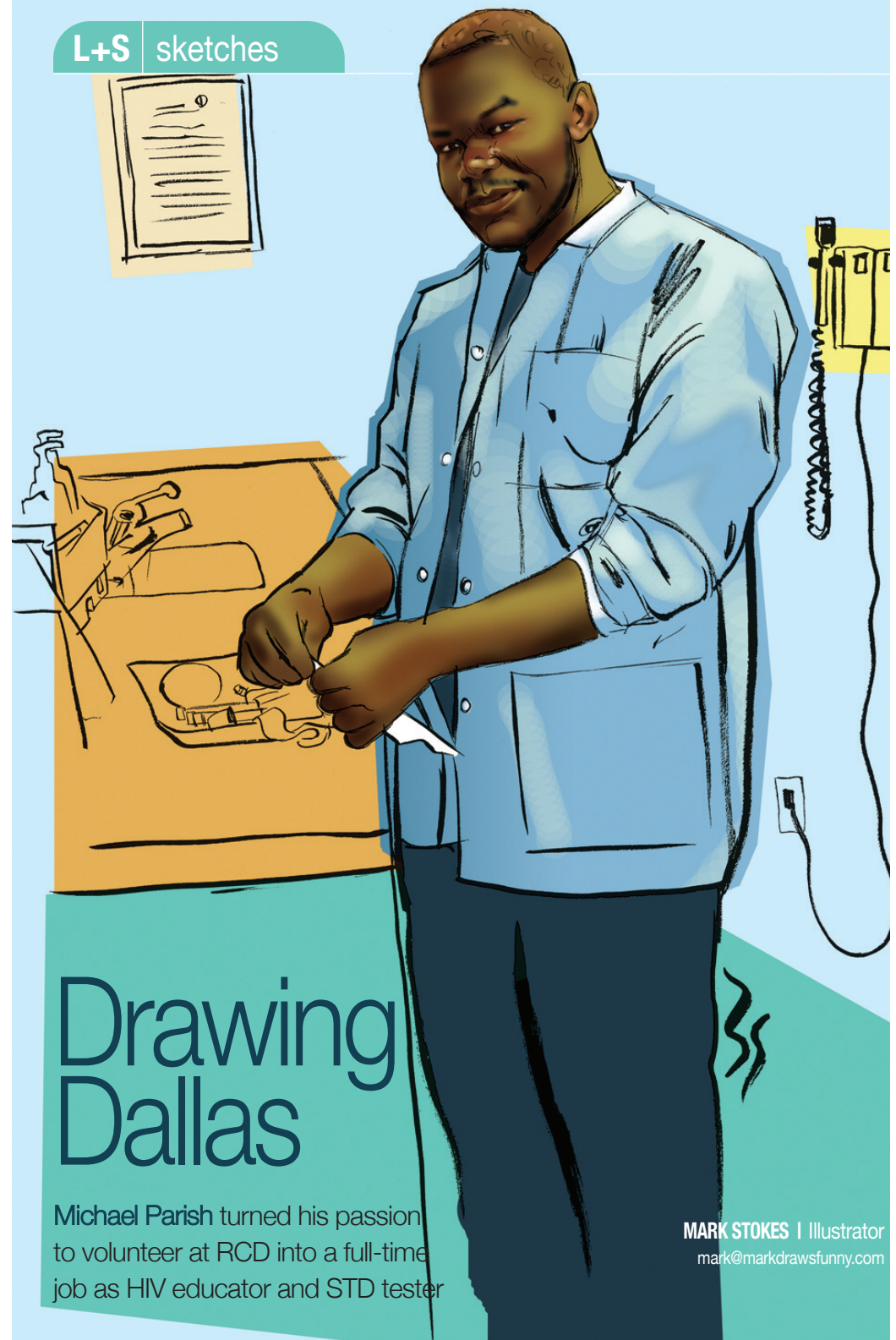
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L+S sketches



Drawing Dallas

Michael Parish turned his passion to volunteer at RCD into a full-time job as HIV educator and STD tester

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Michael Parish, 25

Spotted at: The Nelson-Tebedo Clinic

Occupation: HIV educator and tester

Born in Waco, this native Texan moved to Dallas at age 9, when his father began working for DART. Michael served as a volunteer for Resource Center Dallas for four years and was hired full time in 2010, where he provides week-end STD testing and strives to prevent new HIV infections and combat the stigma attached to the virus. He also works with the gay/bi young men's group FUSE.

Fighting the good fight: This tall Sagittarian is a warrior on the frontlines, challenging the social stereotypes about being gay within the community itself. "Some communities don't fully accept that they're at risk of infection," says Parish. "Some LGBT people, on the other hand, throw in the towel when it comes to fighting HIV. They're made to believe that they specifically are destined to contract HIV. But if you remove *LGBT* and insert another category of people and say the same thing, you would see the ludicrousness of such a belief. Fighting that belief is the biggest challenge."

Ice Ice baby: Nicknamed "Black Ice" by his friends and co-workers, Michael is outgoing, with a great sense of humor. Creation is the ultimate passion in his life. He enjoys building furniture, arts and crafts (His motto: "Do-it-yourself 'til I die!"), sewing and cooking — particularly baking desserts. He also expresses himself through photography, singing, songwriting and producing music. A self-trained musician, his musical influences include Enya and Michael Jackson.

His goal is to become an advocate for the community, and provide a face as a role model. "We're everybody," he says.

Total drag

Jonah Villegas takes his first stab at female impersonation for charity

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

There's a myth that every gay man should do drag once — at least, that's what Jonah Villegas was led to believe. And he's decided to take it to heart.

"I may be gay and pretty feminine, but I have never done drag," Villegas says.

Well, not until now.

Villegas hadn't given it much thought to getting in touch with his outer diva until he met Candi Munchies, who won the Miss DIVA 2011 drag show, a fundraiser for the Dallas Independent Volleyball Association.

"She totally coaxed me into it," Villegas says. "I wasn't volunteering myself in an way, but my view on charity work aligned with them needing another candidate. So that's how I came to this decision."

Villegas will don the hair and heels as one of three candidates vying for the title Miss DIVA 2012 at the Round-Up Saloon Sunday.

With a dance and theater background, this isn't all necessarily new to him, but Villegas learned quickly there was more to drag than slathering on lipstick and lip-syncing to disco. He originally thought to use his real hair with extensions, but sewing them together and finagling clip-ons was unexpectedly complicated. And he'd never had to tuck and pluck this much before.

"I was *not* prepared for every aspect of this," he laughs. "I didn't know how much work went into it. Finding clothes my size and applying makeup is a task! Right now, I'm walking around in heels to get used to them. I have so much respect now for drag queens."

As Kristi Yummicuchi, Villegas will go head to head with fellow DIVA dragsters Kyky LeChic and Sophie Pilla. All are players within the volleyball organization, but Villegas was a little deflated that there weren't more contestants. Still, he's banking on his performance to change that for next year's competition.

"It used to be much bigger and it's dwindled," he says. "I want to do something spectacular and generate buzz so other players will join in [next year]. It's not just giving back to the community" — proceeds and tips from the show benefit Resource Center Dallas — "but it's also giving back to DIVA. This should be a bigger deal."

