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■ LEATHER, Page 40



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Sooner State's only out lawmaker, Al McAffrey, keeps up fight for LGBT equality amid barrage of anti-gay attacks after moving to the Senate

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Cedar Springs area drops out of Dallas' top 10 crime hot spots

The Wycliff-Lemmon hot spot that encompasses Dallas' gay entertainment district will get more surveillance cameras, bait cars and license plate readers, but not as soon as originally expected.

The Wycliff-Lemmon Target Area Action Grid, previously called the Cedar Springs-Wycliff TAAG and the Maple-Wycliff TAAG, ranks No. 11 for overall crime, according to numbers obtained by Instant Tea from Dallas police. Therefore it will not have the new technology added by early summer, when the top 10 spots will be equipped.

The TAAG stretches from Maple Avenue to Lemmon Avenue and from Oak Lawn Avenue to Kings Road.

The technology is part of a new police initiative sought to fund additional cameras and bait cars for the city's 27 hot spots.

Although the Wycliff-Lemmon hot spot ranked No. 7 for overall crime in 2012 in mid-April, the rankings combined last year's totals with this year's crimes through April, leading to it missing the No. 10 spot by 34 offenses.

Police want to increase the number of cameras by 300 in the hot spots, as well as add 28 bait cars and 28 license plate readers by the end of the year. So, while Wycliff-Lemmon won't have added policing devices by the summer, it will be next in line when work on the other hot spots begins.

— Anna Waugh

Anti-gay mailer targets GOP Commissioners Court candidate

Log Cabin Republicans alleges that Larry Miller, a candidate for the District 1 seat on the Dallas County Commissioners Court, sent out an anti-gay campaign mailer last week attacking his opponent in the Republican Primary, Cecile Fernandez.

Fernandez, a former Dickey's Barbecue executive, appeared at a Log Cabin meeting earlier this year and subsequently told Dallas Voice she supports offering domestic partner benefits to county employees. The mailer obtained by Log Cabin, shown above, quotes the Voice's article and declares, "Cecile Fernandez Supports Spending Your County Tax Dollars to Pay for 'Partnership' Benefits. ... Does Cecile Fernandez reflect YOUR values?"

"I have the unhappy task of informing you that the political tactics used in the District 1 race for the Dallas County Commissioners Court have hit a new low," Log Cabin President Thomas Purdy said in a statement Friday, May 18. "This week, an anti-gay mailer from the Larry Miller campaign slipped its way into the mailboxes of Republican households across Dallas County."

Miller, a former Hunt County district attorney, couldn't immediately be reached for comment. Last week, Fernandez alleged that Miller planned to send out a "cruel" mailer containing the details of a nasty divorce she went through years ago — a claim which Miller's campaign denied.

Several Democrats are also vying for the District 1

Cecile Fernandez Supports Spending Your County Tax Dollars to Pay for "Partnership" Benefits



dallasvoice
February 2, 2012

"She expressed support for LGBT issues. She backs partnership benefits for county employees . . ."

LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender

Does Cecile Fernandez reflect YOUR values?

seat, which is currently held by Republican Commissioner Maurine Dickey. Dickey is retiring and the district was redrawn to be majority Democratic.

UPDATE: Miller said in an email responding to our inquiry: "There is nothing 'anti-gay' about our mailer. I do not believe taxpayer money should be used for partnership benefits and my opponent is on the record in favor of taxpayer support of those benefits. I have attended many Republican meetings and met many voters who agree with my position."

— John Wright

BearDance presents Dallas Bears with \$30K from this year's event

The guys of BearDance outdid themselves this year. Last year, the nonprofit organization, which hosts its Big D party during Texas Bear Round Up, raised more than \$21,000 for Dallas Bears' benefi-

aries.

On May 20, they presented the community group a check for an astounding \$30,000 from this year's March event. The following was posted on the BD's Facebook page:

Thanks to a great collaboration between the Dallas Bears who put on Texas Bear Round Up and BearDance and all of our volunteers, we were able to make a \$30,000 donation to the Dallas Bears which will be passed through 100 percent to their designated beneficiaries this year including Youth First Texas, the Greg Dollgener Memorial Fund, and AIDS Interfaith Network. And thanks to all the amazing guys who came out to the biggest BearDance we've ever had this past March!

BD founder Mark Trimble said ticket sales were up 25 percent with a count of 1,660 tickets sold, making it the largest BearDance to date.

— Rich Lopez

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ExxonMobil to vote on LGBT protections

GetEQUAL, other groups plan protests May 30 outside company's annual shareholders meeting at the Meyerson Symphony Center

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

ExxonMobil shareholders meeting at the Meyerson Symphony Center on May 30 will vote on a proposal to add sexual orientation and gender

identity to the company's employment nondiscrimination policy.

Members of GetEQUAL, environmental activists and others plan to protest outside the symphony hall.

In the past, the company has sometimes hired counterprotesters to draw media attention away from its detractors.

"ExxonMobil has received \$1.3 billion in federal contracts," said Daniel Cates, North Texas regional coordinator for GetEQUAL. "That's why we're pushing [President Barack] Obama on issuing an executive order."

Such an order would require federal contractors to include sexual orientation and gender identity in their nondiscrimination policies if they do business with the federal government.

However, Obama announced earlier this year that he doesn't plan to sign the proposed order anytime soon.

"Most Fortune 500 companies realize that nondiscrimination is good for business," Cates said.

A shareholder-initiated change to the policy has been proposed each year since Mobil and Exxon merged in 1999.

The percentage of shareholders voting for the policy has increased steadily.

Mobil was one of the first companies in the world to include sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policy and offer benefits to the same-sex partners of gay employees.

But ExxonMobil rescinded those policies after the merger.

This year, the resolution was initiated by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who wants the company to not only amend the nondiscrimination policy, but also to begin offering health

■ EXXON, Page 11

REMEMBERING HARVEY MILK



DALLAS MARKS GAY-RIGHTS HERO'S BIRTHDAY FOR FIRST TIME | Participants hold candles as they listen to speakers Tuesday, May 22, during Dallas' first-ever Harvey Milk Day celebration at the Legacy of Love Monument. About 25 people gathered for the event organized by GetEQUAL TX. With dusk fading to dark, they shielded their candles from gusty winds as they held vigil to mark the 82nd birthday of the gay-rights pioneer who twice called Big D home. Speakers read selections from the play 'Dear Harvey' and led the crowd in song through a megaphone. Balloons tied to the monument were released into the air at the end of the 40-minute celebration, following a rendition of 'Happy Birthday.' (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Advocates hope marriage news boosts LGBT turnout in Texas

Obama's announcement could motivate voters on both sides

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Same-sex marriage support after President Barack Obama's endorsement could drive LGBT voters to the polls with renewed vigor in the May 29 Texas primaries and July 31 runoffs, advocates say.

Dan Graney, Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus president, said he thinks the momentum after Obama's announcement in support of marriage equality could continue across the state, as voters who aren't always active in primaries take notice of the important issues at stake.

"Those of us who are politically aware who at least vote should be motivated, I would think, to get out and vote," he said. "The whole marriage equality thing has really boosted our enthusiasm and our energy."

Chuck Smith, deputy executive director of Equality Texas, said the endorsement could energize some voters on both sides of the marriage equality issue, especially in the LGBT community. But he said an overall focus will remain on how the candidates would improve the economy.

"Hopefully, within the LGBT community, it would prove to be some sort of inspiration to motivate people to cast a vote," he said. "In general, I think the net effect is probably expected not to

■ TURNOUT, Page 12



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localbriefs

Spillman joins RCD board

Derrick Spillman was elected to Resource Center Dallas' board of directors position during the May 7 monthly meeting. Spillman is a business development sales executive with Marriott Hotels International. He is an executive committee member for the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition and the executive director of the DFW Pride Movement Inc., a non-profit organization that exists to create a sense of unity and social support within the African-American LGBT community. DFW Pride Movement is the official 501(c)(3) non-profit entity of Black Pride in Dallas and is a member of the International Federation of Black Prides. Dallas Black Pride is hosted in early October in conjunction with the Prairie View/Grambling State University State Fair Football Classic.

Spillman was a founding member of the board of Dallas Black Pride, formed in 2002. He previously served as public relations director for the Legacy of Success Foundation, an organization designed to bring the LGBT community of color together through social activism and economic growth. Spillman also serves on the Community Advisory Board and partners on a variety of projects with United Black Ellument (U-BE), a Center program to reduce the HIV infection rate among young gay and bisexual African-American men.

"Derrick's addition to the board of directors of Resource Center Dallas gives the board new, diverse experiences and insight into working with

the communities we serve. I am excited about the talents he brings the center," said Gregory Pynes, president of the center's board of directors.

Members are elected to two-year terms and may be elected to a maximum of four consecutive terms.

United Way awards RCD \$320K

The United Way of Greater Dallas has awarded Resource Center Dallas \$320,000 in support of the center's nutrition and dental programs for people living with HIV/AIDS for 2012-2013. Specifically, \$225,000 will go to the center's dental program and \$95,000 will go to the nutrition program.

Since 1989, the center has provided dental services for Dallas-area clients living with HIV/AIDS. Last year, the center served 1,155 clients. It is one of two sites in Dallas providing services including teeth cleaning and X-rays, cavity filling, crown and root canal work, and extractions. The center's nutrition program for people living with HIV/AIDS was established in 1985. It includes a food pantry that distributes an average of seven tons of milk, meat, fresh vegetables and canned goods every week. In addition, volunteers at the center serve hot, nutritious lunches Monday through Friday to center clients. In 2011, the nutrition programs served over 1,900 clients and provided more than 30,000 pantry visits and 20,000 meals. The United Way monies will go towards the continued support of both programs. ■

pet of the week / Agatha

Agatha and her littermates were abandoned puppies that were brought to Operation Kindness from East Texas. They spent a couple of weeks in foster care until they were old enough to go up for adoption. By their size and coloring, we feel that these pups are Akita mixes. They are around 9 pounds at 8 weeks of age; so, they should get to be fairly large when grown.

Agatha and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, at 3201 Earhart Drive 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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Kirk Myers, left, and Dennis Coleman

NAACP marriage resolution delights local LGBT leaders

After group's board votes 62-2 to back equality, President Benjamin Jealous declares, 'Civil marriage is a civil right and a matter of civil law'

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Local LGBT leaders said they were delighted this week after the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People passed a resolution Saturday, May 19, in support of marriage equality.

"I cried when I heard the news," Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti Fink said.

She said the vote was especially significant because of the board's 64 members, only two voted against the resolution.

"I'm appreciative," Resource Center Dallas Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox said.

Cox called it a myth that African-Americans are not in favor of marriage equality.

"Those not in favor perpetrate that myth," she said. "This will help dispel it."

Cox said that the resolution was consistent with the group's support for equality and she was glad they went on record.

Abounding Prosperity founder and CEO Kirk Myers welcomed the statement but said he wasn't surprised.

"They've taken that position previously," Myers said.

While NAACP has opposed anti-marriage amendments throughout the country, this is the first comprehensive statement the organization

has made on behalf of married same-sex couples.

"We support marriage equality consistent with equal protection under the law provided under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution," the statement read in part. In a nod to churches, the statement continues with a line of support of religious freedom ensured by the First Amendment.

"Civil marriage is a civil right and a matter of civil law," NAACP President Benjamin Jealous said.

Myers said it was important for the country's premiere civil rights organization to make a statement about civil marriage.

"We are the civil rights issue of the day," he said.

The statement was issued two weeks after President Barack Obama spoke in favor of marriage equality. Myers said he thought the NAACP's resolution was a reinforcement of that position, but not a result of it.

AIDS prevention is a major mission of Abounding Prosperity and Myers thought that the NAACP statement would help with his organization's work.

"Black churches need to have conversations about what's going on anyway," he said.

He said that it could help AIDS prevention efforts by lessening the stigma of testing and allowing more open conversations about prevention to take place in the black community.

Venton Jones, a former Dallas resident who now serves as communications and education manager at the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, called the statement an important move.

■ NAACP, Next Page

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■ texasnews



NAACP President Benjamin Jealous

■ NAACP, From Previous Page

"For me and the black community, we live on the edge of race and sexuality," he said.

He said the statement wasn't just about marriage but about civil rights. He said that the recent vote in North Carolina showed that legislatures can take people's rights away.

He said that having the president support marriage equality followed by the NAACP has led to members of the hip-hop community to voice their support for marriage equality.

"That makes it OK for black people to come out," he said.

Since the president's announcement, a number of hip-hop artists including Jay-Z, 50 Cent and T.I. have voiced their support for equality.

It gives permission for those who have moved in the direction of coming out and facilitates a new generation to be more comfortable with their sexuality, Jones said.

"It's started some critical discussions in churches," Jones said, including "clergy who historically have not been a part of the conversation."

Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton said the NAACP's statement will be very useful to his organization.

"Because it was an official resolution, we can cite it," he said.

He said it's important to persuade a court not just from a legal standpoint but from a cultural standpoint as well. He said that when the American Psychological Association dropped homosexuality as a disorder, that was helpful. This resolution clearly establishes LGBT issues as civil rights issues.

Equality Texas Executive Director Dennis Coleman called the resolution "a changing point in our conversation with African-Americans."

He said that any African-American on the fence on the issue looking for the stand of others in their community can now look to former Secretary of State Colin Powell's recent support, President Barack Obama's statement and the NAACP resolution.

"It allows us to have conversations where we couldn't before," he said.

Coleman hoped to take the national statement to local NAACP chapters around the state to proactively begin new education campaigns and

open new collaborations.

Counselor Candy Marcum said, "It was thrilling to read it."

She said that the resolution validates what many already knew — that LGBT rights is a civil rights issue.

"These are the people that changed the face of America," she said. "For them to take up our cause as theirs gives it validity and strength."

For those struggling with coming out, the resolution adds another voice of validation.

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll taken in February 2012 found that a majority of Texans support relationship recognition for same-sex couples — either marriage or civil unions. Only a third said gays and lesbian couples should have no relationship recognition.

Among African-American respondents, the same percent as the population in general supported full marriage rights. But 10 percent fewer supported civil unions and 40 percent said same-sex couples should have no relationship recognition.

In the poll, the highest support for relationship recognition was among Hispanics and Asians, and black support was the lowest.

Earlier in the month, the League of United Latin American Citizens expressed its support for Obama's pro-marriage statement.

"We have witnessed firsthand how painful it can be when LGBT partners are denied the rights and benefits of marriage," LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes wrote in a press release.

"From hospital visitation rights to spousal benefits, too many of our LGBT members have been treated unfairly and we welcome the President's efforts to address this."

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Omar Narvaez said he was excited that both LULAC and the NAACP have made "bold statements."

Among those in the black community not happy with the NAACP's resolution was Pastor Stephen Broden of Fair Park Bible Fellowship who ran against Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson in the 2010 election.

"The NAACP has proven again to be an irrelevant organization as it relates to issues of survival for the black community," Broden told the Christian Post.



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GETTING PUMPED UP | Lesbian activist Cd Kirven yells into a megaphone outside the ExxonMobil shareholders meeting at the Meyerson in 2010. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

■ **EXXON**, From Page 6

benefits to the spouses of employees married in the Empire State.

