

# Bisexual U.S. House hopeful in Dallas

Kyrsten Sinema to visit Sue's on Sunday  
Candidate discusses sexuality, immigration, Gabby Giffords

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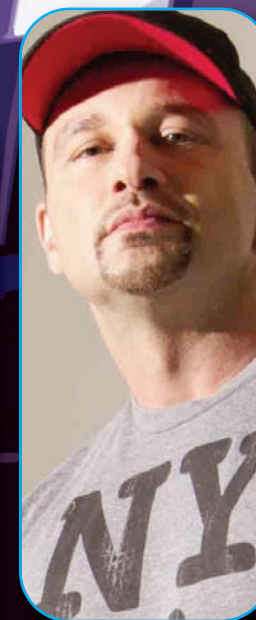
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# PURPLE REIGN



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-Lawson Taitte, *The Dallas Morning News*

**“...THE FUNNIEST TEARJERKER IN TOWN.”**

-*The New York Times*

TERRY MARTIN as Adam, STEVEN WALTERS as Luke.  
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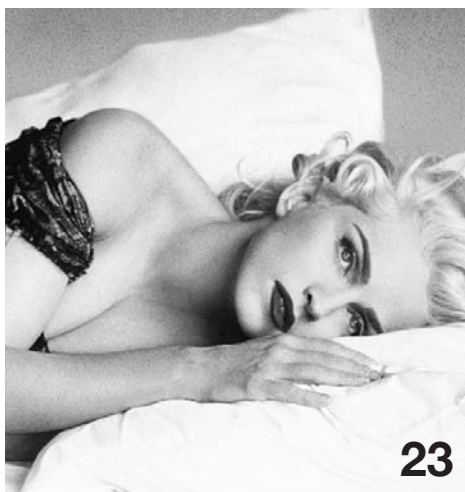
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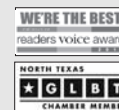
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## 16-year-old petitions Keller City Council to add LGBT protections

Isaiah Smith, 16, made a presentation to the Keller City Council on April 17 after collecting the signatures from about 1,200 adult residents and 800 youth. He's petitioning to his city to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in restaurants in the city.

"A person can be denied service at a restaurant," he explained. "I view this as an injustice. All people should be treated equally."

Smith was inspired by an episode of the ABC show *What Would You Do?* that was filmed at Norma's Cafe in North Dallas. Actors played a waitress and a lesbian couple couple with kids, and mostly patrons defended the lesbian couple.

Smith said that under state law, he needed to submit his petition to the city within 180 days of collecting the first signature.

He said he was the first signer on Oct. 22, making his deadline April 19.

Bernardo Vallarino from GLSEN Greater Dallas, who attended Tuesday's meeting, said: "He was very eloquent. I was pleasantly surprised."

Vallarino postponed another meeting to attend and was delighted that he got to hear Smith speak.

"He was as good as any lawyer who addresses a city council," Vallarino said, adding that Smith was a cut above most citizens who speak before council.

Vallarino said one of Smith's best points that seemed to catch the attention of council members was that nondiscrimination affects everyone. Smith

explained that no one should be singled out because of sexual orientation, whether gay or straight.

Assistant City Manager Steve Polacek said later of Smith: "We certainly appreciate his energy and respect his passion. He's working for something he loves."

Mayor Pat McGrail allowed Smith seven minutes to speak, more than the usual three minutes. After Smith finished, a counselor from the Keller school system addressed the council and told them that she is a lesbian and would benefit from having a nondiscrimination ordinance on the books.

Later in the week, Mayor McGrail said, "We certainly applaud Mr. Smith's passion and commitment to his cause; however, council has not discussed nor decided on any action at this time."

Soon after he began collecting the signatures, Smith was featured on the Channel 33 news. He said that after that, one woman recognized him and asked him if she could sign.

Most of the signatures he gathered by going door to door and discussing discrimination with people in Keller.

Smith, who said he would like to enter politics, said he's learned quite a bit about the law.

"I had some officers tell me I needed a solicitation permit," he said. But an attorney confirmed to him that the type of canvassing he's doing doesn't require a permit.

"I spoke to the city secretary," he said. He called her to ask about the procedure to submit a petition and have the signatures verified.



**DEMOCRACY IN ACTION** | Keller High School student Isaiah Smith, right, collected signatures to urge his City Council to pass a nondiscrimination ordinance. The mayor said the council has not decided whether to take action.

"She was shocked and said she never had a petition like that before," he said.

He had copies of Dallas and Fort Worth nondiscrimination ordinances that are much broader, covering employment, housing and public accommodations.

"If you work in government, you need to make sure there's no discrimination," he said.

While he gets little support from his family, he said he gets lots of support at Keller High School.

"Middle school was hell on wheels," he said. "But my school is very accepting."

Keller High School had a controversy with its GSA when it first formed. A Facebook page appeared in

October 2011 called "Abolish the GSA, Gay-Straight Alliance, at Keller High School." As a result of the controversy, the GSA had to move from a small classroom to a large lecture hall to accommodate the number of additional students who began participating.

Now the group has settled in, and Smith said they have movie nights and a number of regular activities.

"They tried to start a 'straight alliance,' but no teacher would sponsor," Smith said. "My school won't allow a bigoted organization to be part of the school."

And if they did, they'd have to contend with Smith. — David Taffet



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**SHOOTING AFTERMATH** | Then-state Sen. Kyrsten Sinema is shown addressing the media about the shooting of her friend and role model, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, outside the Arizona Capitol on Jan. 10, 2011, in Phoenix. (Associated Press)

# Bi House hopeful to visit Dallas

In exclusive interview, former Arizona state Sen. Kyrsten Sinema discusses sexual orientation, friendship with Giffords, state's anti-immigration law

**ANNA WAUGH** | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Kyrsten Sinema, a former Arizona state senator who's vying to become the first bisexual member of Congress, will be in Dallas on Sunday, April 29, for a fundraiser sponsored by Stonewall Democrats, the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Sinema resigned in January from the Arizona Senate to focus on her campaign for the new 9th Congressional District seat. If elected, she would not only be the first bisexual person elected to Congress, but also at 35 the youngest woman to represent Arizona.

Erin Moore of Dallas, vice president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, helped plan the fundraiser after meeting Sinema and hearing her speak in the past.

"She's a great candidate and a great statesman and would be great for female and LGBT causes," Moore said. "We're hoping to raise some money to get her shored up in her campaign and have a voice in Congress."

Sinema was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 2004 and was elected state senator in 2010. After working in the state Legislature, she said she wanted to do more for the struggling citizens she helped in her state.

"Families all across America are struggling," she said. "And Congress is doing nothing to help families."

Sinema said she was raised in poverty after her parents divorced. Although both of her parents remarried, she lived in an old gas station with no running water or electricity for two years when she was 8.

## Sunday night Sinema

The fundraiser for Kyrsten Sinema is 5-8 p.m. Sunday, April 29, in the Vixen Lounge at Sue Ellen's. To R.S.V.P., email Erin Moore at erinmoore@aol.com. For more information about Sinema, visit [www.kyrstensinema.com](http://www.kyrstensinema.com).

"Sometimes we didn't have enough food to eat. We were hungry," she said. "Those were tough times."

Her stepfather was fortunate to get a job after two years, and Sinema said her life began to improve. But the challenges of her youth helped inspire her to seek a career in social work and later in politics to help families like hers that had worked hard, earned college degrees and still couldn't find jobs or feed their families.

Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, D-Arizona, also inspired Sinema to run for Congress.

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# Local Methodists keep up fight for LGBT inclusion

Delegates to General Conference seek removal of anti-gay language

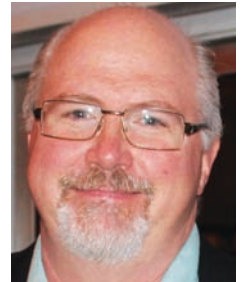
**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In 1990, Shirley Cooper and her husband walked out of Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, at Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue, after a pastor told members gays and lesbians weren't welcome there.

Twenty-two years later, Cooper, one of the founders of PFLAG Dallas, is in Tampa this week, where the UMC is holding its General Conference.

Cooper, who joined Northaven UMC after leaving Oak Lawn UMC, is one of several local Methodists who continue to push for the church to become more inclusive of LGBT people.

Even her former church, while not officially open and affirming, now describes itself as "amazingly diverse in its people's culture and lifestyles."



Eric Folkerth

The UMC's General Conference in Tampa began on April 24 and continues through May 4. The two-week meeting is held every four years.

Methodist opposition to discrimination is clear, but so are the UMC's policies discriminating against its gay and lesbian members. The Rev. Eric Folkerth, the straight senior pastor at Northaven UMC, calls those contradictory policies "maddening."

For example, the 2008 Book of Resolutions includes a statement opposing "all forms of violence or discrimination based on gender, gender identity, sexual practice, or sexual orientation."

Yet the General Council on Finance and Administration "shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality."

Folkerth said that as much as he would like to see his church's policies toward gays and lesbians change, he doesn't think a lot of time will be devoted to the issue at this year's meeting.

"It's disheartening," he said. "People's minds are elsewhere. More than anything, this conference has to do with restructuring."

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## localbriefs

### Cedar Springs Art Fest is Saturday

The fourth annual Cedar Springs Art Festival is from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 28.

CSMA Executive Director Scott Whittall said it will be bigger than ever with more than 125 artists and artisans displaying paintings, ceramics, sculpture, furniture, candles, art glass, photography, jewelry and more. Food and beer vendors will also be on the street.

### 'Brunch and Bulldozers' with RCD

Resource Center Dallas will celebrate a milestone in building its new community center with the demolition of an abandoned shopping center on the site of its new home. On Saturday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., "Brunch and Bulldozers" will feature food trucks and entertainment.

Paul J. Williams will emcee, and Robert Olivias, Denise Lee, Mel Arizpe, Eric Way, Angie Landers and Gary Floyd will perform. The event is at the corner of Cedar Springs and Inwood roads.

### AOC hosts fundraiser at brewery

AIDS Outreach Center will hold a fundraiser at Rahr & Sons Brewery, 701 Galveston Ave. in Fort Worth, from 1-3 p.m. on April 28. Entry is \$10, which includes any three Rahr beers and a Rahr Brewery mug. A food vendor will be at the event, so bring cash.

## Death

**James W. Odle** was born July 14, 1960, in Tulsa, Okla.

Having lived in Dallas for many years, he was taken from this life on Easter Sunday, April 8, at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Odle was known for having a very big heart and was kind and gentle to everyone he met. But in the end, his heart just couldn't keep up with him.

Odle worked in the graphics printing industry for more than 25 years while here in Dallas, and was very active in the local community. He was loved by everyone whose lives he touched.

Odle is survived by his parents, Charles and Beth Odle; a sister, Lorrie; a brother, John; and his nieces and nephews, Indy, Michael and Belle, all of Tulsa. He also leaves behind his loving partner, Jim Hampton of Dallas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of North Texas at www.msmt.org.

Odle's ashes will eventually be scattered along a beach in Fort Lauderdale, which he loved.



## pet of the week / BOSTON

Boston is a 5-year-old, red-and-white tabby domestic shorthair mix. He and his buddy (Sox) came to our shelter for the first time on Oct. 14, 2007. They found a wonderful home, but because of the economy, the family had to move in with relatives and the cats weren't welcome. So Sox and Boston were brought back to the shelter, where they've been since Jan. 25, 2009.

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



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**PROUD PROSECUTOR** | Travis County DA Rosemary Lehmborg said even though she's an elected official, she still considers herself an LGBT activist: 'I'm not out on a protest line, but I am active in gay rights.'

# Lesbian Travis County DA who secured conviction in DeLay case eyes 2nd term

Rosemary Lehmborg, whose office includes Texas' Public Integrity Unit, also helped launch hate crimes task force after anti-gay attacks in 2010

**ANNA WAUGH** | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

AUSTIN – Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg is one tough lesbian. As the first female DA in the county's history, she's made a name for herself as someone who stands up for justice, but her Democratic primary opponent may put up a tough fight.

Lehmborg joined the Travis County DA's office in 1976 with the grand jury and later as a trial attorney, serving as chief of the career criminal, major crimes and public integrity divisions. She was elected DA in 2009 after serving as First Assistant District Attorney from 1997 to 2009.

Lehmborg's primary opponent, Charlie Baird, didn't respond to interview requests. He served on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals for nearly a decade before serving as judge for the 299th Criminal District Court, according to his campaign website. In 2010, he established the criminal

law section of The Fowler Law Firm, PC. There are no candidates on the Republican side.

"I have a broad range of support from around the city at grassroots organizations, and some union support and public safety support," Lehmborg said. "I'm feeling really good about the momentum of the campaign."

As director of the Family Justice Division in 1988, Lehmborg created the Center for Child Protection, which remains one her proudest moments with the DA's office, she said. Other highlights include her work with the innocence

project and starting a mental health team that helps nonviolent individuals get into services and out of jail faster.

Under Lehmborg's leadership, the DA's office was able to win a conviction in the money laundering case of former House Republican Majority

Leader Tom DeLay. And despite attempts to move the public integrity unit over to the attorney general's office, Lehmborg has maintained control of it.