Villegas hasn't thought too much beyond the idea that he might win. Miss DIVA doesn't have the heavy schedule of Miss Gay Texas, but it would be more drag than he originally intended.

"When I think about that, it overwhelms me because it's overwhelming me now," he says. "You win an obligation. And raising money for



HOT CHILD IN THE CITY | Villegas transformed with drag for charity. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

MISS DIVA 2012

Round-Up Saloon,
3912 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m.
DIVADallas.org

good things is what I believe in. Am I prepared to be Miss DIVA? No! Will I be? I sure hope so. Sometimes you just gotta do it."

Yummicuchi was unavailable for comment, but Villegas described her as a God-fearing Christian with a hint of naiveté — think country girl comes to the

big city. He adds that her idols Whitney, Britney, Oprah and Mary Magdalene have all contributed to who she is today.

"She's a classy lady who doesn't gossip and is always nice," he smirks. "Kristi makes no apologies and stays true to herself. She'll never talk bad about anyone — unless it's to a newspaper."

The rest of the conversation was off the record. ■



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L+S sports

Howe & the why

Gay college coach Lisa Howe faced a choice: Her daughter or her job



FIELDING QUESTIONS | Soccer coach Lisa Howe on ESPN.

DAN WOOG | Contributing Sports Writer
 lopez@dallasvoice.com

Much of life is about being in the right place at the right time. For Lisa Howe, that meant, at age 25, being part of a group of young women who had grown up playing soccer. A Dallas native, she starred on a Barry College team that won the 1989 Division II national championship.

She and others were beginning their coaching careers at the moment a number of colleges (in response to Title IX) were introducing women's soccer programs and hiring female coaches.

Howe started her new job as head coach of the Jacksonville (Alabama) State women's team on April 1, 1995. By August, she had to recruit an entire squad, hire a staff, market the program, develop a fan base — oh, yes, and coach, too. But the women quickly became one of the top teams in their conference.

Howe was proud of her accomplishments. Yet in 2005, she applied for the head-coaching job at Belmont University. The Nashville school was Baptist-affiliated, with a conservative reputation.

"I was hesitant," Howe admits. "But when I dropped off my resume, and then returned for an interview, I found the student body and faculty were a lot more liberal than Jacksonville. There were theater and dance programs ... it was like apples to oranges."

Howe had another reason to be hesitant: She's lesbian. But there was no reason her sexuality should be a deal-breaker: "It's a Christian school, and I'm a Christian."

But if much of life is about timing, another part is about making the most of any situation.

Six years later, after engineering a dramatic

turnaround in Belmont's program, and earning the respect of athletes and the rest of the community, Howe found herself in a difficult spot. Her girlfriend was a few months away from delivering their baby. The partners had recently been at a wedding filled with other coaches and former Belmont players; her girlfriend was showing.

In November 2011, Howe came out to her players in a post-season meeting. She told them that she was in an eight-year relationship and that soon she'd be a mom.

"I loved coaching," she recalled last month. "I'd prioritized team cohesion, and always tried to build team chemistry. That requires trust, which we had a lot of, and honesty, which had not been full on my part."

Many players probably suspected Howe was gay, she says, and knew her partner. But "they needed to know I wasn't ashamed — that I'm proud of who I am. I wanted to be the one to tell the team, and let them know who I am and where I'm coming from."

The players seemed pleased. ("We always wanted a team baby," one told ESPN.) The administration? Not so much.

Howe felt "angry, sad, liberated — all kinds of emotions." After a battle of words in which Howe and administrators offered different reasons that she was leaving (their final statement, bound by confidentiality, mentions "mutual agreement"), Howe's story went public.

Thanks to aggressive reporting by the Belmont student newspaper, Howe became a cause celebre. Team members, students, faculty mem-

bers and people in Nashville who had never heard of Howe rushed to support her. So did Mike Curb, a musician, record company executive, NASCAR owner and former Republican lieutenant governor of California, who was a major benefactor of Belmont.

"So many people stood up as active allies," Howe says. "That really enlightened and empowered me."

On April 27, 2011, Howe's daughter — named, fittingly, Hope — was born. For the rest of the year, Howe was a stay-at-home mom (with a few speaking engagements thrown in). But as of Feb. 1, she has a new job. Howe is now executive director of the Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Her goal is to raise membership from 70 to 150, and to add many more benefits.

Leading the GLBT Chamber of Commerce "is all about relationships," Howe says. "Whether you're building those through sports, or through businesses working together, it's not much different. And whether I'm running events and meetings, or setting a calendar and budget, it's definitely similar to the administrative side of coaching."

However, you can't keep an old (well, former) coach down. And, in a nod to both being in the right place at the right time, and making the most of the situation she finds herself in, Howe recently concluded, "I may coach again one day, too."

Until that day, there's always Hope. ■

Doing your part for Earth Day in style Sunday is Earth Day. Here's how you can gay it up

AIDS Arms distributes information at lots of mainstream venues. And Old Oak Cliff Conservation League isn't gay, just the presidents of most of its member homeowner associations are. And Hunkey's? Merely a neighborhood restaurant in Cedar Springs and the Bishop Arts District.

By the same token, Oak Cliff Earth Day is not a gay event — just ask any of its many gay organizers.

But Oak Cliff Earth Day — sponsored by a local businesses and owners, like Monica Greene and Hewitt and Habgood Realty Group — will feature booths by AIDS Arms, the OOC and Hunkey's as well as more than 100 exhibitors in the park, from animal rescues to food vendors to artists and artisans, garden clubs and neighborhood associations. Even Home Depot will be there.

"This all works to help make Oak Cliff unique, with straight, gay, bisexual, and transgender men and women working together; all nationalities and races work together for the common good," says Roger Bolen, co-chair of OC Earth Day. "I would like to think of Oak Cliff as a model that I would like to see emulated throughout the city, state and nation."

The Human Rights Campaign's Family Project is meeting at noon by the rocket ship in the playground in Lake Cliff Park for a picnic.

Nope, not gay at all.

Oak Cliff Earth Day, Lake Cliff Park, 300 E. Colorado Blvd. Noon-5 p.m.

In the broader city, Earth Day Dallas returns to Fair Park. With 600 exhibitors promoting their green achievements, the Eco Expo is the centerpiece of the event. Throughout the day, speakers will address

water allocation, global warming and future sustainability issues. Former First Lady Laura Bush, honorary chair of the National Parks Foundation, is among those scheduled to attend. The Home & Garden Workshop corner features demonstrations on composting, rainwater harvesting and green money-saving tips.

And foodies take note: The Nature Conservancy will host Picnic for the Planet, which it hopes to be get into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest picnic ever in a 24-hour period with worldwide participation. In Dallas, the event will take place at Fair Park with a new picnic starting every half hour.

The rules are simple: At least 25 people must participate in each picnic, and all participants must be seated, have two food items and a drink. Each attempt must last at least 10 minutes — no one can leave during that time. And no one can participate more than once.