The comptroller controls the state's pension funds. As of May 18, New York's pension fund held more than 16 million shares of ExxonMobil worth more than \$1 billion.

"ExxonMobil's failure to include sexual orientation and gender identity in its written equal employment policy has made the company an outlier among its peers," DiNapoli told Dallas Voice in an email. "From a shareholder's perspective, this policy means that ExxonMobil isn't able to attract and retain the best talent to come work for the company and puts its reputation in harm's way. Until it addresses this issue of discrimination, we don't feel that ExxonMobil will be getting the best performance to benefit our holdings in the company."

In addition to devaluing the company's worth by not attracting the best talent, DiNapoli claims the company is violating New York state law by offering spousal benefits to only some people married in the Empire State. This is the first ExxonMobil shareholder meeting since New York passed its marriage equality law last year.

This is also the first year ExxonMobil appealed to the Securities and Exchange Commission to have the shareholder resolution thrown out. The company based its claim on a nondiscrimination statement in its Corporate Careers publication.

FUELING A PROTEST

The ExxonMobil shareholders meeting begins at 9 a.m. on May 30 at the Meyerson Symphony Center. Protesters will gather along Flora Street at 8:30 a.m. to greet shareholders as they cross from the parking garage to the hall.

The SEC refused to allow ExxonMobil to throw out the resolution, saying the publication doesn't have the weight of a corporate nondiscrimination policy.

Meanwhile, ExxonMobil maintains the lowest possible rating on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index, with a minus-25.

DiNapoli said he's serious about changing corporate policies, especially related to domestic partner benefits. Denying those benefits, he claims, costs New York taxpayers money.

In the past three years, DiNapoli has negotiated policy changes with 27 companies.

A rare LGBT-related editorial in the Dallas Morning News on Thursday, May 24, called for ExxonMobil to expand its nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation. The editorial didn't mention gender identity or expression.

The upcoming ExxonMobil shareholders meeting has also been the subject of recent stories in The Advocate and the Washington Blade, two leading national gay publications. ■



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SIGNS POINT TO LOW TURNOUT | There were far more campaign signs than voters outside a voting location at the Grauwlyer Recreation Center in Dallas this week. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

■ TURNOUT, From Page 6

be all that great because people still tend to be focusing on the economy and jobs as the primary issues."

Estimates of LGBT voters have never been concrete, but Graney said about 4 percent of all voters identify as LGBT, accounting for about 8 percent of Democrats and a smaller percentage of Republicans. He said LGBT issues would certainly impact voters' decisions in the primary and runoff elections, calling the LGBT vote "critical."

"I'm hopeful that the LGBT vote has been energized by the events of the last few weeks and that it will help the candidates that we are supporting and have endorsed across the state," he said.

Any increase in turnout would help offset what is expected to be low voter turnout statewide and locally across the board. Only 16,335 Democrats and 17,771 Republicans in Dallas County had early-voted through Wednesday, May 23, according to reports. In Tarrant County, 8,328 Democrats and 22,040 Republicans had voted in the same timeframe. Low voter turnout most likely will continue on primary day May 29, with 5 percent of voters overall expected to cast ballots because of the late election date and Memorial Day weekend, Graney said.

Past years have drawn larger turnouts because more races were contested and candidates were able to excite their supporters, he said. Some areas with heated races have turned out more voters like in El Paso, most likely due to out lesbian Mary Gonzalez running in House District 75, Graney said. Gonzalez is the frontrunner in the race to replace retiring Rep. Chente Quintillia.

"The fact that it is a low turnout, those candidates who have supporters who are energized about their candidacy will get out and vote and those who don't won't," he said.

But with an even lower turnout expected in July 31 runoffs, Graney said he hopes momentum stays strong over the next two months.

Congressional District 33's crowded 11-candidate Democratic primary has pitted North Texas LGBT voters against each other. The district has a large portion of Fort Worth and narrows to include parts of Arlington and Irving before ending in North Oak Cliff.

But the district has the largest number of heavily LGBT precincts in Irving and Dallas, as well as the area around the Rainbow Lounge in Fort Worth.

Domingo Garcia appears to have won over the Dallas LGBT community, receiving the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement. Garcia fought for LGBT inclusion among Dallas police hiring policies in the '90s and supported a hate crimes bill in 2001 when he was a state representative.

But state Rep. Marc Veasey has the advantage in Tarrant County with a large portion of the district located in his House District 95. He has also been an advocate for the LGBT community in the state House, voting against the anti-gay marriage amendment and supporting resource centers at Texas universities.

Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats President Felipe Gutierrez said Veasey has the stronger LGBT record in the county and that many LGBT Hispanics back him instead of Garcia. The group has not endorsed in the primary because it is prohibited in the group's bylaws.

He said Garcia will have to work harder to target the Tarrant County LGBT population if he wants to gain more momentum in the primary and in the expected runoff between him and Veasey.

"You do hear folks in the LGBT Hispanic community together, that combined Hispanic LGBT, saying anybody but Domingo," Gutierrez said. "So I think Domingo has a ways to go when it



MARQUEE MATCHUP | State Rep. Marc Veasey, left, and Domingo Garcia are widely expected to advance to a runoff in the Democratic Primary for the new Congressional District 33 seat.

comes to the LGBT community, especially in Fort Worth."

When it comes down to the results, Gutierrez said the gay vote will likely split between Veasey and Garcia because both have strong backing in their county with some in the other.

"It might split because he (Garcia) has great support in Dallas, but I also think there's a lot of Dallas LGBT support for Marc Veasey," he said. "I think it's going to be split is really the reality of it."

Graney agreed that there was "no question" about a runoff between Veasey and Garcia. However, Congressional District 30 is another story, where 10-term Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is facing her first contested primary against Dallas attorney Taj Clayton and state Rep. Barbara Mallory Caraway.

Clayton has gained a strong following and fundraised well, but Johnson's support among the LGBT community is solid despite voting for the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. She is now a co-sponsor of DOMA's repeal and supports other pro-LGBT legislation.

"Anything can happen," Graney said. "It depends on how strong her (Johnson) detractors are. She's been in office for many, many years."

A runoff is also anticipated on the Republican side in the U.S. Senate race. While Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst is favored, whether he can win the primary outright is questionable, said Wade Emmert,

Dallas County Republican Party chairman.

In the event of a runoff, Emmert said it is unclear whether Ted Cruz or former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert will face Dewhurst on July 31.

Although Leppert may win Dallas County, Emmert said most of the former mayor's supporters would probably support Dewhurst if Cruz makes the runoff. While Leppert has supported the gay community in the past and caught heat for marching in two Dallas Pride parades at an Eagle Forum debate in February, Emmert said he is unsure whether that will affect how gay Republicans vote.

"There was the issue about the parades that Leppert was in, but that issue arose largely from that one debate and I really haven't heard much about it since then," he said. "I don't know if they're (gay Republicans) going to vote as a bloc. ... In Dallas, they probably pretty much like Tom Leppert. I think he was well liked as a mayor."

Emmert said a runoff won't focus on LGBT issues because the majority of voters, gay or straight, are worried about job creation and the economy.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Many precinct numbers have been changed because of redistricting and are on the new yellow voter cards. To find a precinct number and voting location, visit DalCoElections.org or TarrantCounty.com/evote.

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Baptist reformer

Emerging gay religious leader Cody Sanders, who bridged faith and sexuality at an early age, takes his LGBT-affirming message nationwide

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Growing up playing a pastor in the little church his father built for him in his backyard, Cody Sanders knew from a young age he would become a man of the cloth.

Raised Southern Baptist in South Carolina, Sanders said he would play church in his backyard at the age of 6. His father and grandfather, both contractors, built him the spiritual playground complete with a stain-glass window and steeple.

But as certain as Sanders was that he would become a pastor, he was equally certain he was gay.

"I grew up knowing from 5, 6 years old that I wanted to spend my life in ministry and service

to the church in some way," he said. "And it was around the same time, as a child, that I started to realize I had an attraction to other boys."

His sexuality in a conservative town made him hide who he was. He viewed his sexuality "as a piece of internal tension I didn't know what to do with" until he conducted his own research by reading and studying to determine that his feelings were not against the church.

"I resolved in my mind — probably in high school — I came to the realization that being attracted to other men was not a problem," he said.

Now, Sanders uses his personal experience of uniting his sexuality and spirituality as a pastoral counselor resident at the Pastoral Counseling and Education Center in Dallas. Counseling individuals and couples in a variety of topics, he said he has a specialty in sexual orientation, as well as faith identity.

Because sexual and religious identities strongly identify people, Sanders said many young LGBTs are forced to choose between the traditional church beliefs and their sexuality instead of finding an affirming church.



SPANNING THE METROPLEX | Cody Sanders is shown in his office at the Pastoral Counseling and Education Center in Dallas, where he specializes in sexual orientation and faith identity. He also staffs an office at Broadway Baptist in Fort Worth, where he's a member. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)



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Sanders is exploring the "ideology and theological undertones that that kind of violence often has" as he pursues a doctorate at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. Sanders has researched the topic for the last three years at Brite and said he's about halfway through his studies.

A contributing factor to many young LGBT youth feeling pressure to choose between their sexuality and faith is the emotionally violent ideology the church, and society as a whole, spreads.

"That kind of micro-aggressive violence is much more subtle. It's difficult to recognize," he said. "It's the kind of violence that's internalized. The kind of violence that tells LGBT teenagers that there's something wrong with their very being."

Sanders also staffs an office at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, a satellite location for the counseling center.

A member of Broadway Baptist for about two years, Sanders wasn't there when the Southern Baptist Convention dropped the church in 2009 for its welcoming views of LGBT members and began putting same-sex couples in its directory. Sanders said he was a member in 2010 when the church left the Baptist General Convention of Texas because of its anti-gay views.

Baptists are still largely non-affirming, Sanders said, but because Baptist churches have autonomy to join different groups, there are not national standards that each church must adopt. However,

the SBC does cut ties with churches that do not adhere to its strict conservative values, he said.

On the other end is the Alliance of Baptists, a completely affirming fellowship to which Sanders belongs. Although the SBC is the largest of the Baptist fellowships, Sanders said many churches are now moving toward a more moderate stance by beginning the dialogue about homosexuality.

The Corporative Baptist Fellowship is a moderate organization that hosted a national conference on human sexuality in Atlanta recently where Sanders spoke.

The 500 people in attendance from across the country had not discussed issues of sexuality including sexual orientation on a national scale before, Sanders said.

"I was a bit anxious going into it about how this conversation would take place," he said. "But it was a very generous, non-defensive, non-anxious conversation."

Although he was the only speaker that spoke exclusively about sexual orientation, he said it was entwined in several other topics at the conference.

Sanders has taught workshops on sexuality over the past few years at dozens of conferences and events for religious and counseling organizations, such as the American Counseling Association.

In 2010 he was selected to join 11 other religious scholars to discuss their research in the inaugural

class of the Human Rights Campaign's religious and theological study summer institute at Vanderbilt University. And he has published more than two dozen articles for various religious media.

The Rev. Steve Sprinkle, an openly gay professor at Brite Divinity School who has overseen some of Sanders' research, said Sanders has been at the heart of education and activism among Baptists locally and nationally. Sprinkle said Sanders' influence among Baptists will only increase in time, calling him "one of the most significant leaders Baptists produced in this generation."

"Among Baptists, he's one of the leading voices among progressives helping people look again at the lives and worth of LGBT people," Sprinkle said. "People of faith are hungry for progressive leaders who know what they're talking about, are deeply authentic and speak solidly out of their own faith tradition, and that's what he does."

Sanders discovered and accepted his sexuality early in life but worried if he came out, his "pathway into ministry might be put in jeopardy." So he remained closeted.

In college, Sanders began to research how he could personally reconcile his faith with his sexuality. He also met his partner there. The two were both interested in ministry and attended seminary together in Georgia. But they kept their relationship a secret, choosing to serve in silence.

"Toward the end of our seminary, we decided that we just could not live keeping our relationship a secret anymore," he said. "We found a church that embraced our cause, that embraced our sexuality and our relationship and celebrated those two things."

During seminary he also came out to his family, and he never looked back.

Instead of focusing on the question of accepting LGBT people, Sanders said the church — and straight couples — should try to learn from LGBT relationships, mainly in the gender power roles. Whereas many churches still focus on male dominance in straight relationships, he said gay relationships are not "necessarily constructed around preconceived gender power relations."

LGBT people also provide examples of how church members can analyze the integration of their faith, spirituality and sexual identity, something not many do unless they are struggling to come to terms with an LGBT identity, he said.

Although many churches are welcoming LGBT members, showing "a remarkable evolution of the Christian landscape in the United States," Sanders said churches need to unite in denouncing violent rhetoric and acts whether they accept LGBT people or not.

"Ultimately, what is most helpful is for people, gay people, straight people alike to stand up against that kind of verbalization of violence against LGBT people," he said. ■

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Ex-director of Sixth Floor Museum remembered

Celebration of life to be held May 25 at the Palladium for Jeff West, the openly gay man who helped turn facility into an international attraction

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Jeff West, 54, the openly gay former director of the Sixth Floor Museum, died suddenly on Monday, May 21.

West's cause of death was still undetermined at press time. He was found in his office not breathing.

West spent more than 25 years working for non-profit organizations in Dallas.

City Councilman Dwaine Caraway said West worked behind the scenes to improve downtown and enhance the city's artscape. At this Wednesday's council meeting, Caraway spoke about a number of projects in which West was involved that benefited people in his district.

"Mr. West was instrumental in providing limitless generosity of gifts in-kind, goods, deeds and services," Caraway said. "It goes without saying that Jeff will be sorely missed and that his kindness and generosity will forever be remembered by the citizenry of Dallas."

At the age of 18, West became a Baptist minister. He married at age 22 and had a son.

In 1982, he left the ministry to pursue theater and moved to Dallas to direct a play.

He remained married for another 10 years.

West became executive director of the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas followed by less than a year as executive director of the Irving Arts Board. He then became managing director of the Dallas Theater Center, where he produced more than 50 productions over the next five years.

"Jeff was at Dallas Theater Center during the transition between Adrian Hall and Ken Bryant," former DTC Board of Trustees chairwoman Bess Enloe said. "After Ken's sudden passing, Jeff remained in the position of managing director for several years, holding things together. He contributed greatly to the Theater Center and was a wonderful leader at a very critical time."

In 1994, West became director of the Sixth Floor and spent 11 years at the museum that recounts the events of the presidency and 1963 assassination of John Kennedy.

After Dallas County acquired the Texas School Book Depository building in 1977, county offices occupied the first five floors. The top two remained empty until 1989, when the Sixth Floor Museum opened.

According to his friend Russ Vandeverdonk, West turned the newly installed exhibits into the city's largest attraction, visited by more than 400,000 people annually.

Most of the staff at the Sixth Floor has changed since West worked there. Museum spokeswoman Carol Murray said she issued a private statement



Jeff West (Dallas Voice file photo)

of sympathy to West's friends and relatives.