"We've had some high-profile public corruption cases and we have a good many in the mill right now, so it's going to be pretty important that someone with a reputation for being independent and taking a look at those cases in a nonpartisan

■ TRAVIS, Page 11

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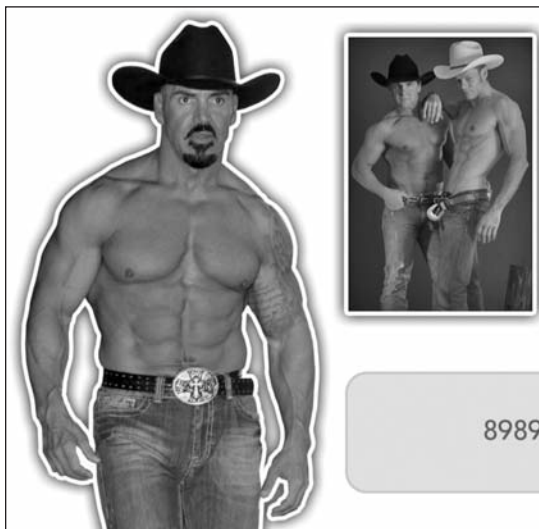
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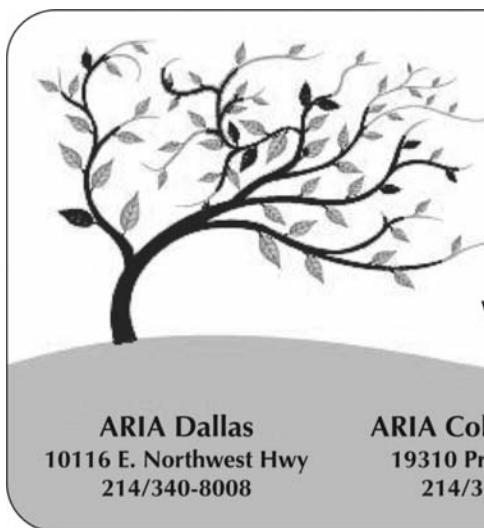
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## ■ texasnews

■ **HOUSE**, From Page 6

The two served in the state Legislature together. Sinema said when Giffords ran for Congress in 2006, she was only in her second year of service but thought that she could run one day, too.

"She's a real role model for me," Sinema said. "She just had a desire to serve and a focus on the community and just really embodied the same values that I hold dear."

After the assassination attempt on Giffords in January 2011 in Tucson, Sinema sponsored a bill to ban Westboro Baptist Church protesters from the funeral of a 9-year-old girl who was killed in the shooting.

Sinema called the shooting a testament to how politics have bred hate in America, with constant fighting in the Capitol. She said Giffords continues to be a role model for her even after she resigned earlier this year.

"I think that Gabby was a model for civility and civic discourse long before the shooting and she continues to be just that now that she's resigned from Congress," she said. "I think she's just a beacon of light, that she's the standard there for all of us."

In 2006, Sinema chaired Arizona Together in an effort to stop an amendment from passing that would have banned same-sex marriage and civil unions, as well as domestic partner benefits offered by municipalities. The amendment did not pass, making Arizona the only state to vote down a state marriage amendment. A more narrowly written marriage amendment passed in 2008. Sinema said its passage was "unfortunate," but at least it did not take away the rights that straight and gay unmarried unions have.

Sinema supports marriage equality and said she thinks it should be added to the Democratic platform, arguing that it would not harm the party because people's mindsets are changing in favor of equality.

"I fundamentally agree that treating one group of people differently from another group of people, regardless of whether or not I'm a member of that group, is wrong," she said. "And that's why I've worked so hard on immigration and why I've worked so hard on issues like LGBT issues ... to me the differential treatment if those communities is very similar. It's just not OK to treat people differently because of who they are."

A staunch supporter of the DREAM Act, Sinema said "it makes no sense" to not allow children who grow up in America and complete college or serve in the military to be granted citizenship.

As for immigration, Sinema said Arizona's law passed in 2010 and currently being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court is "a failed solution to a very real problem." The law, which has been hailed as the strictest immigration law in the U.S., allows police to check the status of people they stop if there is suspicion they are illegal and cracks down on the hiring of immigrants.

Sinema said there needs to be a secure border while letting in those who do good and bring business, and a system to allow people to come in to meet labor needs. As for the millions of people who are in the U.S. illegally, she said they need to



Kyrsten Sinema

be dealt with in terms of fines, paying taxes, learning English and a means to gain citizenship without deporting them.

Sinema will face two Democrats in the primary, state Sen. David Schapira, who has served in the Legislature since 2007, and former Arizona Democratic Party Chairman Andrei Cherny. With five Republicans running, the Democratic nominee will also have a general election opponent.

The new district is evenly split between Democrats, Republicans and Independents, but Sinema said Democrats have historically done well in the area, calling it "truly a toss-up district," but adding that she is confident because of "my experience and my record of putting down petty partisan politics and getting things done."

Denis Dison, a spokesman for the Washington D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said that the organization has endorsed her but she still has "stiff competition."

"We feel pretty good about the race and are confident if she gets the nomination that she can actually win and become the first openly bisexual member of Congress," Dison said.

He said that while bisexuals make up the largest part of the LGBT community, they "are often not heard as loudly as gays and lesbians." But Sinema's success could change that.

"It would be a very big moment if someone like her was elected to Congress because it would be the first person who would be able to talk about those issues from a point of authenticity," he said. "And on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, that would be kind of cool."

Sinema was originally labeled as a lesbian politician, but later came out as bisexual. She said that while she self-identifies as bi, she thinks the focus on labels creates division within communities.

"I believe that every member of the LGBT community is equally valued and important and that individuals should have the right to self-identify in whatever way makes them feel most comfortable," Sinema said.

While she is excited about the possibility of becoming the first bisexual elected to Congress, she said she wants to help the LGBT community unite with other communities struggling for equality.

"I'm excited about being a person who can go and represent the LGBT community," she said. "I also want to represent women and children and people who are disabled and Latinos and people who are left behind." ■



■ TRAVIS, From Page 9

way stays in office," she said.

After her swearing in, Lehmborg started looking for funding for a full-time prosecutor in the environmental protection unit, because her office has statewide jurisdiction over environmental and water codes.

She said she would expand that effort in her next term because the workload is more than one prosecutor can handle. She also wants to work with school districts to create programs to keep kids in school, she said.

Lehmborg also wants to expand the "strong hate crimes task force" she created in 2010. After the brutal beatings of two gay men in Austin went unsolved in the spring of 2010, Lehmborg said she wanted to use her experience with discrimination to help increase awareness and reporting of hate crimes.

"[My sexuality has not] been an issue in the community because Austin's just like that," she said. "But it certainly gives me a perspective on things because I grew up in a time when there was lots of hate and lots of bias and I know the sting of discrimination. I know how that feels."

Growing up in the small town of Taylor, Texas, Lehmborg said she heard plenty of anti-gay dialogue, which stayed with her as she discovered who she was.

"It was at a time when being gay was not something anyone talked about, but we've changed

and my town has changed and the world is changed," she said. "We've got a long way to go, but I think it probably made me a better person."

Denis Dison, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which has endorsed Lehmborg, said it "is irreplaceable to have authentic voices speaking about our issues from a position of power."

He said voters entrust politicians with the power of government in their community, allowing them to speak out for every part of the community.

"It also gives that person a platform to talk about not just things that the entire community is interested in, but things that the LGBT community is missing in the law and policy," Dison said.

Karen Gross, director of the Anti-Defamation League in Austin, said the Austin/Travis Hate Crime Task Force officially launched in December 2010 and has about 60 active members from school districts, city councils and numerous other organizations. "Rosemary has been very involved in this process from the beginning," Gross said. "She was very pragmatic."

The task force is continuing its work on valuing diversity in schools with the "No Place for Hate" initiative. Gross said a new initiative in companies is likely to start this fall to help workforces learn from and appreciate the diversity of their co-workers.

"There's really a need to find out where we're coming from to build on our strengths," Gross

said.

With training police officers to recognizing and investigating hate crimes, as well as working on possible changes to the state's hate crime law, Lehmborg said the task force is not "one of those sit-around-and-talk task forces," especially with an effort to tackle the workplace with a "Community of Respect" initiative.

"You can work in the schools all you want, but if you don't start working on the adults, too, you're not going to get very far," Lehmborg said.

While raising the punishment for the state's statute is pointless, as the enhancement cannot be used on a first-degree felony because it has the maximum sentence, Lehmborg said she wants to think of ways for possible education options to go with the punishment to stop the hate.

"I think we need to start figuring out some programmatic things to increase sensitivity," she said. "If it's young people who we can save from their bias by doing some other things, I think people need to get creative and do that and make it part of the penalty."

Although her work with the hate crimes task force is just one of the things that makes her an LGBT activist, Lehmborg said her support for the community and advocacy are prominent parts of her life and position as DA.

"I support our rights, I advocate whenever I can, I do things like start a hate crime task force," she said. "I'm not out on a protest line, but I am active in gay rights." ■

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■ **METHODISTS**, From Page 6

Among the restructuring proposals are one that would do away with guaranteed appointments for ministers and one that would give bishops the power to remove clergy.

Folkerth called that an unchecked power that would allow a bishop to remove clergy for any reason including disliking women or older men, or being too liberal or too conservative. Folkerth fears he could lose his position because he could be viewed as too pro-gay, if the rule change is adopted.

The Rev. Troy Plummer is the executive director of the Chicago-based Reconciling Ministries Network. Plummer said on LGBT issues, the American church is becoming more tolerant.

He thinks that there is no consensus on restructuring.

"It will take heavenly intervention for us to find a path forward on restructuring," he said.

But he's more hopeful on the gay and lesbian issue.

"I am absolutely convinced with all my heart, if you took a vote of American delegates, the exclusive language would be removed," he said.

The wording he referred to states, "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

That language is the basis for not ordaining "practicing" homosexuals, refusing to allow clergy to marry same-sex couples and even excluding gays and lesbians from church membership in isolated cases. Plummer thinks a resolution to remove the offending language has a chance of passage. He said his organization will have hundreds of volunteers working at the conference.

Mary Lowrance is the minister of congregational life at Northaven UMC but she surrendered her orders when she came out and she cannot perform weddings, confirmations or baptisms.

She said that at the 2008 conference, held in Fort Worth, the resolution to remove the Incompatibility Clause was defeated narrowly.

"It's got to happen this year, or we'll be in a period of darkness," Lowrance said. "It's a critical year."

Lowrance said she was cautiously optimistic but doesn't know what the chances are.

If it does pass, she could seek reinstatement.



**ON THE OUTSIDE** | Mary Lowrance, minister of congregational life at Northaven, surrendered her ministerial orders when she came out as a lesbian and cannot perform weddings, confirmations or baptisms. Lowrance said if anti-gay language isn't removed this year, 'we'll be in a period of darkness.' (Dallas Voice file photo)

"I left in good standing," she said.

But exactly what the process would be or how long it would take for ministers like her to be reinstated she doesn't know.

"It would have to follow a long period of prayer before I'd put my family through that," she said.

Meanwhile, Cooper will be quietly trying to influence the delegates.

"We'll be wearing stoles that represent the church being inclusive," Cooper said.

She said that in Fort Worth in 2008, the stole she wore started a number of conversations. One person sat down with her for dinner and told her she knew there would be someone friendly at the table.

Cooper said the strategy of this conference is narrower than in the past. They want to just pass one thing. "Take out those very insulting words in the [Book of] Discipline," she said.

Of the 988 voting delegates to the conference, 40 percent are from outside the U.S. Folkerth said the group of delegates of most concern to him will come from several countries in Africa that have oppressive laws against the LGBT community. Countries such as Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and Tanzania will have quite a bit more representation this year.

Those delegates are expected to hold much more conservative views on sexual orientation than American delegates.

Plummer said his group will be providing

translators and will be engaging the international delegates.

Lowrance said, "Younger members of the African Conference understand the issue better."

"After the last conference, we lost members," Folkerth said, and he's bracing for that again.

He said it isn't practical to change everyone's heart on the issue of inclusion immediately, adding that he'd be happy with a local option.

"For the sake of mission, unleash the holy spirit so churches who want to be fully inclusive at all levels may do so," he said.

Committee work continues through the first week of the conference, and resolutions will be brought to the floor for a vote of the delegates the second week. ■

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# Romney taps gay adviser as he veers toward middle

Presumptive GOP nominee's choice of Richard Grenell as campaign's national security spokesman could be a nod to LGBT Republicans

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

Republican presidential nominee-apparent Mitt Romney has begun his run toward the political middle, and one aspect of that shift appears to have been choosing an openly gay man to his team of campaign advisers.

The adviser is Richard Grenell, 45, who also served the administration of President George W. Bush, as a spokesman for the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He was also appointed by Ambassador John Danforth in 2004 to serve as an alternative representative of the U.S. to the U.N. Security Council.

The campaign's announcement April 19 did not identify Grenell as gay, only that he was joining the campaign to serve as its spokesman on national security and foreign policy issues.

Grenell has served a long line of prominent Re-

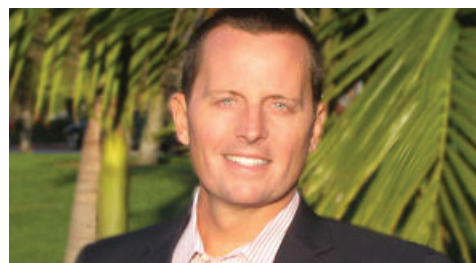
publicans in various capacities, including New York Gov. George Pataki, former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding. The fact that the Romney campaign announced Grenell's appointment suggests the campaign intends to go after those one in four gay voters who tend to vote Republican.

But one blogger — Doug Wead, a senior adviser to the Ron Paul campaign — notes that the Romney campaign also announced, on that same day, Romney's plan to speak at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. He called the same-day announcements "a clumsy attempt to show respect to both the evangelical and gay communities."