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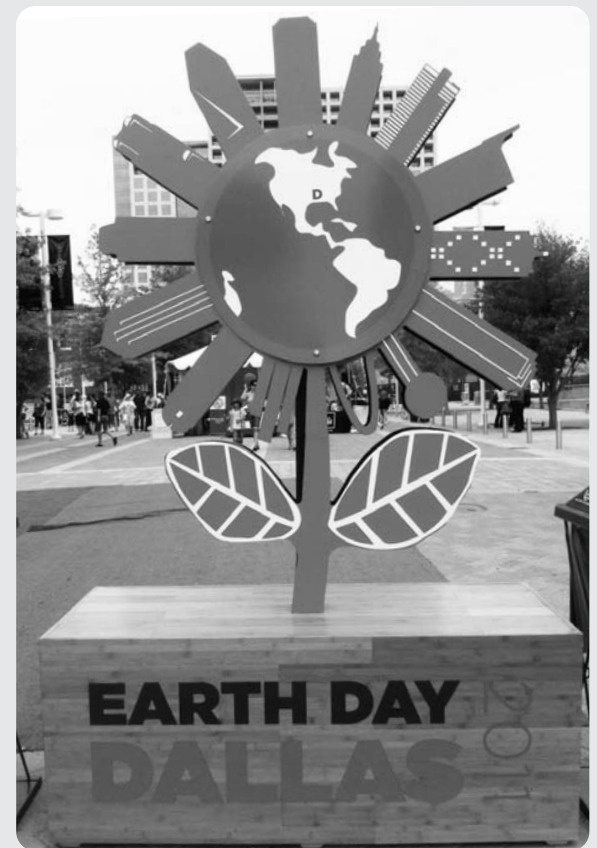
Fair Park, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The W Hotel is commemorating Earth Day with its Make A Green Choice program that will result in 500 extra Starpoints for guests who opt out of having their room cleaned and towels changed daily. "You save enough water to give one person a cup and a half every day for a year; you save enough natural gas to keep a 400 square-foot room cozy for four hours in 10-degree weather," they point

out. Sounds like a good way to save the planet while still luxuriating at the W.

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— David Taffet



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L+S screen



BIG GIRL ON CAMPUS | Lily, Violet and Heather parse the travails of college life in the sophisticated comedy 'Damsels in Distress.'

Ladies in wanting

14 years after 'Disco,' Whit Stillman goes back to college to save 'Damsels'

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

Oh, the problems of the one-percenters, especially the pretty, college-aged ones. They volunteer for suicide hotlines, and can't understand why anyone — depressed or not — wouldn't follow their advice. They probably shouldn't be giving advice in the first place, but that's beside the point: They always know best. Just ask Mitt Romney. (Better, ask the Romney's Irish setter.)

The sly trick of a Whit Stillman film, though, is that characters are rarely what they seem. Even the apparently overprivileged few turn out to be on the distaff side of family money, if any (what John Guare called "Hand to mouth, just on a higher level"); and while they may enjoy comparative luxuries, they are still just as fragile as the rest of us.

That's been the case with every Stillman movie for 20 years, and it's true in **Damsels in Distress**, his return to filmmaking after a too-long absence. Stillman is 60 now, but his fascination with 20somethings hasn't changed much in the past few decades. He still writes persuasively about the travails of romance as seen from the hyper-rationalization of the over-educated. You can't always think your way out of a problem in a Stillman movie, no matter how hard you try; you can't in life, either.

It has almost become a formula for Stillman: His characters, even the seemingly dumb ones, often engage in what we might now call Twitter-speak — saying aloud things most people keep to themselves (though they usually do so in a sophisticated patter that instantly identifies itself as Stillmanesque). It's a style mimicked entertainingly on the series *Gilmore Girls*: Fast-paced and fun, but with heart.

In *Damsels*, a quartet of flower-named co-eds — newcomer Heather (Carrie MacLemore), queen bee Violet (Greta Gerwig), and followers Rose and Lily — negotiate semester-long bed-hopping and their own delicate egos while trying not to crack under the pressures of impending

the pressures of impending



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'The Skinny' books one-week run at Magnolia

Patrik-Ian Polk knows something about getting his way. He made the first gay black comedy (*Punks*) and the first gay black *Sex and the City* rip-off (*Noah's Arc*), so getting his new indie film *The Skinny* — dealing, you guessed it, with black gay characters — meant nothing more than renting a screening room at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre for a one-week engagement. The plot sounds *Big Chill*-esque, as five gay college pals reunite for a weekend in NYC, and secrets are revealed.

Through April 26 at the Magnolia.

ing adulthood. That means pretending not to care when dumped by a boy, or announcing a plan to start a dance craze and assuming everyone will get on-board. It doesn't always go so easy.

Damsels doesn't represent a sea-change in Stillman's oeuvre, merely a continuation in it — and that's fine with me. His voice is distinctive, an engaging blend of sophistication and absurdism. (It's *Clueless* with references to film noir and the Romantic poets.) But it's not self-congratulatory, parading its smarts over its audience — it really just wants to be funny.

And funny it is in a way as dry as a James

Bond martini. Gerwig echoes another Stillman actress — Chloe Sevigny from *Last Days of Disco* — with her button-down propriety masking emotional fragility. She's as charm and as quirky as the film itself.

Stillman's movies have often been compared to Woody Allen's, and while that's fair, it also underestimates the individuality of his work. So individual, in fact, *Damsels* feels slightly insular. If you're not already a fan, it may not woo you over.

But for those of us who have waited more than a decade to delight in cleverness with an academician's sensibility, well ... Whit's still the man. ■

★★★★★

DAMSELS IN DISTRESS

Greta Gerwig, Carrie McLemore, Adam Brody. Rated PG-13. 100 mins. Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.

Stillman waters run deep
Indiedom's most sophisticated clown returns to the camera

As Whit Stillman pours himself another bloody mary over a cozy Italian meal in Uptown, he's looking back on his career as much as he's looking forward.

"I started writing so that I would be able to direct, but the pressure of directing is so oppressive, it's just not very enjoyable," he says about his evolution as a filmmaker.

The "not very enjoyable" part may account for why, over the course of 22 years, Stillman has produced a grand total of only four films — the last of which, *Damsels in Distress*, finally opens in Dallas this week. His most recent film, *The Last Days of Disco*, came out an astonishing 14 years ago — although Stillman will quibble with you about that.

[*Disco*] was distributed in Europe after the United States, and *Damsels* was the reverse — it's actually been out since last year. Plus it took a year to make it and edit it. So it hasn't been *that* long."

Maybe not, but it has easily been a full decade. Well, yes, he concedes. It has been.

Not that he has been on vacation all that time.

"I have been living in Europe, trying to get films made for the last decade," he says. "In London, I had two ideas that producers liked, but when it came to making them, they either had financing trouble or it just didn't come together."

American studios weren't much better.

"Focus Features actually told me [*Damsels*] was 'too small' for them. *Too small?* They mean too much trouble to make money on," he snaps. *Damsels* is in the hands of Sony Pictures Classics. They know how to handle a film like this."

Stillman's movies have never been blockbusters, but on the art-house circuit, he's been a darling throughout his professional life. *Metropolitan*, his first film, "was *hugely* successful, one of the most profitable films of its year," he boasts. "But you need to work to make money on 63 prints, which they did." It netted Stillman a much-deserved Oscar nomination for best original screenplay as well as something else: A stalker.

When I mention to Stillman that another film that came out soon after *Metropolitan* — *Slacker* — had a similar appeal (one, about the idle rich; the other, the idle poor) he nods knowingly.

"Rich Linklater [the Texas-based director of *Slacker*] shadowed everything that happened with me on *Metropolitan*," from calling his distributor to his agent to his marketing style. He took it in stride.