During his tenure at the museum, West developed a variety of foreign language audio tours of the exhibits to attract an international audience. He added the vacant seventh floor to the museum for temporary exhibit space and paid off initial construction costs four years early.

"Everything he did came to fruition," Vandeverdonk said.

The city relied on West's Kennedy assassination expertise beyond the museum.

Through his work, Dealey Plaza was named a National Historical Landmark, and West supervised a feasibility study for its restoration. In 1997, he supervised the expansion of the visitor's center and the restoration of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza, a block away.

Vandeverdonk said while many city officials are trying to downplay the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination, West thought it was a way to promote how the city has changed and grown.

And while current museum officials are at odds with the eclectic group of conspiracy theorists, history buffs and vendors who gather daily on Dealey Plaza, West embraced them.

Vandeverdonk described West as sweet, very personable and outgoing.

West volunteered for a number of organizations including Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS and helped found the Dallas International Film Festival. The morning he died, he was work-

ing on a fundraiser planned for this week for the American Heart Association.

At the time of his death, West was a vice president of Matthews Southwest, the lead developer of the new Omni convention center hotel in downtown Dallas and the largest developer in The Cedars. West chose artwork from local artists for the hotel.

Soon after the Omni opened downtown, West took Dallas Voice Life+Styles editor Arnold Wayne Jones on a tour of the hotel pointing out all of the gay artists represented throughout the facility.

"The last time I saw Jeff he greeted me, as he usually did, with a bear hug," Jones said.

Jones said he was touring the hotel when West spotted him from 100 yards away and flagged him down.

"Let me show you what you want to see," West told Jones. Someone with West looked a little puzzled that he would know what Jones wanted to see, but West immediately began pointing out all the artwork by gay artists, including the massive Ted Kincaid digital photograph that dominates the lobby.

"He's here for the gay stuff," Jeff laughed.

West is survived by his mother, three sisters, his ex-wife and his son.

A memorial service was tentatively set for 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 25, at the Palladium Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar St.

Friends are encouraged to bring their best Jeff West stories. ■



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UTA spends \$42K to expand LGBT programming

Graduate interns, peer volunteers to oversee programming; openly gay administrator hopes initiative will bring school 'into 21st century'

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

ARLINGTON — The University of Texas at Arlington will further its efforts this summer to bring informative, educational and recreational programs and activities to the college's LGBT community.

An LGBTQA and gender identity task force was created in February and began assessing the school's current programs, and looking at possible ways to improve the campus atmosphere for the community and its allies, said Frank Lamas, UTA's vice president for student affairs.

Lamas, who initiated the task force, said he began working at UTA seven years ago and reviewed all the programming available to students. When he asked about the LGBT community, he learned not much was being done.

More programming and education began with

the creation of the Safe Zone program three years ago. The program educates students and staff members on diversity, and provides LGBT students with a list of on-campus resources and places they can go to talk while feeling comfortable, Lamas said.

The Safe Zone, along with a campus GSA, counseling services and other programs, offers a variety of outlets. But Lamas said during discussions with students in the last few years, the need for the university to do more has been brought up.

"Over time some of the students felt that what we were doing was fine, but they needed more and wanted more," he said. "I had concerns that we weren't doing enough to support these students from the feedback I was getting."

The nine-member task force brought faculty, staff and students together to discuss what UTA is doing and what it could add. The task force produced four recommendations to help expand current programming and create new endeavors, which Lamas said were "a very good starting point."

The recommendations included adding two graduate interns to supervise LGBT programs, as well as several peer volunteers, and additional funding for programs and the Safe Zone initiative.



LOUDER AND PROUDER | Members of the Gay Straight Alliance at the University of Texas at Arlington gather around a sign at the celebration of the campus' Day of Silence in 2011. The university hired a graduate intern this summer to plan more LGBT events for the upcoming academic year, many of which will focus on campus celebrations of national events.

Charity Stutzman, a co-chair of the task force who serves as coordinator for UTA's Violence Prevention and Student Intervention, said the recom-

mendations were important because they suggested that two interns take the lead on the program changes, and that five volunteers would

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STARTING TO SNOWBALL | Gay Straight Alliance members at UTA serve multicolored snow cones to fellow students at a Diversity Week fair in the spring semester. The university is adding more LGBT programs with the addition of graduate interns and peer volunteers to help coordinate with the GSA in event planning.

serve as a peer team to speak as advocates at events and help foster a safe and welcoming community.

As for programming, Stutzman said that Diversity Week and the Safe Zone initiative have brought about awareness and inclusiveness, but the addition of a Pride Week, as well as networking events and campus observances of more national events, are also needed. A desire to bring in speakers on various topics is also a part of the possible programming.

Lamas brought the recommendations to the student allocation committee in April. Out of the committee's \$54,000 annual budget to fund student affairs and other groups, \$30,000 was allocated to the initiative, with Lamas putting in the additional \$6,000 from his budget.

"I was hoping the committee would not only fund it because it was the right thing to do, but to make a statement," he said. "When it's something from students, it makes a statement that they thought this is important."

He said another \$6,000 was funded from his budget to jumpstart the planning in the summer.

John Morris was selected as the graduate intern for the summer, starting June 1 and working with the peer group through August to plan fall programming. He said an additional intern will start then, so two will work together in the fall and spring semesters.

Morris is studying social work and said he applied for the position to help provide people with resources and events to learn about themselves and their identities, something he said he didn't have when he came out at 16.

Programs Morris would like to see range from movie nights to cultural events highlighting views of LGBT people among different cultures and maybe even a drag show. The first event will take place during Welcome Week in the fall, he said.

While the planning has not officially begun, Morris said he is already excited with the growth that UTA is making by funding future LGBT programming.

"I think it's wonderful for a major school like UT-Arlington to take such a dynamic approach and really try to show that diversity is important," Morris said. "Being a multicultural campus is

something that they strive for."

John Hillas, UTA's openly gay coordinator for student affairs and co-chair of the Safe Zone initiative, has advised the university's Gay Straight Alliance for five years. He said the new initiative is vital because it will increase visibility on campus with more events and provide dedicated personnel to focus on programming and to help the GSA with their event planning.

"I hope that it will bring about a greater appreciation for the diversity here on campus," Hillas said. "You can't change people's minds, but you can change people's hearts."

Hillas said there has been a greater need for LGBT programming and speakers on campus during national events. He said past initiatives have helped the campus grow its strong and valued diversity, but a better focus on LGBT events would further the university's diversity mission.

"I hope this will help us come into the 21st century with the gay-rights movement," Hillas said.

Tom Anable, Fairness Fort Worth president and a UTA alumnus, said the university has discussed adding programming during a hate crime law enforcement symposium in the fall at UTA and again when the school hosted the White House Conference on Safe Schools and Communities March 20.

"I think they recognize the fact that if they were going to host events of this nature, they should be a little more progressive in the coursework they offer," Anable said. "Going further and adding these programs is obviously a big step forward for the university."

The task force will meet next spring to go over the progress of the first year of more programming. Stutzman said future changes to the initiative would add more courses that focused on LGBT issues and would include an LGBT student-faculty mentoring program within the next few years. A professional staff member for the LGBT programming would also be considered.

"The more programming you have, the more visibility that is on campus," Stutzman said. "Students who are coming to campus need community, they need support, they need to have faculty and staff that they recognize as safe places and allies as they're developing their holistic self emotionally, personally and professionally." ■



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businessnews

Ron Watterson elected chair of N. Texas GLBT Chamber board

From staff reports

The board of directors of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce has elected Ron Watterson to serve as its chairman.

Watterson replaces Lorie Burch, who has served since January 2011. Burch stepped down as board chair to focus on her law practice and her duties on the national board of the American Business Women's Association. She will continue to serve on the chamber board as immediate past chair.

"It has been an honor to be part of this great organization; we've enjoyed so much success and have made such a difference in our community," Burch said in announcing her resignation.

During Burch's term the chamber received its third award from the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber, and began work on the GLBT Leadership Institute and the Women's Success Forum. The Women's Success Forum launched April 25, with a luncheon featuring basketball legend Nancy Lieberman.

Watterson becomes the chamber's fifth chairman in eight years. He is a branch manager and senior loan officer for PrimeLending, A PlainsCapital Company. Since joining PrimeLending in January 2009, Watterson opened the PrimeLending branch at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., at the corner of Lemmon.

Watterson is a member of the Metrotex Association of Realtors and the Human Rights Campaign's DFW Federal Club. He served as the 2011 chairman of the chamber's Business Exchange Network group.

"I've been a member of the North Texas GLBT Chamber since 2006; over these past six years I've seen how important it is for the GLBT community to have this dynamic organization working to support business growth and equality," Watterson said. "Lorie and the previous board chairs have each worked to move the chamber from an idea to being the largest and most recognized GLBT chamber in Texas. I'm very excited to work with



Ron Watterson

the board, staff and members to bring the chamber to new levels of success."


The chamber board also approved the appointment of two new members, Betty Young of American Airlines and Tim DeWitt of OBOX Solutions.

Young began her career with American Airlines in 1989 as a reservations agent. In her current role, she helps conceive and plan the company's diverse marketing strategies, focusing on enhancing services, support and outreach to American's loyal LGBT, African-American, Hispanic and women customers, as well as other diverse populations. Young's previous work with the chamber includes serving on the first board of directors from 2005-07, and as chair of the Programs Committee.

Tim DeWitt and his husband, Thom DeWitt, co-founded OBOX Solutions in 2005. OBOX Solutions, a certified LGBT Business Enterprise, is an information technology solutions and staffing firm. It has achieved Tier 1 status for Fortune 500 companies, as well as servicing small to mid-size firms.

Tim and Thom purchased the Paris Wise House in Paris, Texas, in 2007 and began restoration on the 1887 red brick, Queen Anne Style estate. In early 2012, the home was opened to the public for special occasions and weddings. ■

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SO LONG, SALLY | Openly gay state Sen. Al McAffrey is sworn in by Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kouger after he won a special election and gave up the House seat he's held since 2006. McAffrey said anti-gay Rep. Sally Kern was glad to see him go. (Courtesy of Al McAffrey)

The 'most powerful' man in Oklahoma

Sooner State's only out lawmaker, Al McAffrey, keeps up fight for LGBT equality amid barrage of anti-gay attacks after moving to the Senate

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When a "birther" bill came to the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the New York Times quoted then-state Rep. Al McAffrey as saying, "This is Oklahoma — we embarrass ourselves all the time."

When it was McAffrey's turn to pick a religious leader to deliver the prayer to open the session, he invited the Rev. Scott Jones. After Jones acknowledged his parents and his fiancé Michael in the gallery, one fifth of the Legislature voted to strike the prayer from the official record, a first for that body.

And Republican state Rep. Sally Kern, known for her outlandish statements about the LGBT community, has called McAffrey the "most powerful" person in the Oklahoma Legislature.

"She said I have the gays and the gay agenda behind me," McAffrey said recently. "Sally is so glad I'm out of the House."

Earlier this year, the 63-year-old McAffrey was elected to fill a vacancy in the Oklahoma Senate.

As the Senate's newest member, McAffrey ac-

tually has the least seniority, but he seems to have a knack for getting things done. And during his six years in the Legislature, LGBT advocates say he's significantly changed the perception of gay people among a number of his colleagues.

McAffrey is a Navy veteran and former police officer who owns and operates a funeral home. He's also the father of three girls, and the grandfather of eight — with a ninth on the way. His newest grandchild will be the fourth child for one of his daughters.

"You do know what causes this, dear?" McAffrey said he asked that daughter jokingly.

McAffrey said his family is very close, and it includes his partner, David Stinson, as well as his ex-wife, who's now married to a doctor.

"She married money this time," McAffrey quipped.

He described his partner as the typical stepfather to his grown children and a friend to his ex-wife.

"They love him one day and not the next," McAffrey said.

McAffrey's father was a Baptist minister who suspected his son was gay when he was growing up in the small town of Sulphur, Okla.

McAffrey said his dad once asked his sister about his sexual orientation before telling her: "I don't understand it. What I do know is I love him and that's all that matters."

After graduating from Oklahoma State Univer-

■ **MCAFFREY**, Next Page

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PROUD PARTNER | McAffrey, left, receives a congratulatory hug from his partner, David Stinson, following the oath of office ceremony. (Courtesy of Al McAffrey)

■ **MCAFFREY**, From Previous Page

sity in 1974, McAffrey enlisted in the Navy as a corpsman.

He later served on the Oklahoma City Police Department before going on to own and operate several successful small businesses. McAffrey currently owns and operates OK Cremation & Mortuary Services.

McAffrey was first elected to the Oklahoma House in 2006.

He represented a district that included the Oklahoma City bombing site, downtown and the city's gayborhood.

Last year, Senate Minority Leader Andrew Rice moved out of state. McAffrey announced his candidacy for the seat and was elected earlier this year in a landslide.

In fact, McAffrey has never won an election by a margin of less than 20 percent. In this latest race, he received two-thirds of the ballots cast.

And his new Senate district includes conservative South Oklahoma City.

"People knew I was gay," he said. "That's not the issue."

His approach to running for office is much the same as that of Houston Mayor Annise Parker — to address his sexual orientation honestly and then talk about the issues that affect people.

"I applaud Annise," he said. "She put herself out as a person who can get the job done."

McAffrey said his campaign focused on jobs, taxes and services.

"I know the problems and concerns of my district," he said.

Low-income people in his district were concerned that the governor would balance the budget after lowering income taxes by increasing property taxes, he said.

And while Medicaid funding comes from the federal government, the state controls how it's distributed. He said his record shows he makes

sure people get their benefits.

As a legislator, he hasn't been able to advance any pro-equality legislation but has managed to kill some negative bills.

After the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the Oklahoma Legislature decided it would reinstate its own version of the law. McAffrey convinced the speaker of the House that the state would lose millions in federal funding for the Oklahoma National Guard. He listed every city and school in the state that has a gay organization and explained that each member of those groups has friends and family members who supports them. The bill died.

"That's how you kill bills around here," he said.

Even when McAffrey can't derail bad legislation, he's often able to publicly embarrass some of his colleagues with pointed comments.

Just last week, the Oklahoma Senate passed a resolution reaffirming its support for "traditional marriage" by a 40-4 margin, despite already having outlawed same-sex marriage and adding a constitutional ban.

McAffrey asked the sponsor of the marriage resolution, "Is this going to be a campaign flier for you?"

Also last week, a Senate committee refused to give Jim Roth, an openly gay man who has been elected to local office in Oklahoma City, a hearing for an appointment to the state's Election Board.

"Republicans claimed they were worried about my impartiality," Roth said.

The same day Roth was refused a hearing, the Senate voted to appoint a Republican Party official to that board.

"That's why Al called them out," Roth said. McAffrey said legislators were afraid of being labeled liberals if they voted for Roth.

Roth called McAffrey "ethical, a good role model and a great public servant."

As a church-going former police officer, he said, McAffrey ironically fits the mold of an Oklahoma

politician set by right-wing Republican U.S. Sen. James Inhofe, who always runs on “God, gays and guns.”

Denis Dison, vice president of communications for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said McAffrey’s presence in the Legislature has a tremendous impact in a very conservative state.

