

The end of the beginning

Interim no more: Trey Jacobs assumes TCC top spot
Chorale heads into final concert of volatile season

■ CONCERTS, Page 18



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Gay-rights

hero

who would've

turned 82

on May 22

twice

lived in

Big D

before

moving to

San

Francisco

and launching

his political

career

■ COVER STORY, Page 13



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Photo by the Associated Press.
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Openly gay councilman re-elected

Scott Sherman was re-elected to the Pearland City Council on Saturday, May 12, keeping the number of openly LGBT city council members in Texas at three. Sherman, a 37-year-old attorney who specializes in commercial litigation, was elected to a second three-year term in an at-large seat representing the entire city. Pearland (pronounced "pear-land," like the fruit) is a fast-growing suburb near the Gulf Coast south of Houston that has a population of more than 90,000.



Scott Sherman

In 2009, Sherman won the seat by just 30 votes in a runoff. This year, he was unopposed, which he called "an amazing thing" given the close race three years ago.

"I think for the last three years I've shown the residents that I'm a hard worker, that I'm looking out for them, and I've kind of proven myself on being responsive to all the residents, so it paid off," Sherman said.

The other two out city council members in Texas are Fort Worth's Joel Burns and Houston's Mike Laster, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. Sherman said he's heard there was a whisper campaign against him during the runoff in 2009, but

other than that his sexual orientation hasn't been an issue. "We have a very diverse city and I kind of credit our diversity to some of the reason why it's never been an issue," he said.

This year, Sherman was endorsed by the Victory Fund. Asked why he chooses to run as an out candidate, Sherman said: "It's important to me for kids out there who are not out to realize that you can do whatever you want and you shouldn't be ashamed and you shouldn't have to hide, and if you can be a community leader and you want to put yourself before the voters, then you should do that. And I think we lead by example."

— John Wright

El Paso gay kiss lawsuit settled

An El Paso discrimination case that began three years ago with two men kissing in a restaurant has come to an end after a settlement calling for diversity training for the city's police officers was reached.

The settlement with the city was announced Monday, May 14, by Carlos Diaz de Leon and his lawyers at City Hall, ABC-7 in El Paso reports.

The agreement calls for the city to fund annual police diversity training on LGBT issues. The security company that works at the restaurant will also train its employees on diversity and sensitivity.

Diaz de Leon, along with four other unnamed men, filed a lawsuit in 2010 against the city, Chico's Taco and a security company after they were thrown out by security in June 2009 when two of the men kissed in the restaurant. They were also threatened



WET 'N' WILD | A dancer works the pole Wednesday, May 16, during 'Wet n' Wild Wednesday,' a fundraiser for the Red Party Foundation at BJ's NXS in Dallas. For more photos from the event, go to DallasVoice.com/category/Photos. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

with charges under Texas' sodomy statute by El Paso police who were misinformed that the statute was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2003.

The case spurred a response by the El Paso City Council, which had already approved an ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation by businesses in 2003. Later in 2009 the council approved domestic partner benefits for unmarried gay and straight couples, but they were overturned in a ballot measure led by El Paso Pastor Tom Brown in 2010.

The council voted to restore the benefits in 2011, prompting Brown to start a recall effort. A county

judge ruled in Brown's favor in a battle with El Paso Mayor John Cook but a court of appeals overturned the decision in February. Brown then appealed to the Texas Supreme Court.

Police later admitted to making a mistake in threatening charges, citing police officer Israel Rodriguez-Aceves' rookie status for his misguided threats. Rodriguez-Aceves later wrote an apology letter as part of the case. Released Monday, it reads: "I am writing you to state that I regret the way the situation was handled that evening. From this point on, as a police officer, I will enforce the city's anti-discrimination ordinance."

— Anna Waugh



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Ads distort Rep. Johnson's record on gay rights

Congresswoman's campaign claims she's been '100% on LGBT issues for 20 years' despite vote for DOMA

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson has been running misleading campaign ads, boasting a perfect record on LGBT issues when she voted in favor of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.

The issue of the ads surfaced this week after Johnson placed her longtime chief of staff on administrative leave for an email he allegedly wrote in 2010 that criticized a gay staffer.

Despite repeated attempts by Dallas Voice over three days, neither Johnson nor a spokesman for her office responded to requests for comment this week.

Johnson received a 100 percent score for her voting record from the Human Rights Campaign in 2010, but she hasn't always had a perfect score. Her first score in 1994 was 100, followed by an 89 in 1996 after the 104th Congress.

Her score reflected the 11 points deducted for voting in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

She voted in favor of DOMA along with 342 other members of Congress, with only 67 voting against it. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, entered present during the vote. Jackson Lee scored a 100 that year.

Two terms later, in the scorecard for the 106th Congress, Johnson was given a score of 90 for not voting in favor of an amendment to restore \$10 million to the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program after the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development cut the program's budget.

Johnson has since maintained her 100 score for the last 12 years. But her current campaign ad that ran in the Voice last week states that she is "100% on LGBT issues for 20 years." A 2010 ad reads that she had been 100 percent for 18 years.

Johnson is now a co-sponsor for the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal DOMA, as well as a co-sponsor for the Employee Non-Discrimination Act and Student Non-Discrimination Act.

In a 2010 interview with Dallas Voice, Johnson said, "When they [the LGBT community] really got my attention was when they [anti-gay conservatives] were talking about putting something in the Constitution," she said, apparently referring to efforts to pass a federal marriage amendment in 2004 and 2006. "You know, I have never seen them amend the Constitution to take rights away from people. So that's just the beginning and the end of my philosophy."

During the current election cycle, Dallas Voice has inquired about whether Johnson plans to sign



TAKING THE OATH | U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, above second from right, participates in a ceremonial swearing in with Speaker John Boehner on Jan. 5, 2011. A Johnson campaign ad that appeared in the May 11 issue of Dallas Voice, below, claimed Johnson has been "100% on LGBT ISSUES FOR 20 YEARS," despite the fact that she voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. (Photo by the Associated Press)

a Freedom To Marry petition in support of adding marriage equality to the Democratic National Committee's platform. Johnson's office has not responded to the newspaper's inquiries.

HRC spokesman Michael Cole-Schwartz confirmed in an email that Johnson voted for DOMA in 1996, adding that she "has a long history of supporting the LGBT community."

"While her vote for DOMA in the '90s was disappointing, we are glad that she's on the right side of history today calling for its repeal," Cole-Schwartz wrote.

Openly gay Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons said every candidate for public office needs to be certain that the advertisements they run are true.

"Anybody running for public office including me have to be very careful that we are scrupulously factual in our campaign messaging," he said.

While he added that Johnson "certainly has an admirable record on LGBT issues," he said he hadn't been aware of her vote in favor of DOMA.

In fact, many people, including her campaign staff, expressed shock when Dallas Voice brought



the vote to their attention.

Omar Narvaez, president of the Dallas chapter of Stonewall Democrats, said Johnson has always supported the LGBT community and has the most LGBT staffers than any other member of Congress.

"If that is true, than that's the perfect example

of the LGBT community educating an elected official to be on the correct side of equality," Narvaez said about Johnson supporting DOMA. "I don't know how many people have a record better than that that are still serving in Congress."

Narvaez said that there "could be a mistake somewhere" among the staffers who may have overlooked the DOMA vote 16 years ago, leading to the incorrect ads.

The email Johnson's chief of staff Murat Gokcigdem allegedly wrote in 2010 was sent to the Washington Blade on May 14 and reveals how Gokcigdem didn't think a gay legislative aide was prepared for a position in the U.S. Treasury Department.

The aide, Christopher Crowe, was seeking a recommendation as one of four finalists for special assistant to the undersecretary of budget and tax in the Treasury Department. Crowe, who headed the LGBT Congressional Staff Association, died last year of a staph infection.

Gokcigdem's June 2010 email was intended for Johnson, but was mistakenly sent to Crowe.



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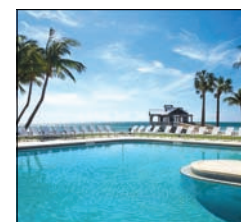
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localbriefs

Screening benefits Equality Texas

The North Texas premier of *Out in the Silence* — a documentary about the battle of a gay teen and his mother against recalcitrant school authorities when the teen is brutally attacked for coming out in his small western Pennsylvania high school — is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 30, at the Angelika Plano, in the Shops @ Legacy, at 7205 Bishop Road, Plano.

The screening will be preceded by a coffee and sweets reception sponsored by Bonnie Ruth's Bistro Francais Et Patisserie and a short Welcoming Schools film titled *What do you Know?*

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. They are available at EqualityTexas.org, under Event Calendar.

Net proceeds from the event will go to Equality Texas.

For more information: OutintheSilence.com, WelcomingSchools.org, EqualityTexas.org

Promise MCC marks 15 years

Promise Metropolitan Community Church will celebrate its 15th anniversary Sunday, May 20.

The Rev. Stephen Sprinkle will guest preach for the occasion.

The celebration service begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a catered lunch.

Promise MCC is at 2527 W. Colorado Blvd., Dallas.

Death

Amelia (Amy) Bohman of Dallas began her journey into the light on Friday, May 4, 2012.

She was born Jan. 19, 1964, and proceeded to fill her life with a multitude of friends, music, travel and poetry, bringing laughter, love and joy into the lives of everyone she met.

Amelia possessed an incomparable spirit, dedicating her life to the support and service of those in need, not in ways recognized by the world; she impacted those she served by being a loving-tenacious presence in their lives and was indeed a phenomenal woman.

She is survived by her parents, Anthony and Marilyn Bohman of Hortonville, Wisc.; her sister, Carolyn (Carrie) Bohman of Green Bay, Wisc.; her nephew, Phillip Bohman; her grand-nephew, Christian of Green Bay, Wisc.; as well as other family and friends too numerous to mention here.