Stillman quickly followed up *Metropolitan* with *Barcelona*; *Disco* came a few years later. So the wait for *Damsels* has been much anticipated by film geeks of all kinds.

In that time, Stillman has maintained the deadpan sensibility that distinguishes his sense of humor. But even though he makes films, he thinks his movies play more like theater.



"I think every visualization of the film is a different performance," he says. "Theoretically, a film is always exactly the same, but the reaction of the audience and the projection affect it a lot. I find the screening room experience isolating and slightly banal. An empty room eats up every chuckle. Still, you really can't anticipate any laughs and hold for laughter in a film — you just *hope* for laughter."

I tell Stillman I laughed a lot, but that they play to a specific audience that appreciates such close-to-vest intellectual wit existing side by side with slapstick ... that it must be impossible finding new audiences for his style of filmmaking.

He pauses and pours another bloody mary.

"Well, I certainly hope you're wrong," he says.

— A.W.J.

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Docu-drama queens

This year's USA Film Festival features some compelling queer content

The USA Film Festival has been around far longer than the Dallas International Film Festival — its 42nd incarnation premieres Wednesday — but it takes place for half as many days as DIFF, with fewer venues (everything at the Angelika Film Center), fewer screenings and fewer films. And that's OK with us. In just a few days, they've packed several interesting gay documentaries (including the opening-night centerpiece) plus a campy short film. Add some classics and a Texas shorts showcase, and we are so there.

How to Survive a Plague (April 25 at 6:45 p.m.). Scan the pages of a publication like Dallas Voice nowadays, and the protests you'll likely see reported as taking place in the gay community probably relate to marriage equality, the right to serve in the military, police brutality and recognition of trans rights. But 30 years ago, gay activism looked very, very different.

Back then, gay protestors were less concerned with the right to live their lives openly than the right to live, period. The AIDS epidemic — the “plague” in this emotional and fascinating documentary — dragged a lot of gay folks not only out of the closet, but into the harsh lights of the public square. Where once they kept their sexual orientation secret, now that was front-and-center, as they sought funding for AIDS research, treatment with dignity even in charity hospitals and a cure which, while still not achieved outright, has at least given hope to millions of HIV-positive people

who had previously considered the diagnosis a death sentence.

With the title *How to Survive a Plague*, it might seem to be focused on a single person, or a specific approach, but really, director David France has given us a rangy, rich festival of rare archival footage showing the breadth and desperation of a host of people who committed to stirring the pot for change.

Largely, that means those involved in ACT UP, one of the most radical groups fighting for AIDS victims. There's no one hero here, though Peter Staley — who fearlessly faced down the likes of Pat Buchanan and Dr. Anthony Fauci (prodding him and the National Institutes for Health into more decisive action) — comes close. The righteous anger of Staley, Larry Kramer and the countless others who marched and protested because their lives were, quite literally, on the line, resonates even today with a deep, abiding respect.

For those who remember the craziness of the era, it's an arresting reminder of how far we've come. (It's infuriating to re-watch that disgusting homophobe Jesse Helms bloviating from the Senate floor with the callous hatred and lack of compassion a hunter might evince for a fox killing his hens.) For those too young to know of AIDS as anything more than a “manageable disease,” it's a wake-up call honoring those who made that possible.



HE WILL SURVIVE | Peter Staley fights for his life during the AIDS epidemic.

Tom Brokaw may insist that the men who lived through the Depression and fought WWII were the Greatest Generation, but for those of us in the gay community, we know different: They were at once the Greatest Generation and the Lost Generation, an entire decade of young men cut down in their prime who, with literally their dying breaths, fought for justice and dignity not just for themselves, but those who followed them. *How to Survive a Plague* is their elegy, and seeing it a way to pay homage to countless heroes — male and female, gay and straight — whose names you probably never even knew.

Dallas Voice Life+Style Editor Arnold Wayne Jones will moderate the after-screening Q&A session with director David France.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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CROSS-DRESSING | Performance artist Lady Jaye and her trans rock star spouse Genesis seem to become surgically identical.

Queen (part of the Short Film Showcase) (April 27 at 7 p.m.).

Nikki Holliday is a glamour gal at night, sparking through her drag show (she even sings, not lip-synchs), but when she comes home, the realities of her life are the real drag. She and her partner have broken up, and her chance of adopting a child — she lives her life as a woman — all but gone. But there's hope in a young man at the club...

Queen avoids the clichés of the Sad Gay Life while still managing to be poignant and very real in its portrayals of the challenges people in the LGBT community (especially trans) still face. It manages to be hopeful without tying up its message to neatly. The characters live beyond what we see.

Director Adam Rose in attendance.

— A.W.J.

The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye (April 27 at 9:15 p.m.). Evolution can take millions of years, but in this documentary, it happens under the knife as musician Genesis P-Orridge and his

wife, performance artist Lady Jaye Breyer P-Orridge, pursue their “pandrogyny project” to become a single entity.

A mixture of home films and guerrilla camerawork, Genesis provides the hypnotic voiceover, recounting his bio from bullied kid in Britain to frontman of industrial music pioneers Throbbing Gristle in the mid-'70s. Glimpses into the alt-music scene are incredible, as are scenes with his mentors William S. Burroughs and Brion Gysin. But the build-up runs a bit long until Genesis inhabits a sort of trans-Hitler persona.

The relationship is presented through Genesis' eyes, as he recounts their wedding day (Genesis as the bride, Lady Jaye as groom — and proudly held on Friday the 13th). But it's their art project that holds the most curiosity.

Instead of children, Genesis explains their idea of creating a new person out of him and Jaye. Deciding to look as much like each other as possible, they undergo cosmetic surgery to create a third being, dressing the same and tattooing moles and beauty marks in pursuit of a strange philosophy.

“This is the future of the human species,” Genesis says in the film. “Pandrogyny is a cry for survival.”

Unfortunately, the film shies from delving too deep into this.

We're given clips of them at the plastic surgeon, running around streets in bandages and exploring their breast implants. Director Marie Losier always seems on the edge of jumping into the complexities of the situation, but pulls back.

The film then reverts into a music doc of Genesis' newest band, Psychic TV AKA PTV3. The psychology of everything that just happened is left only to his perspective and sometimes Jaye's.

Ballad straddles the line of train wreck and mystical exploration. It's a fascinating story of the lengths two people go through in the name of love and art, though it falls short of providing a full understanding of it.

— Rich Lopez

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D Magazine

“...superb cast nails Letts' crazy humor and has the full measure of this epic script's big climaxes.”

Dallas Morning News

“The acting is exemplary and real.” *Dallas Voice*

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT:

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Q Cinema screens 'Kawa'

Q Cinema's multi-day festival is more than a month away, but its monthly screenings continue this week. On Wednesday, the Fort Worth folks offer *Kawa*, a New Zealand film that delves into Maori culture and the crisis when a son comes out to his traditional family. The screening occurs at the



Four Day Weekend Theater, 312 Houston St., Fort Worth. April 25 at 8 p.m. \$10. QCinema.org.



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Friday 04.20

Nights with Apollo

Texas Ballet Theater presents the first weekend of its Portraits Ballet Festival. The lineup includes performances of Ben Stevenson's *Bartok* and George Balanchine's *Apollo*. Then you can truly say you spent the weekend with a Greek god on your Facebook updates.