McAffrey was elected by running in the right race at the right time after laying all the groundwork to establish himself in his community, Dison said.

“A lot of people are surprised when they hear Oklahoma has an out legislator,” Dison said.

“They have to deal with AI every day,” he said. Gay issues change from “some East Coast thing to something that affects a colleague,” Dison said.

Although McAffrey has been unable to advance pro-gay bills — “Some day, the Supreme Court will rule that every state has to recognize marriages performed in other states,” he said — he is quietly having an impact on public policy behind the scenes.

An LGBT-inclusive hate crimes bill has never made it out of committee, and even an anti-bullying bill is having trouble gaining support — “Republicans say we don’t need it,” McAffrey said.

But in the meantime, McAffrey has launched his own personal anti-bullying program.

“We call school administrators,” he said. “They don’t want a senator calling.”

He said his office receives complaints of bullying not only from his own district, but also from other parts of the state. That’s one of the “perks” of being the only gay person in the Legislature, he said. He threatens administrators that if they don’t take bullying seriously, he’ll pass a bill making principals personally liable.

One school superintendent who’s a friend of McAffrey’s told him that a letter he sent was rather stern. McAffrey told the superintendent that the letter simply reflected how seriously he takes the issue.

As the state’s only gay legislator, McAffrey said he receives a number of calls from religious extremists.

“One guy called to tell me how bad I am and that God will punish me,” he said.

When McAffrey told him that his church, the Episcopal Church, supports him, the caller said he’d pray for him.

“I appreciate that,” McAffrey told the bewildered caller. “I think that prayer is so important.”

McAffrey said that with redistricting, his friend Sally Kern could have a tougher time being re-elected. She has a moderate Republican opponent in an area that’s become less extreme.

And after the November election, McAffrey may not be the only LGBT person in the Oklahoma Legislature. A lesbian is running for his old seat in the House. He tried to convince another lesbian to run for a Tulsa seat but she declined for-



TEXAS TIES | McAffrey, center, is shown at the 2012 Black Tie Dinner kickoff party in Fort Worth on March 15. Also pictured are Robert Emery, left, past program director for Black Tie Dinner, and McAffrey’s partner, David Stinson. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

this election cycle.

While Oklahoma looks to pick up a second gay legislator, Texas remains one of only 18 states that lacks one. But at least four gay candidates are seeking their party’s nomination for House seats in Texas this year. McAffrey encouraged them, saying members of the LGBT community can win races in areas outside of traditional gay neighbor-

hoods. He said his own district, which he described as fiscally conservative but socially liberal, is a perfect an example.

McAffrey said his advice to LGBT candidates is simply to be open and honest about who they are.

“You gotta get out there,” he said. “Don’t be afraid of your sexual orientation.” ■

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ARMING UP | President Barack Obama and HRC President Joe Solmonese greet guests at the group's 15th annual national dinner in Washington last year. Solmonese, who leaves HRC in June, was named co-chair of the LGBT arm of the Obama for America campaign this week. (Associated Press)

Obama to reach out to gay Republicans

President's campaign says it will court LGBT voters 'regardless of party affiliation,' taps outgoing HRC Prez Joe Solmonese as co-chair

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The Obama campaign on Wednesday, May 23, said it will make a determined effort to turn out LGBT Americans in November "regardless of their political affiliation."

Jamie Citron, national LGBT vote director for the Obama for America re-election campaign, made the statement during a telephone press conference with reporters.

Citron introduced outgoing Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese as co-chair-

man of the LGBT arm of the Obama for America campaign.

Solmonese, too, said the campaign would attempt to convince "every member" of the LGBT community and "Republicans in particular" to support the president's re-election.

Solmonese said that HRC has and will put a "big focus" on helping members of the LGBT community "understand the distinction" between Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

While there was "some confusion" about Republican presidential nominee John McCain's positions on gay issues in 2008, said Solmonese, Romney "has very clearly committed" to pushing for a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Obama opposes such an amendment and has called for repeal of the fed-

■ **OBAMA**, Page 27

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nationalnews



HERO GETS HITCHED | An image released by Marvel shows Canadian character Jean-Paul Beaubier, right, marrying his beau, Kyle Jinadu, on the cover of 'Astonishing X-Men' No. 51, due out June 20.

Marvel Comics plans wedding for gay hero Northstar in June

20 years after his coming out helped launch trend of embracing LGBT characters, super speedster will marry in 'Astonishing X-Men' No. 51

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Wedding bells will ring this summer for Marvel Comics' first openly gay hero, super speedster Northstar, and his longtime boyfriend.

The New York-based publisher said Tuesday, May 22, that Canadian character Jean-Paul Beaubier will marry his beau, Kyle Jinadu, in the pages of *Astonishing X-Men* No. 51. That's due out June 20.

Northstar revealed he was gay in the pages of *Alpha Flight* No. 106 in 1992, one of Marvel Entertainment's first characters to do so.

Ten years later, in 2002, gay characters Apollo and the Midnighter were married in the pages of *The Authority* published by DC's Wildstorm imprint.

Since then, numerous comic book heroes and villains have been written as gay, lesbian or transgender — from DC Comics' Kate Kane, aka Batwoman, to Hulkling and Wiccan in the pages of *Young Avengers*.

Comics, as a medium, have embraced gay, lesbian and transgender characters, including the introduction of Kevin Keller by Archie Comics. Comic strips have done likewise.

This month, cartoonist Tom Batiuk is writing about a gay couple trying to attend their high school prom in *Funky Winkerbean*, a move that has

divided the fictional community.

"As I sit in on the classes at my old high school, I see how the younger generation's attitude toward gays is more open and accepting than that of their predecessors," Batiuk said.

For Marvel, the upcoming wedding is a way to further embed same-sex issues in its contemporary universe.

"The Marvel Universe has always reflected the world outside your window, so we strive to make sure our characters, relationships and stories are grounded in that reality," said Axel Alonso, Marvel's editor-in-chief.

Author Marjorie Liu, who is writing *Astonishing X-Men*, said the decision to have the pair marry was appropriate.

"As a writer — and a romance novelist, no less — I've always found it a bit odd when characters in comic books remain in relationship limbo for years at a time," she said.

"Certainly, that happens in real life — some relationships just never grow — but the wonderful thing about stories is that they tend to move readers and characters forward," Liu said, adding that Northstar pops the question in issue No. 50, which was due out on Wednesday, May 23.

"And, in this case, it was time to do the same to Northstar and Kyle, who have one of those rare comic book romances that actually works."

As for the event itself, Liu said the wedding will take place in New York City, where gay marriage is legal, but given that Northstar is on the X-Men, it remains to be seen if the event will be trouble-free.

"As for the ceremony ... well, what wedding ever goes off without a hitch?"



Jimmy LaSalvia

■ **OBAMA**, From Page 25

eral Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

The constitutional amendment, said Solomonese, is "the ultimate deal-breaker for us."

"It's absolutely the last line in terms of really discriminating against this community," said Solomonese. "So it's incredibly important that every member of our community — including Republicans — understand that distinction."

In 2010, between 26 percent and 29 percent of LGBT voters supported Republican candidates, according to mainstream exit polls and a Keen News Service examination of heavily gay precinct records. Looking at data going back to 1990, the lowest gay vote for Republicans came in 2008, when only 19 percent of gay voters supported McCain.

The lowest gay Republican vote prior to that came in 1990, the first year the National Election Pool exit poll sought to identify "gay, lesbian, and bisexual" voters. All voters gave only a slight edge to Democrats that year (52 to 48 percent), while gay voters issued a 78 to 22 percent preference for Democrats.

Jimmy LaSalvia, executive director of the gay conservative group GOProud, scoffed at the idea the Obama campaign could win over LGBT Republicans.

"If the left believes that President Obama has the gay vote locked up, they are sadly mistaken," said LaSalvia in an email. "The truth is that gay people, like all other Americans, are living in the failed Obama economy."

Citron predicted a "rollercoaster ride" for the campaign, "particularly in battleground states," such as Florida. He said the LGBT Obama campaign would be doing numerous events at gay pride events around the country next month. There is a "San Francisco East Bay Area LGBT family and friends" event planned for June 17. To find events in your area, go to LGBT.barack-obama.com/lgbt/events.

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viewpoints

Clementi case a wake-up call

30-day sentence for gay Rutgers student's roommate is an outrage, but retribution won't end bullying, so it's time we found a better solution

In New Jersey, the crime of joy riding carries a mandatory 60-day sentence, and it can even apply to the passenger in the vehicle. Why is this important? Because if Dharun Ravi had been a passenger in a stolen car, he would receive more jail time than he was sentenced to after being found guilty of 15 counts including bias, invasion of privacy, hindering apprehension and evidence tampering.

Now if you've been living under a rock and don't know who Dharun Ravi is, perhaps you'll remember Tyler Clementi. He was the Rutgers student who committed suicide by jumping from the George Washington Bridge. This was after Ravi broadcast a feed from a hidden web cam of Clementi with a male partner in his dorm room. Not only did he invade Clementi's privacy, he held a viewing party for his friends and invited people to attend.

Ravi is a cyber-bully, and his actions directly led to Clementi taking his life in despair. Not a fun story, and the charges could have carried a sentence of up to 10 years in prison. After he was found guilty of the 15 counts, a judge on Monday, May 20, sentenced Ravi to 30 days in jail and community service.

To say I was dumfounded is an understatement. I almost spit out a mouthful of coffee all over my computer! I recall the verdict in the Harvey Milk/George Moscone murder trial where Dan White was convicted of manslaughter rather than murder. At least Dan White could claim he had been hyped up on Twinkies.

Ravi showed no remorse, nor did he apologize during the trial as the judge noted, "I heard this jury say 'guilty' 288 times, and I haven't heard you apologize once." Yet, for some reason the judge decided that 30 days and community service, as well as three years probation for the invasion of privacy was sufficient deterrent to anyone else. I have to disagree.

After I calmed down, and sipped another cup of coffee, I tried to understand the verdict and more importantly how our criminal justice system does and doesn't work in this country.

First, I am not sure if jail time is a deterrent to anything. If jail sentences were effective deterrents, we would have less crime in Texas than most other states since we have some of the strictest penalties around, not to mention capital punishment.

I don't think people who commit crimes, espe-



Dharun Ravi, left, and Tyler Clementi

cially ones like Ravi's, sit down and weigh the consequences before acting. If they did, I wouldn't be writing this column and Tyler Clementi would most likely still be alive.

Punishment is about retribution, not deterrence. Do I feel Ravi should be punished for his actions? You bet, but I don't believe his sentence will deter anyone except perhaps him from doing something as callous and downright stupid again.

I think the best way to deter this kind of thing is by having the criminal, in this case the cyber-bully, make direct amends to the family. By amends I mean actively doing something that can help the Clementi family heal. Ravi did what he did from a standpoint of anonymity and stealth.

That is the modus operandi of most cyber-bullies. They hide behind screen names or in Ravi's case a hidden camera and do their dirty work. They don't get their hands dirty, distancing themselves from any responsibility. Maybe having to

spend time with the family of his victim and actually relate to them face to face might get the point across.

I know there are no simple solutions to this, and I also know emotions are running high right now. Mine are. My hope is that the outcome of this case will spur some honest discussions about how to deal with this kind of crime and more importantly how to prevent it. It is obvious we don't have the tools to do that at our disposal and it seems little effort has been made to actively

stem this kind of crime.

The Trevor Project is a good start, but it is focused on the victims of bullying, not the bullies themselves.

That is where any kind of lasting progress will be made. Until we begin teaching not just in our schools but in our churches and public forums that every person deserves respect and kindness, we won't make much progress.

With hate-filled politicians, pundits and preachers ranting against the "evils" of LGBT people, it seems like an insurmountable problem. It is a big problem for sure, but I don't believe it is insurmountable. The Golden Rule seems a bit tarnished lately but it has proven to be effective when put into practice. Although most cynics will scoff that the whole "treat your neighbor as you would be treated" thing might not work, I can assure them that business as usual isn't working either.

I recall a kid in high school who "borrowed" a neighbor's car for a joy ride. He ended up wrecking it and luckily walked away unharmed. His parents, not the police, settled the issue by making him do work for the man whose car he stole without pay, as well as repaying for the damage done to the car. Not surprisingly, the perpetrator and the neighbor whose car he stole ended up reconciled.

Making "examples" of people like Dharun Ravi won't achieve the desired results, but working to make Ravi a more exemplary citizen might.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

We're getting mainstreamed in the press — and that's a good thing

All LGBTs want is the chance to be screwed up on an equal basis, and the daily paper — in liberal Seattle at least — is finally giving it to us

Being the old-fashioned type, I have a newspaper delivered to my door every morning. Being part of modern American society, I rarely have time to read it.

But this week I managed to scan a couple of issues, and there in my old-fashioned newspaper were distinctly modern morsels. These items treated gays not as criminals or political footballs, but as members of society.

Somewhere William Randolph Hearst is asking, "What fun is that?"

Monday's local section of The Seattle Times included the headline "Being Themselves at the 'Pink Prom,'" and two photos from the weekend event.

The top picture's extended caption began, "'Nniti Fair,' or Barry Caadan, 22, of Seattle, helps put a necklace on 'Isis,' or Zac Burr, 19, of Marysville."

Marysville is about 30 miles north of Seattle.

I'm guessing the phone lines in that small city are still burning.

After explaining the prom is for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth," the caption noted how long the two have been doing drag, and that Burr performed in a show for the first time that morning.

"I like making new friends, and I love feeling beautiful," Burr said.

Perhaps in the period since these pictures ran a fence has gone up around Marysville to keep Burr in. Or out.

A newspaper is supposed to inform, and The Seattle Times did its job in sending a photographer to the event, running the pictures and explaining to the clue-free — that would be most people, no matter how liberal Seattle is — the appeal of a pink prom and drag.

Some of us might quibble that only female pronouns should've been applied to the drag queens in the caption. Maybe, but not long ago we'd have counted ourselves lucky that the newspaper didn't use "it."

In Thursday's paper I spotted a double help-

ing of respect. The lead story in the sports section was a preview of the Seattle Storm, as the women's hoop team starts the WNBA season. The Times included factoids about each player, and the info on new Belgian center Ann Wauters amounted to a lesbian full-court press.

Wauters "enjoyed being pregnant simultaneously with her partner, giving birth to her son, Vince, on June 1, 2011. Legally married in Belgium, her wife's daughter, Lou, was born May 12, 2011."

Wonderful. Honest. But to a homophobe, that description is one very offensive foul. Such a person wishes for safer offerings from a newspaper, like, "Wauters enjoys watching soccer, and her favorite

food is Fruity Pebbles."

If that person threw down the sports section in disgust and headed for the fun parts of the paper in search of relief, he got another jolt. Next to the comics and under the horoscopes, the advice columnist answered a question from two lesbian mothers.

