

Idina Menzel, still defying gravity

Star of 'Wicked' and 'Glee' brings concert tour to Fair Park
New CD runs gamut from show tunes to Lady Gaga

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Dallas dads make international news with J.C. Penney ad

After J.C. Penney's June catalog hit mailboxes at the end of May, Dallas gay couple Cooper Smith and Todd Koch have been in the middle of attacks made by One Million Moms.

The couple is pictured in an ad with their two children, drawing attention from the hate group but also from international media.

The family appeared on WFAA's *Daybreak* Tuesday, June 5, to discuss the response to the ad.

"We expected some of it. We didn't expect to go unnoticed at all," Smith said on *Daybreak*. "We certainly didn't expect the newspapers in London and all over the world to be calling and emailing and writing about this."

Koch said the "support has been overwhelmingly positive" from family and friends.

Smith told *Instant Tea* he was asked by a casting agent in Dallas in early February to be in the Father's Day issue after the agent saw his family's Christmas photo on Facebook.

They agreed and did a photo shoot in Addison shortly afterward. He said the picture is very natural with the kids, Mason and Claire, both 3, running around and having a fun time.

"The photo is just a one-second photo of our life," Smith said. "It's a candid moment of how we interact with each other."

The ad features Koch and Smith in a relaxed home setting playing with their two children under the

words "First Pals." The text reads, "What makes Dad so cool? He's the swim coach, tent maker, best friend, bike fixer and hug giver — all rolled into one. Or two." The text at the bottom right-hand corner reads, "Real-life dads, Todd Koch and Cooper Smith with their children Claire and Mason."

Smith said the agents were seeking a variety of families for the issue, but they are the only gay family featured.

"They were just trying to present a wholesome gay family and I guess we fit the bill for that," he said.

"They're really trying to represent what America looks like, and that's not just heterosexual white people."

One Million Moms, which is affiliated with the anti-gay American Family Association, stated on its website last week that the public should send back the catalogs until J.C. Penney stops going "down the same path of promoting sin in their advertisements."

The company's inclusion of a lesbian couple with their daughters and one of the women's mothers in the May issue prompted One Million Moms to reactivate a boycott of the store. The unsuccessful boycott had been dropped in March after J.C. Penney stood firmly behind its hiring of lesbian comedian Ellen DeGeneres as a company spokeswoman.

Smith said they were asked about the OMM situation before they agreed to be included, but he said it was not an issue.

"Obviously we're not ashamed of our family," he said. "It's very tastefully done."

— Anna Waugh



FAMOUS FATHERS | Cooper Smith, right, and Todd Koch and their children — Mason and Claire, both 3 — are shown in the ad that appears in J.C. Penney's June catalog.



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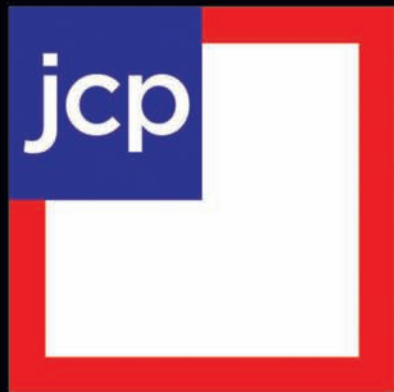
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PRIDE PLAYBACK | Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings delivers a video message to more than 80 people who gathered in the Flag Room at City Hall on Wednesday, June 6, for an LGBT Pride Month Kickoff. Rawlings was unable to attend the event due to a funeral. (Amy Price/Dallas Voice)

Dems eye pro-gay planks; state GOP unlikely to remove anti-gay language

LGBT participants head to Texas party conventions in Houston, FW

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

LGBT Democrats will be looking to elect one of their own to the Democratic National Committee and add marriage equality to the state party platform at this weekend's convention in Houston.

Meanwhile, LGBT Republicans say a resolution to remove anti-gay language from the state GOP platform isn't likely to go anywhere during the state party's gathering in Fort Worth.

The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus holds its annual meeting at the state convention to elect new officers and present a number of awards.

The Dallas chapter will receive the statewide group's Roberto J. Flores Club Achievement Award, named for the late partner of outgoing Texas Stonewall President Dan Graney. JC Dufresne, a straight ally from San Antonio, will be honored with the Buck Massey Legacy of Leadership Award, named for the late Buck Massey of Dallas. Outgoing Texas Democratic Party Chairman Boyd Richie will receive the Lone Star Equality Advocate Award.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Omar Narvaez said the LGBT caucus gives the various Stonewall chapters around the state the opportunity to share ideas. He said that even though the Dallas chapter is the largest in the state, he learns a lot from the other affiliates.

"We discuss what we're going to do and how we're going to do it," he said. "We need to make big changes happen in this state over the next few years to elect statewide officeholders soon."

Neither Graney nor Vice President Erin Moore of Dallas are seeking re-election. Moore was previously president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Graney hit term limits. But Moore, also in her second term, was originally elected to fill an unexpired term and could technically run again.

"It's time to give other people the opportunity to serve," Moore said.

Eli Olivarez Jr. is running for statewide president. He currently serves as president of Stonewall Democrats of the Rio Grande Valley.

Carol Cappa, Texas Stonewall's current secretary and a member of Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats, is running for vice president.