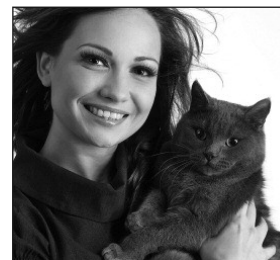
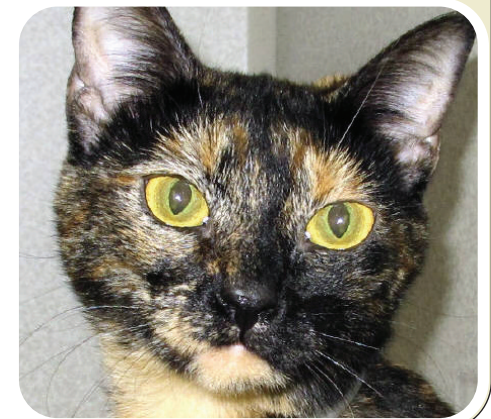
Services will be Saturday, May 19, at the Fox Valley UU Fellowship in Appleton, Wisc. Special Thanks to Amelia's TX family of friends for all their love and support during this difficult time.



pet of the week / Baskin

Baskin is a pretty and petite Tortoiseshell kitty with enormous gold eyes. She's 2 years old and weighs a mere 6 pounds. Baskin is curious, friendly and playful. She loves being petted and brushed, too. Because she's been at the shelter for more than six weeks, her adoption fee is just \$27.

Baskin and many other dogs, puppies, cats and kittens are available for adoption from Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30, just minutes west of Downtown Dallas. The shelter is open Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Sundays noon-5 p.m. The regular adoption cost is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats, but discounts are offered for older animals and those in the shelter longer than 45 days, and to senior citizens and those who adopt two animals at the same time. All dogs are tested for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FeLV. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org, or call 214-671-0249.



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TRADITION ENDS FOR NOW | Participants at a recent Gayla Prom, held at SMU for the last decade.

YFT plans spring formal in place of Gayla Prom

Annual event at SMU canceled due to rising costs, declining attendance; Adam Lambert fan club contributes supplies for dance at center May 25

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Youth First Texas will present a spring formal on May 25 in place of the annual Gayla Prom.

YFT board chair Chris-James Cогnetta said on a tight five-month planning schedule and a small budget — but with the help of an Adam Lambert fan club — he thinks the spring formal will be a big success.

“We didn’t want to take on the Gayla Prom,” he said, adding that YFT didn’t have money budgeted for it.

Instead of the event that has taken place at the student center at Southern Methodist University for the last decade, YFT will stage a dance at the youth center on Harry Hines Boulevard. Attendance at the SMU event had dwindled recently.

“The youth were given \$500 and challenged to raise another \$500,” Cогnetta said.

Two SMU students are spearheading the event as a project that grew out of their human rights class, Cогnetta said.

Members of the Adam Lambert Fan Club from around the country have taken on Youth First Texas as a project and have been supplying the organization with many of its needs at the urging of a local Lambert fan, Rosie Roetta.

“Two years ago I discovered Adam Lambert,” Roetta said.

She said she saw a lot of hate aimed at Lambert because he’s gay.

“It pissed me off,” she said.

Through the Lambert fan club, she became in-

involved with a youth group in Phoenix called 1 in 10, which is similar to YFT.

“I was impressed with them,” Roetta said. “I needed to find a place like that locally.”

Last fall she connected with Cогnetta, and this spring she stepped up her advocacy for the group.

Cогnetta began an online list of needed items one day when he was out of paper towels. Roetta ran with that and began an Amazon wish list that’s grown to 22 pages.

Roetta blasts links to her large Twitter following when she adds to the list.

“They’ve sent everything from prom decorations, to food to stock the pantry to [where it’s] overflowing,” Cогnetta said.

‘Fire and ice’

YFT’s spring formal will be at the center, 3918 Harry Hines Blvd., from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, May 25. Youth up to 22 can attend. Chaperones over 25 are still needed. The event is free. For more, visit YouthFirstTexas.org.

Recently Roetta was at the youth center and noticed ceiling tiles were wet. She added that to the wish list and a box of tiles arrived recently.

“We got office chairs we’ve needed for seven years. We never know what’s going to come in,” Cогnetta said.

She said that in two years, the Adam Lambert fans have donated more than \$1 million to causes all over, and she hopes to bring more of that to Youth First. For swag bags to be given out at the dance, fans have provided about 300 of Lambert’s new *Trespassing* CDs, and Roetta is looking for additional items.

She said one homeless youth needed a dress for the dance and she had one for her. But she didn’t want to donate just one dress. So she began talking about the dance at Raytheon, where she works.

“Pretty soon I had 12,” she said.

Cогnetta said the dance should be a nicely done affair without the pressure or expense of staging it elsewhere.

“The Condon Bleu cooking school will be cooking for the evening,” he said.

■ YFT, Next Page

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■ **texasnews**

■ **YFT, From Previous Page**

The school has provided Friday night dinners for YFT in the past.

The Gayla Prom began as a project of PFLAG and the Walt Whitman School, a school for LGBT students that closed in 2000. After that, YFT and then Resource Center Dallas took over the event, but in recent years, costs have escalated and attendance has declined.

Cece Cox, Resource Center Dallas CEO and executive director, said that when her organization took over the Gayla Prom several years ago, they were asked to stage the event for just one year. But they continued to sponsor it through last year's dance.

"It's very labor-intensive," Cox said. "And attendance had been going down."

She said that cost of security, props, catering and screening chaperones had all risen, and corporate sponsorship for a one-time event was "hard to find."

Cognetta thought the spring formal would be a change of pace and if attendance was good, they'd reconsider the full Gayla Prom in the future. He's been encouraged by calls he's gotten from teachers and counselors in places like Denton, Mesquite and Garland, as well as from around Dallas.

"Good food," Cognetta said. "Fire & Ice is the theme. It's totally free. We have a DJ, laser light show, a snow machine." ■

■ **JOHNSON, From Page 6**

In the email, Gokcigdem wrote that he couldn't believe Crowe was a serious candidate because he was underqualified and lacked the "expertise or the vast knowledge," suggesting that Crowe was only being considered because he was gay.

"It is my personal belief that he has contacts there [in the White House]," Gokcigdem wrote. "And they, as a group watching and supporting each other if you know what I mean."

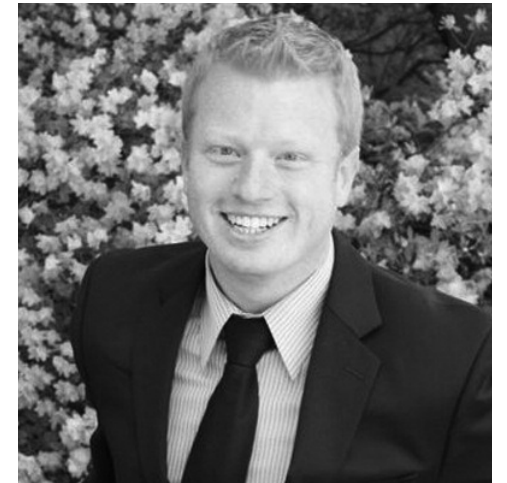
He also wrote that Crowe's performance was "somewhat satisfactory" and mentions that he "had issues with him both professionally and personally" before asking how he should proceed in a drafting a letter for Crowe.

Narvaez said the email is a "non-issue" and should not affect voters' decisions because Johnson did the right thing by investigating it.

"This is two years later and in all honesty what the email was in regards to had more to do with ... helping him than any kind of anti-LGBT bias of any kind," he said. "I do believe this is all politically motivated."

Johnson is facing two challengers in the Democratic primary, for which early voting started the day the email was leaked. This is the first time Johnson has faced primary competition since her election in 1992.

Narvaez attributes the email to a disgruntled staffer, citing the scholarship scandal in 2010 in which Johnson awarded scholarships to her



Christopher Crowe

grandchildren without knowing it was against the rules.

Dallas attorney Taj Clayton and state Rep. Barbara Mallory Caraway, D-Dallas, are running against Johnson in the primary. Caraway didn't respond to requests for comment, and Clayton declined to speak out against Johnson's record.

Clayton said he is in favor of marriage equality and opposes DOMA.

"I'm in this race not to tear down but to build up our community and the constituents that I seek to represent so I'm running on my own record," Clayton said. "Her votes speak for herself — all of them." ■

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The unknown adventures of Harvey Milk in Dallas

Gay-rights hero who would've been 82 on May 22 twice lived in Big D before moving to San Francisco and launching his political career

VINCE EMERY | Special Contributor

When people link LGBT rights hero Harvey Milk with a place, they might think of California. They may also know he was born and lived in New York. However, few people realize that the state where Harvey Milk lived the third-longest was Texas — in Dallas.

I learned more about Milk's times in Dallas when I researched the book *The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words*, published last month. Milk never liked the cold winters of New York, so he moved to Dallas twice and later visited at least once.

At the age of 27, Milk moved to Dallas the first time. In September 1957, he and his lover Joe Campbell drove a new Plymouth from Long Island, N.Y.

Campbell would later become well-known for starring in the Andy Warhol movie *My Hustler* and as the Sugar Plum Fairy in Lou Reed's song "A Walk on the Wild Side." When he moved to Dallas, Campbell was just an unknown handsome 22-year-old who worked odd jobs.

Milk had taught high school math and coached basketball on Long Island, but in Dallas he had a tough time finding work. He got a job as an assistant credit manager at a department store, but was let go when the owner's son needed his job. After that, the best job he could find was selling overpriced used sewing machines for a company that scammed poor people. He hated it.

Milk's work troubles darkened his view of Dallas.

On Jan. 15, 1958, he wrote to his friend Sue



RIDING HIGH | Supervisor Milk rides in San Francisco's seventh annual gay Pride parade on June 26, 1978. Two weeks before, Milk had returned to Dallas to speak at the Texas Gay Conference Five, held at the Royal Coach Inn on Northwest Highway. (Associated Press)

Davis, "It is the only trip that I have regretted." Milk complained about the lack of jobs and money and said he "may take up teaching here in Dallas."

He also grumbled about the lack of cultural events and social activities, saying "this place is nearly dead except for some parties — nothing like L.A., N.Y. or elsewhere."

In another letter to Davis on Jan. 21, 1958, he continued to complain: "Joe and I have been in Dallas for four months, and we do not care for it — the people are not the type we like, and the city really isn't much ..." He predicted they would

move, and they did. In February they went back to Long Island.

Milk's next stay in Dallas was much better.

It happened years later, after Campbell had broken up with him and Milk had changed jobs. He was a securities research analyst for Bache & Co., one of the largest brokerage and investment banking firms on Wall Street. He liked his work and his boss.