Between that and the sports blurb, my horo-



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety

“
A newspaper is supposed to inform, and The Seattle Times did its job in sending a photographer to the event, running the pictures and explaining to the clue-free — that would be most people, no matter how liberal Seattle is — the appeal of a pink prom and drag. Some of us might quibble that only female pronouns should have been applied to the drag queens in the caption. Maybe, but not long ago we'd have counted ourselves lucky that the newspaper didn't use 'it.'
”

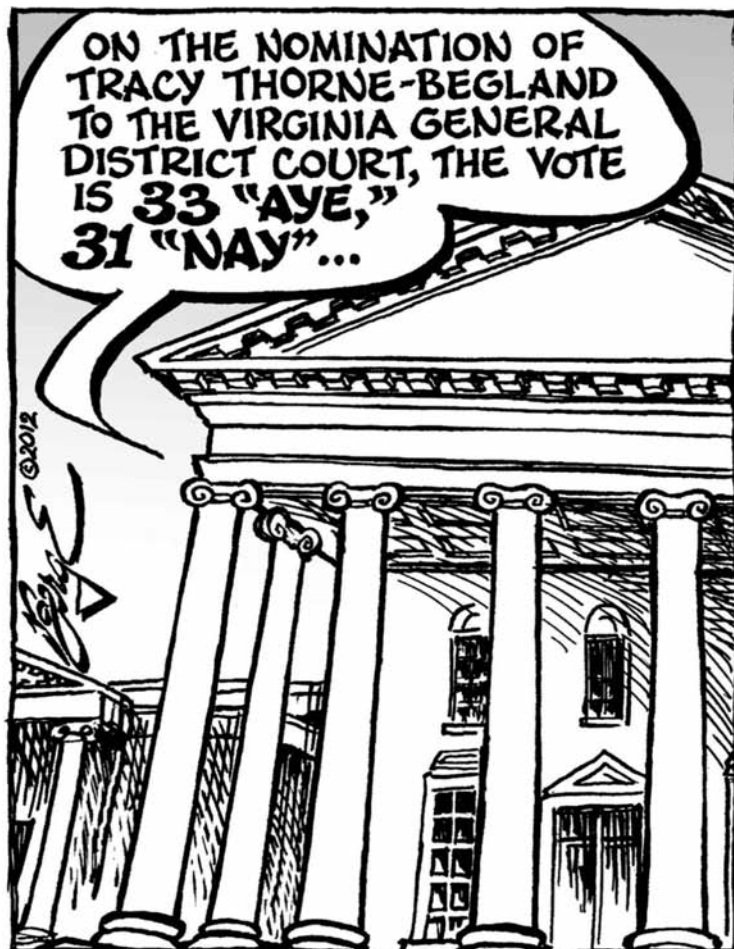
scope should've said, "Observe how things tilt to your advantage today. Avoid beets."

The woman who wrote to "Ask Amy" said she and her partner have two young daughters. Her partner talks often about losing weight and diets, while she doesn't. "Body image has been such a painful issue for both of us. I don't want to pass that on to our daughters in this already diet/body image-obsessed world," she wrote.

Amy dispensed respectful advice to the parents that they should get in sync, see a nutritionist, involve the kids in food prep, never criticize anyone's body in front of the children and perform other miracles.

It was the same advice she'd have given straight parents. Unlike the pink-prom photos or the Storm blurb, this advice column is syndicated, so LGBTQ people around the country read it that day and saw true equality — the chance to be screwed up on an equal basis. ■

Leslie Robinson is crafting a letter to "Ask Amy." Email Leslie, not Amy, at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and visit her blog at www.generalgayety.com for more LGBTQ humor.



NEWS ITEM: NOMINATION OF GAY LAWYER TO VIRGINIA COURT FAILS DUE TO ABSTENTIONS AND NON-VOTES IN STATE LEGISLATURE.

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Will ExxonMobil Corp. finally add LGBT protections this year?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Would you use the new in-home HIV test?

- Yes: 65 percent
 - No: 23 percent
 - Unsure: 12 percent
- 115 votes cast

Getting curious

LIFE+STYLE

screen

Fort Worth's Q Cinema returns for its 14th weekend-long festival of gay film

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

Are you curious?" the theme for this year's Q Cinema International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (its 14th) asks. And of course, we are. The four-day celebration of queer filmmaking, which opens Thursday, features nearly 40 movies from shorts to features to documentaries and even some music videos and live performances — more than 18 hours of movie-related entertainment in all.

And there's something for everyone. Short film programs cater to women, youth and those interested in same-sex marriage (maybe Barack Obama will show up); documentaries are as personal as what happened three years ago at the Rainbow Lounge to what HIV-positive kids as far away as Vancouver do to cope and what role Vito Russo played in chronicling gay history (answer: A lot). There are comedies, dramas, a staged reading of a movie script (adapted for theater), plus special guest appearances and a party every night.

In short, a festival.

The diversity of this year's slate is its strong point, with no weak features in the lot. And best of all, there's always something new to try. So grab your popcorn and your boyfriend and get curious.

Q Cinema runs May 31—June 3 at the Rose Marine Theater and other venues around Fort Worth. Tickets range from \$10 for single tickets to \$100 for an all-festival pass. Visit AreYouCurious.org or QCinema.org for details.

Funkytown

With a name like *Funkytown*, you might expect snappy musical comedy, but from the somber opening, you know the title is meant at least slightly ironically. It's Montreal 1976, and disco is king, but there's more to it than grins and giggles. Disco culture was also drug culture, and you sense things aren't headed the right way for some of these people, like in a Scorsese film but with a French accent: Call it *Boogie Nuits*.

Comparisons to Scorsese are probably a little too generous, but *Funkytown* does have a slick look and a sense of the period. Justin Chatwin has his John Travolta moves perfected on the dance floor as he explores the gay underbelly of the city and takes us along. There's a voyeuristic appeal to it that's at times irresistible. It's the movie *54* needed to be. — Arnold Wayne Jones

May 31 at 7:30 p.m. In French and English.
Screens with video Chow Down (at Chik-Fil-A).

Raid of the Rainbow Lounge

If you lived in North Texas three summers ago, and even if you lived farther away, you'll remember the news, arising on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, of the TABC and Fort Worth police raid of the newly opened Rainbow Lounge in Cowtown. For months, it remained a popular topic of conversation, and

sparked a newfound activism in the gay community.

Filmmaker Robert L. Camina grabbed his camcorder that Sunday morning when the news broke, and has spent much of the last three years piecing together the story of what really happened, with dozens of interviews and by pouring over volumes of reports and testimonies and news reports. The result: *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge* is a comprehensive and occasionally eye-opening chronicle of events still important to many locals.

In addition to the exhaustive reportage, the film also serves as reminder of the emotions many of us experienced at the time, reminding us of Chief Jeffrey Halstead (a polarizing figure) and the apparent foot-dragging of the investigation into What Really Happened. In that way, it churns up feelings and images that may have drifted out of our consciousness, at once reigniting our passions but also reassuring us that change can happen — even if we have to make it so. — AWJ

June 1 at 8 p.m. Filmmaker in attendance.

Morgan

When I was assigned to review a love story about a gay paraplegic, I felt as though I'd lost a bet. I mention this not to point out what an as-

■ CURIOUS, Page 32

FROM DISCO TO PROTEST | The line-up at this year's Q Cinema covers the waterfront, from a period piece about the disco era in French-speaking Canada ('Funkytown,' top), to a gay romance featuring a man with a disability ('Morgan,' center) to a documentary about Fort Worth's most notorious gay bar ('Raid of the Rainbow Lounge,' below).



INTRODUCING

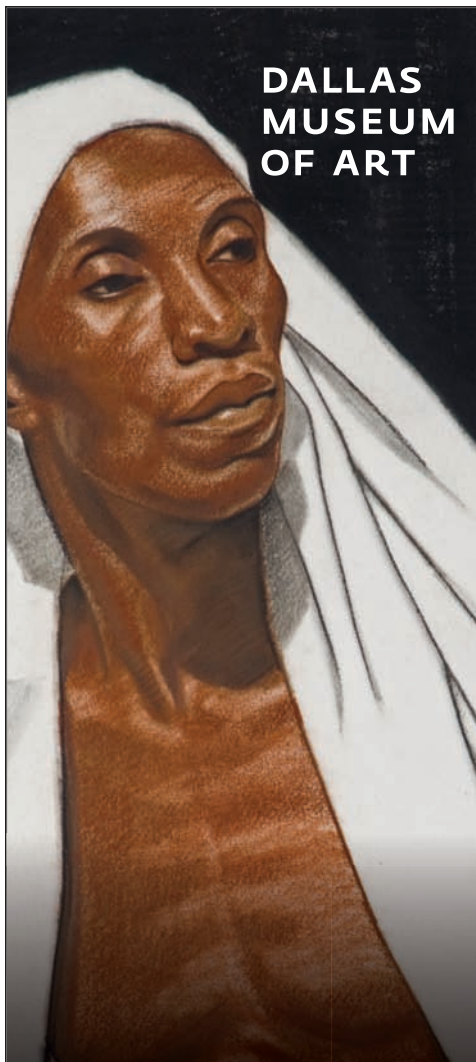
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The exhibition in Dallas is presented by Bank of America. Additional support is provided by the DMA's Junior Associates Circle with funds raised through An Affair of the Art 2012: Glory of the Age and the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas. Air transportation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

Bank of America

GLORY OF THE AGE **ART WORKS**

Image (detail): Winold Reiss, *Black Prophet*, 1925. pastel on Whatman board, private collection, © The Reiss Trust

DallasMuseumofArt.org

■ **CURIOS**, From Page 30

hole I am, but so my fellow assholes will think twice before dismissing *Morgan*. Although it does lean too hard on melodrama to force a climax, it's not the pity party or tale of heroic struggle you might expect. In fact the heroes — Morgan and his paramour Dean — are such flawed individuals you may not always root for them to make it as a couple.

They meet after Morgan (Leo Minaya, strong in a complex role) loses the use of his legs in an accident in a bicycle race. He meets Dean, a fellow jock, and they fall in love. Morgan's stubbornness and fiercely independent spirit, while admirable in some respects, creates problems for himself and others that he's not willing to acknowledge. He insists on entering the bike race again, even though it could prove fatal for him and his new relationship. But while *Morgan* is a gay date movie, it's not a tearjerker. Chick flick be damned. — *Steve Warren*

June 2 at 2 p.m. Screens with the short *Fallen Comrade*.

Positive Youth

Charlie David is kind of a renaissance man of



FEATURED SHORTS

Fallen Comrade (screens with *Morgan*). A soldier has died in combat and is being honored, but this being a gay film fest, we have an idea where this story is going. With boot camp scenes a la *Full Metal Jacket* and sex scenes that are erotic yet sensitive, this is a poignant, bittersweet and timely romance with a touching twist that's certain to piss off the haters — which might be reason enough to see it.

Pursuit (screens with *Ladies Shorts*). A lesbian driver with the hots for a motorcycle cop goes all *Gone in 60 Seconds* on her to grab some attention. A kooky comedy about the lengths people will go to in the queer mating ritual. Shot in Dallas, with several recognizable landmarks.

The Art of Walking through the Streets (screens with *Youth Shorts*). A day-in-the-life docudrama about two streetwise girls in Brazil, who grit and experiment and may have feelings for one another. A tentative, honest and tender short, sort of a teen-aged *Midnight Cowboy* in Portuguese.

The Violation (screens with *Youth Shorts*, pictured). A sexy and perverse *Rear Window*-ish tale about a creepy teen peeping tom and the equally creepy neighbor boy. Fetishistic, uneasy and dark, it's nevertheless a stingingly familiar story of obsession and sexual curiosity for young people. Beth Grant (*Sordid Lives*) is featured.

— A.W.J.

the modern gay culture, with experience as a TV host (*Bump!*), screenwriter (*Mulligans*), actor (*Dante's Cove*) and now documentary filmmaker. He shows adeptness at all of the above. He's also incredibly handsome. Thank God at least he's Canadian — there had to be *something* wrong with him.

His mini-feature *Positive Youth* takes just 45 minutes to introduce us to four young people, ages 18 to 27 who tell their stories of becoming HIV-positive matter-of-factly, without sentimentalization but with honesty. And in those stories, we see the panoply of experience common to so many, taking us from the testing (and shocking results) to coming out to parents and friends to developing sexual relationships and coping with medication (especially without insurance). It's remarkable how, in four brief segments, we see men and

women, white and black, urban and suburban, club-kid and homebody and all ring true. If only David would fiddle with the tone, which has the fast-paced, pop-scored short-attention-span style of an episode of MTV's *True Life*. Then again, that might be the perfect venue for a film like this to reach its ideal audience. — *AWJ*

June 2 at 4 p.m. Screens with the shorts *UB2* and *Fucked*.

A Perfect Ending

Showing as a work-in-progress though it's reportedly very close to its final form, this is the latest lesbian romance from Nicole Conn (*Elena Undone*, *Claire of the Moon*). John Heard and Morgan Fairchild have supporting roles in the story of a wife and mother who comes out in the arms of a high-priced escort. The physical and emotional girl-girl action won't interest most gay dudes, although the photos of Jessica Clark make me wonder if she has a brother. — *SW*

June 2 at 6 p.m.

Mulligans: A Staged Reading

Frequent Q Cinema guest Charlie David, whose *Positive Youth* screens this year, returns for the world premiere reading of a play drawn from his 2008 film, in which a young man spends the summer with the family of his best college friend and winds up bringing his friend's father out of the closet. "Mulligan" is a golf term for a do-over, "when a player gets a second chance to perform a certain move or action."

This play is a mulligan for David, whose overall solid film script had a lot of minor inconsistencies that needed tweaking. Let's hope he's taken advantage of it. — *SW*

June 2 at 8 p.m.

Vito

Part of me has grown a little weary of documentaries about the early days of the gay rights movement (they started about three years ago



LOVE AND PARENT | The supporting characters in the baby-making comedy 'Gayby' give it a definite 'Will & Grace' vibe.

around the anniversary of Stonewall). But when you do them well, you deserve the credit.

Vito starts like a lot of them, reminding us of the plight of the early days of modern American gay persecution. It feels a bit slapdash (we literally hop from 1954 to 1969 in 30 seconds) rushing to explain the circumstances by which Vito Russo became radicalized, but once it gets going, it's a different film: Not just about Russo's activism, but his unique place as the first historian of gay culture.

Russo — who dies of AIDS in 1990, at age 44 — was an early crusader, but gained his greatest fame as a media analyst and journalist, publishing celebrity interviews and even screening campy movies for all-gay audiences, incidentally discovering the hidden history of gay cinema, which turned out to be in plain sight if you just knew where to look for it. (It led to his seminal book, *The Celluloid Closet*.) More than that, though, *Vito* shows how Russo was the first person to treat the gay sub-culture as one worthy of rigorous study not from a political but an artistic and personal expression. "The essence of gay liberation is politics you can dance to," one commentator observes in the film. If so, Vito Russo wrote the soundtrack. — *AWJ*

June 3 at noon.

Kiss Me

Reviewed next week.
June 3 at 4 p.m.

Gayby

Gayby is a bundle of joy. It's got the most crossover potential of any queer film since *The Kids Are All Right*, so take advantage of what might be your last chance to see it with "family."