"Instead," wrote Wead in his blog [dougwead.com](http://dougwead.com), "it shows that the Romney campaign understands neither one."

But Grenell may turn out to be a little too abrasive to attract any but the hardcore Republicans in the LGBT community. Just last month, he penned an op-ed piece for the Washington Blade that derided gay Pulitzer Prize winner Jonathan Capehart for defending President Barack Obama's evolving position on same-sex marriage.

MetroWeekly in Washington, D.C. reported that Grenell and his longtime partner live in Cal-



Richard Grenell

ifornia. Other media reported Grenell is expected to be working out of Romney headquarters in Boston.

Grenell is a member of Log Cabin Republicans, the national gay Republican group, and spoke about foreign policy issues at its national conference last year. Jimmy LaSalvia, head of the national gay conservative group GOProud, said he feels sure Grenell "will be an outstanding addition" to Romney's foreign policy and national security team.

"Mitt Romney has a record, throughout his entire career, of assembling top notch teams to execute the tasks at hand," said LaSalvia, "and I think this choice shows that he'll attract the top talent

to help him bring America back. And that's good for all Americans — gay or straight."

Politico.com columnist Alexander Burns reported Friday, April 20, on Grenell's passion for Tweeting, especially crass observations about GOP presidential long-shot Newt Gingrich's current wife, Callista. According to Burns, Grenell has Tweeted cutting remarks about Mrs. Gingrich's hair, her quiet demeanor, and the fact that she is Gingrich's third wife. Presumably, that sort of Tweeting will stop, given that the Romney campaign, just one week ago, criticized lesbian Democratic strategist Hillary Rosen for commenting on the fact that Ann Romney has not held a paying job while raising her five sons.

The Advocate magazine reported in September 2008 that Grenell, while at the U.N., sought to have the name of his partner, Matthew Lashey, listed in the U.N. directory that lists diplomatic personnel and their spouses. Grenell said that he and Lashey considered themselves married even though, at the time, it was not possible for them to obtain a marriage license in New York. A U.S. State Department official said the Defense of Marriage Act precluded the U.S. from submitting Lashey's name for inclusion. ■

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# Landmark EEOC ruling protects transgender workers

Federal commission issues historic decision saying gender identity is covered as sex discrimination under Title VII of 1964 Civil Rights Act

**SAM HANANEL** | Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The agency that enforces the federal job discrimination laws has for the first time ruled that transgender people are protected from bias in the workplace.

In a groundbreaking decision late last week, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said a refusal to hire or otherwise discriminate on the basis of gender identity is by definition sex discrimination under federal law.

While some federal courts have reached the same conclusion in recent years, employment law experts say the EEOC decision sets a national standard of enforcement that offers employers clear guidance on the issue.

"This decision is important because the EEOC is the agency with lead authority to interpret and enforce the nation's employment rights laws," said Jennifer Pizer, legal director of the UCLA

School of Law's Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy.

The case involved a California woman who claimed she was denied a contractor job with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives after the contractor learned she had undergone a procedure to change her gender from male to female.

Mia Macy, an Army veteran and former police detective, initially applied for the position as a man and was told that she was qualified for the job as a ballistics technician. Then she informed the contractor that she was changing her gender. After that, she was told funding for the job was cut. She later learned someone else was hired for the position. Macy filed a complaint with the ATF, which told her that federal job discrimination laws did not apply to transgender people. The Transgender Law Center, a legal rights advocacy group in San Francisco, took up her case.

"The term 'gender' encompasses not just a person's biological sex but also the cultural and social aspects associated with masculinity and femininity," the EEOC decision said.

The ruling does not yet determine that she was discriminated against but that she can bring a



**FIRING BACK** | Mia Macy, left, shown with her wife, Trish, brought the case after being denied a contractor job as a ballistics technician with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. (Courtesy of Transgender Law Center)

charge of discrimination under the law.

EEOC spokeswoman Justine Lisser said the unanimous ruling from the five-member agency does not create a new cause of action. It clarifies that charges of gender stereotyping are considered

claims of sex discrimination under existing law.

Until now, Pizer said, it was common for transgender workers to have their complaints rejected by EEOC regional offices and state civil rights agencies due to confusion about the state of the law.

"This is a confirmation that the courts are correct, so public and private employers coast to coast now have the benefit of the EEOC making this clear," she said.

Peter Sprigg, senior fellow for policy studies at the Washington-based Family Research Council, said the EEOC's decision is misinterpreting Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

"Those who are discriminated against because they are transgender are not discriminated because they are male or female, it is because they are pretending to be the opposite of what they really are, which is quite a different matter," he said.

Currently 16 states and the District of Columbia have laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. Mark Snyder, a spokesman for the Transgender Law Center, said that EEOC offices in the remaining states would now have to heed the new decision. Federal employment discrimination laws cover private and public employers with 15 or more employees. ■



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# Reuse-apalooza

Lesbian couple's Eco 7 Trading Co. in downtown Carrollton 'upcycles' used materials into furnishings, art

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

CARROLLTON — A '53 Studebaker hood is now a decorative wall hanging, and a railroad pallet is a coffee table. Eli Brown calls it "upcycling."

"All you need is a little imagination," she said. Brown scours thrift stores, estate sales, the monthly market in Canton — traveling throughout Texas and surrounding states — to find pieces to recycle, reclaim and repurpose.

"Change the purpose or make it something that goes with your style," she said.

Seven months ago, Brown and her partner opened Eco 7 Trading Co. in Old Downtown Carrollton.

The area itself has been reclaimed — off Beltline Road at I-35, a block from the new Downtown Carrollton DART station.

Eco 7, which occupies a repurposed automotive shop, is filled with furniture Brown reworked in her home garage-workshop, in addition to pieces from local artists.

Brown said her two-car garage is filled with items that haven't become repurposed works yet. Eventually most of them will.

She described a dresser with the laminate peeling off.

"Underneath is a fine wood," she said. "Strip it, stain or paint it, and it still serves as a dresser."

One table in the store, however, began as separate pieces.

The top was a used butcher block. That now stands on a base made from old scaffolding.

And the seats were wooden schoolhouse chairs. Some needed more refinishing than others.

"Anything with wood involves sanding and is very time-consuming," Brown said.



TRASH TO TREASURE | When not in her store, Eli Brown searches for items that she can repurpose into functional or decorative pieces. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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Metal can be, too. It took 30 hours to remove the grease and grime from a table that was an old machinist's desk she found in a warehouse in South Dallas.

Adorning the walls at Eco 7 is the work of artists like Kent Steed, who uses found objects to create wall constructions.

Those are intermixed with a photographer's prints of art deco buildings and signs found throughout the Dallas area.

All the pieces work well with the recycled style of the store.

Brown's background is in the construction industry.

She said she was horrified by the amount of waste. Absolutely nothing was recycled. Gallons of paint are thrown away if the shade is off, she said.

She left the industry and began repurposing furniture several years ago. She and her partner started selling the pieces in open-air markets such as the one in Canton. Hauling the heavy pieces was a chore.

Her partner is currently traveling back and forth to Canada where she's helping run a family business.

"Next we were in antique malls," Brown said. Their first permanent space was in the Antique

Gallery of Lewisville.

She said the spaces were never configured quite right. Either they were wide or deep and narrow, and setting up living room vignettes just never worked.

"It was more cost effective to get our own space," she said.

After looking in areas including Bishop Arts and Deep Ellum, the couple picked Old Downtown Carrollton.

"There's just something about Carrollton," she said. "It's a tight community and just on the cusp of revitalizing."

And that fit right into the theme for her store.

The local merchant's association puts on a number of events including wine walks, chocolate walks, a jazz fest

and Santa Fe Days with local American Indian groups, which brings out shoppers.

On May 5, the store is holding its own event, Cinco de Eco.

"Artists will bring in even more of their collections," Brown said, adding that the store will remain open until 11 p.m.

Several other shops in the area contributed prizes and cash to make the event bigger and will remain open late to participate as well. ■

### Cinco de Eco

Eco 7 Trading Co. will host Cinco de Eco — a night of art, furniture, food and fun — from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, at 1028 Elm St., Carrollton. For more, visit [Eco7TradingCo.com](http://Eco7TradingCo.com).



### Kroger to open next week at site of Elliott's Hardware on Maple

Kroger has not only taken over the old Elliott's Hardware location on Maple Avenue, but expanded the building. The new store will cover 75,000 square feet, 30,000 feet larger than Kroger's nearby store on Cedar Springs Road.

Success of the Cedar Springs Road store prompted Kroger to put a second store in the neighborhood. A third is slated for the next phase of the CityPlace development.

The new store set to open May 4 is at Maple Avenue and Medical Center Drive.

Store Manager Elizabeth Smith said it will

feature a Starbucks, a Sushi bar and a restaurant sitting area.

"There's a bigger perishable department," she said.

And she said the store is still hiring. They are holding job fairs Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28, and will probably be hiring through next week. The job fairs are at 5415 Maple Ave., Suite 203 on the corner of Butler Street.

"We're hiring across the board for store jobs," she said.

— David Taffet

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# A model for housing trans inmates

New LAPD lockup exclusively for transgender detainees — 5 years in the making and the 1st of its kind in the nation — is really just a start

The Los Angeles Police Department will open the first jail facility exclusively housing transgender detainees in May, marking a significant advancement for a group that often suffers violent discrimination and seldom gets relief.

LAPD recently announced in a community meeting in Hollywood that it would open the 24-bed facility for both male and female transgender people at the downtown women's jail, according to a Los Angeles Times article. Transgender advocates who attended the meeting with police officials in Hollywood praised the initiative, noting that police officers historically showed little concern for the fate of transgender people who wound up jailed.

Previously, transgender people arrested by the police landed in the station closest to where they were detained, which often would be the Hollywood Community Police Station. Transgender women suspects resided with the jails' male populations, putting them at risk of sexual assault and other violence.

The LAPD policy change includes a provision requiring police officers to treat transgender people with respect and courtesy and prohibits physical searches of them designed to determine their biological sex. Police officers also will be trained to address transgender people by their preferred name and gender.

Masen Davis, executive director of the Transgender Law Center, noted after the meeting that the new policy took five years to develop. The process involved numerous meetings, a survey of transgender people regarding their experiences with the LAPD and the preparation of a report recommending policy changes.

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck said disciplinary action will be taken against any police officers who violate the policy.

The new policy appears to be a promising first step for the police department of one of the nation's largest cities, but it fails to address the issue of what happens to transgender suspects who are arraigned in court and transferred for longer stays in the Los Angeles County Jail, run by the sheriff's department. Suspects are typically held in the city facility for a maximum of three days before being transferred, and the county facility remains unaffected by the progressive measure, which places the Los Angeles transgender community back in the same predicament — one that transgender communities across the nation face if they get confined to jail.

There's no escaping the reality of jailhouse vi-



**LOCAL POLICIES PRAISED** | Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, right, who reportedly was consulted by Los Angeles police officials about their project, employs a policy of allowing inmates to self-identify as gay or transgender and request confinement in a separate tank, but it is optional. Trans activist Pam Curry, left, praised Valdez for her concern about inmates and efforts to ensure their protection from mistreatment.

olence, and it's a dangerous setting for anyone. The threat is greater for LGBT people, and it is even more dangerous for transgender people who tend to stand out in such a close, basic environment.

The Dallas County Jail holds both suspects arrested by police prior to court appearances and people sentenced to jail terms. Others housed there are awaiting transfers to prisons to serve sentences.

Dallas County Jail's policy concerning LGBT people allows inmates to self-identify themselves as gay or transgender and request confinement in a separate tank, but it is optional, according to a spokesperson for Sheriff Lupe Valdez, who reportedly was consulted by Los Angeles police officials about their project. In years past, previous sheriff's administrations allowed jail personnel to place inmates in gay or "queer" tanks, but that policy was dropped after gay activists protested the practice as discriminatory.

Lesbian inmates have always remained with the general population in Dallas County Jail.

Dallas community activist Pamela Curry, who is a transgender woman, said she raised the issue of inmate safety to Valdez several years ago because she was concerned about the treatment of transgender women who had complained about being "felt up" by police officers and tossed into all-male tanks. She praised Valdez for her concern about inmates and efforts to ensure their protection from mistreatment.

Jails in some other major cities segregate gay inmates as it used to be done in Dallas, and it is unlikely there is going to be much movement in other states toward adopting the LAPD model

without significant pressure being brought against public officials.

In addition to the prohibitive cost of establishing such facilities during tough economic times, there is little compassion among taxpayers and public officials for transgender people — or any others for that matter — who get confined to jail. The attitude of, "They are getting what they deserve," that pervades society and the criminal justice system is likely the major stumbling block in making jails and prisons safer.

Many a crime victim has been advised by a prosecutor that a plea deal should be satisfactory to them because the defendant would be unlikely to survive the prison term.

It seems incredible that anyone serving a jail or prison term would more than likely be threatened by rape or other violent assault while under the supervision of law enforcement officers, but that is the reality. Amazingly, rampant drug and alcohol use reportedly accompanies widespread criminal activity being committed in state prisons across the country under the very noses of the guards.

Some people probably think that if jails and prisons remain scary places it will act as a deterrent to crime, but the statistics contradict that. Over the years the number of jails and prisons being built has barely kept up with the number of people being sentenced to confinement, and many of those are repeat offenders.

Until the general public becomes concerned about ensuring humane, safe and lawful living conditions in jails and prisons, they will remain terrifying places for transgender people and everyone else. Imprisonment shouldn't be a pleasurable experience, but it shouldn't be life-threatening one either.