Gay former state Rep. Glen Maxey is running for an open seat on the Democratic National Committee. The vacancy was created when lesbian for-

'I'm proud just to have you in Dallas'

City kicks off LGBT Pride Month with reception at City Hall, including video address from Mayor Rawlings; events planned each Wed. in June

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

The city of Dallas is joining the LGBT community to celebrate Pride Month in June with a series of events focused on Big D's diversity.

Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force came up with the idea for the events that are designed to allow the city to understand how its LGBT members have helped it grow and thrive, instead of just flying a Pride flag in City Hall, task force member Pam Gerber said.

"There was a group of us that got together several times to brainstorm ideas of what we thought would resonate for our community and be effective and helpful," Gerber said.

The series is titled "Honor, Educate & Celebrate: Pride Wednesdays in June with the City of Dallas." An event every Wednesday will showcase an aspect of the city's LGBT community. It began with a kickoff Wednesday, June 6, in City Hall's Flag Room.

About 80 people attended the kickoff, where the Task Force read a proclamation declaring June Dallas' LGBT Pride month, and Mayor Mike Rawlings addressed the audience in a video message because a funeral prevented his attendance.

"Sometimes we haven't agreed. But you've stayed steadfast, talked about the issues that are important to you and treated me with a real honor and respect," Rawlings said in the video message. "Your style, your character, it's truly something to be proud of. I love the way you advocate for your issues. I'm proud just to have you in Dallas."

Jasso told the audience she's proud of the Task Force's accomplishments in its three years of meeting — which include helping Dallas police add a full-time LGBT liaison officer and beginning to implement diversity training at Dallas Fire-Rescue. But Jasso said the Task Force's proudest accomplishment has been the city embracing the

online exclusive

View more photos and watch video from Wednesday's Pride Month Kickoff at Tinyurl.com/DallasPride.

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■ texasnews

Death

Michael Richard Bradley, 43, died on Sunday, June 3, 2012, in Dallas from complications of cancer. He was born on Nov. 22, 1968, in Kansas City, Mo.

Bradley attended Trinity High School in Euless, where he participated in choir and the track team. He worked at ID Collections in Dallas as an interior designer. He had also been a waiter at The Riveria, Iris, Parigi and Hector's on Henderson, where he was named the "Best Wait Person" by Dallas Voice in 2008.

Bradley's love and hobby was being an active member of the Turtle Creek Chorale in Dallas. He joined the Chorale in 1992 and sang into this year. He was an officer of the organization for 17 years and a member of the bass section for more than 20 years. He was recently named a life member.

Bradley is survived by his parents, Sandra Colleen Bradley and Albert Robert Bradley; twin brother, Anthony Matthew Bradley and sister-in-law, Janeth Bradley; brother, Joshua Bradley; step-niece, Marlen Gomez; niece, Jasmine Bradley; aunt Sheree Foldesh, and uncle, David Foldesh.

A funeral will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 9, at Cathedral of Hope Church, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Visitation will be at the Interfaith Peace Chapel from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 8.

Bradley will be buried at Smithfield Cemetery,



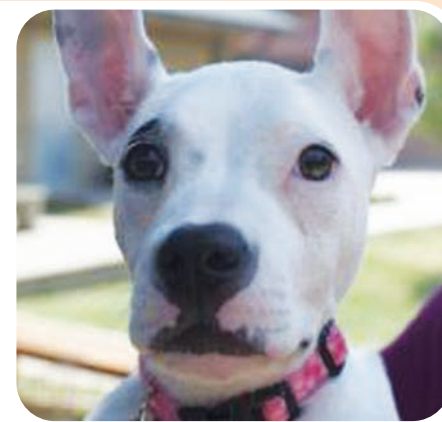
6704 Smithfield Road, North Richland Hills.

Donations in his honor may be made to The Turtle Creek Chorale, P.O. Box 190137, Dallas, TX 75219.

■ pet of the week / ARIEL

Ariel is a darling 3-month-old American Staffordshire Terrier found in a parking lot, covered with fleas and dirt. A lady took her in, cleaned her up and tried to find the owner, with no success. Ariel came to Operation Kindness and received vaccinations, a micro chip and surgery to spay her. She is strong and muscular with a cute patch over one eye. Ariel will be about 35-40 pounds. She's a happy puppy, ready for a great home with plenty of room to run and play.

Ariel and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The 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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'A' GAYS | Stonewall Democrats of Dallas is the statewide group's chapter of the year.

■ **DEMS**, From Page 6

mer Houston Councilwoman Sue Lovell decided not to seek re-election to the DNC. A total of 10 seats from Texas will be filled at the convention.

"By tradition, it's a diverse group," Maxey said.

He said national chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz makes additional appointments. Lesbian Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez is among her appointees.

Maxey explained why he wants the position.

"I want to start rebuilding the party from the ground up," he said. "We are at the cusp of being reliably blue."

He said that money is sucked out of Texas to fund campaigns elsewhere. On the DNC, he would push for the national party to focus on the state.

"The national party needs to target us," he said.

He said that once that focus gets candidates elected statewide and Texas becomes as reliably blue as California, "for the next generation, there will never be a Republican president."

"That's what Texas Democrats need to realize," he said. "If we just get off our asses, we will win."

Maxey has an opponent — Zephaniah Capo of Houston, a current member of the State Democratic Executive Committee. Capo, a teacher and union organizer, is also gay.