DEETS: Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Sunday. \$40-\$80. TexasBalletTheater.org.

Saturday 04.21

Feeling so tingly

When The Ting Tings exploded on the scene with "That's Not My Name" in 2008, there was no looking back. That dance-punk energy is back with new album *Sounds from Nowheresville* and a tour that makes its Dallas stop over the weekend. Prepare for ringing ears the day after.

DEETS: With MNDR. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 9 p.m. \$29. GranadaTheater.com.

Tuesday 04.24

All in the Family


Modern Family stars Ty Burrell, Eric Stonestreet and Jesse Tyler Ferguson, pictured, stop by for a little chat thanks to the Brinker International Forum.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$20-\$125. ATPAC.org.



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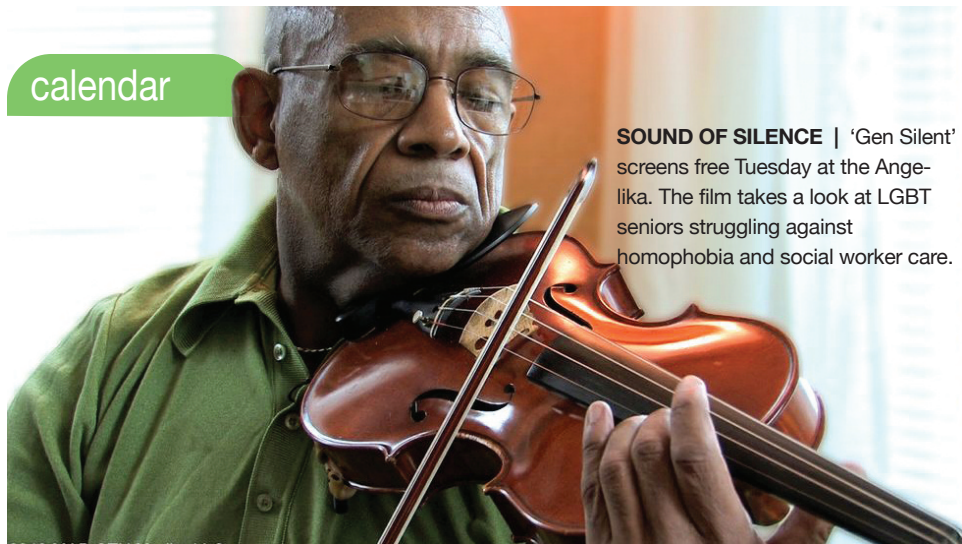
Kristin Majors and The Funk Soul Muthas

Kathy Corbin and the Barefoot Hippies

Everyone's Ex

THE PATIO

05/03/2012



SOUND OF SILENCE | 'Gen Silent' screens free Tuesday at the Angelika. The film takes a look at LGBT seniors struggling against homophobia and social worker care.

FRIDAY 04.20

COMMUNITY

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.

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

ART

214 Trans4M featuring the work of Daniel Kusner and Bryan Amann. The photography exhibit centers on trans and female-impersonating models against Dallas landmarks playing off the conservative tones of the city. Kessler X+ Gallery, 1230 W. Davis St. Through May 20. TheKessler.org.

THEATER

The Magic Flute. The Dallas Opera presents six performances of Mozart's whimsical opera. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through May 6. \$29-\$129. DallasOpera.org.

Old Time Music Hall. Theatre Britain brings back vaudeville style with this night of entertainment, songs and sketches. Although family friendly, they recommend the show's revue format for teens and up. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Sunday. \$20. Theatre-Britain.com.

SATURDAY 04.21

COMMUNITY

Eye Take Pride LGBT party for Equality Day. This all-day event features DJ Rain, a single and mingle mixer, dining and culminates in a 2012 Fiat raffle giveaway. The event is hosted by the web-based reality series *Lez Be Proud*. El Tizconcito, 5150 Lemon Ave. 3-9 p.m. Free. EyeTakePride.com.

Gaybingo Dallas: Gods and Goddesses. This month's event features a raffle to win tickets to Madonna's concert in October. Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road (inside S4). 6 p.m. \$35. RCDallas.org/Gaybingo.

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.

ART

Deep Ellum Art Walk. Galleries in Deep Ellum and Expo Park open their doors to the public for viewing, shopping along with live music, food and refresh-

ments. Patrons can take the DART rail between the two areas for easy travel. Visit the website for specific locations. 6 p.m. Free. DeepEllumTexas.com.

Grind Art Walk After Party. Produced by Art-LoveMagic and the Green Bandanna Group, the event features visual artists creating live art. Live music ranges from DJs to classical and jazz ensembles. The silent auction benefits local artists. Life in Deep Ellum, 2803 Taylor St. 9 p.m. LifeinDeepEllum.com.

BROADCAST

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

CONCERT

Eric Himan, Bandmates. Acoustic rock and covers. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10 p.m. SueEllensDallas.com.

SUNDAY 04.22

COMMUNITY

Project Nunway. The DFW Sisters team with local designers for an ecclesiastical fashion show. The event benefits Home for the Holidays and The DFW Sisters. Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road (inside S4). 6 p.m. \$10. TheDFWSisters.org.

HRC Family Project Meetup for LGBT parents and children happens at the Earth Day in Oak Cliff event. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and partake with the group in the festivities. Meet at the rocket ship in the park. Lake Cliff Park, 300 E. Colorado Blvd. Noon. OakCliffEarthDay.com.

this week's solution



MONDAY 04.23

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

TUESDAY 04.24

COMMUNITY

JEWEL Writing Discussion & Exchange meets. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for further information. RCDallas.org.

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

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

FILM

Gen Silent. The film asks six LGBT seniors if they would hide their lives to survive in the social worker care system. Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. 6:30 p.m. Free. StuMaddux.com.

WEDNESDAY 04.25

COMMUNITY

Women's Success Forum with Nancy Lieberman. The famed athlete and coach speaks at the North Texas GLBT Chamber women-only event. Maggiano's Little Italy Northpark, 8687 N. Central Expressway. 11 a.m. \$35. GLBTChamber.org.

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Jerry Calumn from Lone Star Ride. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 04.26

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Giorgio Moroder turns 71 on Thursday. The producersongwriter shaped much of today's dance music through his innovative synthesizer work in the disco '70s. Famous for his work with Donna Summer on "Love to Love You Baby" and "I Feel Love" and heading iconic Casablanca label, Moroder also won an Oscar for his soundtrack to *Midnight Express*.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your financial luck gets an uptick requiring effort, but a little initiative can go a long way. Ask for that raise, put out some résumés. When to buy lottery tickets? Check with your astrologer.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Expectations exploding into arguments trigger a reassessment of who your friends really are. Friends with benefits, however, are likely to get problematic.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Future is looking rosier than usual so find ways to invest your time and energy in things that matter. Financial investments are less reliable, but you may find something worth the risk.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Set some rules and limits. People will be shocked, but they'll manage. Hold your ground. There may be a cost, but demanding basic respect will increase your confidence and authority.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Playing tough is OK if everyone is on the same wavelength. It's all fun until someone gets hurt. If it's consensual that could be when the real fun begins. Challenging your efforts open a catharsis.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