*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



# 'Gay Marriage' goes from important to impotent for American voters

Pre-eminent topic from 8 years ago has fallen to bottom of electorate's radar in 2012, poll shows, and it's unlikely to ever make a comeback

I'm Gay Marriage, and I'm mad. Those alleged experts over at the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press — and what a stupidly long name that is — conducted a national survey to find out which issues matter most to voters, and I'm certain the pollsters were drunk and the respondents were house pets.

C'mon, what other explanation can there be for putting me, Gay Marriage, at the bottom of the list? The BOTTOM, for chrissakes.

Oh, I get it that the Economy takes the top spot, followed by Jobs. Those show-offs.

Freakin' 86 percent of voters rated the Economy as "very important" to their vote. Don't they know what really counts? I'm Gay Marriage, with the power to bring down civilization! Prioritize, people!

And such pretenders are next on the list. The Budget Deficit, Health Care, Education, Medicare, Energy, Taxes. Amateurs, one and all.

Taxes earned a 61 percent rating, so you'd think I'd be showing up at least in this range, but nooooo.

Instead, it's a different fear that gets the love: 59 percent of these dolts decided Terrorism is "very important" to their vote. What does Terrorism have that I don't?

The people of Pew — so aptly named — conducted this so-called survey from April 4 through April 15. It's crystal clear to me that a bunch of those surveyed had given up thinking for Lent.

The impossibly boring Foreign Policy collected a 52 percent rating, with the Environment just behind. Please, the Environment. Like whether the earth can continue to sustain life could possibly matter as much as whether two men can register at Crate & Barrel.

Iran is next on the appalling list, then Gun Control and Afghanistan. Looks to me like Afghanistan is getting the shaft, too, seeing as the U.S. is fighting a war there. I wish we could join forces — Gay Marriage in Afghanistan — and double our numbers.

You're just dying to know what my score is, aren't you? To see how low I've sunk? Well, Immigration comes in at 42 percent, then Abortion at 39 percent and Birth Control at 34 percent.

And. Then. There's. Me.

I, Gay Marriage, bring up the rear at 28 percent. Less than 30 percent of voters consider me critical to their vote. I could die for the shame.

Once I was in the big-time. I'm talking a mere two presidential elections ago.

In 2004, Karl Rove made me a star. I firmly believe I gave George W. Bush Ohio, which won him re-election.

Now? Now Bush's wife says gays should be able to marry and his campaign manager has come out! How can a wedge issue work under

these conditions?

Can't give up. Must regroup. Abortion and Birth Control are down here in the cellar with me. The Economic situation has everyone's attention. If it turns around, I bet the hot-button social issues will rise again in the polls.

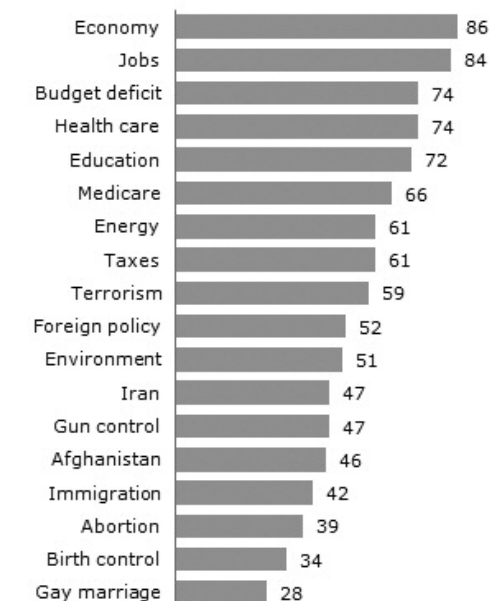
At least past Foreign Policy. Sheesh.



Leslie Robinson  
General Gayety

## Economic Issues Top Voters' Agenda

Percent rating each as "very important" to their vote



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012.  
Based on registered voters.



But the Pew-y president said I don't energize the conservative base like I used to. Some older Americans have even changed their minds about me. Turncoats! Poltroons! Sissies!

Maybe I really have lost my mojo. I'm deeply depressed. Abortion and Birth Control and I should join a therapy group for social issues whose hot buttons have cooled.

How else can I, Gay Marriage, recover my self-esteem? I could fight back — threaten that in addition to bestiality, I'll lead to mandatory sex with unicorns — but my heart isn't in it.

I have to face it. I'm not the issue I was. I'm impotent. And there ain't no Viagra for me. ■

Leslie Robinson loves the word "poltroon." Email her at [lesarobinson@gmail.com](mailto:lesarobinson@gmail.com), and visit her blog at [www.generalgayety.com](http://www.generalgayety.com) for (almost) daily funnies.

## Speak Out poll

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Is Romney's hiring of a gay adviser aimed at swaying LGBT voters?

### RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Will surveillance cameras make Dallas' gay entertainment district safer?

- Yes: 57 percent
  - No: 27 percent
  - Unsure: 16 percent
- 166 votes cast



# Grape expectations

LIFE+STYLE

culture

Dallas' Purple Party imports Drag Racers, DJs and dollars for its charitable mission

**T**he Purple Party Foundation — an all-volunteer organization that donates all its profits to charity — holds its biggest event, the weekend-long Purple Party, starting next week, and the celebs will be out in force. Among them are couple and *RuPaul's Drag Race* stars Manila Luzon and Dallas' own Sahara Davenport. We grabbed some time with these fierce queens to talk about their fame, their couplehood and how Dallas drag differs from New York.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Dallas Voice: Sahara, you used to live in Dallas. Is this some kind of homecoming for you?** Sahara Davenport: Yes! I'm anxious to be coming home. I started at Village Station [now Station 4]! This is my first time coming back since I was on [*RuPaul's Drag Race*]. I miss our Highland Park ladies.

**Manila Luzon:** It's Dallas so we are dragging out our biggest wigs and adding extra rhinestones. This is the first time we've ever had to wear only purple!

**Sahara, you've been in New York for a while. How is drag different there?** Sahara: In Dallas, you perform with a group. In New York, there are no real show-bars. You're a bar-star — there are no casts. Queens would ask, "How do you fit in a taxi with all that hair?" I had to find my own balance.

**How long have you been a couple?** Sahara: We just celebrated our six-year anniversary. We met at a bar in New York, and six years of one-night stands later, we're still together. I was doing my whole thing and Manila was just a partygoer, dressing up in her costumes and getting wasted. After a while, she started to perform. It's been great, having that support — someone to zip up my dress when I need it.

**Are you two often asked now to perform together?** Sahara: I really want to come and do my stuff for Dallas. But I also know [our fans] want to see us together, so we will if they'll allow us. The Rose Room cast will be performing also.

**Manila:** The most exciting thing we did together was performing on Christmas Day in Sweden. It was nice to go to the winter wonderland of Robyn and ABBA and Ace of Base. They were singing along to us and knew our music.

**Sahara, you became famous during the very popular second season of *Drag Race*; Manila, you went even further, coming in second place during season 3. Were you better prepared knowing what Sahara had been through?** Sahara: If you recall, Season 1 was a docu-series — a reality TV pageant with cameras around. I saw it and said, "I can do that." I'd done commercials, I knew how to act in front of a camera. I didn't think it was gonna be what it became. They were throwing ham-



**DIVA DUO** | Partners and 'Drag Race' alums Manila Luzon, left, and Sahara Davenport bring class and sass to Dallas for the opening night of the Purple Party.

burgers at me! And kicking me! I was taken aback. The paranoia set in quick. So I forewarned my lover: "Choke 'em, put ground glass in their powder, poison 'em."

**Manila:** Sahara tells a completely different experience than I had. Sahara was a working queen and didn't wanna look as crazy. But the longer you stayed the more popular you get.

**Sahara:** I was more nervous watching Manila's season than my own. But I was shocked! Manila was a partygoer and I thought, "They'll eat her alive because she's so sweet." And he's wreaking hell!

**I've walked around Dallas' gayborhood with *Drag Racers* and I'll tell you: They are greeted like royalty. What do you think accounts for that?** Manila: They feel like they are in the living room with us. We can't take ourselves too seriously. And they see us out and about and they know, we may look like Angelina, but we're just men in dresses.

**Sahara:** We know the power of TV. When it's showing in Australia and then you go there, they appreciate you and know you and ask you about your story. You may have filmed it two years earlier but they ask "How's your family doing?" They get into it. How can we not appreciate it? We are men dressing up in women's clothing — something we would have been stoned for not long ago. And now we have fans. I think that's kind of cool.

**Manila:** The show runs months later in other countries. You'll wake up one day and look on Twitter and you have, like, 1,000 Italian tweets and you'll go, "Oh, I guess the show is now playing in Italy."

**The current season is almost over. I think it's great that Sharon Needles, who is not the glamour queen who has traditionally won, is in the finale.** Manila: That's why she's so popular. After four seasons, the attention span of Americans is zero, so the second someone comes up with blood coming out of their face, they grab your attention. You think, "I've seen four seasons of red lipstick but never blood coming out of her mouth." If I were to do it again, I'd actually step it up and have shit coming out of my mouth and if I can put some corn in it, all the better.

**Speaking of which, an All-Star edition is coming up. Are either of you in it?** Manila: We're not allowed to say, but it will be exciting. A lot of us get that one season and don't come back — our lifespan is as long as we are on that show. So the chance to come back would be good for our careers.

**That, and appearing at the Purple Party.**

» MORE PURPLE PARTY COVERAGE ON PAGE 22

## Meet the musicmakers

The Purple Party is really a series of parties, featuring music by DJs from all over. Here's what you can expect from the spinners and the vibes of each party.

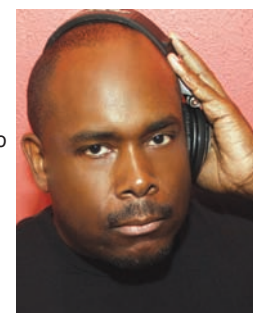
### Wayne G, The Main Event (Saturday night)

The U.K. DJ and producer has remixed the likes of Gaga, Kylie and Whitney. He brings his hard house sound to the party at South Side Music Hall. Brandon Moses opens.



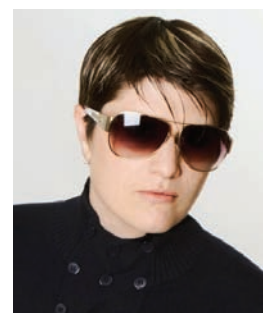
### Corey Craig, Rise (Saturday pool party)

This Dallas native is used to A-list gay gigs spinning his disco house and electro funk at the GLAAD Media Awards and Sydney Mardi Gras. He'll get you wet at the Crowne Plaza Downtown pool party. Dallas DJ Adam Metts opens.



### Alyson Calagna, Resurrection (Sunday after-hours)

The goddess of circuit parties, Calagna defies genres to create what she labels "truthology in sound." She lays down her beats with opener Gabriel Marestein at the Dallas Grand Ballroom.





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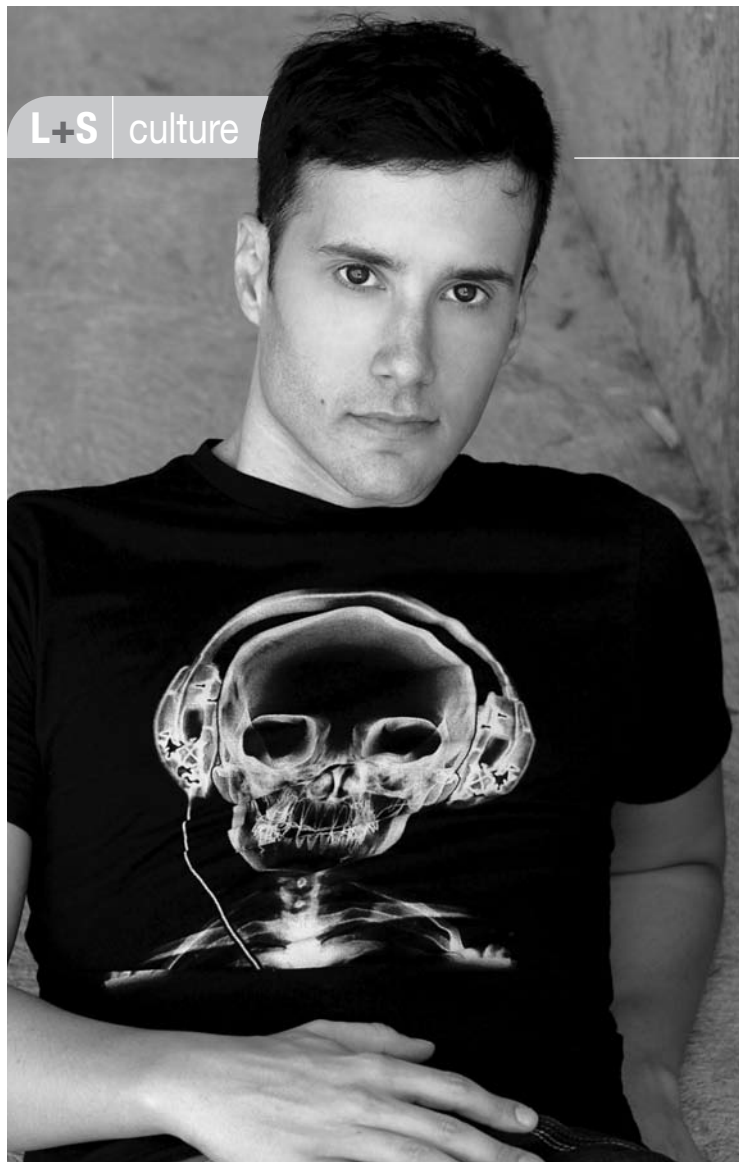
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### Joe Gauthreaux, Ignite