The boss, who may have been vice president Alexander Heckman, was transferred to Dallas

■ MILK, Next Page

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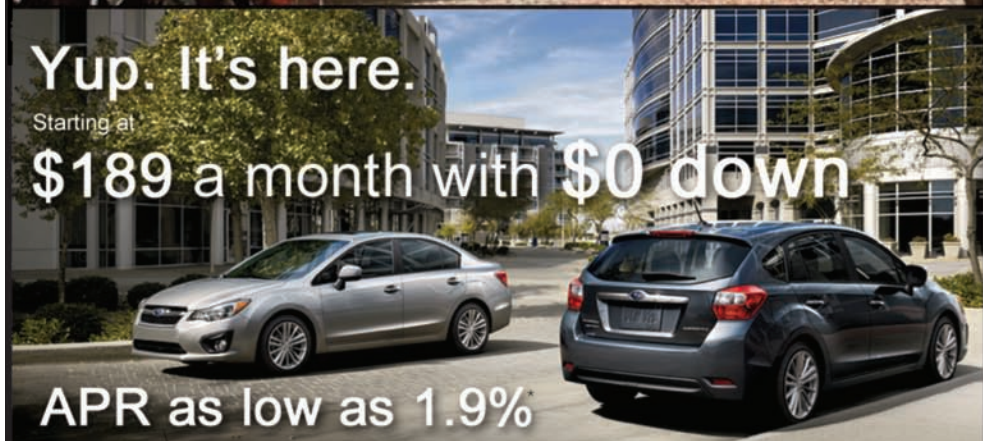
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coverstory

■ MILK, From Previous Page

and asked Milk to go with him. Milk said yes.

So in January 1967, Milk and his then-20-year-old lover John Galen McKinley packed up their dog Trick and moved to Dallas. This time, Milk had no problem getting a job. He worked at Bache & Co.'s Dallas office in the Mercantile Continental Building at 1810 Commerce St.

I have not found an address for Milk and McKinley's apartment, but in January McKinley wrote to a friend that for an unknown reason they were listed in the phone book under "Harvey Bernard," using Milk's first and middle names but not his last.

McKinley was unable to find a job and he hated Dallas. In February or March 1967, he fled back to New York City, taking their dog Trick and leaving Milk in Dallas.

That February, Milk's boss also decided he didn't like living in Dallas and resigned. Milk considered leaving with him, but opted to stay.

In October, he moved to 3614 Charming Lane in Dallas. Milk liked the people he worked with, but he missed McKinley and Trick. For the 1967 Christmas holidays either he visited them in New York or they came to Dallas. Together, they sent a

friend a Christmas letter with both men's signatures and Trick's pawprint.

Milk found a new lover in Dallas, Joe Turner. He was good-looking, blond and the same age as McKinley.

Sometime in the second half of 1968, McKinley visited Dallas, leaving Trick with Milk so McKinley could work on the Los Angeles production of the musical *Hair* and act in the movie *Futz*. With

shoulder-length hair, beads and a peasant shirt, McKinley looked typical for a hippie in L.A. or New York, but in Dallas people pointed at him. Turner met McKinley at Milk's apartment,

where the hippie locked himself in a bathroom and threatened to commit suicide.

Milk and Turner split up. Christmas 1968 found Milk writing to his former lover Joe Campbell from a new address, 2521 Turtle Creek Blvd., Apt. 527. Milk spent hours walking Trick. Otherwise he was alone, but he liked his work and was happy: "I live well and am having fun. It has improved since the last time here ..."

One improvement was the new friend Milk made one day when, on a whim, he went into a Dallas porcelain studio. He liked the art and made friends immediately with the artist, Odette de

Get Milk in Austin

GetEQUAL TX will host its third annual Harvey Milk Conference on LGBT activism from May 24-27 in Austin. For more on the conference, go to DallasVoice.com/category/News.

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Bruniere, and later with her mother, Elisabeth Saroukhanoff de Bruniere, a Russian countess. One of Dallas' most remarkable inhabitants, Odette was a great beauty born to the nobility in Paris. When Milk met her, she had illustrated books, created her own line of fashions, and opened the Odette de Bruniere Studio to sell her porcelain art. She had also been the lover of cartoonist Charles Addams, the creator of *The Addams Family*.

Milk and Odette remained close for the rest of his life. After his death, Odette was among the small group of Milk's closest friends who sailed out on the Pacific Ocean and scattered his ashes.

While in Dallas, Milk may have moved again. Dallas history buff Neil Emmons found Milk's name listed in a 1969 Dallas city directory at a slightly different address, 2525 Turtle Creek Blvd., in an apartment complex then called the Gardens at Turtle Creek but since renamed Turtle Creek Gardens.

1969 was Milk's last year as a resident of Dallas. Sometime before September he returned to Bach & Co. in New York. From there he would move to San Francisco and eventual fame.

Before writing this article, I combed through the 39 interviews in the *The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words* looking for a Milk comment about Dallas. Sure enough, I found one, in an October 1977 interview with San Francisco Chronicle reporter Paul Avery. A top crime reporter, Avery was played by actor Robert Downey, Jr., in the movie *Zodiac*.

In his interview, former actuarial statistician Milk tried to explain how crime rates in San Francisco only appeared to be higher than other cities because of misleading statistics and because crimes were more openly discussed in San Francisco compared to other cities.

"Well, maybe we have more prostitutes than Des Moines," he said. "Or in Dallas — I lived in Dallas in '67, and they didn't have any 'Negro problem.' Because there was never mentioned any 'Negro problem.' And there was no statistics or figures or articles in newspapers. And there could have been tons of murders and rapes and robberies committed by and of — among the — the blacks. But we didn't know about it."

Milk returned to Dallas for at least one visit. After he was elected a supervisor of the city and



TURTLE CREEK TO THE CASTRO | During his second stint in Dallas, Milk (shown later in San Francisco) lived in the building now called Turtle Creek Gardens. (Dallas Voice file photo)

county of San Francisco, Milk attended Texas Gay Conference Five as its keynote speaker. On June 10, 1978, he spoke at the Royal Coach Inn at 3800 W. Northwest Hwy. (The inn has since been torn down.)

Looking at hundreds of faces in the LGBT crowd before him, Milk was moved by the dramatic changes he saw in Dallas. "I look here," he said, "and you know, three, four, five years ago— think that this number of people would be gathered on a Saturday night in a major hotel that's used for conventions, and if anybody at that time would have said that it was gay people, we would have said 'No!'"

(The audio of Milk's speech at Texas Gay Conference Five can be found on the Blu-ray edition of the documentary, *The Times of Harvey Milk*.)

After living in Dallas in the repressed days of the 1950s, and in the somewhat less-repressed days of the late 1960s, Milk was excited by Dallas in 1978. We can only imagine how proud — and what causes he would fight for — if he was here today.

Vince Emery is editor of the book *The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words*. He also wrote the bestseller *How to Grow Your Business* on the Internet and edited *Lost Stories* by Dashiell Hammett.

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All this progress is a little scary

Despite Obama's announcement, gays like me in the Deep South can rest easy knowing we won't be forced to get married anytime soon

Something had been percolating in my mind for several days making me vaguely uneasy, but I couldn't quite identify the concern until it suddenly crystalized in a dream.

There a specter stood, bearing an uncanny resemblance to President Barack Obama, telling me I should go forth and partner with someone in the bond of matrimony.

"For years you hung on to your privacy and independence with the excuse that women didn't appeal to you, but now you have no excuse," the specter with the big ears said. "You may now marry a man instead, provided you relocate to the right state."

I awoke in a panic but calmed down with the knowledge that I still live in Texas, and even Gov. Rick Perry and his pack of Bible-waving pulpit buddies can't force me, a native Texan, to move to a more liberal state. In fact, as long as I stay south of the Mason-Dixon Line, I reasoned, I probably will be safe from the risk of getting married for the rest of my years. Didn't North Carolina voters just pass an amendment banning same-sex marriage?

Yet the day after North Carolina voters decided to make sure men and women married only each other, didn't President Obama go on TV to say he had fully evolved on the issue and same-sex marriage ought to be legalized in funky states where voters approve it?

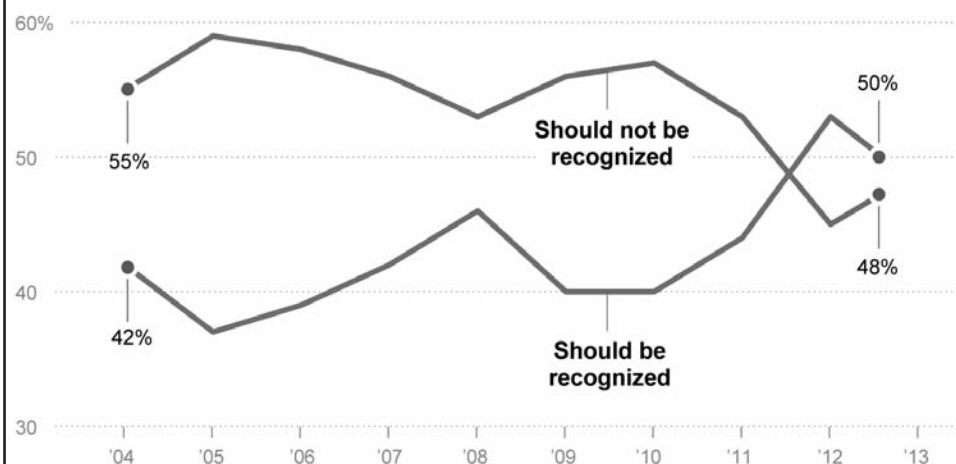
For a politician to take such a stand during an election year made me realize President Obama was on to something as relates to the tide of public opinion that clearly had escaped his Republican opponent, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee, who reportedly can't be trusted with the care of the family dog and views \$10,000 as something akin to mad money, has voiced support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning same-sex marriage.

Sure enough, almost simultaneous to President Obama's ABC News interview, Gallup released the results of its annual May poll calling acceptance of same-sex couples the "new normal" for American thought. The poll revealed that 54 percent of Americans considered same-sex relationships "morally acceptable." It also revealed that 63 percent of Americans believe that sexual activity among consenting gay and lesbian people should be legal, which of course was accomplished when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the sodomy law in 2003.

More Americans support legal gay marriage

The number of Americans supporting legal gay marriage has almost doubled since the mid 1990s according to Gallup's annual 'Values and Beliefs' poll.

Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?



Results from Gallup polls conducted by telephone among randomly-selected adults nationwide.