Like *Will & Grace* with procreation, it's about straight woman Jenn who responds to the ticking of her biological clock by asking her gay best friend Matt to father a child "the old-fashioned

■ **CURIOS**, Page 34

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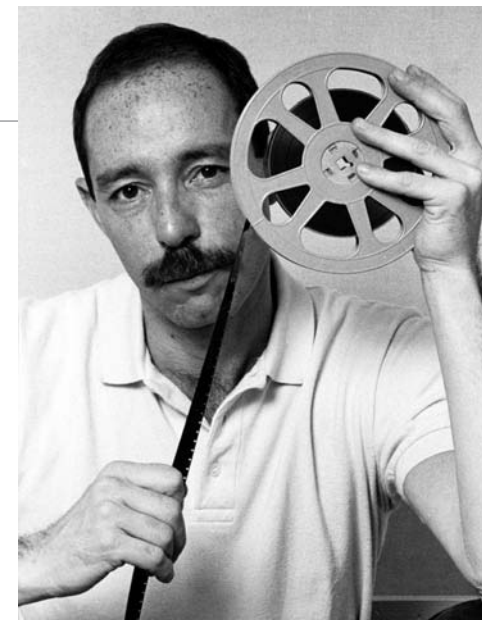
L+S screen

■ **CURIOS**, From Page 32

way." They don't exactly have beginner's luck in conceiving but they keep trying, all the while having ups and downs in their individual searches for Mr. Right. The concept is serviceable, but it's the details that make *Gayby* work so well. There are the usual rom-com complications, but enough of them are fresh enough that you can excuse the few tired twists.

Writer-director Jonathan Lisecki heads a diverse group of supporting characters as an effeminate gay man who's decided to be a "bear." The little-known cast, mostly New York stage actors, is augmented by Dulé Hill as a potential romance for Jenn and Sarita Choudhury as her pregnancy guru. — SW

June 3 at 7 p.m. Screening with the video *The Vagina Song*.



GAYS ON FILM | 'Vito' is a documentary made for gay film lovers, just like its subject, Vito Russo.

Q Cinema: The Schedule

All programs at the Rose Marine Theater,
1440 Main St., Fort Worth, unless noted

Funkytown. The disco era, as it happened in French-speaking Canada. 135 mins. Preceded by the video *Chow Down (At Chik-Fil-A)*.

May 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Won't You Take Me to Funkytown Opening Night Party

At the T&P Tavern, May 31 at 10 p.m.

An Evolving Issue: Gay Marriage Shorts.

Program includes: *Always Again, The Defend-*

ers, Groom's Cake, Harvey & Peter, Homecoming, It's the Law, A Wedding Dance. 60 mins.
June 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Raid of the Rainbow Lounge. Dallas filmmaker Robert L. Camina charts the historic events at the Cowtown gay club. 100 mins.
June 1 at 8 p.m.

The White Party.
At *The Where House*, June 1 at 10 p.m.

Ladies Shorts Are Showing. Program includes: *Connected, Family Portrait, Ms. Thing, Prince's Sword, Pursuit, Republicans, Get In My Vagina!, The Plan, What Could Be.* 90 mins.
June 2 at noon.

Morgan. (Southwest premiere.) A gay paraplegic enters a wheelchair race. Preceded by the short *Fallen Comrade*. 100 mins.
June 2 at 2 p.m.

Positive Youth. (Southwest premiere.) Doc about HIV-positive young people. Preceded by the shorts *UB2* and *Fucked*. 60 mins.
June 2 at 4 p.m.

A Perfect Ending. A special "work in progress" screening of a film about a repressed socialite who reveals too much to an escort. 90 mins.
June 2 at 6 p.m.

Mulligans: A Staged Reading. (World premiere.) QLive! debuts this adaptation of the coming-of-age film set at a country club.
June 2 at 8 p.m.

The Nineteenth Hole After Party
At *Wild About Food*, June 2 at 10 p.m.

Vito. Documentary about gay historian Vito Russo (*The Celluloid Closet*). 90 mins.
June 3 at noon.

Youth Shorts. Program includes: *The Art of Walking Through the Streets, Bosco the Orange, Cure(d), A Fairy Tale, Hold on Tight, The Next One, Spiral Transition, Take It/Break It, The Violation.* 100 mins.
June 3 at 2 p.m.

Kiss Me. (Southwest premiere.) A Swedish love story between two stepsisters. 105 mins.
June 3 at 4 p.m.

Gayby. *Will & Grace*-esque comedy about best friends who decide to have a love child. Preceded by the video *The Vagina Song*. 90 mins.
June 3 at 7 p.m.

The Q Awards/Closing Night Party
June 3 at 9 p.m.

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Leap of faith

Bess Kargman documents the grace of ballet in 'First Position'

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

If the image that pops in your head when you think of a movie director is of a middle-aged, bearded guy wearing a ball-cap and sneakers, then Bess Kargman is definitely *not* the first person you'd seek out on the set. In fact, when you realize she's also a former journalist, you might look for the nicotine stained fingers; you won't find them.

Instead, you'll see a petite young woman in an Ann Taylor sheath (size 2, max) staring at you from behind big doe eyes.

Which is exactly the challenge she faced when she decided to make her debut documentary, *First Position*.

The decision to become a filmmaker wasn't as difficult — or as compelling — as you might expect.

"I trained as a journalist — I went to Columbia School of Journalism," Kargman says at a suite in the Hotel Palomar on a recent swing through Dallas. "For me, all storytelling is just storytelling, whatever the format of the medium."

And the story she wanted to tell was about ballet — specifically, the kids who sacrifice so much for the shot at dancing glory.

"I danced my whole childhood, so when it came to picking talent, that was the easy part," she says. "I wanted a really diverse group of kids — someone from a Latin background and an African-American to show that not all ballet dancers are white. I wanted siblings. And boys."

She got everything she needed when she poked her head into the dance competition portrayed in the film.

"I saw the most unbelievably beautiful dancer. I'd never seen such talent before in such a young kid," she says. The next step was to *make* the movie.

Having trained on news documentaries, Kargman felt a natural progression to features that served her better than if she set out for a Hollywood career.

"If I had gone to film school, I never would have believed I could do this," Kargman laughs. "I would be daunted by how many people



FIRST TIMER | Kargman, above right, leapt into filmmaking from journalism to make her debut documentary.

wanted to do what I did."

She approached the process methodically. The first step was to find a cinematographer who could light everything from a cramped New York City apartment to the stage of a theater. Just as difficult was finding a seasoned pro who was willing to take orders not only from a young director, and a first-time director, but a *female* director.

"I rewatched every documentary I'd ever loved. Then I called up the people in the credits.

They usually said the same thing — 'I'm unavailable and you can't afford me.' But one added: 'This guy is equally talented and might be free.' And that was Nick Higgins. The minute I saw his stuff I

knew he was the right one."

Kargman has been surprised at one thing about the marketing of her film: Until our interview, no other gay media had expressed an interest in her film, a fact she found somewhat puzzling: Not only does ballet traditionally appeal to gay men, but several of the dancers are gay ... at least, that's what Kargman suspects.

"I didn't ask them directly, because I didn't want to come up to an 11-year-old and ask about their sexuality, but I would say at least one of my dancers is gay. You can just tell. But they were all minors and I didn't want them to have to wear a rainbow-colored shirt just to make a point," she says.

That's not necessary. When a film is a graceful as the bodies on screen, you just get lost in the beauty. Which was what she wanted to convey all along. ■

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Days of wine

Head upstate to New York's Finger Lakes region for wine culture with a smattering of gay flair

ANDREW COLLINS | Contributing Travel Writer
outoftown@qsyndicate.com



The legalization of same-sex marriage in New York has given new appeal to some romantic vacation spots throughout the state. Of particular note is the Finger Lakes area of Upstate New York, which abounds with gorgeous scenery and charming accommodations, as well as its renowned winemaking industry.

For its acclaimed riesling and increasingly well-regarded chardonnay, cabernet franc and pinot noir, the Finger Lakes region has developed into one of the top winemaking areas in the eastern U.S. More than 100 wineries thrive amid the 11 deep, narrow lakes that give the area its name. Seneca Lake is at the center of wine country, but neighboring Cayuga and Keuka lakes also have plenty of prominent vineyards. One highlight is Red Newt Cellars, the purview of openly gay winemaker Brandon Seager and the home of a sensational restaurant. Just down the road, Atwater Estate turns out terrific cab franc and riesling and has also been a venue of several same-sex weddings. The impressive lake view is a worthy selling point.

Wagner Vineyards produces not only a bounty of great wines but also well-crafted microbrews. Finger Lakes Distilling earns kudos for its aromatic gin, bourbons and distinctive aperitifs. Miles Wine Cellars, Anthony Road, Hermann J. Wiemer and Dr. Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellars (a riesling legend on Keuka Lake) are also worth a look.

Other great spots in these parts include the liberal town of Ithaca, home to Ithaca College and the main campus of Cornell University, as well as such cultural gems as the Hangar Theater, the Kitchen Theatre and the Cayuga Nature Center, with its many trails and animal enclosures. Spend some time in the small, rejuvenated city of Corning, home to the surprisingly excellent Corning Museum of Glass, which showcases a collection of glassworks dating back 35 centuries; the Rockwell Museum of Western Art

features an outstanding collection of Western and Native American art. Shops, galleries and restaurants make up the Gaffer Historic District.

For dining, favorites along the Seneca Lake shoreline include the Stonecat Cafe, serving boldly seasoned, rustic American fare, and Suzanne. Occupying a rambling old farmhouse, it serves artfully plated dinners with the same genial pace and warm service you might encounter at a dinner party.

In Ithaca, students get their fix of cheap and authentic ethnic food at Saigon Kitchen and Sticky Rice Thai & Laotian, and coffeehouse culture thrives at Collegetown Bagels up on the hill near Cornell's campus as well as downtown. Nearby, the urbane Just A Taste Wine & Tapas serves stellar Spanish-inspired small plates, the cozy Carriage House Cafe turns out delicious breakfasts and lunches, and iconic Moosewood Restaurant draws devotees of vegetarian cooking. Noteworthy in Corning is the cheap and cheerful Atlas Brick Oven Pizzeria and the elegant Three Birds Restaurant.

Gay nightlife is limited in these parts, but Ithaca bars are a healthy mixture of gay and straight, notable especially for Felicia's Atomic Age and the Oasis. In nearby Elmira, you'll find gays at Chill and in Binghamton at Merlins.

An excellent base for wine touring at the southern tip of Seneca Lake, the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel offers 104 airy and modern rooms, many with lake views, as well as the excellent Blue Pointe Grille. In Ithaca, enjoy solicitous service from the prestigious Cornell School of Hotel Administration at the Statler Hotel, and a full resort experience at La Tourelle Resort and Spa, which also houses the excellent Simply Red Bistro and John Thomas Steakhouse.

Quirky inns proliferate in these parts, including a few romantic gay-owned options: the sumptuous, art-filled Juniper Hill B&B in Trumansburg; the John Morris Manor, overlooking the northern end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca

SCENIC ROUTE | As one of more than 100 wineries in New York's Finger Lakes region, the scenic view of Wagner Vineyards only adds to its offerings of both wines and microbrews. (Photo by Andrew Collins)



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Falls; the Black Walnut B&B, which dates to 1804; and the Greek Revival Hillcrest Manor in Corning. In downtown Ithaca, the gay-friendly, Queen Anne-style William Henry Miller Inn is another wonderfully stylish option. ■

TRAVEL DIARY

LGBT travel agency **Concierge Travel** delivers the exotic with its cruise to the **Greek Isles** and **Turkey** from Aug. 25–Sept. 1. Departing from Athens, the ship spends the days at sea before visiting Kusadasi, Turkey. Greek destinations include Mykonos, Piraeus and Santorini. Staterooms start at \$1,195/person.



Can you spend a week with a bunch of gay men dancing on the beach? The premier Latin gay party **Caribbean Heat**, pictured, is banking on that with its week-long, all-male gay dance party, Aug. 31–Sept. 7.


Yeah, you can learn a bit about the Mayan culture at the nearby archaeological sites, but the **Adonis Gay Beach Resort** in **Tulum, Riviera Maya, Mexico**, and party sponsors **Manhunt** expect you to be prepared for eight days of glorious partying on the sunny beach.

Austin offers some gay touches this summer in the form of live music. Headlining the **10th Annual Keep Austin Weird Festival and 5K** is queer-centric pop rockers **Semi Precious Weapons**, who opened for Lady Gaga on her Monster Ball Tour. “We knew their live show would bring great energy to the Keep Austin Weird Festival,” says Michelle Graham, CEO of Bounce, the production company behind the festival. “People will appreciate the individuality that Semi Precious Weapons brings to their performance and to the stage. That individuality is what makes them a great headliner for a festival that celebrates being weird and unique.” The daylong festival comes to the Long Center June 23.

There’s still time to make the **Olivia Splendor of Scandinavia and Russia** cruise. More than 600 women are expected to embark on a journey of culture, history and luxury. Beginning in **Stockholm**, the cruise includes stops in **Helsinki** and **St. Petersburg**. Amazing stuff. The cruise runs June 20–27, so book now.

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Parent Poundstone

Queermedian Paula Poundstone turns single parenting into laughs

JENNY BLOCK | Contributing Writer
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

Like most parents, Paula Poundstone has a million stories about her kids. Unlike most parents, Poundstone has a comic's timing that makes even the most familiar tale sound newly hilarious. Except that she insists there's no embellishing — that's just the way it is.

"My daughter has this thing where she pretends that she doesn't know how to do something and you explain it to her; later, you find out she is secretly running a bank," she says.

Well, maybe a *little* embellishment.

"When she grows up, I'll think she's not functional when she's really the CEO of a company. She has a whole life I don't know anything about. She could buy and sell me," Poundstone says. Parenting to her is like one of her favorite children's books, *The Night I Followed the Dog*, where a child follows his dog one night only to see him slip out the doggie door, jump into a cab and head to a club.

"The funny thing is, I can bitch about parenting. I can complain real good about it. But if I could push a button and start it all over again, I would do it in a heartbeat. A friend of mind said to me one time. 'You would still make mistakes but different ones,'" she says.

It's clear Poundstone adores her children ... and it helps explain why she likes quick trips when she does an out-of-town show, as she does June 2 when she'll be performing a set at the Lakewood Theater in East Dallas. But it still keeps her up at night.

"Every now and then I vent [at the kids]," she says of the parenting challenge. "It isn't like every day I get up and try to articulate the meaning of life or something. I fall asleep thinking, 'If only I had the right words, then I will see a light go on.' So far, no-go."

As the single parent of three — now ages 21, 18, and 14 — Poundstone riffs that the real challenge is "that my children haven't been any different at any age. The things that make parenting raggedy [for other people as their kids get older] don't happen. I'm like, No, no. She was like that when she was 4. I don't mind having problems. I just would like to have different problems. Does it have to be the same fucking thing every day?"

Poundstone became famous for the same quick-on-her-feet, stream-of-consciousness improv that marks her interview style. But it wasn't always that way. When she started her career, Poundstone performed the more standard standup style.

"I tried really hard to do that because that's what I thought I was supposed to do," she says. But it didn't work for her.