(Friday opening party)

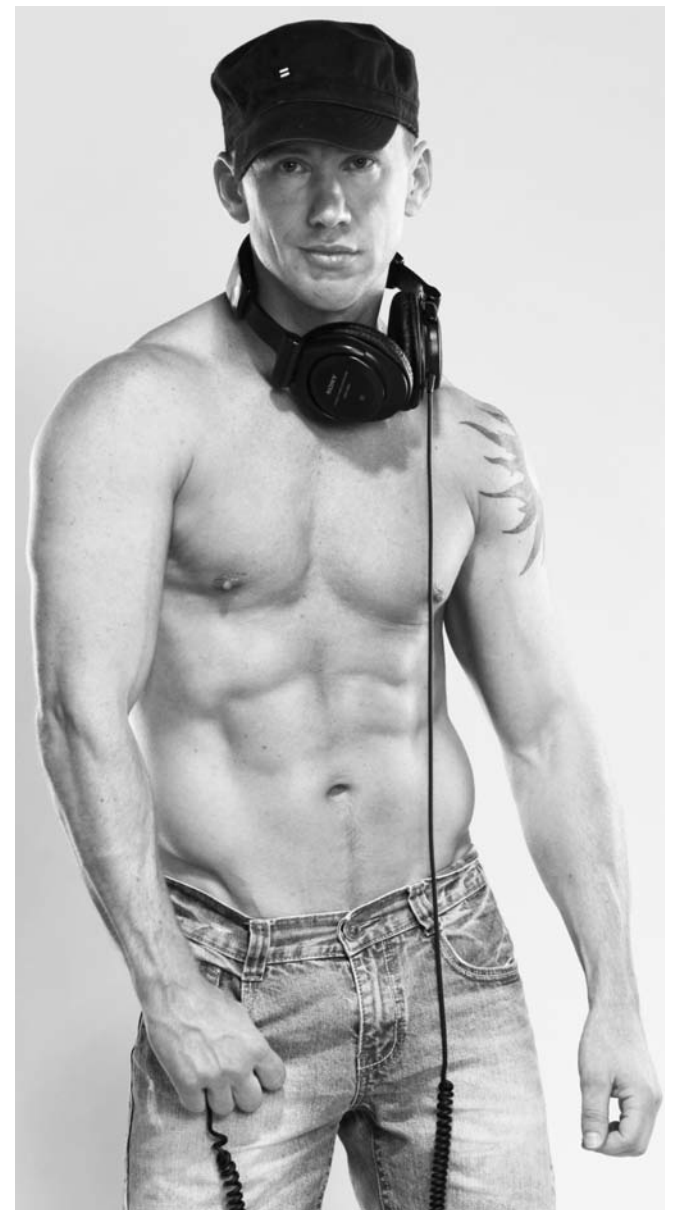
Hailing now from New York City, Gauthreaux, left, started in New Orleans at Oz Nightclub, only to grow into one of today's premiere DJs. His sets have been heard at the Winter Party Festival, Black Party New York and San Diego Pride. He's growing beyond club work to produce his own remixes and is a reporting DJ for Billboard. He opens the Purple Party with Dallas' Paul McElroy at Station 4.



### Paulo and Michael Tank, Glow

(Sunday closing party)

These two slabs of DJ deliciousness hope you enjoy their beats as much as their biceps, though both are muscular and exciting. Paulo, below left, and Tank, below right, are gonna tag-team you — on the dancefloor. Paulo brings his tribal progressive sound all the way from Portugal by way of L.A. Tank brings his turntable cred from the likes of the Buenos Aires White Party and Snowball in Singapore. He's even charted to No. 1 on the Billboard dance charts. The duo headline the official closing of this year's Purple Party.



#### Where's the party?

#### What you need to know to get your Purple on

**Ignite**, the opening party at Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. May 4 at 9:30 p.m. \$20. 18 and up. Special guests Sahara Davenport and Manila Luzon join the girls from the Rose Room.

**Rise**, the pool party at the Crowne Plaza Downtown, 1015 Elm St. May 5, noon–6 p.m. \$20. 18 and up.

**The Main Event** at South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. May 5 at 9 p.m. \$50 online, \$70 door. 9 p.m. 18 and up.

**Resurrection**, after hours party, at Dallas Grand Ballroom, 1015 Elm St. May 6, 1:30 a.m. \$30. 18 and up.

**Glow**, the closing party, at Plush, 1400 Main St. May 6 at 6 p.m. \$40.

For more information on Purple Party events and its charitable mission, visit [DallasPurpleParty.org](http://DallasPurpleParty.org).

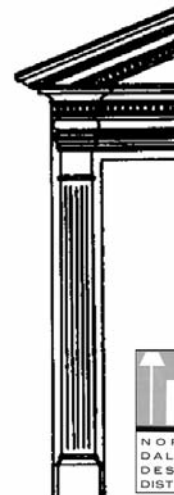
— Rich Lopez



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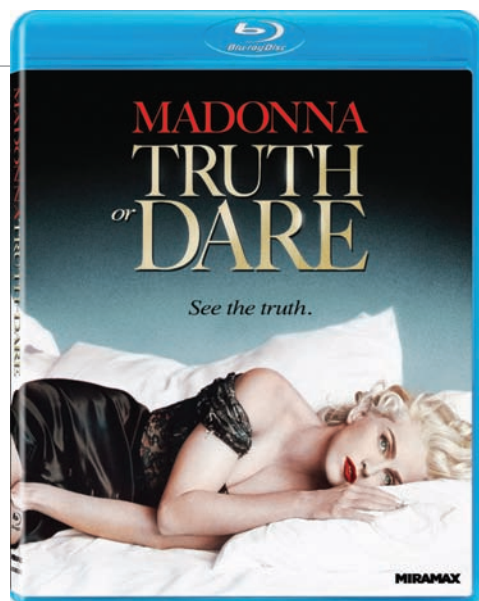
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# Blu-ray of light

Madonna's remastered 'Truth or Dare' looks good, but sounds better

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



Perhaps it was a clever marketing ploy, but re-releasing Madonna's landmark documentary **Truth or Dare** on Blu-ray so close to *MDNA* (not to mention her Truth or Dare perfume) may backfire for die-hard fans. The CD has been hit-and-miss, but *ToD* recalls the greatness of Madge at her peak.

Madonna's landmark Blond Ambition Tour came off her *Like a Prayer* and *I'm Breathless* albums, and a respectable performance in the film *Dick Tracy*.

Madonna was a force when she made her definitive concert video. Watching *ToD* this time around, it plays as enthralling music history.

At 32, she was light years ahead of her time — and still is ahead of anyone today in her age range. Britney Spears or Beyonce have impressive live performances, but their shows are straight-up concerts. Lady Gaga found inspiration in Madonna's use of theatrics with the over-the-top *Monster's Ball* spectacle. But they all owe the Material Girl for turning a concert into an experience.

*ToD* holds up now, more than 20 years later, and is one of the best music documentaries of all time. Blu-ray or not, it will grab you in the first few minutes and keep you for the next two hours. Try to resist.

The film benefits from a crisper picture but the black-and-white doc can only look so good — I never felt an *omigosh* thrill by the enhanced 1080P Hi-Def transfer. Where that works su-

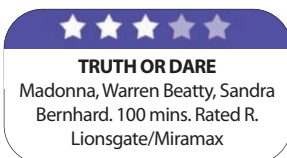
perbly, though, is during the concert sets, which are in color. Forget replaying that Super Bowl performance and click to the chapter where she opened up her 1990 Blond Ambition Tour with "Express Yourself." You might even shed a tear.

As for sound, the remaster is a godsend. The bass lines are beautifully rich and not a note is missed in the 5.1 DTS Master Audio. Turn that sound bar up to let the music truly fill the room

with the layers of music and instruments that come alive far more in this version. I forgot how powerful her voice was prior to her famous training for *Evita*, but the Blu-ray points out that live, she was a strong belter.

I've come to expect the Blu-ray product to come with hours of extra features, but we only get theatrical trailers. The tour itself is something of a rarity to see digitally save for the Grammy-winning Laserdisc, so the selfish part of me wishes they threw that on here as well. But the glimpses of her then only made me long for a strong, confident Madonna that led the way rather than now where she's starting to follow the pack.

To see Madonna now as a mother, divorcee, a legend, there have been chinks in her armor that were nowhere to be found at this point of her career. To know where she was heading while watching this is a glorious mindfuck considering all that she wanted then (motherhood, love) and knowing where she would end up. ■



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# A confederacy of homophobes

Gay drama 'In the Family' defies cliches with moving, unusual tale

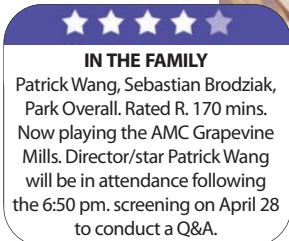
ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Cody (Trevor St. John) and Joey (Patrick Wang) are an unlikely pair in rural Martin, Tenn.: An interracial couple (Joey is Asian, though both are dyed-in-the-wool Southerners), they're rearing Cody's precious 6-year-old son, Chip (Sebastian Brodziak), from a prior marriage. They live openly and comfortably among their friends and family, as idyllic — really, as *boring* — as most couples are.

Still, it's not difficult to see the direction the story of **In the Family** is headed: When Cody is in an accident (we never really learn the nature of it), Joey and Chip face the challenge of putting their lives back together. And this being the South, and the characters being gay ... well, the conflict kind of writes itself.

Or does it?

Wang, who wrote, directed and stars as Joey, has crafted a deceptively gorgeous and affecting film, a towering emotional drama that overwhelms you not with a treacly musical underscore or wistful cinematography but with is devotion to the



**IN THE FAMILY**  
Patrick Wang, Sebastian Brodziak, Park Overall. Rated R. 170 mins. Now playing the AMC Grapevine Mills. Director/star Patrick Wang will be in attendance following the 6:50 pm. screening on April 28 to conduct a Q&A.



**FATHER AND SON** | A 6-year-old (Sebastian Brodziak) is the subject of a custody battle with his gay dad (Patrick Wang) in the humane and heartfelt drama 'In the Family,' playing exclusively at AMC Grapevine Mills.

verisimilitude of everyday life. It succeeds precisely because it seems so realistic — you feel every moment as if it is happening to you.

Wang evinces a casual, unrushed, contemplative style as a filmmaker — lots of long, easy shots of people living their lives. And yet, there's a foreboding to it all; it seems as if there always is when gay folks are involved.

*In the Family* is profoundly emotional, and captures the horror

and frustration of the unfair treatment of gay couples without turning to mawkishness or melodrama. Wang doesn't short-shrift any of the moments that make up the fine details of a tragedy. He refuses to rush through the things that many filmmakers would tire of easily. The scenes where Joey confronts the hospital staff, trying to find out the status of his partner following the accident, are ones we have seen countless times before, but you've probably



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never seen it presented with such plainspoken, realistic forthrightness. (It's even better than that great one in *Terms of Endearment*.)

The centerpiece of the story is Joey's custody fight for Chip, although unlike in many films like this, for most of the running time he isn't treated like an object, but as a human being, on the same footing as the adults. We don't have to imagine that Joey loves Chip like his own flesh; we see it. In that way, *In the Family* harkens more to *Kramer vs. Kramer* with its extended, silent ballet of father and son getting used to the quiet of only them, than it does to an overblown soap opera like the Madonna-Rupert Everett fiasco *The Next Best Thing*.



### 'Moonstruck' for dinner and a movie

No queen worth his weight in Bob Mackie headdresses would admit to not loving Cher in her Oscar-winning performance in *Moonstruck*. On May 2, you can experience a little taste of it — literally — with the kickoff of the Dallas Wine and Food Festival.

Urban Crust chef Salvatore Gisellu has created a four-course menu with wine pairings, inspired by the film, which will be served prior to a screening of the movie upstairs at the Angelika after.

The all-inclusive price is \$75 (\$70 in advance), with dinner at 6:30 p.m., or you can just see the movie (starting around 8:30 p.m.). But why would you skip dinner?! Snap out of it!

For tickets, visit [DallasWineFest.com](http://DallasWineFest.com).

— A.W.J.

Indeed, perhaps what's most beautiful and heartbreaking is how surreptitiously and seemingly "normal" all the incidents conspire against Joey; a tense conversation here, a pained look there, a phone call there. The resentment and homophobia (and, probably, racism) aren't overt, but underscore the prejudice Joey endures.

Still, *In the Family's* greatest flaw is also its chief asset: It's slow, considered storytelling. You can see places where the point has been made; not every scene needs to run on as long as they do.

But Wang presents his scenes in the full flower of their significance in our lives with purpose: The long wait in the hospital room, the slow drive home from the funeral, the seemingly endless moment when you first learn your partner has died. If you take out the dull parts from our lives, you're not left with much. Those are the times we teach our kids patience, or share a meal with our partners, or engage in the pillow talk that differentiates strangers from lovers.

The performances, from a largely unknown cast, are case studies in underplaying. Wang — with an agreeable, placid Tennessee twang that identifies him as "one of y'all" even while his complexion and sexual orientation say the opposite — speaks as much between his lines (with a glance, or a choked-back "hello") as anyone could. As he convinced Chip to visit Cody in the hospital, you believe their intimacy so thoroughly, you forget you are watching a film.