Maxey has the endorsement of Texas Stonewall.

"Glen has the depth and breadth," Moore said. "He knows how to get things done and has the experience and knowledge."

Moore is serving on the convention's platform committee.

Equality Texas proposed six resolutions that were introduced at precinct and senatorial district meetings.

Of those, Moore said her push will be to get marriage equality and employment nondiscrimination into the platform.

Delegates to the national convention will also be chosen in Houston. Narvaez said he's applied

to be a delegate. Both Moore and her partner, Patti Fink, have been delegates to previous national conventions but neither applied for this convention.

"It would be an honor to be selected," Narvaez said.

The Republican state convention is in Fort Worth at the convention center.

This is the first time the state Republican convention has been held in Fort Worth since 1998, when the Log Cabin Republicans were refused booth space, resulting in protests.

This year, Log Cabin did not apply for booth space, according to Dallas Log Cabin President Thomas Purdy. At least one Log Cabin Dallas board member will be a delegate in Fort Worth.

"He has been involved in past conventions and specifically debated the anti-gay plank there," Purdy said.

At the previous convention, that board member presented a resolution to remove anti-gay language from the state's Republican platform.

The current Texas GOP platform calls for the recriminalization of sodomy and making it a felony to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple. It also opposes visitation rights for gay or lesbian parents, as well as gay adoption, and calls for dismissal from the armed forces for gays and lesbians.

Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, said he hasn't heard whether a resolution to remove the language had passed at any senatorial district conventions — and he did not expect it to be introduced at this week's convention.

Rob Schlein, president of the LGBT group Metroplex Republicans, is an alternate at this year's convention. Schlein said he doesn't anticipate the resolution to remove the language will be presented.

He said he was spending much of his time talking to people individually, looking for allies.

"I hope to find some speakers for our club," Schlein said by phone from the convention floor on Thursday, June 7. ■



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■ texasnews

■ PROUD, From Page 6

LGBT community.

"Not only do we embrace the LGBT community, but we also celebrate it — and most especially this month," she said.

The city held its first Pride Month reception last year, flying the flag for one day in the Flag Room and issuing a one-day proclamation. But this year will be a monthlong celebration and a more substantial appreciation of the city's LGBT citizens, task member Omar Narvaez said.

"I think it shows that the city of Dallas supports our community and respects our community," he said.

Pride flags will hang in the atrium of City Hall and in the Flag Room on the sixth floor outside council chambers all month. The Task Force's original goal was to have the Pride flag fly in City Hall Plaza. However, City Manager Mary Suhm said the three flags flying from poles in the plaza represent three governments under which the city operates — the U.S., Texas and city of Dallas — so it's unlikely one would be replaced with a Pride flag.

Rawlings could hang the Pride flag from the balcony in the mayor's office. He told Dallas Voice earlier this year that hanging the flag from the balcony "sounds like a fun thing to do."

"I get a little intimidated with this balcony because it feels a little Evita-ish, you know, but something like that could be fun," he said in February.

Rawlings' Chief of Staff Paula Blackmon told Dallas Voice this week that hanging the flag from his balcony is "a good suggestion and we'll entertain it."

Asked whether Rawlings would attend any of the remaining Pride Month events, Blackmon said the mayor will be out of town on business for two weeks and his office hadn't received a Pride Month event schedule. However, it's likely he'll attend the final event because it is back at City Hall, Blackmon said.

The remaining Pride Month events are a discussion with representatives from city services on June 13 at the Oak Lawn Branch Library; openly LGBT elected officials speaking June 20 at the United Black Ellument Cultural Center; and a discussion about how the LGBT community has contributed to Dallas at City Hall on June 27.

Kirk Myers, a member of the task force and Abounding Prosperity's executive director, spearheaded the planning on the June 27 event, which will bring together representatives from arts, business, nonprofit and other spheres to illustrate how LGBT members have contributed to Dallas.

Myers said he wanted to plan an event that would "show our involvement and our contributions to the fabric of the city," evolving into inviting individuals who represent the city's arts, culture, education and "all facets of life."

"We're here. We've been here. We've been contributing, we've been neighbors, we've been business owners," Myers said. "I think enough attention hasn't been brought to that portion of what we do versus our sexual orientation."

In South Dallas, an area that Myers said is ar-

'Honor, Educate and Celebrate'

The city of Dallas will host events each Wednesday in June for LGBT Pride Month:

City Services with the LGBT Community

June 13, 6:30-8 p.m.
Oak Lawn Branch Library
4100 Cedar Springs Road

An evening with representatives from city public service departments including City Manager Mary Suhm and LGBT Liaisons Sr. Cpl. Laura Martin with Dallas police and Sherry Durant with Dallas Fire-Rescue.

LGBT in the Public Eye

June 20, 6:30-8 p.m.
United Black Ellument Cultural Center
3116 Commerce Street, Suite C

A conversation with out officials Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, 116th Civil District Court Judge Tonya Parker and former Dallas Councilman John Loza.

Lift Every Voice

June 27, noon-1 p.m.
Dallas City Hall Flag Room, 6th Floor
1500 Marilla Street

A conversation with organization and community leaders on LGBT contributions to the City of Dallas.

guably the most homophobic in Dallas, the problem decreases when the community sees "you for more than just your sexuality."