SOURCE: Gallup Poll

AP

What's more, the poll revealed that 50 percent of Americans support legalizing same-sex marriage, but not in the Southern states where the percentage would be much lower, as was evidenced by the North Carolina vote. Regionally, support for LGBT people and their issues remains lower.

In the South, only 40 percent of people support same-sex marriage, while the figure rises to 56 percent in the East. As regards the question of morality, only 43 percent of Southerners believe that LGBT people are moral, while 62 percent of Easterners, 60 percent of Midwesterners and 58 percent of Westerners share the belief.

A CBS News/New York Times poll released about the same time revealed that about 66 percent of Americans support legal recognition for same-sex couples, with 38 percent supporting marriage equality and 24 percent preferring civil unions.

Finally, a USA Today/Gallup poll following President Obama's announcement showed that 60 percent of Americans said his support of same-sex marriage would not affect their vote for president in November.

And as if the week hadn't already seen more than its share of same-sex marriage issues arise, Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee ordered state agencies to start recognizing same-sex marriages in other states, even though Rhode Island only allows civil unions.

As it stands now, same-sex marriage licenses are issued in six states and the District of Columbia, two states recognize marriages by same-sex

couples from other states, nine states provide the equivalent of spousal rights in the form of civil unions or domestic partnerships, and three states provide some spousal rights. More movement is likely expected in other states in all regions, except for the Deep South, according to a Human Rights Campaign chart.

It's easy to see where this is all going as old conservatives die off and younger voters take their places. All of the polls show that it is younger people, ages 18 to 44, pushing the change in public perception of LGBT people and their rights to legal relationships. No doubt it is the same age group among LGBT people who want to get married so they can enjoy all the rights and benefits of straight couples.

The Human Rights Campaign estimates that there are 9 million LGBT people living in the U.S., and that there are 900,000 same-sex couples among them. On top of that, 22 percent of the couples are raising children. Same-sex couples apparently just aren't content to raise dogs and cats as if they were children anymore.

In years to come, the pressure to get married is going to become immense, and I can envision being invited to cocktail parties and dinners where the hostess has by sheer coincidence invited another "nice gay man." But thank God this is still America, and I can be gay and single if I want, especially if I stay here in the Deep South where progressive thought apparently only arrives in proportion to the number of carpet baggers moving in per annum.

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

Feedback

Stop stereotyping bisexuals

I read with interest Dallas Voice's interview with John Irving ("Our best gay ally, in one person," May 11), especially given the subject matter of his most recent novel. However, I was dismayed at the interviewer's characterization of the novel's protagonist, as "legitimately bisexual — not merely experimenting."

I didn't realize that we needed to sit in judgment of the sexual orientation and expression of bisexuals, as either legitimate or illegitimate, any more than we need to do so for gays, lesbians, transgender persons, or anybody along the LGBT spectrum.

As folks from Alfred Kinsey on down have shown, as well as our own personal experiences, sexual orientation is a continuum. An individual doesn't have to be an exact "Kinsey 3" and make sure they get their ticket punched precisely evenly between both genders to keep their bisexual "legitimacy" card.

Not to be overly picky, but as we are often reminded in all of our quests for equality in society, words mean things.

I'd like to see the Voice remain the high-quality news and information source that it has been,

and not engage in stereotypes about the bisexual community.

"Boss" Dave Hines, Dallas leatherman
Dallas
Via email

All are welcome at Oak Lawn UMC

"Are you a gay church?"

This question was asked to me over the phone on the morning of Sept. 18, 2011, the morning of the Alan Ross Freedom Parade. Oak Lawn United Methodist Church has, for several years, had a float in the parade, distributed free water bottles to attendees, and welcomed crowds to gather on our campus for the parade. I was appointed to Oak Lawn earlier in the summer, so this was my first parade. I proudly walked with other members of our congregation in support of our community and our place within it.

On April 26, the Dallas Voice published an article by David Taffet called "Local Methodists keep up fight for LGBT inclusion." The article focused on issues surrounding the United Methodist Church's General Conference, our official decision-making body, which met recently in Tampa, Fla. The Conference would hopefully reconsider, and possibly reverse, the UMC's stance on homosexuality, which is considered, vaguely, "incompatible with Christian teaching." United Methodist pastors may not preside at

same-sex unions, nor may they be "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals."

The article mentioned a couple who left Oak Lawn UMC 22 years ago after a contentious sermon delivered here. The only other mention of Oak Lawn was a line which read, [today it is] "amazingly diverse in its people's culture and lifestyles." No reference for the quote was offered — neither I, nor any staff member, nor, as far as I know, anyone from Oak Lawn, was asked to contribute to the story in any way. Had I been asked to contribute, I would have said something similar to what I say every Sunday before the congregation: "We are proud to be a place where everyone is valued and respected as a child of God, made in God's own image." I have heard several people say how much they appreciate this. The thing is: No one coached me on that. My first Sunday here I literally stood up to welcome folk to church and those words came out. I did not plan it in any way. It's who Oak Lawn is. It's important for everyone who calls Oak Lawn home for their heart to know this.

The General Conference decided to maintain our positions on homosexuality again this year. I grieve this decision. It is sure to be debated again at the next General Conference in 2016. As a United Methodist elder, I am obligated to abide by our Discipline and will do so. However, individual United Methodist congregations and members are free to disagree with this and any other stance — for example, we officially oppose

capital punishment, but a majority of United Methodists support it. We are currently in the middle of a sermon series on issues in the news. The series will end Sunday, May 20, with a discussion of marriage equality.

"Are you a gay church?" the person asked on the morning of the Alan Ross Freedom Parade. "No," I said. "We are a people church. Everyone is welcome here." Our goal is to create a truly inclusive congregation: gay and straight, conservative and liberal, longtime Christian and newly baptized. If you have been looking for such a place, please join us for worship soon — services are held every Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Frank Drenner, senior pastor
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
Via email

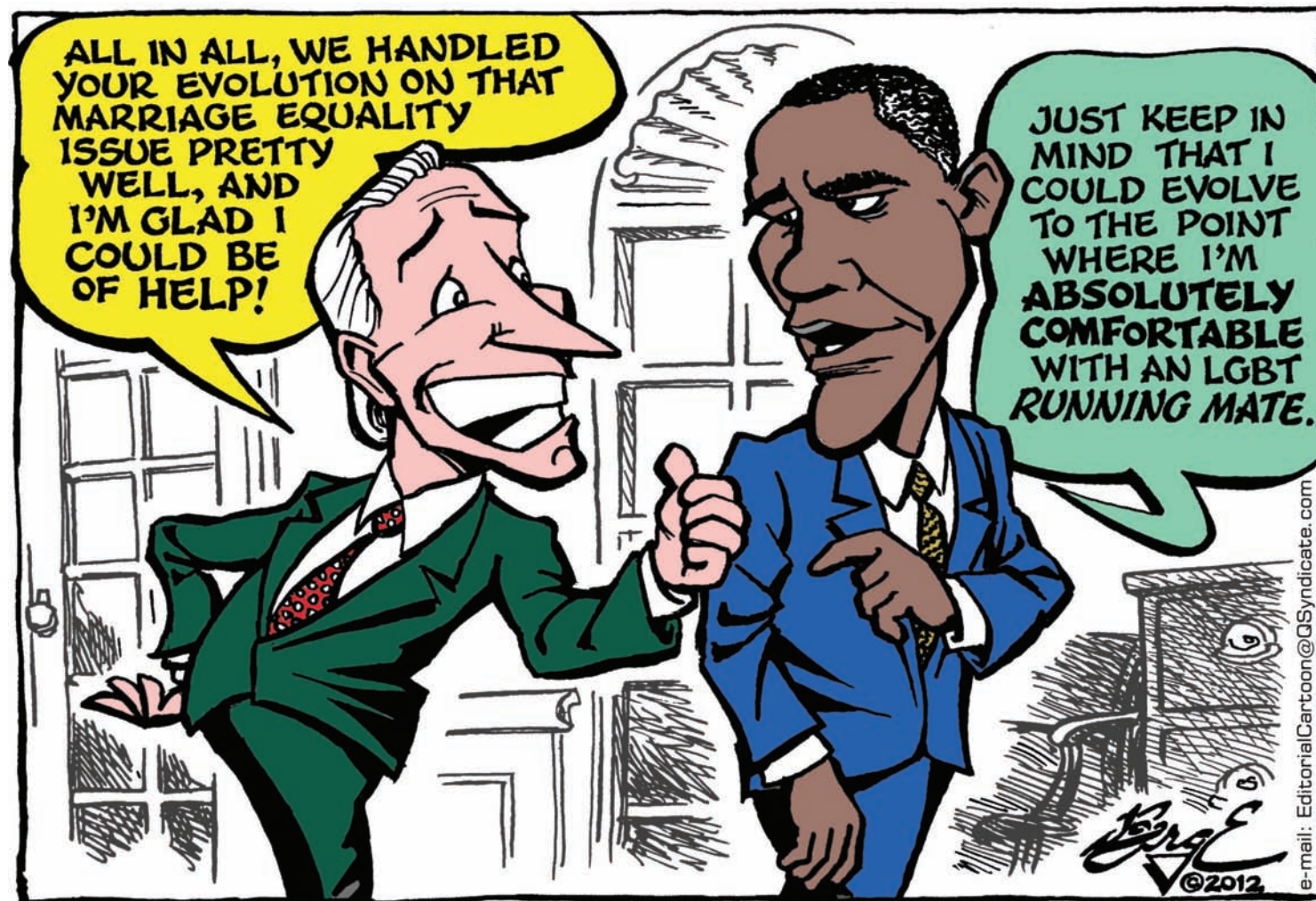
Obama is all talk, no action

President Barack Obama's words were very nice to hear. But actions must speak more loudly. Did he call for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act in the party platform? No. Did he call for legislation federally for same-sex marriage? No. Did he sign an executive order banning LGBT discrimination for federal contractors? No.

So, yes, the words sounded pretty, but my objection to Obama is that it is only WORDS. My other objection is that he is using LGBTs like pawns on a chess board for his own gain. I don't like feeling manipulated.

BACK IT UP!