A lot of the responsibility for the beauty of their relationship rests on the small, hair-brushed shoulders of Brodziak. He's natural without being cutesy. Everyone else — from Joey's employer to his in-laws to an especially detestable lawyer — is perfect.

The craftsmanship is equally fine, though, like the acting, not flashy. Revel in the fluid, simple camerawork — long takes with only subtle movement that never suggest something static or awkward.

There's a tendency to pigeonhole *In the Family* as "a gay film" or "an Asian film" or "a gay Asian film." I truly don't see that. It's simply the most humane and heartfelt drama I've seen in ages. ■

### QUEER CLIP: USA FILM FESTIVAL



The USA Film Festival got off to a strong, gay start Wednesday with the AIDS documentary *How to Survive a Plague*, but its short-film showcase on Friday has just as much queer appeal. In addition to *Queen* (reviewed last week), is the unexpected drama *The Carrier*.

Rita Wilson plays the starchy mother of her prodigal son Thatcher. When Thatcher is suddenly killed, mom is compelled to tie up some loose ends — including having to tell the many women he's slept with that Thatcher was HIV-positive.

Similar to the classic melodrama *A Letter to Three Wives*, *The Carrier* explores the mother's feelings as the reactions of her son's lovers reflect her own, complex emotions: One (Anna Paquin) is cruel, selfish and angry; one shows smug self-satisfaction; another, sadness. And another ... It's a surprising and delicate movie with a great turn by Wilson.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Plays at the Angelika Film Center April 28 at 7 p.m.



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L+S travel

## New Orleans' gay top 10



For first-timers or experienced Cajuns, the not-to-miss attractions in NOLA

The Crescent City is a place like no other on the planet, with unique music, food and diversity (including a thriving gay and lesbian community). There's so much to do, in fact, it helps to have a list of must-see attractions. Here it is.

10. **Jackson Square.** This historic park is a great place to spy classic NOLA architecture, converse with other tourists and buy unique wares from local artists. There are so many performance artists and painters and fortune tellers, one visit won't be enough.

9. **French Market.** Gay New Orleans is a melting pot of cultures and experiences, and there's no better cross-section of this than at the French Market. This six-block stretch of the lower French Quarter is where you'll find one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants and galleries. Don't miss it, especially if you're venturing to the city for the first time.

8. **Any streetcar you desire.** NOLA's streetcars are an iconic part of the city landscape — and immortalized by gay playwright Tennessee Williams. They're also a great way to get around, whether you're heading to the French Quarter, Magazine Street or Uptown.

7. **Haunted History Tour.** The city's colorful past is one of its major selling points and for 'mos that love a good ghost story, you'll want to take part in a Haunted History Tour. At night, guides offer theatrical retellings of ghoulish tales from New Orleans' past. If you're a fan of *True Blood* and other homo-erotica, or just like a good scare, check it out.

6. **The Lower Ninth Ward.** The area most devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 is undergoing a renaissance thanks to Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation and other non-profits.

Where a decimated wasteland once stood is now the location of state-of-the-art, solar-powered homes and interactive community parks for children.

5. **Bywater District.** Travel just a few minutes outside of the French Quarter and you'll find this quaint, unique gay-friendly community. Following Hurricane Katrina, several LGBT entrepreneurs moved in and revitalized the area, opening hotels, shops and restaurants serving authentic local fare.

4. **Café du Monde.** After a night of partying in NOLA, you'll want to start the next day off with a beignet and a great cup of coffee. Head down to the French Quarter and grab a chair at the legendary Café du Monde, a great spot for any gay and lesbian traveler who wants to experience the city like a local.

3. **Clover Grill.** A staple of gay life, Clover Grill is open all day and night, serving up breakfast and diner-eats with panache. Where else can you get a burger cooked under a hub cap? Yum!

2. **The Country Club.** If you crave a big 'ol gay pool and hot tub party, get wet at the Country Club. Every Friday night, dive in and enjoy the "New Meat" contest, where locals and out-of-towners strip down for a cash prize.

1. **Intersection of Bourbon and Saint Ann.** A majority of NOLA's gay nightlife can be found in the French Quarter where Bourbon Street intersects with Saint Ann. The city's most popular gay bars — Bourbon Pub and Parade and Oz — are located here. Whether you want to dance, play pool in a dive bar, see strippers bare all or play drag bingo, there's a venue and vice for every taste.

— Jon Fairbanks

CRESCENT ROLL | Jackson Square is one of many NOLA landmarks. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)





# Rufus goes pop

Wainwright keeps the music fresh by going back to the basics on 'Game'

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

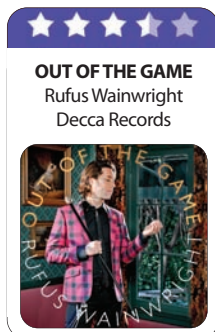
Rufus Wainwright never disappoints. Just when you think you have him figured out, he pulls a new trick out of his beret. Even returning to the sensibilities of his early albums, Rufe can still churn out major freshness. Wainwright describes *Out of the Game*, his seventh CD, as “the most pop album” he ever made. I call it merely splendid.

Working with producer Mark Ronson (Amy Winehouse, Duran Duran), Wainwright does deliver some of his best contemporary work yet. The songs are crisp and Ronson’s producing is spot-on, evoking a ‘70s pop/rock/Elton vibe while staying distinctly true to Wainwright’s eclectic aura.

They set the tone quick with the title track. The immediate guitar twang is almost deceptive as the opener to a bad country song, but shifts into bluesy pop with laid-back chill. Wainwright’s vocals are loose but enthusiastic. Without the weight of his previous projects — the stripped-down *Songs for Lulu* or the live recording of *Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall* — he sounds like a guy who just broke free from the burden of a downer boyfriend or nowhere job. Giddy, some may call it.

He keeps a consistent vibe but shines on “Bar-

bara” and “Welcome to the Ball.” The former has a tint of soul in its groove that melds with the Canadian’s distinctive growl — it’s vocal peanut butter and jelly. “Ball” elevates the album’s tone by tossing in a horn section and a lively, drum-heavy beat. If the album had to be summed up in one song, “Ball” is it — it packs a joyous punch.



★★★★★  
**OUT OF THE GAME**  
Rufus Wainwright  
Decca Records

Wainwright turns on the charm with the ballads “Respectable Dive” and the touching “Sometimes You Need.” “Dive” is his torch song that sleepily moves along punctuated by his gorgeous vocal runs. He peered into my soul with “Sometimes” singing random lists (*Sometimes you need a stranger to talk to / Sometimes you need to go to the observatory*); you can’t help but think, “Oh, Rufus gets me.”

Although “Bitter Tears” gives good ABBA-esque energy, Wainwright gets a little lazy on his lyrics and relies too much on repeated lines. Always one for a smart couplet, there are slight chinks in the armor with lyrics like *I’m just discussing with the morning / and it’s gonna be okay*. Repeat. A minor complaint, ultimately, because we’ve come to expect magnificent tapestries of lyrics by Wainwright. But I’ll give him a break. What he delivers with *Out of the Game* is a gift. ■

**PIANO MAN** | Rufus Wainwright channels his inner-1970s Elton on his seventh album, ‘Out of the Game,’ but stays true to his own brand of smart and eclectic chamber pop.

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L+S music

# Bring the heartbreak

Homegirl Norah Jones and Danger Mouse make beautiful music together

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

Admittedly, I have lost my way with Norah Jones. Her 2002 debut, *Come Away With Me*, was a gorgeous introduction to the hometown girl, but she got progressively meh with her subsequent albums; by 2009's *The Fall*, I had to walk away.

But with her fifth release, *Little Broken Hearts*, she and producer Danger Mouse team up to deliver a knockout ... and a shiner from Norah feels so good.

Initially I wasn't sold on Jones' collaboration with Danger Mouse (aka Brian Burton) — she's never emitted the rawness or edge of Sparklehorse, The Black Keys or The Shins' James Mercer, all who have collaborated with Burton to create astonishing stuff. But the moment *Broken Hearts* starts, all doubt is put to rest.

"Good Morning" is a moody opener, pitting Jones' sleepy vocals over a languid guitar-strum, accompanied by subtle touches of cello and keyboards. Immediately, we catch the desolate, dreamlike state. Sounds depressing, but instead it's a quiet intro to what's to come.

She shifts into a groovier gear with "Say Goodbye." The beat isn't her usual oeuvre, but it never battles her recognizable voice. Burton even fiddles with vocal effects, recalling some of his Gnarls Barkley work. His magic isn't transforming artists into something new, but exploring their differences in depth. By this second track, it's clear Burton is as responsible for this album as Jones.

Although *Hearts* traffics in heartbreak, the album doesn't have that wrenching melodrama of, say, Adele. Jones is slightly distant but it reads as quiet resilience. In "She's 22," a younger rival bothers Jones, but her voice isn't vengeful or insecure. Instead, she just lays it out singing, *I'm holding on / to a thing that's wrong / 'cause we don't belong, but you like my songs and you made me happy.*

The poetry of lyrics in "4 Broken Hearts" partners sublimely with its gigantic sound. At a mere three minutes, Jones croons the opening line — *People can't be handmade/and he keeps slaving away /*



**JONESING FOR NORAH** | Norah Jones subtly reinvents herself thanks to collaborating with producer Danger Mouse on 'Little Broken Hearts.'

*At a stone that's too hard to break / A girl who's too lost to save* — only to swell into a heavy drum-based verses. Then it pulls back like teasing foreplay. The song is melancholic in its naked emotion, but it never asks for sympathy.

Jones ventures toward her previous style on "Out of the Road," but with a country feel reminiscent of the genre from decades ago. Then the sound flips into the Broken Bells territory that Burton created with Mercer on the following track. "Happy Pills" with a shift out of the intimacy of previous songs into Jones' declaration of *With you gone, I'm alive.*

As if to keep us off kilter, "Miriam" is Jones at her darkest — and perhaps most glorious. Yes, she's about to kill the woman who

slept with her man (who she's already punished *from ear to ear*), but her coldness is chilling, though this far into the album, you're on her side. Try to resist the slight smirk when she closes with *You know you done me wrong / I'm gonna smile when I take your life.*

At 12 tracks, Jones and Burton created a true epic without any filler. Each song has its role to play with a spectrum of sounds and nuances and the story is completed by the final track "All a Dream" with the utmost satisfaction. If you shed a tear, it won't be for the heartbreak, but likely for the sheer beauty of this album. *Little Broken Hearts* is a welcome treasure; I hope Jones will forgive me for straying. ■





# Where sex and race collide

SMU's Noah Simblist teams with The Modern to explore gays of color in art

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

The Modern Museum of Art of Fort Worth's current exhibit was destined to spark discussion. Glenn Ligon: America relates the artist's stories as a gay African-American and the cultures surrounding him. With pieces that reflect his identity in both worlds, the intersection can be conflicting and glorious.

But that discussion takes actual form this week. Noah Simblist, an associate professor of art at SMU, will moderate a panel of speakers at *Disidentification: Race, Sexuality and Contemporary Art*. The session explores theories behind Jose Esteban Munoz's book

*Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*. Including both academic and artistic panelists, Simblist is sure the talk will answer some questions and maybe ask more.

"We wanted to do a panel that doesn't just focus on the racial politics, but also addressed sexuality," Simblist says. "Sexuality manifested itself so in Ligon's work."

Simblist worked with Terri Thornton, curator of education at The Modern, to create the event. Or rather, Thornton went to Simblist for his past experience involving queer-themed art, most recently an exhibit at UT Austin focusing on artists working in perspectives of identity and gender.

"I went to [Simblist] because he had just curated *Queer States*, and I felt like he had insights that could be useful," Thornton says. "He was familiar with Munoz's book and I thought that sounded like a great premise. But I credit him a lot with this panel and curator Andrea Karnes, who really wanted programming that addressed this component. She felt like the topic was something that could get easily bypassed."

The panel will include artist Annette Lawrence, SMU art history professor Roberto Tejeda, Rose Pulliam of Allgo (an Austin-based organization for queer people of color) and Munoz himself. Both Thornton and Simblist mention that Munoz's book is a complex read so each

panelist would focus on the introduction of the book as the starting point for the evening.

"We were interested by how the work itself, irrespective of Ligon's sexuality, makes its points," Simblist says. "I began thinking how *Disidentifications*, written in 1996, would be applicable now and especially in response to the exhibit."

Simblist sees the discussion as a way to expand on ideas of sexuality that still get played down today. With Ligon's radical works depicting queer ideas, he wonders how that can even be overlooked.

"In a lot of critical reception of his work, that is often played down," he explains. We want to supplement and enrich that with conversation that hasn't been present so far. And hopefully in a way that adds new dimensions to the art."

Both Simblist and Thornton are confident this panel can do that. The diversity of each will ably address the different intersections of race and queer frame of mind in the arena of artistic expression. The night will also show that The Modern is more than just a place to look at art.

"We want programming like this to take its natural order and if the idea is sincere and connected to who we are as a museum, it will be the organic experience for everyone," Thornton says.



**TALK SHOW** | SMU prof Noah Simblist moderates a panel discussion on queers of color in art Tuesday at The Modern.

"The show and this panel is one piece of a much larger puzzle," Simblist adds. "Ligon's work doesn't create a singular experience. There isn't so much a challenge of being gay and black, but instead we see it's an empowering combination. One can help understand the other. That's one of the great things about this exhibit and that there are so many great ways to talk about it." ■

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## A dude in a dress

For Jamie Morris, Uptown Players' go-to campy playwright, theater's a drag

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Jamie Morris has, along with Charles Busch, become the unofficial house playwright for Uptown Players. And like Busch, his work is a real drag. Morris has only written three solo plays, and as of this week, Uptown will have produced all of them: First the drag parody *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode*, then *Mommie Queerest* and now, *The Silence of the Clams*, which plays at the Rose Room starting Friday.