Myers also said the events were an opportunity for more awareness, education and economic development, with more entertainment and events in future years.

"This is yet another opportunity for businesses and the arts to create yet another event where everybody in Dallas can participate because that's what we're trying to do," he said.

Calling the events "a starting point," Gerber said the concept was to create a variety of events in different places and times so more members of the community could attend and participate. The flier promoting this year's events states that any suggestions can be directed to Jasso because Gerber said the Task Force wants suggestions on how to improve the events for next year.

"This is our first stab at doing this because it's never been done before, so the good news is that history's being made," she said. "This is the first time City Hall has invested itself to this degree in this city and they're open to morphing in ways that will better accommodate the needs of the LGBT community."

Gerber said she wanted the events to focus on bringing in speakers who would incite dialogue that would discuss the improvements and accomplishments made in the LGBT community.

"If we engage in a conversation, then we can help move the city forward," she said.

Gerber said despite Dallas having its Pride parade in September, it is time Dallas has Pride events in June.

"This is gay Pride month and we should be doing something in June," Gerber said. "I'm glad that it's something as relevant as this." ■



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Plano police treating city's 1st anti-gay hate crime as 'high priority'

Authorities knock on doors in search of 2 suspects who assaulted teen outside recreation center after he defended his lesbian friends

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

PLANO — Plano police are investigating the city's first anti-gay hate crime as a "high-priority" case, knocking on doors and reaching out to the community to try to track down the two suspects.

On May 27, an 18-year-old and his two female friends were exiting the Plano Sports Authority, a public recreation center, when two black men approached them. The suspects made "derogatory sexually-oriented" comments to the females, who were holding hands, according to Plano police. When the teen stepped in to defend his two friends, the suspects kicked and beat him with a gun.

David Tilley, a spokesman for Plano police, said the teen needed stitches for cuts on his face and called police from the hospital.

The teen's mother, whose name is being withheld to protect her son's identity, said she was worried police were not handling the assault seriously and told her not to file a report. But Tilley said police likely told her she could not file a report because her son is 18. Her son did not want to comment.

After an initial investigation, Tilley said police determined the comments made classified the case as an anti-gay hate crime. The men face a

charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a first-degree felony, so the offense would not be enhanced based on Texas' hate crime statute.

The two men are described as 17-25 years old with medium builds. One of the men has orange highlights in his dreadlocks and a tattoo on his left forearm.

Because the men fled on foot after the attack, Tilley said police have been asking residents nearby whether they've seen them.

"They will stop knocking on doors when they feel like they've covered the entire area," he said, adding that police will then work on tips and patrol the area. "This is a very, very high priority."

Tilley said recent surveillance footage revealed that security cameras at the rec center were not working when the assault occurred. However, the teen said he would recognize the men if he saw them and has been shown one police lineup so far, Tilley said.

According to the FBI's hate crimes statistics, the incident is the first reported anti-gay hate crime in Plano since at least 2005, if not ever.

Tilley, who has worked with Plano police for 15 years, said he can't remember any anti-gay hate crimes.

"Hate crimes in general are going to be very high-priority crimes for us," he said, adding that most hate crimes involve vandalism, not physical violence. "When you start attacking people and causing physical injury and that something that concerns us greatly."

Anyone with information about this case can contact police at 972-424-5678, or call 972-941-2148 to make an anonymous tip. ■



Peter A. Schulte
Attorney at Law

Former Dallas County Prosecutor, Police Officer

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10-year test case

A decade after the Dallas City Council passed an ordinance banning anti-LGBT discrimination, Alan Rodriguez's pending complaint against the Tom Landry Fitness Center could serve as a test of the law's effectiveness — and become the 1st case prosecuted out of 59 that have been filed

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Alan Rodriguez has all but lost faith in the city of Dallas' nondiscrimination ordinance after his case filed last year has yet to be resolved.

Rodriguez filed a complaint in February 2011 against Tom Landry Fitness Center in East Dallas after the gym refused to sell him and his partner of 10 years a family membership because they are a same-sex couple.

The gym, owned by Baylor Health Care System, claims its is a private religious organization and not a public accommodation, he said. Rodriguez — and LGBT legal experts — disagree.

"I think it's pretty black and white in my case. The intent of the law is to not allow that kind of discrimination to occur," Rodriguez said. "It is clear by the way that Baylor's acting that while there's a clear intent to the law, that they feel they can legally maneuver around it."

Jennifer Coleman, the Baylor Health Care System's senior vice president for consumer affairs, declined comment this week because the case is still open. Coleman told Dallas Voice last year that Baylor planned to review its family membership policy in response to Rodriguez's complaint.

"We're going to look and see about that policy, what it says, and then I'm not sure what we're going to do next," Coleman said. "I can't commit to changing it, because that's not a decision for me to make, but something for us to look into. It's unfortunate that this thing came up this way, but I can commit [that] we'll sure look into it."

The Dallas City Council passed the ordinance, which turns 10 this year, in May 2002, making it

By the numbers

Since 2002, there have been 59 complaints filed under the city of Dallas' ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. Of those:

- 37 were dismissed for 'no cause'
- 6 were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction
- 4 were dismissed due to uncooperative complainants
- 5 reached conciliation with the city
- 5 reached outside settlements
- 2 are currently open
- 0 have been prosecuted

Source: Dallas Fair Housing Office

a class-C misdemeanor to discriminate in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. Gender identity is included in the definition of sexual orientation. Religious organizations and government entities are exempt.