Rob Schlein, president, Metroplex Republicans
Dallas
Via Instant Tea



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Trey's the CHARM

In his first sit-down since becoming TCC's new permanent artistic director, Trey Jacobs looks ahead to the season's last concert & beyond

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com



NEW MAN IN TOWN | Although he's overseen the entire season, Trey Jacobs marks his first show as the Turtle Creek Chorale's official artistic director in a concert this week.

The final show of this season's Turtle Creek Chorale is also a first for its newly minted artistic director, Trey Jacobs. Although he led the gay men's chorus for the entirety of its 2011-12 season, this is his first performance since being appointed the permanent AD. Interim no more, he is the guy — a position he almost finds ironic.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought this would be a good fit for me. I have always been teaching music," he says. "But until I got in and started rehearsing, then it was this amazing sense and I immediately felt like I was home."

After previous AD Jonathan Palant left the chorale suddenly last summer, Jacobs was named interim while a search committee looked for a permanent replacement. At the time, Jacobs said he was out of the running — it was a condition of his appointment. But fate stepped, and it was clear to both parties it was an ideal match. The search language was amended and he was officially brought on board in March.

Faced with the challenge of working within the parameters of a pre-set season, Jacobs found ardent support as he adjusted the season to fit his vision. He was given near carte blanche to imprint his stamp on the shows.

"To everyone's credit, knowing those parameters, we all were stepping up," he says. "Without fault, everyone from the board to the members basically said, 'We trust you and we're gonna go with whatever you decide.'"

This worked out well for the group's *Made in America* concert, which closes out the season on Thursday. Teaming again with the U.S. Army Chorus, Jacobs plans to expand the program, offering a performance that touches on TCC lore and extends the experience beyond the Meyer-son doors.

"I figured what would work well from pieces in our library to the Army's repertoire and put this fabric of a program together based on all that," he says. "A different idea we also had was to truly honor veterans. I'm excited to have a veteran from every single conflict since World War II. We'll also honor the family of a soldier who was killed in action."

That hit close to home for Jacobs, as his brother, in the Army reserve, is awaiting deployment to Afghanistan. Jacobs' nephew will be in attendance. But the concert isn't just about song. The TCC will also offer information on local agencies that help vets who have returned but

are struggling with finding work or even a place to live.

"I'm a firm believer that music is a healing balm," he says. "I think this is a way to broaden the audience's experience."

They will also perform original compositions by late accompanist Anne Albritton. While the chorale looks ahead with its new AD, Jacobs doesn't and almost can't disregard its history. As someone coming to Dallas, he says the Turtle Creek Chorale is the epitome of the chorus circuit and people outside the city revere its history and reputation.

"For me, not being from here, and having taught and worked in several different states, the TCC is like the supreme chorus," Jacobs says. "They are like the rock stars of the chorale world and it's funny because the guys and even Dallas don't realize that."

That's something Jacobs is still wrapping his head around. While he loves that people revere the group and he's proud to be a part of it, he still has to figure himself into the new equation.

"It does make me a bit uncomfortable," he admits. "I've just been a teacher my whole life and making music. But being a 'celebrity,' doing all of this, the interviewing, it's a struggle for me. If you could watch me rehearse the chorale, that's all anyone needs to know about me; that's where I'm most comfortable."

The educator side of Jacobs has come through in some of his initiatives for the future of the chorale. He plans to establish the Turtle Academy, an educational program avail-

able to chorale members that will offer classes on music literacy, voice, dance, even acting. He plans to add master classes to attract high-profile instructors.

Jacobs also hopes to add in a theater component; next season could see the debut of the Turtle Players. "The plan is to do *Nunsense* as our premiere and then either following through with a play or some one-acts," he says.

In addition to the Thursday concert, TCC will perform a benefit Sunday at Grace United Methodist Church. A rehearsal space for the singers, Jacobs hopes to raise money for repairs and maintenance. "This

is our little way of giving back to them for providing us this space," he says.

While Jacobs is settling into to his new prominence within the Dallas arts community, he still has a few basic things to take care of. Like where to live. He's still flying back and forth to Mobile, Ala., which he and his partner Thomas of nine years still call home.

"I'm staying within the pocket of town here by our offices, and so we don't want to live too far away, but we don't know where he's going to be until he finds a job," he says. "But we are both so excited about this venture and I thank Dallas for welcoming me and my partner. And I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds not just for us, but also for the Turtle Creek Chorale." ■

MADE IN AMERICA

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High Campo

Hipsterism meets rustic
haute cuisine in the tangy
Oak Cliff haven Campo

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

Just the bread at Campo is enough to make even the most noncommittal, fair-weather vegans weep. The individual loaves — light-and-dark spheres *a la* Sally Lunn bread, smooth, small ovoids as impenetrable as a Chinese box — are brushed with duck fat before baking. Forget gluten intolerance; everything about this snack (not the least the soft, salted butter) promises an early grave ... but what a way to go.

Campo is of the diet-defying brand of restaurants: Too many carbs to be Atkins-friendly, too much pork to be Kosher, too much ... everything.

This is not a complaint.

Since opening late last year, it's gone through a consulting chef (Matt McCallister, who still runs the kitchen occasionally) and two more exec chefs, the most recent coming on board just after my last visit. But so far, the restaurant has surpassed one man, focusing smartly on seasonal ingredients, simple preparation and a groovy, rustic vibe. (A wall-hanging with spoons and forks shoved in like the angry results of a bitter throwing match was deviously whimsical.)

Take the beet salad here, which isn't what we've come to expect from its gourmet brethren, to-wit: Finely diced beets afloat a pontoon of frisée and topped with warm, nut-encrusted goat cheese. *Pshaw!* Campo removes most of the fuss and delivers instead several large, chunky red beets, garnished with a few greens and given a light vinaigrette to pool around. It's a dish meant to highlight the freshness of the beets themselves, which are flavorful and crisp, and with the tart sauce teasing out some depth.

Indeed, if one flavor profile predominates here, it's the sting of citrus and vinegar. In addition to the beets, a duck entrée boasts a distinctive bite, the risotto is creamy but also tangy, with a few corkscrews of squid on top.

Presentation on the risotto is doubly unique. First is the color: The rice is a murky purple-black, the natural result of being doused in squid ink. Second is the shape: Rather than piled in a dome nestled inside the concavity of a wide-lipped bowl, the risotto here is perfectly square, like some huge chunky brownie. It's the first sign, really, that Campo — despite its cultivated humble profile — is a fine-dining experience waiting to be appreciated.

Fortunately, that style does not come across as overworked, though it does skirt the edge. The place-settings are coyly mismatched; at our two-top on one visit, the wine glasses included a generic stem and a wide-mouth cabernet glass — neither of which we used. The dishes themselves were delivered on an eclectic collection of casual white plates. It looks as if someone decided to turn their house into a restaurant at the last minute,

and forgot to order matched dishware.

But I have a suspicion, at least when McCallister is around, nothing leaves that kitchen without being carefully thought out. They're plating beautiful dishes to impress his diners, slinging hash in a faux-dive. If the deliberate off-handedness strikes you first as twee, it is also immediately forgivable.

OVERALL RATING



Campo Modern Country Bistro, 1115 N. Beckley Ave. Open Wednesday through Monday for dinner, Sunday brunch. 214-946-1308. CampoDallas.com.

Country French cuisine (locally sourced) mixes with hipsterism and a tangy-fatty flavor profile that is unique and seductive.

Food: ☆☆☆☆☆

Atmosphere: ☆☆☆☆☆

Service: ☆☆☆☆☆

Price: Moderate



THINK PINK | The Pepto-colored sauce from the blood orange adds a distinct tang to the veal short ribs at Campo. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

The mussels came in a broth with fresh julienned carrots and a fettuccine-style flat noodle, and once again, its tartness stood out, probably from the bite of capers. (Mussels are hard to screw up, but these were especially succulent, and well-paired in the noodles.)

The brick chicken elevates the humble yardbird with a phenomenal crust on the skin and juicy flesh spoiling to come out beneath, swimming in roasted mushrooms.

Rabbit ravioli (housemade, like all the pastas, breads and sausages) warrant a taste, as do the chorizo fritters, balls of meaty batter dusted with manchego so that they seem to be doused in spiderwebs. You'll eat them anyway.

My duck entrée was a high point, though almost for the wrong reasons. The sliver of confit duck breast was thin and slightly tough, kind of an after-thought, though the cooking of it was good and the meat rich. Rather, the duck rillettes — round deep-fried croquettes — hearken to my youth and the vinegar-based pulled pork common in North Carolina that I adored. They pack a tang.

The same was true of the veal short ribs. Short ribs are a cliché nowadays, but these were chewy and likeable, removed from the bone, shredded and reconstituted as medallions. Again, blood oranges and artichoke add bite and acid to balance the lushness of the meat.

After all those sour profiles, we expected the roasted quince dessert sounded like more of the same. Our waiter pointed out one key phrase was omitted from the menu: It should have read "quince ice cream," along with chocolate. We dove in anyway, but were disappointed. Along with rhubarb, quince is one of the sourest fruits, and we were prepared to enjoy it lips perpetually pursed. But the ice cream was bland — almost a semi-freddo — and the chocolate pie it topped rich but dry. The pear tart was better; despite a slightly too-thick crust, the filling was sweet.

The hipster factor at the bar on one of our recent visits was high even for Oak Cliff: A phalanx of beret-sporting, Keds-wearing bearded men ordering specialty cocktails while chatting about music. You could practically smell the clove cigarettes on their hoodies as you walked by.

Perhaps they were enjoying the caipirinha, one of several signature cocktails (all under a dozen bucks) that captured my attention. Wouldn't come as a surprise — a lot at Campo does that for you. ■

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The exhibition in Dallas is presented by Bank of America. Additional support is provided by the DMA's Junior Associates Circle with funds raised through An Affair of the Art 2012: Glory of the Age and the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas. Air transportation is provided by American Airlines.

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GLORY OF THE AGE ART WORKS

Image (detail): Luigi Lucioni, Paul Cadmus, 1928, oil on canvas, Brooklyn Museum, Dick S. Ramsay Fund, 2007.28

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L+S music



Feel the 'Noise'

Beth Ditto and the Gossip gang almost derail with beat-heavy 'Joyful Noise'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Dance punksters Gossip used to be an acquired taste. Their blend of pop, rock and dance was at times abrasive, but always engaging and overflowing with personality. That was owed in big part to lesbian singer and frontgal Beth Ditto, the anti-establishment diva of our time. But in the band's just-out fifth album, *A Joyful Noise* — a title that sounds like the name of a clearance bin gospel album — Ditto and gang deliver the beats with mainstream predictability before re-gaining their signature footing.