*Clams* is exactly what it sounds like: A send-up of the Jodie Foster film, it about Clarice Startling, a tough female FBI agent (played in this production — as in all of them — by a man, Austin Tindle) who sets out to catch the killer Beaver Bob with the help of evil genius Hannibal Lichter — pronounced “Licked Her.” (Yeah, it’s that kind of show.)

While Morris admits his plays have all specified men in drag for most of the roles, it’s not actually necessary for every production. If someone wanted to cast a woman in one of his shows, that might work, too.

“I would be fine with that, if the casting was right, but I do think drag gives it an extra punch,” he says. “Joan [in *Mommie Queerest*] has to be a man. But four girls and Mrs. Garrett [in *Facts of Life*] as men is just funny. Half the work is done when they come out onstage. I’m working on a play right now where only one of seven

characters is in drag. But for Clarice to be a dude in a dress is funny.”

Morris certainly possesses a great sounding board in his partner, Christopher Kenney, a drag performer who headlines *Cirque du Soleil: Zumanity* in Las Vegas. But Kenney wasn’t the inspiration for Morris’ interest in drag — almost the opposite.

“We’ve been together 13 years, but when we first met, he was hesitant to tell me he did drag,” Morris says. “But I had written with my writing partner a play about drag characters from the South, so I got it — it’s very theatrical. Drag is just a costume, just like for any character you play.”

In fact, Morris and his writing partner were portraying the drag characters they had written — it was easier than casting.

“When Christopher came along, we were doing the third version of the play,” Morris says. “He gave us pointers on the look and how to do it better. He definitely elevated us. We were two dudes in a dress until then.”

Since then, Kenney has directed all of Morris’ plays — at least when they produce them. “He does more than just work the look — he’s a great stager and very good with character work. When I’m in a show, I don’t want to direct it and I trust him. I’m an actor at heart.”

**JODIE, JODIE, JODIE** | FBI agent Clarice Startling (Austin Tindle, front) teams with mad Dr. Hannibal Lichter (Mathew Butler, center) in Uptown Players’ newest Rose Room parody ‘The Silence of the Clams,’ from writer Jamie Morris, opposite. (Production photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

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Perhaps it's the actor background that helped him come up with the scripts for these diverse shows. *Facts* was entirely original material, and written before complete episodes of the TV series were available on video or even YouTube — he wrote it “completely from memory from my childhood.”

*Mommie Queerest* is different, sticking pretty close to the Faye Dunaway camp classic. “You have to have all those famous Joan lines, or the boys will destroy you,” he says. *Clams* is somewhere in between.

“It's a very edited version of the movie,” Morris says. “Scenarios are different, but there are scenes that don't exist in the movie that play with Jodie's lesbianism.”

It's also the least obvious choice to parody — and even Morris isn't sure why he wrote it.

“I go in and out of ideas all the time. I don't know why I chose *Silence of the Lambs*. It's one of my favorite movies, of course. I was writing for Provincetown one summer and I had two ideas in my head: This and a parody of *Thelma & Louise* with Lucy and Ethel. Everyone kept saying, ‘Do *Lambs*.’ Now, when I watch the movie



on TV, I hear the *Clams* lines in my head rather than *Lambs* lines.”

The well is not bottomless, though. *Clams* represents Morris' last completed, produceable play for Uptown Players — though he hopes to change that.

“I am working on a few and I would love to have a world premiere at Uptown. They've been so great, and I know so much of the talent down there, I'd love to write something specifically for them, to have that in my head when I write. Maybe for next season.”

Just no wire hangers — ever!

### In 'Next Fall,' a May-December couple in the winter of their lives

Adam (Terry Martin) is almost a character out of a Woody Allen movie: A middle-aged, neurotic, hypochondriac New York intellectual who feels more at home with a snappy witticism, or even picking a fight, than he is with genuine sentiment. For some reason, that doesn't bother Luke (Steven Walters), 15 years his junior and a cater-waiter aspiring to an acting career. They are an unlikely couple, not so much for the age difference as for their personal philosophies: Adam lives his life out loud; Luke remains in the closet to his conservative Southern family. “I'll tell them next fall,” he promises ... again. Yeah, right.

But love doesn't have to make sense; it just is — in the same way many people have religious faith despite arguments to the contrary. Like Luke. He identifies as Christian, something the atheist Adam can't wrap his mind around.

That's the thumbnail summary of *Next Fall*, presented by Dallas Theater Center at the Kalita. The facts are complicated when Luke slips into a coma, and Adam is forced to deal with Luke's parents, even though they have no idea who this man — more a contemporary than a proto-son-in-law — is.

In many ways, Geoffrey Nauffts' Tony-nominated play doesn't have much new to say about the issue of being gay and religious; in a Bible Belt town like Dallas, where the Cathedral of Hope boasts the largest gay congregation in the U.S., it presents discussions you'll likely hear during an average brunch in Oak Lawn. But if the conversations aren't fresh, their presence on a stage are: This is theater of ideas.

Still, some of the best parts of *Next Fall* are those that aren't spoken, or even fleshed out. When Luke's dad Butch (Kieran Connolly) drops into their shared apartment unexpectedly, Luke's panicky efforts to “straighten up” the place seem more sad than comic. As an actor, Luke should feel comfortable in his own skin, but his desperate denial affronts Adam, his “dirty little secret.” Even more profound, though, is Butch's apparent deliberate ignorance — how can he not see that his single, slightly fey actor-son with a sugar-daddy “roommate” is gay? When Adam later tries to ease Luke's mom (Candy Buckley, who's a hoot) in the nature of his relationship with her son — respectfully, tentatively — the subtext is unmistakable. It's a prickly moment, but also lovely ... and probably familiar to many gay audience members.

*Next Fall* is unexpectedly funny, especially in the first act, but its greatest achievements are in Act 2, when Martin's anguish bleeds rawly from the stage, and Buckley's pill-poppin' GCB morphs from comic relief to surrogate mom for everyone in the audience. The cast is outstanding, including Lynn Blackburn and Lee Trull who are wonderfully instinctive about when to play for laughs or tears. There are plenty of both.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 6. [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).



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[www.lonestarride.org](http://www.lonestarride.org)





Saturday 04.28

Open your art

The Cedar Springs Arts Festival returns for its fourth year and the Merchant's Association says it will be even bigger and better. Local artists display their good while vendor and community organizations all come out to meet and feed art-loving patrons. The Strip closes off between Reagan and Knight streets for the all-day event.

DEETS: Throckmorton St. at Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. ShopCedarSprings.com.

Saturday 04.28

Fantasy Flute-ball

One wouldn't expect to hit Cowboys Stadium for a night at the opera, but that all changes with this Dallas Opera simulcast. Yep, Saturday's performance of *The Magic Flute* at the Winspear Opera House will also play at the stadium offering an entirely different way to appreciate a good aria. Live or on the screen, it will be a touchdown for opera fans.

DEETS: Cowboys Stadium, 1 Legends Way, Arlington. Free but tickets must be requested. DallasOpera.org/Cowboys.

Wednesday 05.02

Dancing in the park

Although you may buy seats to the Gipsy Kings outdoor concert, they might keep you on your feet. Their flamenco pop is irresistible to sit down to. Expect a glorious, lively night.

DEETS: Annette Strauss Artists Square, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$45-\$125. ATPAC.org.



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ad space deadline : **friday, may 25**  
issue publishes : **friday, june 1**

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ad space deadline : **wednesday, june 13**  
issue publishes : **friday, june 22**

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**Celebrate National LGBT Pride Month**

**June 2012**

Put **YOUR** business on the National Pride Month  
stage and get noticed when Dallas Voice rolls out  
our National PRIDE Month Special Edition.



## FRIDAY 04.27

## COMMUNITY

**Honky Tonk For Horses.** Ranch Hand Rescue hosts a night of dancing and live music by the Def Katz. The event benefits the large animal rescue. With every meal purchased, the gay-run agency can save disabled and malnourished horses. The Mule Barn, 218 Highway 156, Justin. 6 p.m. RanchHandRescue.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ART

**214 Trans4M** featuring the work of Daniel Kusner and Bryan Amann. The photography exhibit features 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.** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through May 6. \$29-\$129. DallasOpera.org.

## SATURDAY 04.28

## COMMUNITY

**Brunch and Bulldozers: Celebrating Our Future.** The Resource Center Dallas hosts a celebration at its new site with a variety of food trucks, local live vocalists and a special demolition presentation. 5714 Cedar Springs Road. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. RCDallas.org/Campaign.

**Special Ops** fundraiser. The Assassination City Roller Derby team hosts this special drag show with the all-star skaters donning wigs and mustaches instead of skates. Drag kings and queens rule the day as the event benefits the team for the remainder of the season. Special appearances by Mustache Envy, Circuit Diva and more. Sue Ellen's, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. 4 p.m. \$5. ACDerby.com.

**Dallas SOB's Coaster Bears.** The Dallas Sleuth of Bears faction of rollercoaster enthusiasts visit Six Flags and is open to anyone interested in joining. The group will meet at the park. Information can be

found on Facebook under Dallas Sleuth of Bears. Six Flags over Texas, 2201 Road to Six Flags, Arlington. 3 p.m. \$57.

**Adam vs. Eve Poker Tournament.** Males and females compete separately until winners emerge from each for an ultimate showdown. The event benefits AIDS Interfaith Network and Dallas Bears and hosted by Pocket Rockets Dallas. The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 3 p.m. PocketRocketsDallas.com.

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

## BROADCAST

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

## SUNDAY 04.29

## COMMUNITY

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

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

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

**Dignity Dallas** sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

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

**30/40Something** social group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

## MONDAY 04.30

## COMMUNITY

**Blaq Out Political Forum.** The online resource hosts this forum to give community members the opportunity to meet Democratic candidates for Congress and to address issues affecting LGBTQI individuals of color. Expected guests include Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Rep. Barbara Mallory Caraway and Taj Clayton. African-American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. 6 p.m. BlaqOutDallas.com.

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



**HOW SHE ROLLS** | Members of Assassination City Roller Derby trade skates for wigs at the Special Ops drag fundraiser this Saturday at Sue Ellen's. (Photo by James Davis)

and bi men, 18-29. U-BE in Deep Ellum, 3116 Commerce St., Ste. C. 7 p.m. UBEDallas.org.

**Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** meets to improve public speaking and leadership skills. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30-8 p.m. 214-543-5860.

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

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

## TUESDAY 05.01

## COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY 05.02

## COMMUNITY

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

**El Sol**, an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach

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

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

**United Black Ellument's Hot Topics.**

A weekly discussion group for black gay

St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

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

## BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is counselor Candy Marcum. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

## THURSDAY 05.03

## COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for membership; A.A. is self-supporting through contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

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

## this week's solution

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Joanna Lumley** turns 66 on Tuesday. The British actress attained gay icon status with her role as the perpetually snobbish Patsy Stone from the series *Absolutely Fabulous*. She revived the character with a trilogy of special 20th anniversary episodes airing through 2012. Rumor has it that she and co-star Jennifer Saunders will appear in a film version of the show in the near future.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Yes, you are fabulous, but true fabulosity speaks for itself. Pushing too hard is easy but it only reveals your own doubts. That nagging voice inside says you need to pay attention.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Trying to be a shining light among your friends generates more heat than light. Give it a rest and be your sweet self. Your partner's criticism is worth listening to.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Sharp awareness of the financial future easily degenerates into useless worry. Your problems aren't that bad. If you can't take positive steps at least focus on constructive ideas.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Normally you love attention, but now you are feeling conspicuous and disconnected. Feeling unsettled makes you argumentative. Relax. Do what you do best and let your work speak for itself.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Talking filth with your sweetie could get you slapped, but is it a good slap or a bad one? Getting kinky invigorates a relationship, but be clear on limits. Harder and heavier does not equal better.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Yes, a doctor should look at that. Building a partnership includes hard work and hard conversations. If your mate is coming off as too competitive, ask yourself what you're doing to provoke that.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Discuss problems gently with others concerned. Don't insist. If your baby's best attribute is sexiness you need to grow up and move on, but not necessarily today.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Collaborative efforts shine, but require effort. Share your best ideas and credit enthusiastically. Promoting your own creative efforts is OK, too, but better if your partner does that for you.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Get wild and crazy. You need a release. Focusing that energy into a creative project is best, but don't let that hang you up. Anything short of an extreme sport will loosen you up.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Your wicked mouth is a superpower. Will you use it for self-indulgent entertainment or for the public good? Bitchy wit needs a victim, but focus on celebrities and politicians, not friends.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Don't let financial news throw you into a tizzy. You find solutions. Know who's on your side and who you can confide in. Sudden inspirations aren't reliable, but can point you to ideas that are.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

You may think you're a silver-tongued wit, but you are likelier making yourself a motor-mouthed annoyance. Write down what you have to say and think about it carefully before you say it.