A little flirting can lead to some eye-opening adventures. A hot fling can offer new insights; it probably won't last, but enjoy and learn what you can. Your age is an asset, not an obstacle.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Arguments are learning opportunities. What you learn can open job opportunities and help you start or deepen an important relationship. Ask hard questions and accept hard answers.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Every partnership needs work. Dealing with problems now yields happy results. That leads to exuberant fun and risk-taking. Go for the fun. Pass on the risks. Think ahead and use good sense.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Winning the battle at home costs you the war. Change your mind and yourself. Openness and adaptability are the keys to success. Taking on the hard challenges will pay off quickly.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You need a good intellectual challenge. Don't settle for a mere argument. Talk with a sibling offers can terrific insight on your family and how you carry those patterns into your relationships.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Every relationship hits bumps and needs work. Problems with your partner gain clarity but need work. Expert advice helps. Having fun and affirming your commitment does wonders.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

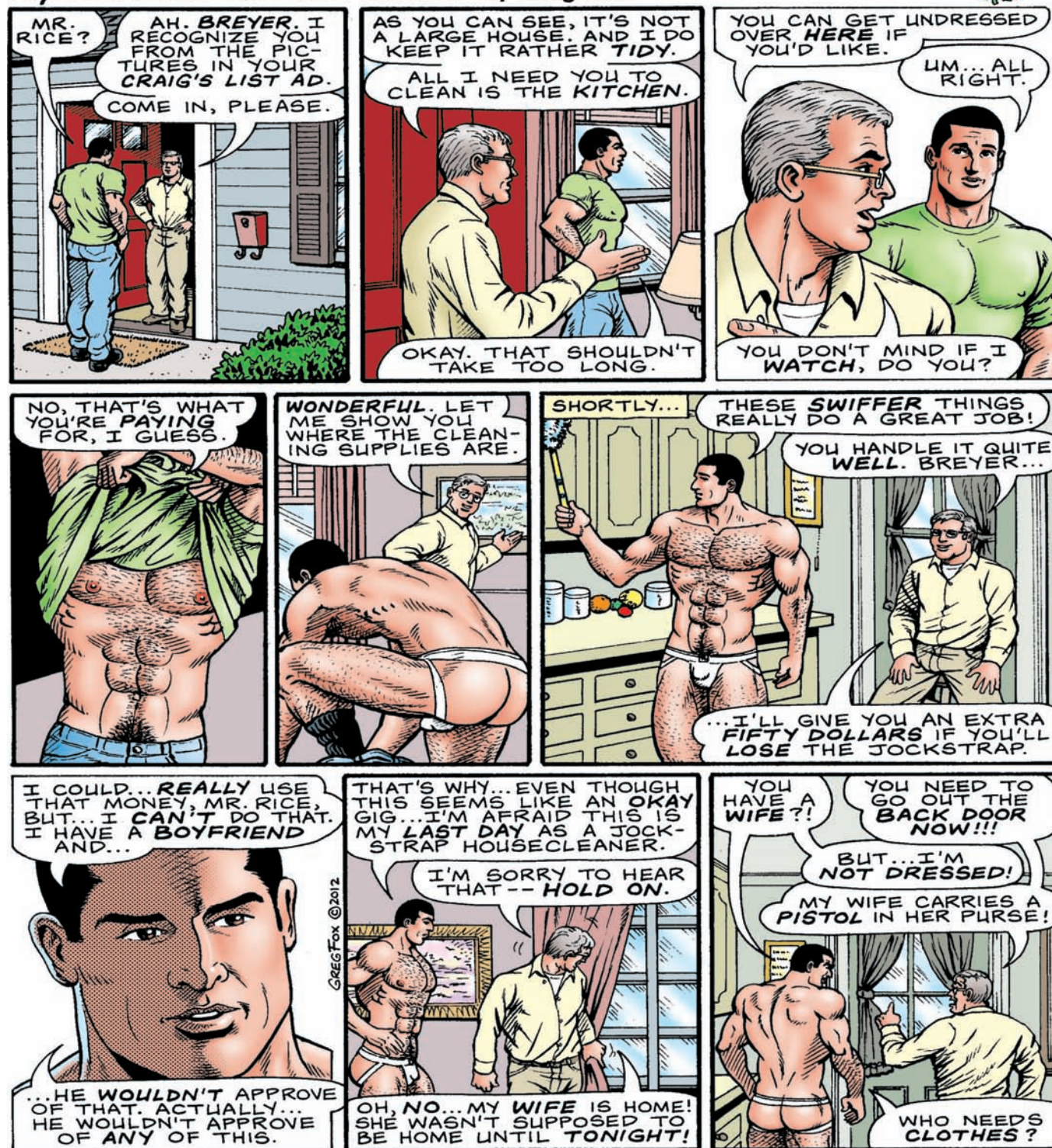
You realize a bit late that you've been overly emphatic about petty issues with your partner. The biggest problem is disagreeing on the real problem. Listen more; argue less.

THIS WEEK

Mars and Neptune are finally moving out of opposition, but not before the sun aspects them, offering some clarity and lessons to pull out of the recent confusion and fury. Clarifying rules for relationships is a challenge to reconcile new ideas with solid values.