With subtle nods to the '80s and early '90s

throughout *AJN*, a cloud of electronica looms over the album. Gossip creates Starck Club-esque jams, recalling both the dark and glorious sides of the time. It just takes a while to get there.

Opening with a grumbling bass line on "Melody Emergency," *AJN* begins on the gritty side. Ditto simmers in her vocal prowess alongside Joan Jett-like guitar riffs, but the song doesn't do much to get the album rolling. That responsibility is left to leadoff single and second track "Perfect World." The dance rhythms get sophisticated on "World" and Ditto's voice is

GOSSIP, GIRL! | Gossip explores an electronica side in its fifth album 'A Joyful Noise,' but singer Beth Ditto, center, continues to be a force of nature.

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magnetic as she goes from seductive to sonic. "World" gives major gravity to the album early on with pulsating, delicious layers setting *AJN* in motion.

But the next three songs take you on a roller-coaster. From the uptempo "World," the beat pulls back with "Get a Job" only to swell again on "Move in the Right Direction." This isn't so much disruptive as schizo. The songs stand alone on their merits, but as an album, it's hard to capture the exact flavor Gossip wants to evoke.

Nevertheless, "Job" reigns as the album's brusque anthem. With robotic flair, Ditto chants *I love to stay and party but I gotta go to work* and then sings some of the best (and most honest) lines ever. The groovier vibe recalls Yaz as do blunt lyrics like *It was adorable when you were in your 20s / Not so cute anymore now that your pushing 30. You better get a job or Who's gonna hire you with your lack of experience / Who's gonna wire you the last of your inheritance.* Ahh, the pure snippy

attitude we're used to hearing from Gossip.

The band channels Information Society on speed in "Direction," a track that is seriously going on the workout playlist, and echoes Inner City in "Get Lost." This is by far Gossip's most accessible album, and despite Ditto's claims to find inspiration in ABBA for *AJN*, the

songs play like the modern version of New Wave. While they hint at decades past, there is a futuristic vibe most heard in "Into the Wild" that could easily fit over the soundtracks to *Metropolis* or *1984*.

Gossip returns to form in the final tracks. A strange move, but their harder edge is far more evident because I'm reminded that it hasn't been here all along. Where before Ditto seemed engaged in her singing, she pushes it on the listener here and it resonates deep with lyrics like *I'm not in love with you / I'm just involved with you* in "Involved."

The missing aggression that identifies with Gossip plays a weird trick. I almost turned my back on previous tracks I enjoyed, but it also made me listen closer to all of *Joyful Noise*. The keyboards and electronic elements go by the wayside for the band to rock out as they do in the sassed up "Horns" and the gorgeous "I Won't Play."

Closing track "Love in a Foreign Place" feels most like the band's intentions combining its electronic flair with hardcore delivery. While the trio succeeded in concocting intricate new sounds early in the album, it feels like Ditto woke up to reinforce her personality toward later tracks and that shows most on "Foreign."

A Joyful Noise works despite its odd incohesiveness. After a few listens, Gossip pulls together tracks that sound like they shouldn't work together, but they do. It's still bipolar, but it's also magic.



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I HAVE A HEART ON



Man up

Documentary 'Mansome' takes on manscaping, moustaches & masculinity

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

What does it take to be a man? What does that term even mean? It's an internal debate many gay guys have had since pre-adolescence, when they first learned to "act straight" — and one many gay adults who claim to be "straight acting" on their hookup profiles still seem to wrestle with.

Outwardly at least, there are *some* indicia of what a man is ... or are there? After documentaries that tackle obesity, marketing and the Muslim world, filmmaker Morgan Spurlock has turned his sights on a comparatively frivolous topic in *Mansome*, exploring such weighty issues as the conflict between metrosexuality and bear culture, and what's in between.

More than a behavioral analysis of detailed gender roles (from the hunter mentality to parenting to interaction with women), *Mansome* is refreshingly superficial, dealing almost exclusively with looks — and most particularly, hair. Growing a moustache or beard is "something men can do that women can't," as one hirsute commentator observes, and therein lies the heart of this engaging, occasionally thoughtful but often silly documentary: Guys defining themselves by the surface differences with the fairer sex.

Men are "becoming more preoccupied with our looks," Spurlock notes with pedestrian insight; anyone who started watching *Queer Eye* a decade ago could have told you that ... or anyone who has been to a gay club in the last 20 years. But *Mansome* dissects the culture with calculating smartness. And the key: Hair.

Hair — "back, sack and crack" as someone says, though you can add face and chest — help define a man as man. Hair is power ... just ask Samson.

In fact, Spurlock never even brings up Samson, focusing instead on real-world folks with definite opinions about hair. There's John Waters, gay gross-out movie director and notorious sporter of the pencil-thin moustache. (The movie catalogues the many types of lip tickler, from the handlebar to the horseshoe, trucker, walrus, Fu Manchu, toothbrush and more. It's about "embrac[ing your] inner porn star," as the moustachioed Spurlock notes.) There's Jack Passion, a strange "beardsman" whom Waters accurately diagnoses as being controlled *by* his beard more than controlling it. (He's like a sommelier of facial hair, waxing philosophic about its meaning while driving to beard competitions in his primer-colored Chevy.) There's the toupee king, the metrosexual yuppie, the hunk

who shaves his body until it glistened like a peeled pear.

While Spurlock scours the world great moments in hairstory, Will Arnett and Jason Bateman enjoy a bromantic spa day of mani-pedis, facials and shared mud-baths, riffing on their own ideas of masculinity.

But *Mansome* misses the essential aspect of male vanity that straight men and many women don't get and gay men do: That masculinity isn't one thing. No one wants to mate with a smelly guy, Bateman declares, but he's obviously never been to the Eagle after a rugby tournament. Indeed, the movie largely avoids directly addressing the issue of sexual orientation as it relates to grooming, with the exception that Anthrax guitarist Scott Ian says beard contests are "kinda gay" and thinks about the same of men who shave their bodies.

Ian's vague gay-baiting aside, a number of

★★★★★
MANSOME
Morgan Spurlock. Rated PG-13.
80 mins. Now playing at Angelika
Film Center Mockingbird Station.

SPA DAY | Jason Bateman and Will Arnett riff on what it means to be a guy in 'Mansome.'

hairy and man-thinking celebs weigh in on the issues, and what a difference tone makes. Adam Carolla comes off as a smug, slightly homophobic ignoramus spouting lame observations that aren't funny (he wallows in his own uninformed bliss), while Paul Rudd and Zach Galifianakis riff with puckish whimsy about the silliness of man-care. The former seems like a bigot; the other, bemused comics. And, of course, that's kind of the point.

If Carolla nearly dooms the movie, making it hard to watch with his snaggle-toothed cynicism, seeing pro wrestler Shawn Daivari ("Abdul Bashir" to his fans) shaving his body almost completely nude is worth the price of admission alone. Or maybe that's just me. I like hair, but sex appeal? You can't put a label — or mousse — on attraction. ■

QUEER CLIP: 'Elles'

You say "French whore" like it's a bad thing. Actually, only one of the prostitutes (played by Anais Demoustier) in *Elles* is French — the other (played by Joanna Kulig) is Polish, like director Malgoska Szumowska. These girls are working their way through college, a timely



topic with student loans all over the news. They're being interviewed by Anne (Juliette Binoche, pictured) for a story in *Elle* magazine.

Hearing the young women talk about their jobs has an effect on Anne, a harried housewife who juggles her career with making dinner for her husband's boss, dealing with a truant teenager, visiting her father in the hospital and various stresses and frustrations. She's forced to compare what she does for material things to what the younger women are doing.


Elles is virtually plotless, made up of scenes from the three women's work and home lives. The sex scenes are worth a thousand words of interviews. Technically softcore, they recall the *Deep Throat* era, when it was fashionable to watch porn in mainstream moviehouses.

In the end, *Elles* is really about Binoche's marvelous face, often shown in lingering close-ups. It says more without words than all the exposition in *John Carter*. Like her character, she holds everything together when it seems to be falling apart. She's the center when there appears to be none.

— Steve Warren

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Friday 05.18

Drama for real

Originally set to be a full production, Theatre Three scaled back Jessica Blank's and Eric Jensen's award-winning play *The Exonerated* about wrongfully convicted defendants to a limited engagement staged reading. The play was deemed the No. 1 play of the year by the New York Times and won a Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle award, so you know it's good stuff.

DEETS: Theatre Too, 2800 Routh St. Through Sunday. Theatre3Dallas.com

Saturday 05.19

Professor X in the flesh

What is likely the Super Bowl for comic and sci-fi fans in Dallas, this year's Dallas Comic Con looks to impress big time. With guests like Patrick Stewart, pictured, from *X-Men* films, Val Kilmer from *Batman Forever* and Marvel godfather Stan Lee in the lineup, the two-day event is like Nirvana. And we're kinda hoping to see a bunch of hotties in tight superhero costumes as well.

DEETS: Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd. Through Sunday. \$20-\$25. DallasComicCon.com.

Thursday 05.24

Good Christian belle

Lots of queens were pissed that ABC canceled the campy fun *GCB* last week. But now you can see its star live and upfront. Singer and actress Kristin Chenoweth shows just how good she is in this one-night only performance.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org



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HE'S THE GOSS | Gay folkster Tom Goss returns to Dallas performing Thursday at Opening Bell.

FRIDAY 05.18

COMMUNITY

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

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 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 Sunday. TheKessler.org.

SATURDAY 05.19

COMMUNITY

Dallas Boom Garage Sale. The softball teams holds its fundraiser sale at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 8 a.m.

Heart Beats drag show. LifeWalk team Team Heart presents this fundraising show featuring drag luminaries as Messy Panocha, Lips Larue, Sasha Safari and more. All moneys raised benefit LifeWalk. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 6 p.m.

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.

SUNDAY 05.20

COMMUNITY

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. The local observance of this memorial in its 29th year takes place at Abundant Life Church of God in Christ, 7310 S. Hampton Road. 4 p.m.

Sweet Tea Sunday. Live music and community vendors make up this LGBT event. This week they give away tickets to Rachelle Farrell. J. Pepe's Mexican Cantina, 2720 N. Stemmons Frwy. 4 p.m.