Over the last decade, 59 complaints have been filed through the Dallas Fair Housing Office alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation. But not one has been prosecuted by the city in municipal court.

The 59 complaints have resulted in 37 dismissals for "no cause," meaning there wasn't enough evidence to prove discrimination occurred, Fair Housing Office Assistant Director Beverly Davis said.

Five of the 59 cases have been resolved through

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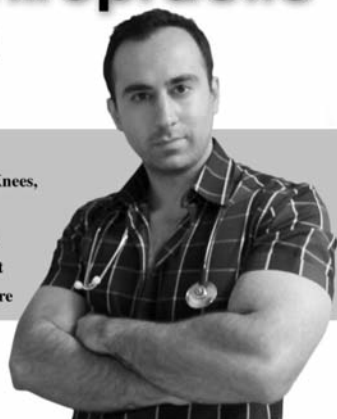
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outside settlement, while another five were reconciled through the housing office or city attorney's work. Another six were dismissed because of jurisdiction, and four dismissed due to uncooperative complainants. There are currently two open cases, including Rodriguez's.

Rodriguez said the ordinance is not specific enough and "leaves much open to interpretation and legal maneuvering." Because the city put the ordinance under Fair Housing, he said there was a mission to pass it but to not give it much weight or resources to properly review and investigate the complaints.

"[The city] tried to implement an ordinance that it felt like was necessary to attract talent to the city, while at the same time they wanted to make sure that there were sufficient loopholes in it and insufficient funding behind investigating complaints that it wouldn't be a burden either in terms of the taxpayer dollars or to businesses in the city, and so I'd call it ineffective," Rodriguez said.

After a complaint is filed, a full-time staffer who reviews all the complaints investigates the claims, usually taking about 100 days before turning them over to the City Attorney's Office, Davis said. Many cases take longer to decide on because more information and further investigation is needed.

Openly gay Senior Assistant City Attorney Melissa Miles, one of several attorneys who re-

view discrimination complaints, said she believes the ordinance has been "very effective" because of the education companies and employees go through during an investigation. Although the majority of complaints were dismissed for no cause because it is difficult to prove discrimination, Miles said the pressure the investigation puts on companies helps them become aware of practices to avoid in the future.

"Even if we can't prove it, even if we wind up not-causing it, which is the majority of the cases, that doesn't tell the story about the conversations that we've had," she said. "We're having those conversations, and they're feeling the heat, and we're educating them."

In March 2011, Mark Reed filed a complaint against The Dallas Morning News after the newspaper refused to print a same-sex marriage announcement for him and his partner. After several weeks, an investigator visited them but nothing happened for months, he said. When Reed received a letter from the Morning News' lawyers, he discovered they had not met with the city in the formal process of investigation. In June, he requested a meeting with the CEO, leading to the paper changing its policy a few weeks later.

"We got it done through really our own efforts and determination and not really having any assistance from the city just because the way the thing was handled," Reed said. "In our case, that



WE ARE FAMILY | Alan Rodriguez, right, and his partner were denied a family membership at the Baylor Tom Landry Fitness Center, a popular gym in East Dallas. Rodriguez alleges Baylor is violating the city's ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

ordinance really didn't, in the end, do anything to assist us one way or the other."

Although the formal process didn't help resolve Reed's case, he said having the ordinance in place "created a platform" to eventually have a discussion with the newspaper's management and end the discriminatory policy.

Reed said after the case was settled, he found it had been awaiting the city attorney's decision — the same status as Rodriguez's currently. Reed said it is likely Rodriguez's case is stalled like his because the defendant is not cooperating with the investigation.

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Miles called Reed's case a perfect example of how the city helped the two parties sit down and talk about the issue, resolving it outside of court and making it more beneficial for both parties because of the conversation. She said settlements are encouraged because they address the complaints and resolve them without legal action.

Rodriguez said he's tried to resolve his case by talking to Baylor staff, but its lawyers won't speak to him. Now he's waiting for the city to determine whether the case will move forward to possible prosecution.

And while he has long since given up wanting to join the Tom Landry Fitness Center — instead becoming a member at a gym in Lakewood that offered the family discount — he said he wants to follow the case through because he believes Baylor is in the wrong.

"I believe they're violating the ordinance, so someone needs to hold them accountable or at least empower the city to let this work its way through whatever process it's going to follow," he said.

Last year, Resource Center Dallas sent a letter to Councilwomen Angela Hunt and Pauline Medrano highlighting the city's failure to prosecute any complaints under the ordinance. The councilwomen said they would investigate the cases and the outcomes. The investigation has



UNHAPPY CUSTOMERS | Mark Reed, right, and Dante Walkup filed a discrimination complaint with the city against The Dallas Morning News after the newspaper refused to publish their marriage announcement. Although The Morning News eventually changed its policy, Reed said he doesn't think the city was much of a factor, and he criticized its handling of their complaint.

since fallen to Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force. After reviewing 53 complaints filed through February 2011, the Task Force determined that the city's handling and disposition of the cases were appropriate, according to Jasso's office.

Jasso said the ordinance is a good thing for the

city, adding that the cases should continue to be monitored.