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

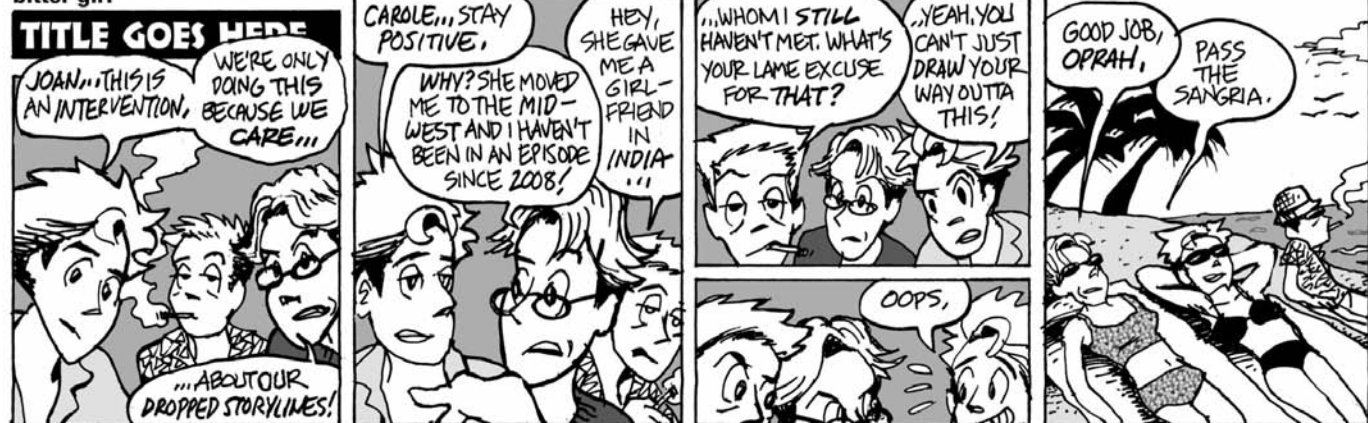
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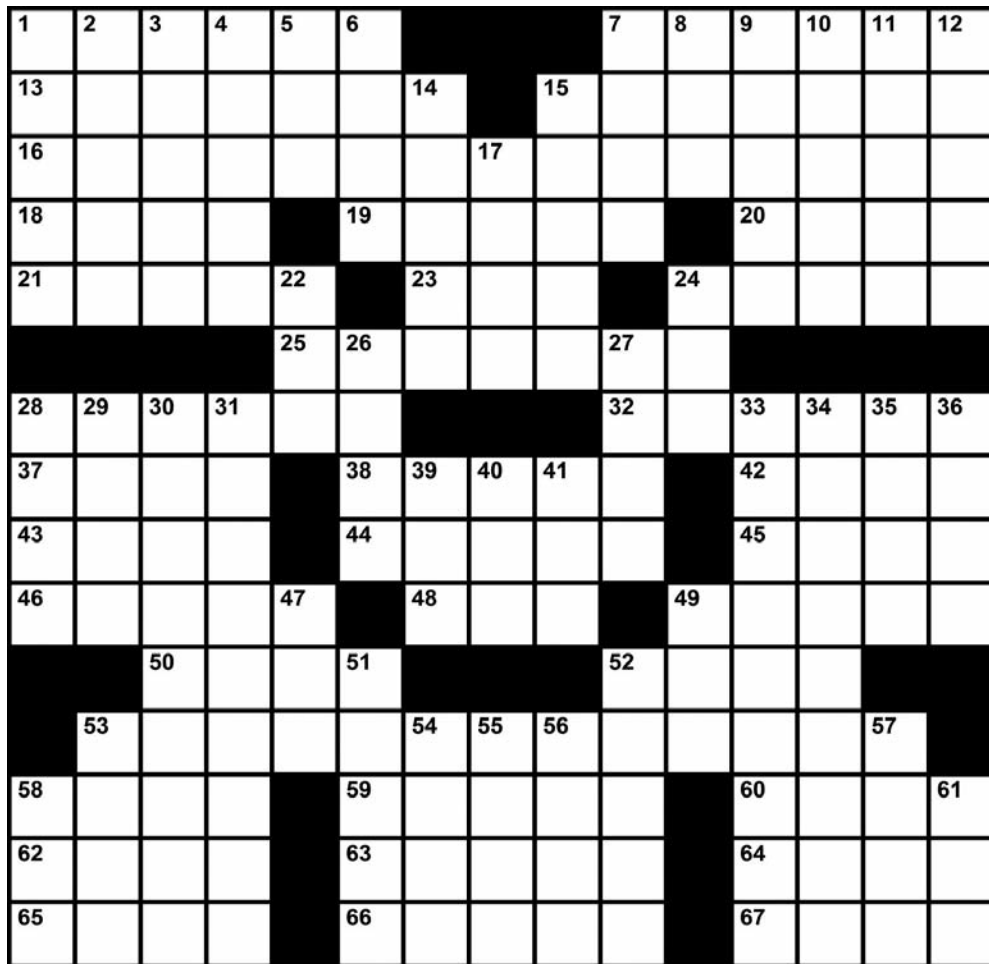
bitter girl



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Costanza on Lesbians

Solution on page 39

Across

- 1 Change positions, in volleyball
- 7 Shakespeare's Ariel, for one
- 13 What "bottom's up" is to "pub's motto"
- 15 The Double Man author
- 16 Start of an explanation
- 18 Betty of cartoons
- 19 In a tough spot
- 20 If that fails
- 21 Atlas blow-up
- 23 Minn. neighbor
- 24 Brian of figure skating
- 25 Carpenter's tool
- 28 More of the explanation
- 32 Costanza, who explained why lesbians fascinate straight guys
- 37 Sheltered on the sea
- 38 More of the explanation
- 42 Vichyssoise veggie
- 43 Gay horror writer Michael
- 44 Birds at sea
- 45 Hump on the beach
- 46 Italian sauce
- 48 More of the explanation
- 49 Boneheads
- 50 "___ off to see the wizard"
- 52 A word from Pilate

Down

- 53 End of the explanation
- 58 She danced with Whoopi in Ghost
- 59 Jewish scripture
- 60 Penetrating reed
- 62 Neighbor of Pakistan
- 63 Top
- 64 Spread it on your muffin
- 65 Place to walk, for short
- 66 Lord of La Mancha
- 67 Diminished by

Down

- 1 Steven Greenberg, for one
- 2 There's a single runner
- 3 Meat-filled treats
- 4 With a wide-open mouth
- 5 Broadway bio
- 6 Right on a map
- 7 Where you stack wood or spank
- 8 Friday's check
- 9 Less polite
- 10 Clay Aiken and others
- 11 In need of a backrub
- 12 Return key on a PC
- 14 Producer Neil
- 15 Puts an edge on
- 17 Mind the bar
- 22 Day before Fri.
- 24 Be in the hole
- 26 "... long ___ both shall live?"
- 27 Is unlike Dorian Gray
- 28 Not remain straight
- 29 Skin moisturizer
- 30 Rachel Maddow, for one
- 31 About to go down, perhaps
- 33 Opposite of avant-garde
- 34 Not for one time only (var.)
- 35 Cause of homosexuality, according to some
- 36 Just makes, with "out"
- 39 WWW address ending
- 40 Game with "Skip" cards
- 41 Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, today
- 47 Rough stuff underground
- 49 Thespians do it
- 51 Rob of Melrose Place
- 52 Anesthesia of old
- 53 Hatcher of Desperate Housewives
- 54 Top or bottom of the world
- 55 St. Patrick's land
- 56 Caesar opponent
- 57 Lower digits
- 58 Proust's ten
- 61 Shooter in Bruce Weber's field





Ladies night out at TMC: The Mining Company.



Chris and friend at Joe's/The Brick.



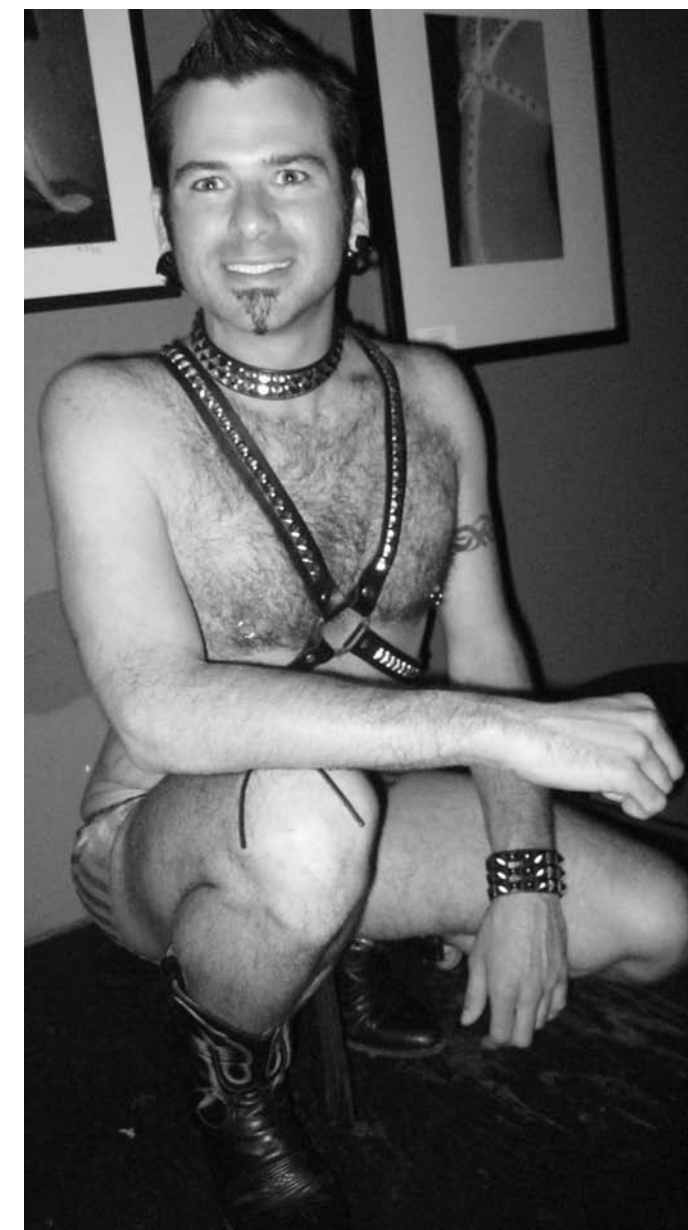
Cassie and Tammy at Best Friends Club.