Lakewoodstock Neighborhood Festival. Now in its fourth year, the area festival features arts, family activities, entertainment and food. On Gaston Ave. at Abrams Road. Noon. Free. Lakewoodstock.com.

Unemployment Support Group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2:30 p.m. CareerAssistanceMinistry@gmail.com.

MONDAY 05.21

COMMUNITY

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

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

TUESDAY 05.22

COMMUNITY

Dallas Harvey Milk Celebration commemorates the legacy of the pioneering LGBT activist. Caven Memorial Garden (the monument), Oak Lawn Ave. at Cedar Springs Road. 8:30 p.m. GetEqualTx.org.

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

WEDNESDAY 05.23

COMMUNITY

FUSE Activity Nights. 7 p.m. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com.

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 05.24

COMMUNITY

Razzle Dazzle Poker Tournament. Pocket Rockets Dallas hosts the second week of the tournament with the final culminating during Razzle Dazzle Days. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 8:30 p.m. PocketRocketsDallas.com

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.

CONCERT

Tom Goss. The out folk singer returns to Dallas, this time appearing with Eliza Rickman and Rupert Wates. Opening Bell Coffee, 1409 S. Lamar St. 7 p.m. \$5. OpeningBellCoffee.com.

BANKRUPTCY

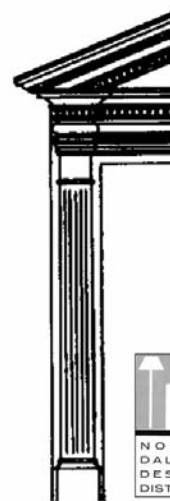
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Bernie Taupin turns 62 on Tuesday. The songwriter is famous for his long-term collaborations with gay singer Elton John. He's co-penned such classics as "Rocket Man," "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" and "Levon." When he's not working in music, Taupin is also contemporary visual artist. Last year, he exhibited his works at Wisby-Smith Fine Art gallery in Dallas.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Even with good reason to feel sure of yourself, cockiness stirs up arguments with your partner. Is financial stress driving your competitiveness or the other way around?

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Instincts to keep quiet are good, but temporary. When you get the urge to talk, first employ your partner as an editor. Being mature and responsible is effective, but could prove to be fun.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

A breakthrough in old memories is the beginning of illumination. Work with that to get real insight. Balance your social activities with time alone. If you wear out so will your welcome.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Friendship is a benefit. You and a pal have confusion about what benefits are included. True friendship endures much worse. Dreams of future goals are nice. Doing it now is better.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Promoting your ideas takes you far. Listening to new ones help you get further. The next few weeks are excellent for work, but don't neglect issues at home.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Admitting when you're wrong makes you right more often. Staying one step ahead of your partner is not acting as a team. If you must be competitive, make it the two of you against the world.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Arguments at work get worse over coming months. Your brilliance shows when you challenge your own ideas. Think about where you want to be in two years and adapting to get there.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Devotion to your partner comes across as bossiness. Devote attention to yourself. If you're single, speed dating could prove amusing. You could meet lots of interesting folks.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Connections with colleagues need repair. A sense that they're not reliable is about miscommunications. Talking with them is part of the solution, but look at yourself for keys to the problem.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Anxieties can be a great source of creative expression. The next few years will be difficult but even in your pessimism a clear idea of the dangers ahead can offer a clue to making the most of it.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Nesting into cozy fantasies will create trouble and confusion. Express your ideals and dreams, clear up misconceptions, and take responsibility for creating that domestic reality.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

New information points to a larger picture. Don't get hung up on details. Taking the broad view is worth the effort. Keeping cool at work is a challenge too, but could get you a raise.

THIS WEEK

Mercury conjoining Jupiter in Taurus offers new practical ideas. Then he enters Gemini stirring up new ideas to build on those foundations. Sun and Mercury squaring Neptune can create confusion or inspiration. Conversation and logic will keep things clear.

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

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WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST TIME...
HAVE YOU TRANSFERRED THE MONEY TO MY ACCOUNT YET?
I'M DOING THAT RIGHT NOW...

...THERE. SEE? \$25,000.00... ALL YOURS.
I WOULD SAY THAT WAS MONEY WELL-EARNED.

AND TO THINK HOW THIS ALL STARTED MONTHS AGO... AFTER RICHARD HUMILIATED ME SO PUBLICLY.
I KNEW MY RETALIATION WOULD NEED TO BE... EXTRAORDINARY.

"AND THEN YOU ARRIVED AT THE B&B..."
RICHARD SEEMS TO BE QUITE TAKEN WITH YOU!
IT WOULD APPEAR SO.

"I HAVE TO ADMIT... MY PLAN WAS BRILLIANT!"
I WANT YOU TO WAIT A FEW MONTHS BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE ON RICHARD.
LET HIM BUILD UP A STRONG INFATUATION FOR YOU.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE \$25,000.00?
I AM LISTENING.

ALSO... RICHARD CANNOT KNOW OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS. HE HAS INFORMATION HE CAN USE AGAINST ME.
I CAN KEEP SECRETS.

"WHEN YOU FINALLY HOOKED UP WITH RICHARD, IT WAS OBVIOUS HE'D FALL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH YOU..."
REALLY, PRICE? THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT?!!
RICHARD?! I...

WELL, I HAVE HAD IT WITH MY HEART BEING TRAMPLED ON BY VILE, REPREHENSIBLE MEN!
I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER MESS WITH ANYONE EVER AGAIN!!!

"... AND HIS HEART WOULD BE SHATTERED COMPLETELY WHEN YOU DUMPED HIM!"
YOU USED KRISTIAN TO GET BACK AT ME?!!

TO BE CONTINUED!!!

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bitter girl

SHE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE TO START HER OWN AUTO BODY SHOP!

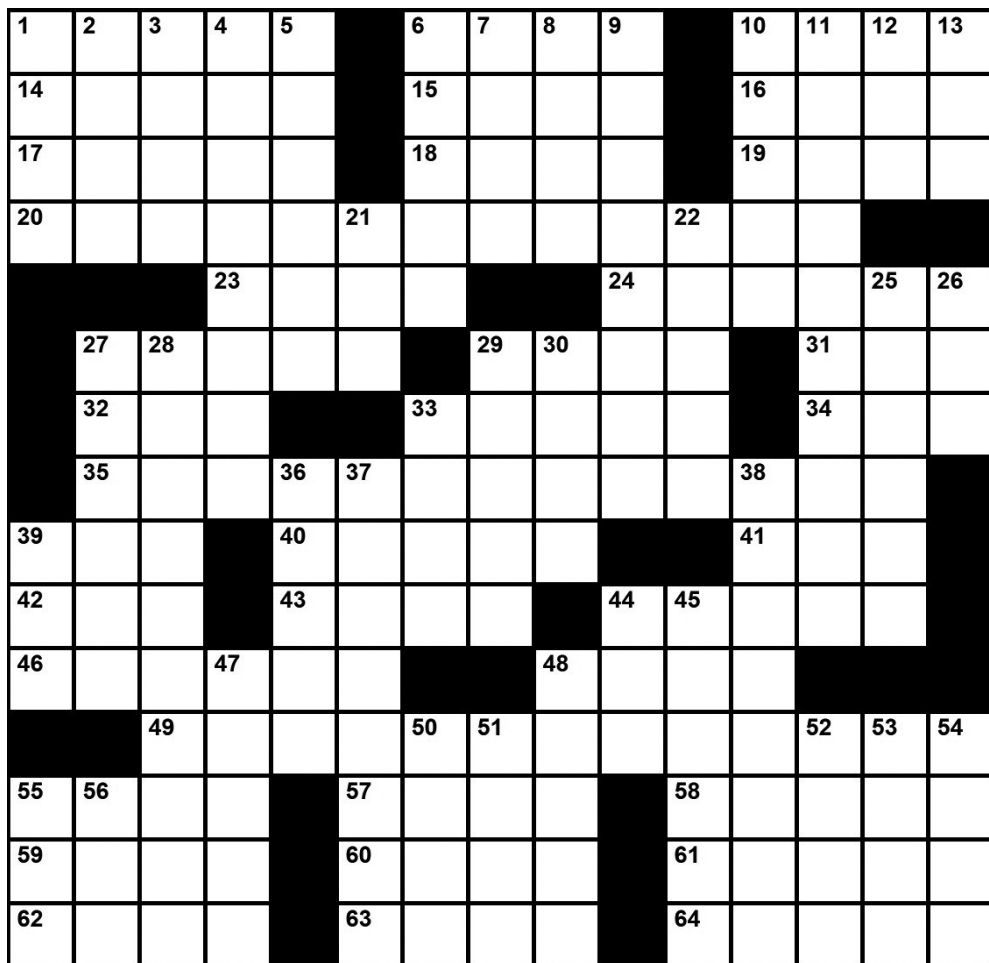
AND THAT'S NOT EVEN THE MOST INTERESTING ONE!

I PICKED HER UP AT THE AIRPORT!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DON'T VISIT MORE OFTEN... YOU COULD BRING SOME NICE GIRL! ANYBODY, I WOULDN'T MIND! I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY...

SURE, MOM, SURE.