"I think that we have some good internal controls in place and we're a lot farther than we were 10 years ago, thank goodness," Jasso said. "I think that it's something we need to monitor to make sure we are disposing cases correctly and add to it as much as we can going forward."

Ken Upton, supervising senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Dallas office, said a city nondiscrimination ordinance is important in a state like Texas — which doesn't have a state law barring LGBT discrimination.

But he said cities can only do so much with investigating and enforcing a maximum \$500 fine for the misdemeanor offense.

"It's helpful to have a city stand up for the principle that discrimination is wrong," he said. "The bottom line is it's not a solution. The solution has ultimately to come from higher up, either from a state or federal level."

Texas is one of 28 states and the District of Columbia where cities and counties have ordinances prohibiting LGBT discrimination.

The federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban anti-LGBT discrimination in employment but not housing or public accommodations, is pending in Congress.

Only 16 states and the District of Columbia have state laws banning sexual orientation and gender identity and expression discrimination,

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while five ban discrimination based only on sexual orientation, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Many of those states ban discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Dallas, along with Fort Worth, Austin and El Paso, at least make a statement by having LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinances in place, Upton said, because they instill an amount of protection when the state does not.

"There is a sense in which Dallas does kind of stay a step above Texas generally, but it's never going to be enough because cities can only do so much," he said.

As for Rodriguez's case, Upton said it could be the case that determines if the ordinance has ultimately been effective. He said the religious exception should not apply because the Tom Landry Fitness Center is a public gym that anyone can join.

"My analysis of it without having seen specifically what they're saying is that it ought to be a pretty simple case," he said. "The fact that they're discriminating based on sexual orientation, there's no religious exception for that in a public accommodation."

The City Council also passed a policy in 2002 that requires contractors hired by the city to have LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policies, but many people in Dallas have been unaware of this in the past.

Upton said while the community has become more knowledgeable about the ordinance over the years, many people are unaware of the contractor policy.

"It's only as good as people know about it and I'm not sure that a lot of people do," he said.

City Manager Mary Suhm said when contractors enter a bid with the city, they are given a list of requirements they must fulfill to be considered, and they must sign to confirm that they meet them all. The LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policy is among them.

That policy is driven by complaints in the purchasing department, so contractors aren't investigated for their policies unless there are problems later, Suhm said, adding that she was unsure how many, if any, complaints have been filed.

Dallas and Austin are among 43 cities in 16 states that require contractors to have LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policies, in addition to 18 cities in 14 states that require sexual orientation to be protected, according to the data obtained by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.

Openly gay former Councilman John Loza, who was on the council at the time, said he didn't specifically recall the contractor provision, but when the council passed the nondiscrimination ordinance, it was intended to prevent discrimination — but not necessarily in court.

"The ordinance is intended in certain circumstances to promote not necessarily prosecution but mediation and basically an end to a discriminatory policy," Loza said. "If that can be done without having to go to court, then that's all to the better."

Loza said the community needs to be aware of the ordinance and file complaints even though there haven't been prosecutions because "some-



TAKING A SECOND LOOK | Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force reviewed the 53 complaints that had been filed through February 2011 and decided that the city's handling and disposition of the cases was appropriate.

times the threat of going against an organization or an entity for discrimination is enough to get them to change their policies."

"I think it's a good thing that the ordinance is on the books," he said. "I think we need to probably look at ways to make sure that there's more awareness of it and that it is vigorously enforced, but I do think it was a pretty substantial achievement in terms of Dallas making a statement with regard to discrimination to the LGBT community."

The creation of a human relations commission was considered at the time the ordinance was passed, Loza said, but never came to fruition. He said the commission would help investigate the cases and serve as a sounding board if someone believed their case was handled incorrectly. Both Fort Worth and Austin have human relations commissions.

But Davis in Fair Housing said while a commission isn't discouraged, she doesn't think it wouldn't speed up the investigation process.

But a commission would help citizens air concerns they have and review discrimination cases, lesbian activist Pam Gerber said. A member of Councilwoman Jasso's LGBT Task Force, she said it has had "preliminary discussions" about forming a commission, but Gerber has done more research on her own. She said adding a commission historically costs about half a million dollars a year because the city staffs the commission for support.

"It's not like you can just throw together a commission," she said. "It has to be properly staffed in order to do an effective job."

Gerber said the city needs to continue to educate the LGBT community on the resources available to them with the ordinance. She said the numbers of the last decade are misleading and don't accurately describe the city's efforts to fight discrimination.

"I think that initially when one looks at the numbers that exist in retrospect, it doesn't look so good for the city, but the reality is when you do look at the numbers and what most of the charges were ... the fact that most of them weren't substantiated, it's very relevant to the number," Gerber said.



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viewpoints



PROCLAIMING PRIDE | LGBT Task Force members pose with city officials during Wednesday's Pride Month Kickoff at City Hall. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Dallas has a lot to be proud of

City's recognition of Pride Month represents major progress for the LGBT community — and it's about time we had a celebration in June

Who woulda thunk?" That's what my mom would have said if she heard about the month of activities developed and hosted by a Dallas City Council member and her LGBT Task Force in recognition of gay Pride.

Who woulda thunk that in Dallas, Texas, LGBT Pride Month would commence in the Flag Room of City Hall with a signed proclamation, as well as comments from elected officials and community leaders?