"Back in Boston, there would be these open mike nights; you get five



SHE'S ALL EARS | Queen of improv Paula Poundstone riffs on everything from being the single mother of three to her views on religious opposition to same-sex marriage.

minutes. I would try really hard to write my five minutes and do it, and every time something would go wrong. I'd forget or be distracted. There is nothing worse than a surly group of comics pinched because you didn't get off on time. I was always chastising myself for not doing the right things. Eventually, 32 years later, I realized that I wasn't doing anything wrong," she says.

Things are different now — for one she's Paula-frickin'-Poundstone.

"I do the time-honored 'Where are you from, what do you do for a living?' lines," she says. "I usually use that to set my sails. Then go off on something I have material for. Some people have actually thought I used plants in the audience," though she never has — she doesn't need to.

Poundstone has plied her skills for the past 10 years on the NPR news quiz show *Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me*, where her snarky one-liners have made her one of the show's most popular panelists.

"It has been a romp," she says. "It's like being a batter in a batting cage. All the guys I work with are brilliant, which makes me look stupid."

Poundstone isn't all jokes and funny parenting stories; some issues inflame her passions, such as same-sex marriage. And quite frankly, she doesn't understand the problem right-wingers have with it — especially those who base their opposition on religious grounds.

"Instead of micromanaging other people's lives, just let God do it," she says. "Get your revenge that way. [After we all die, those against same-sex marriage] can be strumming harps, watching gays turning on spits in Hell. I think this could satisfy both groups."

Suddenly, a light *does* go on.

"I am a goddam genius," she says. "I don't know how I function in this world." ■

PAULA POUNDSTONE

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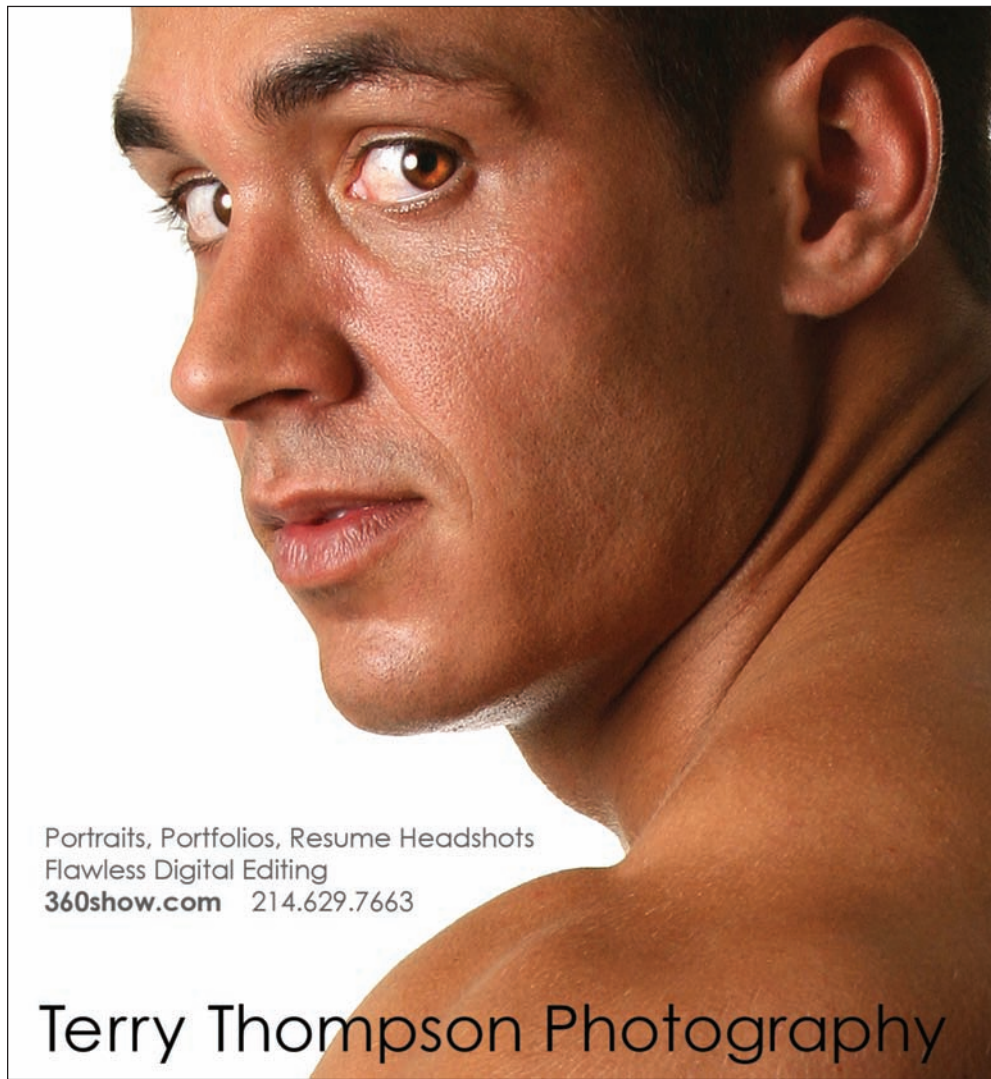
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LEATHER DIVERSITY | As a 55-year-old African-American, Gabe Sims may not fit the stereotype of a leatherman, but he says it's actually a very welcoming and warm community to all comers. (Terry Thompson/Dallas Voice)

Gabe Pride

As he readies for International Mr. Leather in Chicago this weekend, Mr. Texas Leather 2012 Gabe Sims speaks out on diversity in the leather community, his victory ... and hopes for his chances at IML

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

From the outside looking in, the leather community can seem enigmatic, its appeal elusive to some, undeniably powerful to others. With unique yet varied and highly specialized dress codes, social rituals and tight bonds among participants, it's almost a secret organization within the niche that already is LGBT society.

But Gabe Sims, who was named Mr. Texas Leather earlier this year, is extremely proud to call himself a member. In a short five years, he's gone from amateur to award-winning professional with remarkable ease.

Sims' first venture into leather competitions was in 2007, and even that was behind the scenes: He produced the Mr. Firedancer Contest for his Firedancers club at the Hidden Door. (Currently, he holds the title "Supreme Chief of the Fire" — basically its president.) In 2009, Sims put together the Mr. Hidden Door Contest. But it wasn't until this year that he finally entered his first two competitions, winning both: Mr. Hidden Door in the fall, followed quickly by Mr. Texas Leather 2012.

It's a late start (Sims is 55) but an auspicious one for this Dallasite.

"Personally it's an affirmation of my journey as a leatherman, as well as humbling to me, when I realize that I'm an inheritor of a great tradition, of past Mr. Texas Leathers — Robert Goode, Jeffery Payne, Jack Duke — and to be considered a role model by so many in the leather community," he says. "The brotherhood, service and structure, as well as the outlaw sexuality of leather and uniform, of the leather community [are what] appealed to me. I prefer community, but it's also a lifestyle. So I am split between the two terms."

With his perfect 2-for-2 record, it's clear Sims can achieve anything he sets his mind to. His military and service background was a vital part of his life for 20 years, serving in the Louisiana Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve and as a volunteer firefighter. Currently, he's keeping the country safe in a different capacity, working within the Department of Homeland Security. (His dedication and perseverance are also apparent in his relationship with Lance Hughes, his partner of 13 years.)

Winning Mr. Texas Leather includes several skills, evaluated by the panel of judges, such as interviews about personal kink history, how to

dress in formal leather gear and public speaking ability. Winning it automatically qualified Sims to compete at International Mr. Leather, which takes place this weekend in Chicago. Two of the past three Mr. Texas Leather winners — Jeffrey Payne and Jack Duke — have done well at IML, with Duke second runner-up in 2010 and Payne winning the competition outright in 2009. Expectations could be high.

"God willing and the bayou don't rise, I will become IML 34," the Louisiana native confidently proclaims. (Confidence is another quality well-regarded in leather culture.) But Sims' winning streak also debunks a common misperception of the leather community: That it is not welcoming to men and women of color. Bull, Sims declares.

"Personally, I beg to differ!" he exclaims. "There's a rich history of men and women of color who have competed and won leather competitions. You have Robert Goode, Mr. Texas Leather 2000, Ron Moore IML 1984," as well as Lance Holeman, Mr. San Francisco Leather and IML 2010 First Runner Up, and Sara Vibes, IMSL (International Ms. Leather) 2011.

African-Americans have made inroads lately as well. "In other areas of the nation there's an active participation of men and women of color in leather competitions. Approximately five to 10 percent of those competing in my IML class of 2012 are men of color," Sims says. "I'm merely continuing the tradition of participants who are competing and winning. If there's any stereotype that I hope I shatter it's that if I can accomplish this, any person of color can do the same, given enough dedication and preparation ... and stepping out of your comfort zone."

And whatever your race or ethnicity, Dallas' leather community is a warm and welcoming group to anyone with an interest in learning more about the culture.

"It's very inclusive, supporting and evolving, though as any community and family it has its dysfunction, which is a good thing," he says with a wink. As with any time you get gay men together, there's bound to be the occasional dose of drama. "But paraphrasing Spock in *Star Trek*, 'Drama is the constant of the universe,'" Sims says.

Check out *Instant Tea* at DallasVoice.com this weekend for updates about Sims' status and performance at IML. ■

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'God' in the details

What if 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' were a comedy? It'd be 'Carnage'

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

There's a good reason why **God of Carnage**, in its regional premiere at the Kalita, takes place over 75 uninterrupted minutes: No one in their right mind would return to spend any more time with this quartet of insufferable vipers if they didn't have to. This is a compliment of the highest order. The playwright, Yasmina Reza (with a translation by Christopher Hampton), has done such an expert job in choreographing this ballet of passive-aggression, snowballing so inexorably to a bombastic finale, that an intermission would destroy the momentum, and you might see through its artifice. Instead, it's like ripping off a Band-Aid: A quick twinge, then relief.

Of course, bandage removal has never been quite so funny as this play, set in a poshly furnished Cobble Hill apartment in a tony part of Brooklyn. It begins with tea-and-crumpet civility: Two sets of parents, Veronica and Michael (Christina Vela, Hassan El-Amin) and Alan and Annette (Chris Hury, Sally Nystruen-Vahle) are meeting to discuss how Alan and Annette's son has struck Veronica and Michael's with a stick in a schoolyard scuffle, knocking out two teeth. They seem to want to move past this unfortunate incident, only Veronica can't seem to let it go: She's constantly making catty jibes, which irk boorish power-lawyer Alan. Slowly, it becomes a comedy of *bad* manners ... and then eventually, something else, an expiation of the stresses of modern life — *Lord of the Flies* moved to a Brooklyn brownstone.

The conceit is, frankly, a bit too-too; you can foresee the direction it's headed almost from the start ("the parents are more childish than the kids!"). But as a piece of theater, you see what it's

asking: "What if *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* were a comedy?" Its power lies in Reza's careful modulation of the tiny bits of urban life that collectively weigh on our psyches: Words and pop-culture references (from *clafoutis* to John Wayne to Kokoschka to cell phones) take on prickly significance in their specificity. And she carefully orchestrates the shifting allegiances between this band of middle-aged brats, from couple-vs.-couple, men-vs.-women and a few 3-vs.-1 scenarios.

Dallas Theater Center's outrageous production, helmed with a sophisticated grotesquery by Joel Ferrell, is not only gorgeously appointed (John Arnone's set screams impending blood-

bath and pseudo-intellectual pretentiousness in one breath), but exceptionally well acted by the cast. They spit their recriminations (sometimes quite literally, as in an hilariously nasty vomiting sequence) with such comic

vitriol you can't resist eavesdropping on this train-wreck confrontation.

Hury snivels like a sewer rat who's picked up the scent of garbage and can't wait to spread a little plague along his way. Nystruen-Vahle turns the seemingly passive Annette into a comic centerpiece (watching her drunkenly put on her shoes is a sly moment of hilarity you have to pay attention to catch). Vela shares antagonistic duties with Hury, at once sincerely nurturing and inviting you to hate her for caving into such prim stereotypes of limousine liberalism.

The voyeuristic appeal of *God of Carnage* is probably similar to watching *The Real Housewives of Hades*: We get to feel superior to the one-percenters, and don't even have to live in a tent city on Wall Street. ■

GOD OF CARNAGE

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
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DallasTheaterCenter.org.

PLEDGING ALLEGIANCES | The women (Christina Vela, Sally Nystruen-Vahle) team up — temporarily — against the men (Chris Hury, Hassan El-Amin) in the voyeuristic comedy 'God of Carnage' from DTC. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

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DATES FOR 2012 VOICE OF PRIDE COMPETITION SCHEDULE

LOCATION TIME	PRELIMINARIES CLUB	CHECK-IN	START
SUNDAY, JUNE 10 TH	CHERRIES	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
TUESDAY, JUNE 12 TH	BARBARA'S PAVILION	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13 TH	JR'S	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 14 TH	ROSE ROOM	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 17 TH	DALLAS EAGLE	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 18 TH	SUE ELLEN'S	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
TUESDAY, JUNE 19 TH	PEKERS	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20 TH	ROUND-UP	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 21 ST	TMC	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 24 TH	WOODY'S	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 25 TH	THE BRICK	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
TUESDAY, JUNE 26 TH	ALEXANDRE'S	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27 TH	KALIENTE	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 28 TH	BJ'S NXS	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
ELIMINATION ROUNDS			
MONDAY, JULY 9 TH	THE BRICK	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
TUESDAY, JULY 10 TH	DALLAS EAGLE	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11 TH	KALIENTE	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
THURSDAY, JULY 12 TH	PEKERS	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
SEMI-FINALS			
SUNDAY, JULY 22 ND	ROUND-UP	8:15 PM	9:00 PM
FINALS			
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 TH	ROSE ROOM	7:15 PM	8:00 PM

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Friday 05.25

To the Max

Whether you see his work as a Pop Art or Abstract Expressionism, Peter Max will always get a reaction. His use of vibrant colors on pop culture icons like Taylor Swift, the Dallas Cowboys helmet and the last seven U.S. presidents make for true eye candy. He reveals his take on two Van Gogh pieces at this current exhibition.

DEETS: Wisby Smith Fine Art, 500 Crescent Court, Ste. 146. Through June 3. Wisby-Smith.com

Friday 05.25

Major ball play

Softball jocks migrate to Dallas for Memorial Day Weekend for the annual Beat the Heat Classic tournament. Starting Friday, the Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association (PSSA) hosts registration for teams at Woody's and the Round-Up Saloon before hitting the diamonds at Keist Park on Saturday and Sunday. Go out and cheer them on. They could always use the athletic supporters.

DEETS: Kiest Park, 3080 S. Hampton Road. 8 a.m. DallasPSSA.org.

Saturday 05.26

Homo-grown

Girl in a Coma plays this weekend's day-long Home-grown Music Fest in Downtown. What used to be a local band showcase has grown to highlight all-Texas bands including this San Antonio trio.

DEETS: Main Street Garden Park, 1902 Main St. 11 a.m. \$17-\$50. HomeGrownFest.com.



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Due to the holiday weekend, please check with the organizations directly for any schedule changes.

FRIDAY 05.25

COMMUNITY

Queerly Speaking. This month's theme is To Have and To Hold: The Artist Response. Fahari's tackles the issue of marriage equality following statements made by the POTUS. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 8 p.m. \$5. FahariArtsInstitute.org.