JOAN HILTY © 2007 kaibito1@aol.com



Friends of Dorothy

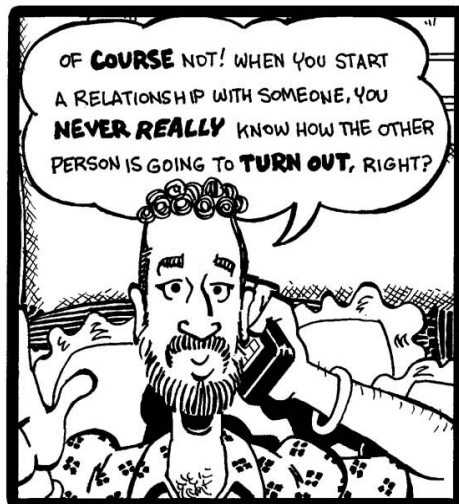
Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Strap-on for a diver
- 6 NG: Give relief to a thief
- 10 Digital-rectal, for example
- 14 NG: Sports
- 15 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown
- 16 NG: Painter Magritte
- 17 He often screws actors
- 18 "Sodomy" musical
- 19 Tight-assed
- 20 With 35- and 49-Across, "If all the girls who attended the Yale prom ___"
- 23 Refused to submit, with "out"
- 24 NG: Specimen for the lab
- 27 Like sourballs
- 29 Longtime lesbian couples often do this
- 31 NG: Mao's successor
- 32 NG: "Can you ___ little faster?"
- 33 NG: Part of a religious title
- 34 NG: Kid of jazz
- 35 See 20-Across
- 39 NG: TLC specialists
- 40 NG: Full of good cheer
- 41 Lubricant
- 42 Much ___ About Nothing
- 43 Three Tall Women, for one

Down

- 44 NG: Fine mist
- 46 1973 Number one hit of Elton John
- 48 NG: Just right
- 49 See 20-Across
- 55 Exclusion of gays from the military, and more
- 57 NG: Creole veggie
- 58 De-Lovely star Kevin
- 59 NG: Do a critic's job
- 60 NG: Turntable spinner
- 61 NG: The British Museum's Marbles
- 62 NG: Grp. or org.
- 63 NG: Singer Anita
- 64 Ready for action
- 1 NG: Clarinetist Artie
- 2 La ___ aux Folles
- 3 Friendly opening
- 4 Nitwit, or the tip of his erection?
- 5 Half a rack
- 6 One that sucks some sap
- 7 NG: Necklace bauble
- 8 NG: Buffalo's lake
- 9 Edna of Hairspray
- 10 Muse for Millay
- 11 Fear of people on Uranus
- 12 Latina writer Castillo
- 13 Rev. White of Soulforce
- 21 Vestment for Mychal Judge
- 22 NG: Knocked off
- 25 NG: "___ you jest!"
- 26 NG: Cheer word
- 27 NG: Plan of action
- 28 What's left after a vowel movement?
- 29 NG: Show host Povich
- 30 Cousin of Jethro and Jethrine
- 33 NG: Explorer of Nickelodeon
- 36 Philip Johnson contemporary
- 37 Having loads
- 38 NG: Nacho base
- 39 NG: Way cool
- 44 Pacifier
- 45 Dorothy, source of this puzzle's quip
- 47 NG: "Hedda Gabler" playwright Henrik
- 48 Madonna flick, with Dick
- 50 NG: Lose control on the road
- 51 Bear that may be a minor
- 52 Express love manually, perhaps
- 53 NG: City near Tulsa
- 54 NG: Claim innocence of
- 55 NG: Cover for headlights
- 56 Some sex-toy batteries





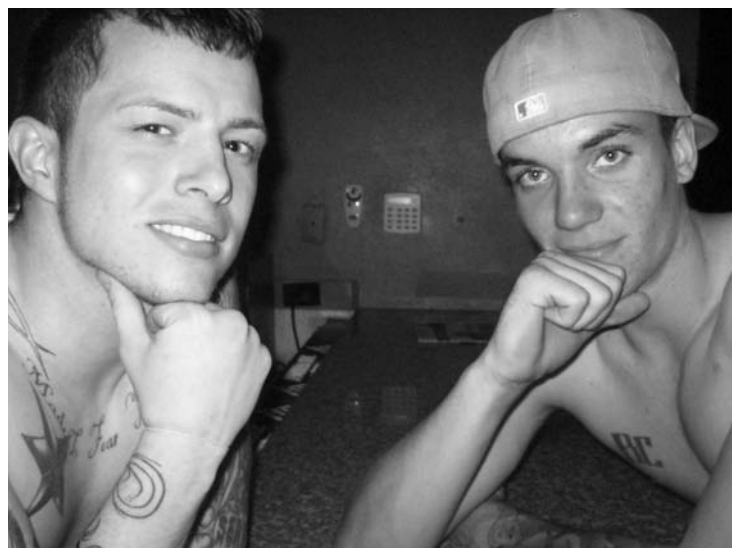
Mike and Mark at the Hidden Door.



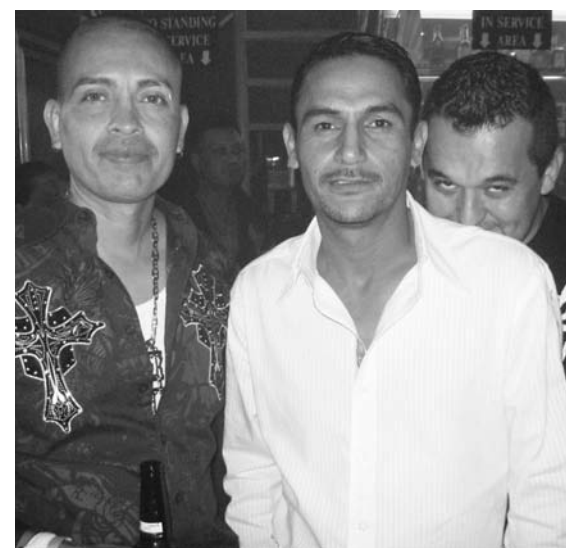
Dancers at BJ's NXS!

If you boys are looking for a date outside of **Scruff**, head to **Cowboy Dreams** on Saturday. The **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** presents its annual underwear and bachelor auction at the **Hidden Door**. **Miss TGRA Trisha Davis** and **Miss IGRA Victoria Weston** host the night and they promise not to cock block you. Before the auction, hit up the **TGRA BBQ Cookout** Saturday afternoon hosted by **Miss Firecracker Selena Whorez**. Nothing says pulled pork like that. ... Get your dance on with **Lord Byron** and **Son Of Sam** every Friday night at **Panoptikon** at 3025 Main St. ... Did anybody else know that **Best Friends** had a **Summer Concert Series**? We're digging that idea. The Fort Worth club brings in bear daddy **Charles Spradling** to play his country tunes on Friday night. ... **DJ C Wade** turns out the tunes for Saturday's **White Party** at the **Brick**. The night will also feature **MC Eli** and **Jurni Rayne** and the **Sexy Female Show** hosted by **Betty Neal**. They should rename it the White-Hot Party! ... Local group **Bandmates** will celebrate their latest album **I'm Gold** with a **CD Release Party** on Sunday at **Sue Ellen's**. The duo will perform along with special guests including **Bobbi Hill**, **Gloria Cortez**, **April Samuels**, **Annie Benjamin** and **Jerri Parkhurst**. They know how to throw a release party. ... Find the beef at the **Summer Sunday Cookouts** every week at **Club Dallas**. ... The **Tin Room** and **Drama Room** host tattooed porn star hotties **Brody Wilde**, **Evan Mercy**, **Chris Tyler** and **Trent Diesel** on Friday and Saturday. That leaves Sunday to recover. ■

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



Clay and Devon at Joe's/The Brick.



Freddy and Tony at Kaliente.



Friends at the Round-Up Saloon.



Steven at the Tin Room.



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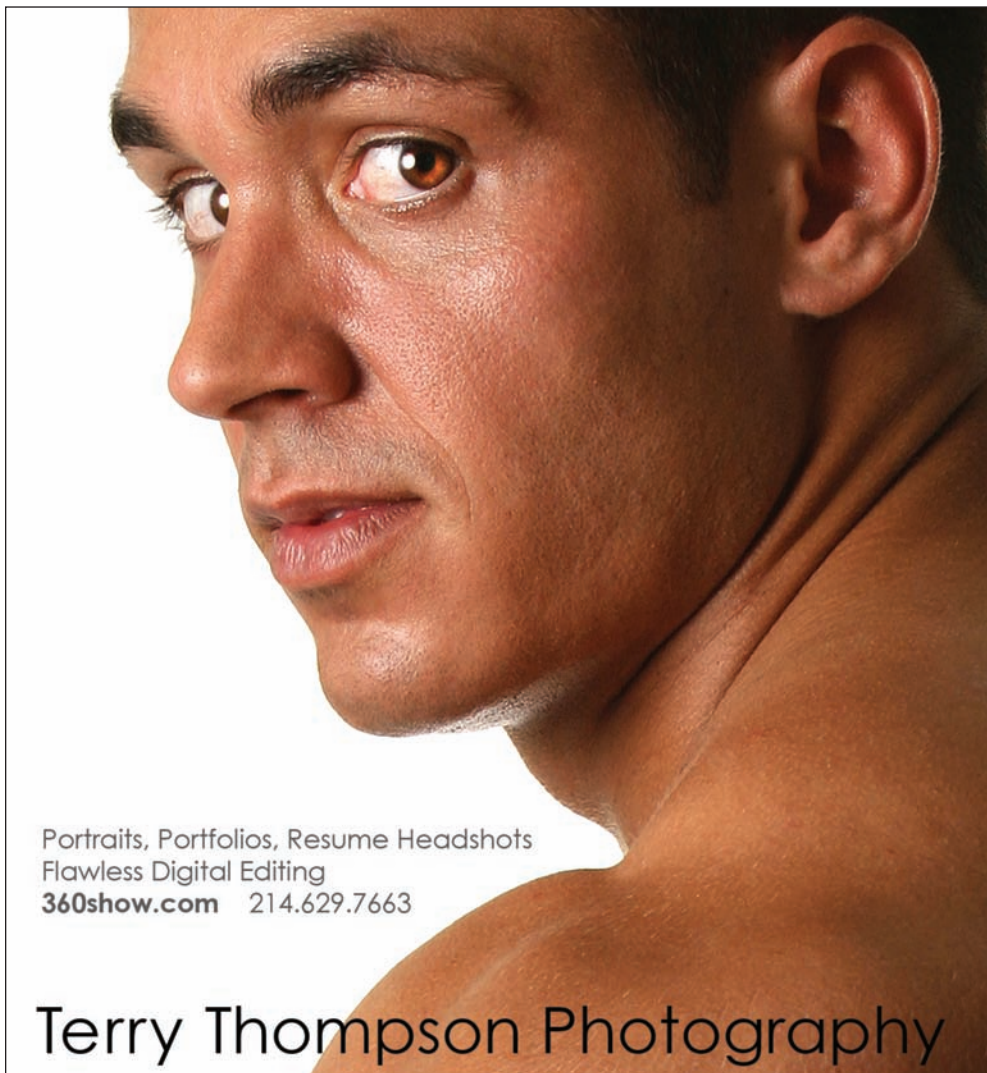
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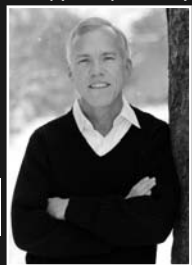
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Richard Baab
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