**THIS WEEK**

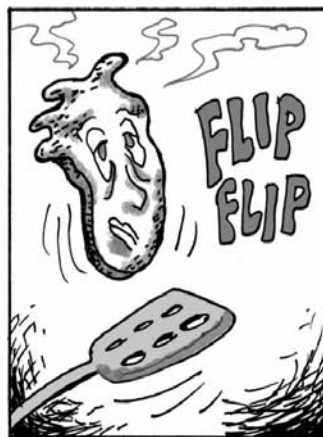
Mercury conjoining Eris triggers battles of wits and verbal one-upmanship. That can easily lead to silly arguments. Fortunately, Venus is in Gemini sextile to both, bringing charm and affection to help keep it to playful banter.

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

**JANE'S WORLD**



**bitter girl**  
**RED-EYE OR NOT**

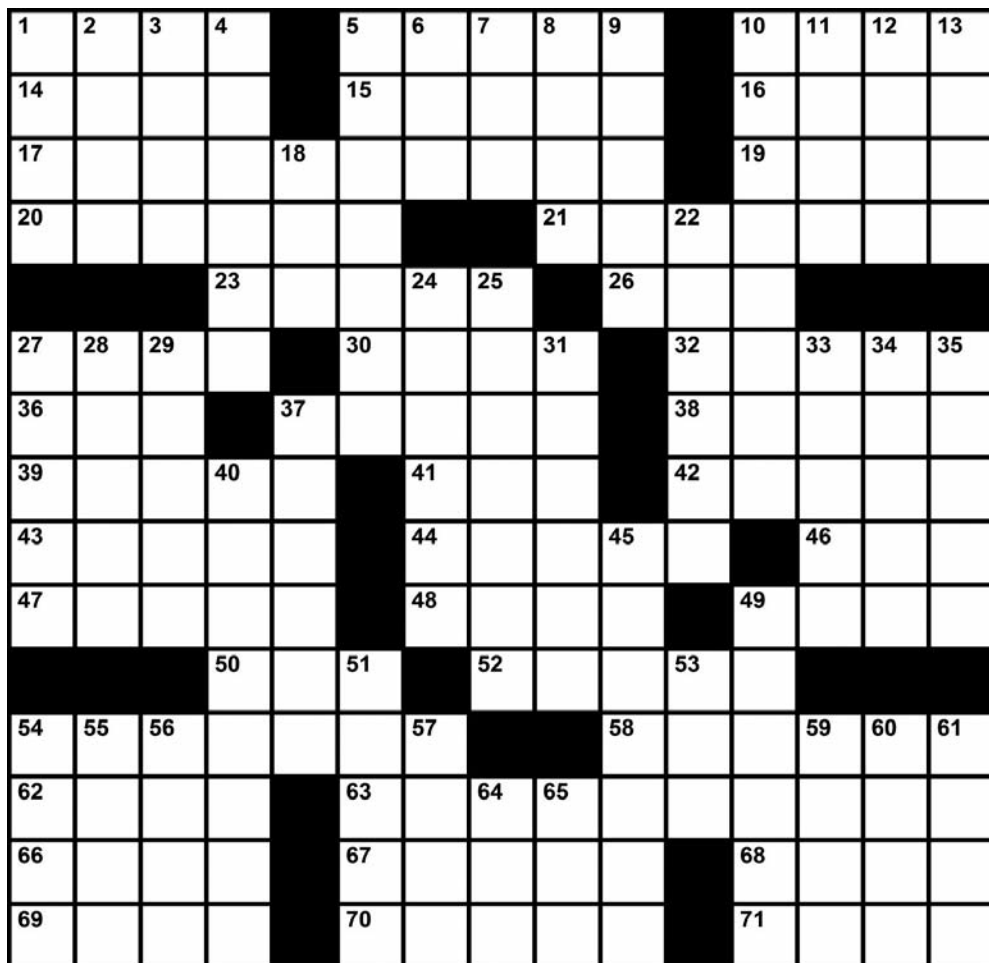


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JOAN HILTY © 2012





# Kopaid in Full

Solution on page 37

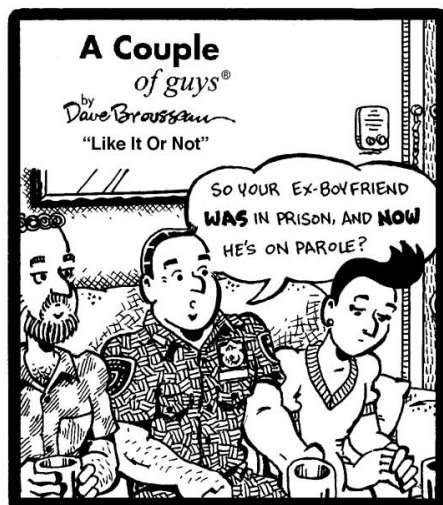
**Across**

- 1 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 5 Sands \_\_\_Jima\_\_\_
- 10 Where pool players put their balls
- 14 Out partner
- 15 Mapplethorpe models, often
- 16 Woods of Legally Blonde\_\_\_
- 17 Teammate that Dave Kopay dated
- 19 Saving Private Ryan\_\_\_ event
- 20 Walking
- 21 Goes up and down with a partner
- 23 Unwanted roommate
- 26 Where to find a bear pair
- 27 Track postings
- 30 Take back a blow job?
- 32 One with a holey bottom
- 36 Egypt and Syr., once
- 37 German author Hermann
- 38 Pays to play
- 39 Log Cabin list, e.g.
- 41 W in the WBA
- 42 Bygone rulers
- 43 Jaguar's prey
- 44 Journalist Richard
- 46 Life-beach connector
- 47 Prolonged attack
- 48 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.

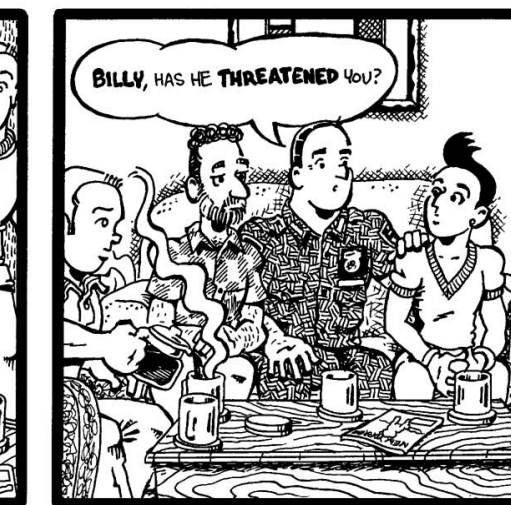
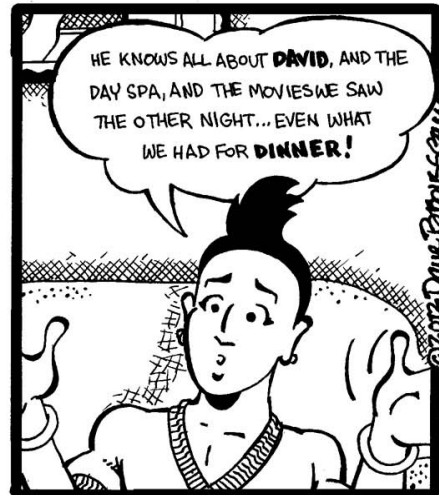
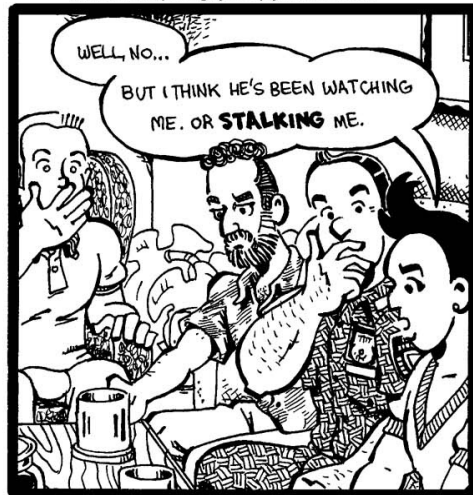
- 49 Severely scold
- 50 Went to bed with
- 52 Old def. pact
- 54 Bygone coif
- 58 Weatherspoon of the WNBA
- 62 Like a poor excuse
- 63 University where Kopay played, or city of his pro team
- 66 Divine sign
- 67 Replay feature, briefly
- 68 Thames college
- 69 Fairy godmother's stick
- 70 John of Aida fame
- 71 Hump on the beach

**Down**

- 1 School for martial arts
- 2 Where to find hot buns
- 3 One in bondage
- 4 Shakespeare wrote a comedy of these
- 5 Performing in the Globe, e.g.
- 6 "Fe fi fo \_\_\_!"
- 7 "Big Daddy" Amin
- 8 Licks, for example
- 9 Actor Milo of Oz
- 10 Kopay's pro team
- 11 Alan of And the Band Played On
- 12 Leave marks on the back
- 13 What typists tap
- 18 "\_\_\_-hoo! Fellas!"
- 22 Like a drag queen's bosom
- 24 High-priced
- 25 Kopay's college team
- 27 Gives the boot
- 28 Hello,\_\_\_ (Tibetan musical?)
- 29 Cover with cloth
- 31 Streisand classic from Funny Girl
- 33 Online prostitution?
- 34 First lesbian magazine Vice \_\_\_
- 35 Written test type
- 37 Contract adverb
- 40 Position of -Across
- 45 Being tickled pink
- 49 Faked a da Vinci, e.g.
- 51 Look for water
- 53 Number of gay men under a centurian?
- 54 Go smoothly
- 55 Tibetan holy man
- 56 Pious ejaculation
- 57 Become wearisome
- 59 Penetrating question?
- 60 Any minute now
- 61 Hathaway of The Devil Wears Prada
- 64 Elbow bender
- 65 Med. insurance plan



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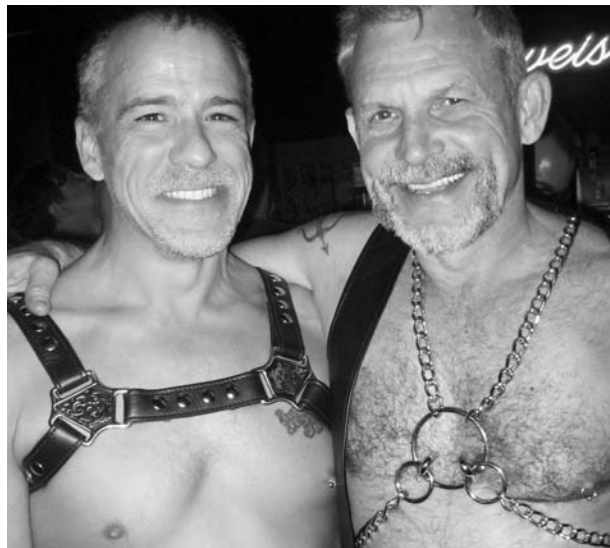
Jordan, Sherri and Ronnie at Sue Ellen's.



Boys' night out at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

If you're just itching to get out, well, we know a few spots. ... **Kathy Corbin** and her band open the weekend Friday at **Sue Ellen's**. Then it gets down and dirty on Saturday with the **Assassination City Roller Derby** drag show fundraiser **Special Ops**. All-star skaters perform and compete as drag kings and queens. With **Mustache Envy** and **Circuit Diva** making special appearances, we expect major kick-assery. **Kick-back** also performs upstairs in the **Vixen Lounge**. ... Every Friday night **Lord Byron's Panoptikon** party in the old **Club One** space goes down. But Saturday, his monthly **Disco vs. Retro** event celebrates with its **Three Year Anniversary Party**. **Byron** and **OO** helm the trash disco and new wave. Roller skates and hula hoops encouraged. ... **Illicit Life Entertainment** hosts local LGBT (and non) R&B, hip-hop and neo-soul musicians at its **Moscato Music Lounge**. A huge lineup of entertainment includes **DJ LaidBack**, **Jumi Rayne** and featured artists **Quentin Moore** and **Shukee**. This event is major. Check their Facebook page. The night goes down at the **Otaru Lounge in Addison** on Sunday. ... Hunky men bare all at the **Strip Off** every Wednesday at the **Brick** with hosts **Ela O'Hara Love Jones** and **Nicole O'Hara Munro**. ... The **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** hosts the **Queen of the Closet** Saturday at the **Dallas Eagle** with **Trisha Davis**, **Lips Larue** and **Lee Rodger**. **Geri** then hosts the **Billiards Tournament** on Wednesday alongside the **Throb Underwear Party**. Just don't rack the wrong balls. ... Toodles! ■

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



John and Ray at the Dallas Eagle.



Kelli O'Neal at Best Friends Club.



Mike and David at Havana.



Tre and Melissa at Station 4.



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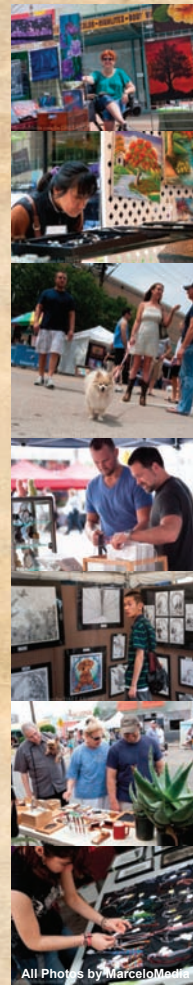
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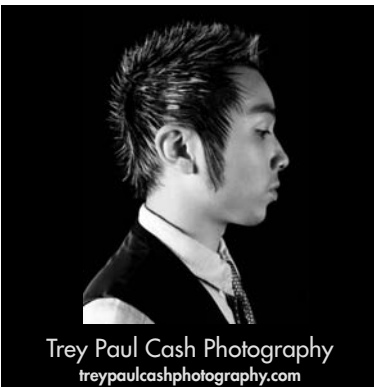
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