Prepare for a busy week — of fun! ... The **Leather Knights** host **Camelot 17** at the **Dallas Eagle** Friday through Sunday benefiting **AIDS Interfaith Network**. **Paul Kraft** handles the music Friday night then hands it off to **DJ Perry** for the Saturday crowd. Bears, cubs and chasers are all invited to **Growl** night every Thursday. ... **Mi Diva Loca** belts 'em out at **Alexandre's** Saturday night. ... **Lez Be Proud** hosts **The Eye Take Pride LGBT Party for World Wide March for Equality!** on Saturday at **El Tizconcito**. The event runs from afternoon to evening with **DJ Rain** on the turntables and a 2012 Fiat giveaway at the end of the evening. ... You can head to **GayBingo** Saturday at the **Rose Room** for a chance to win **Madonna** tickets. Then everyone will want to be your best friend. ... **Sue Ellen's** goes big this weekend with its live music. **Kristy Lee** headlines the **Vixen Lounge** Friday night appearing with **Hussy Hicks**. Then **Eric Himan** comes to town Saturday night. **Band-mates** opens the show. ... The new **Miss DIVA** will be crowned this Sunday at the **Round-Up Saloon**. **Mark Alan Smith** performs Monday night with special guests **Chanel** and **Onyx**. **Mr. and Miss Round-Up 2012** will be named Wednesday night. ... **Chris Lake** takes over guest DJ duties at the **Lizard Lounge** Saturday night. ... **The Tin Room** and **Drama Room** will offer loads of entertainment over the weekend. Adult film stars **Phenix Saint**, **Sebastian Young**, **David Chase** and **Steve Ponce** do double duty performing at both clubs. Partake in both the **Rage in the Cage Party** at Tin Room and the **Black Party** at Drama Room all weekend long. ■

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



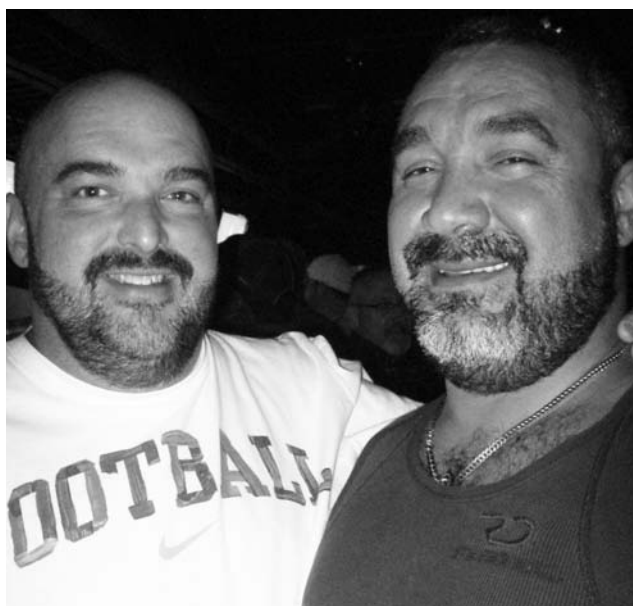
Andrew and Austin at the Rainbow Lounge.



Miguel at Station 4.



K. and S. at Sue Ellen's.



Jeff and Anthony at the Round-Up Saloon.

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For Rent	.44
Movers	.45
Insurance	.45
Classy + Great Spaces	.46
Employment	.48
Seeking Employment	.48
Employment	.48
Services	.49
Computer Services	.49
Photography	.49
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interesting your pad

How the trendy social network can be the source of design inspiration

BY RICH LOPEZ

You can now toss that folder of magazine tearouts. Pinterest gives you an easier and even greener way to catalog your ideas for redecorating that living room or organizing the garage. Only this time, instead of keeping a clutter of pages, you have an online bulletin board of ideas.

The site lets you create boards in which you then organize and share your ideas, inspirations and anything else you want. But for your home, it's also a handy resource to discover a wealth of ideas on your own or via other people's boards.

Here are five boards we found as inspiring starting points. For more ideas, visit the Classy+Great Spaces board at Pinterest.com/DVClassy.

Roger Stout-Hazard/Chris Stout-Hazard:

The Austin-based couple are behind the design site Design Hazards. You likely know Roger Hazard as the designer (and producer) on A&E's *Sell This House*. Both have their own accounts with pins of original work and inspired ideas including Modern Farmhouse and Gardens and Outdoor Rooms.

Teb Interiors:

The Toronto-based firm lays it down on the line with its Awesome Crap For Your Home Board. A collection of Flamboro chairs, a Liberace piano bench and wacky but still stylish pillows left us only wanting more.

Ickemixe:

Ickemixe: Take time to go through this account's 38 boards of home décor, Christmas ideas and style

posts, but its Wall Decoration collection is an eclectic array of creative frame clusters to typography as art. Ickemixe gives good eye.

Jessica @ Black.White.Yellow.:

Jessica @ Black. White. Yellow.: This architect and native Texan has a specific passion for the three colors. She takes turns with boards on products, fashion and different rooms, but give her Inspiration: Desk Area a good look for your office redo.

West Elm:

West Elm: Any home style store would be a likely candidate, but West Elm has organized their Pinterest into a comprehensive collection that is more than a catalog of products, they are tastemakers for indoor and outdoor spaces.

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LGBT Parents & Kids meet in Oak Cliff

For Earth Day! Join HRC Family Project for our first social of the year at Earth Day in Oak Cliff. Meet us on Sunday, April 22nd at the rocket ship in Lake Cliff Park. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the fun, networking and Earth Day celebration. For more information find us on Facebook

Beyond the Gates Aids Foundation is looking for Volunteers to help with administrative duties please contact our board of directors at
Beyondthegatesaf@gmail.com
www.beyondthegates.org

CONCEIVABLE OPTIONS!
LGBT FAMILY BUILDING
HRC Family Project announces a workshop to help look at conceivable options for LGBT individuals and couple to create a family. Join us on Saturday, May 12th from 9-noon at The MAC, 3021 McKinney Ave., continental breakfast at 9am, program starts at 10am. For more information and to RSVP visit:
<http://www.facebook.com/events/408898209123135>

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