I certainly didn't think that would be the case when about a year ago I attended a Dallas City Council/mayoral candidate forum where there were about 15 "hopefuls" in attendance. It was the usual format where each candidate had an opportunity to share their vision for the city, and then the floor was open for questions from the public.

Sitting there with memories of the progressive political culture that my partner, Suzanne Slonim, and I left in Northern California 21 years ago, I skeptically approached the microphone and asked: "In honor of LGBT Pride month in June, would you be willing to raise the Pride flag at City Hall?"

And to my surprise, not a single candidate missed a beat when declaring their support. And some even suggested that the city do more than just go through the gesture of raising a flag — they expressed interest in building an educational process so that Dallas residents would un-

derstand the "why" behind Pride month, using education to break down the barriers of one of the last bastions of accepted bigotry in our country.

Well it's now a year later, and thanks to the leadership of District 1 City Councilwoman Delia Jasso and her LGBT Task Force, the idea discussed during that election cycle has become a reality, and this June we will have a series of events to "Honor, Educate and Celebrate" LGBT Pride month.

Each Wednesday, guest speakers will discuss issues ranging from what it's like to be an "out" elected official to how the LGBT community contributes to the city of Dallas.

Sure, there are some of us who think that this should have happened a long time ago. But the good news is, it happened.

And we all know that this progress didn't occur overnight. Dallas' LGBT community has seen courageous leadership from people like Bill Nelson, Craig McDaniel, Craig Holcomb, Ed Oakley, John Loza and Lupe Valdez — as well as organizations including Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Arms, Stonewall Democrats, the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Lambda Legal — who have fought to ensure that the policies of our city would land on the right side of history.

I am thankful for all that they did to make Suzanne's and my life that much more rewarding since our move here.

Since our arrival, Suzanne and I have witnessed the unparalleled spirit of our community come alive every September when thousands of people have filled Cedar Springs during the an-

nual Pride parade. And we have thoroughly enjoyed getting swept up in the energy and enthusiasm of the crowd, especially since it always takes place right around my birthday!

It's funny, though, as I never really understood why this annual ritual was happening here in September while revelers in other states were driving floats and tossing beads to onlookers in June. I've heard several reasons — from September being a cooler time of year to timing it with the anniversary of the Judge Jerry Buchmeyer's historic 1982 decision in Baker v. Wade, to it being a more strategic business proposition. And I'm sure that any one of those reasons is totally legitimate.

But I think there is something to be said for marching to the beat of the same drummer, and in this case both literally and figuratively, by celebrating along with the rest of the nation. And I am delighted that Councilwoman Jasso, Mayor Mike Rawlings and other elected, public service, community and business leaders joined together to raise the rainbow flag on Wednesday, June 6, to kick off Pride month in synch with others

across the country. There are scores of people and companies that deserve the credit for making our community such an incredible place to live and work, and every one of them has made an irreversible impact over the years to make this historic series of events possible this month.

Clearly, we have a lot to be proud of in Dallas. Who woulda thunk? ■

Pam Gerber is a member of Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force. She can be reached at Pam.Gerber@Yahoo.com.



Pam Gerber
Contributing Columnist

An anti-heterosexual sermon to match recent anti-gay ministerial ravings

Some proposed preachings for an LGBT church that would counter calls to punch effeminate sons and put us all in concentration camps

This is the season of ministerial ravings. The world has heard Pastor Sean Harris urge parents to punch effeminate sons, Pastor Charles Worley advocate putting gays in concentration camps and Pastor Curtis Knapp suggest the government kill gays.

What the world hasn't heard is an equivalent rant from the other side. Time to change that. What follows is a sermon I've whipped up for use by any Metropolitan Community Church pastor:

Friends, in the time allotted to me this morning I'm going to preach on an uncomfortable subject. It's something we don't want to think about, let alone talk about. But I would be abandoning my duty as your spiritual shepherd if I didn't face it head on.

Heterosexuality.

Oh, I see you crinkling your noses in distaste. I get it, brothers and sisters, believe you me. But we can't

hide our heads in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist. Heterosexuality is all around us.

Openly straight people are in the military. Openly straight people are in the government. They're all over Hollywood. These days they think they can do anything.

But we won't let them. And you know why? It's not just because straights do icky things. Although that's bad enough. George, can you imagine kissing a woman? Betty, can you imagine kissing a man? Yuck. And what straight people do in bed makes me want to vomit.

No, the reason we must stamp out heterosexuality is simple: It's wrong. It's immoral. It's not God's way. How do I know that? Jesus had only male disciples! If that's not a clear message that men and women are supposed to stay apart, I don't know what is.

But heterosexuals mock Jesus. They spit on God's plan. They choose that abominable straight lifestyle instead. They openly and wantonly cavort with each other. They hold 4th of July parades and flaunt their seersucker shorts. They recruit! When I think of all the poor lesbian and gay children who've

been lured onto the sinful path of straightness, I cry.

I tell you, one day God will turn Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard into pillars of salt! But he will bless Provincetown!

Brothers and sisters, what can we do to aid the Lord's work? First, we must root out the devil in our midst. Some of you have confessed to me that you are, yes, straight. Calm down, everyone. We are Christians, so we shall love the sinner.

It's our duty to help these sinners get right with God. So I'm announcing today that this MCC church will launch ex-straight groups. We have plenty of former Catholic nuns to run the women's ex-straight group, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have volunteered to facilitate the men's group. May the spirit of the Lord be upon you all as you enter into this difficult and critical work.