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.

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.

SATURDAY 05.26

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers Prime Beefer. The potluck dinner is held a member's residence. For more information or to attend, call 972-504-8866.

Cathedral Couples potluck dinner and social. For location, call 972-252-7124.

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. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

Legacy social group of adults 50 or older from Cathedral of Hope. Monthly potluck or outing. 972-387-3345.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 05.27

COMMUNITY

Razzle Dazzle Poker Tournament. Pocket Rockets Dallas hosts the third week of the tournament with the final culminating during Razzle Dazzle Days. The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 2 p.m. PocketRocketsDallas.com.

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.



FIRST CLASS | An architect in Paris juggles his fiancées all who are flight attendants on different schedules in WaterTower Theatre's premiere of 'Boeing-Boeing!' The play opens Monday and runs through June 17.

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

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

MONDAY 05.28

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC

Chelsea Madrigal Music and Friends. Local music featuring LGBT artist Jay Bean. The Gin Mill, 1921 N. Henderson Ave. 7 p.m.

THEATER

Boeing-Boeing! A farce centering on one man in Paris who craftily juggles his affairs with three flight

attendants who are all his fiancées, but when a new, faster jet enters the picture, his scheduling gets thrown a curve. WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through June 17. \$20-\$50. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

TUESDAY 05.29

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY 05.30

COMMUNITY

Dump the Pump protests LGBT workplace discrimination by ExxonMobil and is organized by GetEQUAL TX. The event is intended to be a peaceful protest. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 8:30 a.m.

FUSE Activity Nights. The "official hangout night" with games, food and more. 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 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. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 05.31

COMMUNITY

Healing and Hope support group for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. For more information, email BillB4665@ATT.net. Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. 6:30 p.m.

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

p.m. DallasUptownRotary.org.

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

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

THEATER

2 Couples 2. Two young couples head out for vacation but end up all in the same cabin with no privacy. Accusations of infidelity ensue in this Spanish telenovela-esque comedy written by Alejandro de la Costa. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. 8 p.m. Through June 23. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

this week's solution

B	A	S	E		A	R	L	O		A	M	I	D		
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Elisabeth Hasselbeck turns 35 on Monday. The polarizing host of *The View* often interjects her conservative position which led to a famously heated debate with then host Rosie O'Donnell in 2007 over the war in Iraq. She has a longtime feud with comedian Kathy Griffin who blasted Hasselbeck's recent talk with President Obama on *The View* regarding same-sex marriage.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Collect facts and figures, listen to everyone involved, but real resolution will be subtler and more empathetic than logical; more in deeds than words.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Applying your personal insights to help others is an awkward fit, but combined with broader ideas proves useful. Solving problems at home digs you in deeper. Just listen and cooperate.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

OK, you're fabulous. Pushing the point only irritates those around you. Just relax and be you. Your hard work will be noticed, but is that a good thing? Have a friend double-check it first.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Charm and good manners get you ahead. Playfulness pushes you over lines you don't want to cross. Be sensitive to others, but not presumptuous. Your priorities aren't necessarily theirs.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Realizing your mistakes is an important part of learning. I think of it as intellectual housecleaning to help you advance. New approaches to health and exercise are worthwhile.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Sexual tensions and other anxieties need release. Lascivious humor reveal deeper truths and get you into trouble. Resist rationalizations and impulses.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Karmic connections offer insight into family problems. Pay attention to hygiene and housecleaning to solve spats with your partner. There are deeper problems, but a little clean up couldn't hurt.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Screw-ups at work are inevitable. Trying too hard complicates the project while stress and over-exertion causes physical harm. Advice from a favorite uncle or aunt can help.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your mouth is dangerous now and getting aggressive will only expose secrets, leaving you vulnerable. In the right time and place, that can be therapeutic. Elsewhere it's a bloody disaster.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Feeling disconnected, resist the temptation is to look for comfort in family and home. Focus on your career. Build your reputation, not by seeking attention, but by sharpening clarity.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Your mouth gets you into trouble. Your brilliant wit backfires, annoying your partner and upsetting your boss. Stay home and write, but let your partner look it over before anyone else reads it.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Reconciling your ideals with needs is a challenge. The discrepancies there make anyone pessimistic. But it shows you have a grasp of larger issues and taking steps to better the world.

THIS WEEK

The sun and Mercury in Gemini both quincunx to Pluto in Capricorn aggravate grievances with power and bureaucracy. Resist the urge to argue. Pressing your point will not help. Be sly and subversive. Know your opponent and work your way inside.

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

JANE'S WORLD



bitter girl

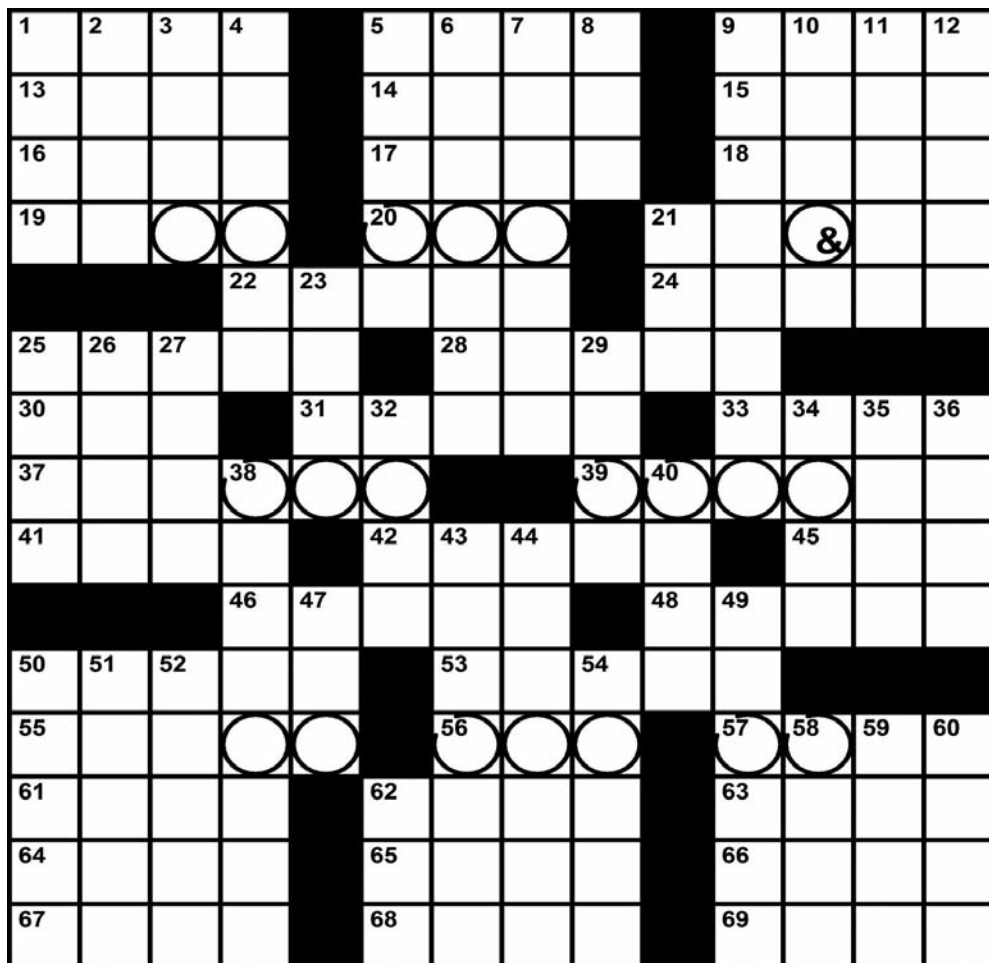
talk thirty to me



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A Boy Named Sues

Solution on page 47

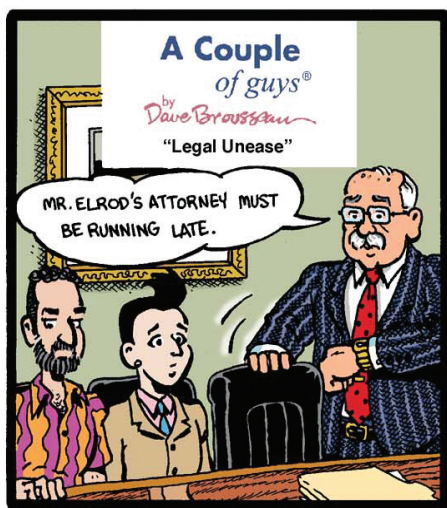
Across

- 1 Home, to Glenn Burke
- 5 Result of a sexually active Woody
- 9 In the center of
- 13 Piercing rebuke from Caesar?
- 14 Stink up the place
- 15 Barcelona boy
- 16 Bahrain biggie
- 17 Some actors have big ones
- 18 Bond foe
- 19 Peter on the piano
- 20 White as a ghost
- 21 Come slowly
- 22 Mother-and-son piece
- 24 Common stain
- 25 Two-footer?
- 28 Coal porter's vehicles
- 30 Great service from Mauresmo
- 31 "Great balls of fire!"
- 33 Rowers pull them
- 37 Julie of To Wong Foo fame
- 39 Prefix with town
- 41 Bygone pump name
- 42 Chance to get a hit
- 45 Randy's skating partner
- 46 Difference between a slut and a whore?

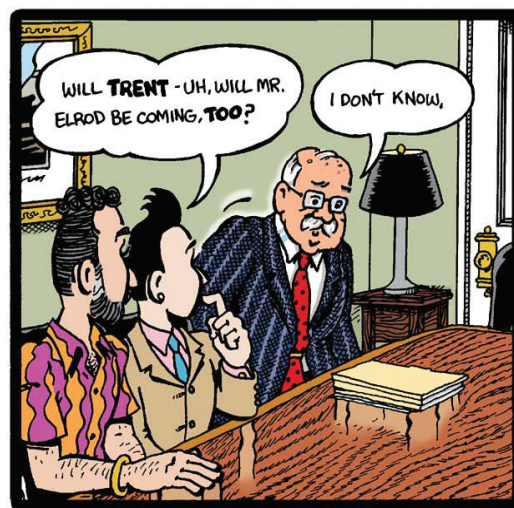
- 48 Seattle's WNBA team
- 50 Darrin Stevens, for one
- 53 Saudi Arabia neighbor
- 55 "Bear" that's not a bear
- 56 "I'm not touching that!"
- 57 Not a stat to brag about
- 61 Icon letters
- 62 Taylor of I Shot Andy Warhol
- 63 Gay nightlife district London
- 64 McKuen and his package?
- 65 Shake it or break it
- 66 Survivor, sometimes
- 67 Sills' solo
- 68 "A Boy Named Sue" singer Johnny
- 69 The late comedian Sues who was a regular on the show that appears in the circles

Down

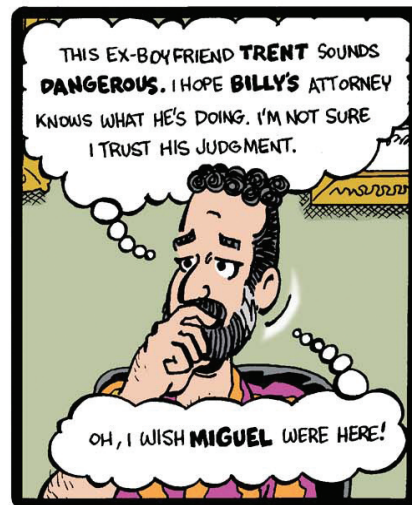
- 1 "It's ___ real!"
- 2 Melissa Etheridge's "Don't Look ___"
- 3 Create a solution
- 4 The Continent, to Britten
- 5 Question about one's group
- 6 Breezy competition
- 7 Composer Bernstein
- 8 Brief endorsements
- 9 Hans Christian of fairy tales
- 10 Moon of Uranus
- 11 Laura of "ER"
- 12 Some swingers
- 21 The Wizard of Oz studio
- 23 Think of it!
- 25 Cause of harm
- 26 Tops a cupcake
- 27 They touch the bottoms of believers
- 29 Early movie dog
- 32 Steffi of tennis
- 34 Concerning
- 35 Word before admiral, in the navy
- 36 Like a Muscle Mary who does sit-ups
- 38 Da Vinci signature piece
- 40 Words said with shame
- 43 Type of mockingbird?
- 44 Snoopy and others
- 47 Cat _ _ Hot Tin Roof
- 49 "How Do I Live" singer Yearwood
- 50 The Seven Samurai director Kurosawa
- 51 Word that may follow sperm or organ
- 52 Tuesday, in Tours
- 54 Chicken cut
- 58 Coward of Blithe Spirit
- 59 Pet plant
- 60 One to blow on
- 62 Lake, to fifty million Frenchmen



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Ronnie and Ricky at Sue Ellen's.



Jebacosta, Allen and Chase at Havana.



Travis and Blake at Cherries.



Daniel, Cicer and Mill at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

There are only three words everyone wants to hear — “three day weekend.” And we know you’re going to take full advantage. ... **Kathy Corbin** leads off the weekend at **Sue Ellen's** with a show Friday night. **CHIX** then brings their rock ‘n’ roll selves to the stage Saturday night. **Chris Miller** finishes off the weekend playing Sunday before you go and rest for your **Memorial Day** pool parties. ... The final night of **Miss Gay US of A** and the **US of A Classic 2012** goes down Friday at the **Palladium Ballroom** after a week of prelims. ... Get beached out at **Station 4's Heat Underwear and Beachwear Party** on Friday. The event is sponsored by **Andrew Christian** and you can even win pieces by the designer. Free threads? Hell, yes! ... The **Moscato Music Lounge** returns with its **Memorial Day Edition** featuring **Hunter the One**, **Taylor Pace** and **Javon**, the **R&B Teddybear**. And that's not even half of the lineup of entertainment. The party goes down Sunday at **Otaru Lounge**. ... Hunky DJ **Paul Kraft** navigates your ears and feet through a sea of music for Saturday's **Dance Your Ass Off Night** at the **Dallas Eagle**. Bears, cubs, chasers and admirers assemble! **Growl** night ups the beef and fur ante every Thursday. ... **Full Access** and **Disco Donnie** present the fab blondes that make up the DJ team **Nervo**. They overthrow the **Lizard Lounge** on Saturday bringing the heavy dance beats they brought when they opened for **Britney Spears** and **Nicki Minaj** last year. ... **Nicky Lauren** hosts **Tubo Tubo** every Friday at **Kallente**. DJ **Breck** does the turntable honors every Saturday. ... As for the **holiday pool parties**, well, you're on your own. But feel free to send us an invite. ■

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Tony and Ruben at Station 4.



Ruby at Joe's/The Brick.

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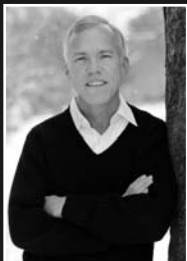
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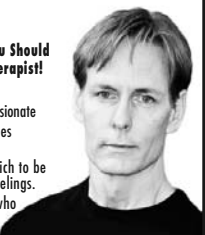
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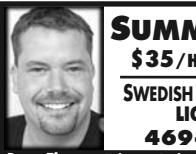
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