That's not all that we have to tackle here on the home front. I now turn to the parents among us with a truth that must be spoken: Far too many of our beautiful children are turning straight. I know you've tried your best, and I know evil societal forces undermine you.



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety

“**It's our duty to help these sinners get right with God. So I'm announcing today that this MCC church will launch ex-straight groups. We have plenty of former Catholic nuns to run the women's ex-straight group, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have volunteered to facilitate the men's group. May the spirit of the Lord be upon you all as you enter into this difficult and critical work.**”

But you're obviously doing something wrong.

If you want to do God's will, you must produce gay kids. It's that simple. Please, look at your parenting. Figure out where you're going wrong. If your son starts to show an unhealthy interest in girls, knock him into next week.

If you don't, he could wind up in a concentration camp for straights. So for his sake, your sake and the sake of this great nation, model God's love by whacking him silly.

Go in peace. Amen.

Leslie Robinson is available to ghostwrite more sermons. Email her at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and check out her LGBT humor blog at www.generalgayety.com.



"DARLENE! 19 YEARS OF UNDERCOVER WORK AT THESE 'PRIDE FESTIVALS' HAS PAID OFF! I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT THE HOMOSEXUALS RECRUITING!"

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No day but today

Diva Idina Menzel's career has defied gravity, with a trio of pop-cultural phenomena and a new concert tour

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

Gay men wish they could be Idina Menzel for two reasons: First, she's got a killer voice, and acting chops to match — notable on *Glee*, in *Rent* and her Tony Award-winning role in *Wicked*, where she got to defy gravity. Second, she's married to breathtaking heartthrob Taye Diggs — we so want to be able to come home to him.

And Menzel knows it. Though sometimes there's a twist that surprises even her.

"Lately, when we've been stopped on the street together, people will come up to him and say, 'I love you but I love your wife even more.' Often that's even the boys."

That's the mark of a diva: Even a gay guy would put Taye Diggs second to praise you.

It's not something that happens overnight. Menzel was in her early 20s when she first came to prominence on the surprise Broadway hit *Rent*, which won the Pulitzer and the Tony and became a phenomenon. But after that, she met with hardship.

"My career has ebbed and flowed," she admits. "After I left *Rent*, I did an album that did not sell well. I got dropped from my record label; I was the third replacement on *Aida* when I entered it." She wondered if lightning would strike twice.

It did, with *Wicked*. Menzel won a Tony as the misunderstood green-skinned witch of Oz who gets to belt out some of the best recent Broadway songs, including "The Wizard and I" and "Defying Gravity." And Menzel knew she was lucky.

"The experience of *Rent* was like no other, because we were young and lost our leader," she says, referring to the unexpected death of composer Jonathan Larson just days before the show opened. "That grounded us in a way other 20-somethings would not be. It was a reminder every day what was most important to us, in our personal lives and onstage. We were passionate; being in the moment and appreciating what we had, that stayed with me. So once *Wicked* came I was so grateful, because I know how fleeting this all is."

Lightning struck yet again when Menzel was cast in a recurring role on the TV show *Glee* — a weird meta-experience, considering that the characters on the show talk lovingly about the B'way diva Idina Menzel ... while her character is something of a villain.

"That's Ryan Murphy for you — there are no limits. Thank God," she says.

Being on *Glee* is refreshing in another way: It's a bit of Broadway in Hollywood.

"It's terrific. It's a very unusual setting for a TV show in L.A., because there are so many theater people. The community and the discipline are great."

With Broadway on a roll, with gigantic hits like *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, *Porgy & Bess* and others still packin' 'em in, and the movie musical even making a comeback, from *Enchanted* to the upcoming *Rock of Ages* and *Les Miserables*, it seems like the oft-lamented musical is still alive and well. But there's one aspect of the renaissance that she finds especially gratifying.

"One thing that's different is the acceptance of the television [musical,] like *Glee* and *Smash*. "For years and years, if you tried to develop [a

TV musical format] people would laugh at you," she says. Call it *The Cop Rock Effect*. "But it was something I always wanted to do, so I could combine all my skills in one medium."

Menzel doesn't have a favorite medium — she's just as happy nowadays touring the country in concert promoting her recently released CD *Idina Menzel Live: Barefoot at the Symphony*. She brings that show to Dallas on June 13. The show includes showtunes, but also Lady Gaga. That's because Menzel doesn't have a favorite

IDINA MENZEL

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SEASONS OF LOVE | Broadway and TV star Idina Menzel sings the likes of Lady Gaga on her new CD and concert, which comes to Dallas on Wednesday.

style of song, or even favorite composer.

"I grew up singing so many different kinds of music. I was a wedding/bar mitzvah singer from 15; that was my education. I was studying classical and choir music during the week, but on the weekend I'd be singing Aretha Franklin and Chaka Khan and Billie Holliday and Madonna," she says.

As for composers, "I love Stephen Schwartz, who has a contemporary feel, but I like to challenge myself with Sondheim. Different composers can expose different sides of who you are. It's nice when you work with Michael John

LaChiusa, who puts me in these keys that make me sing like a soprano, which no one ever asks me to do."

Still, Menzel respects the love she feels from audiences who so identify her with a trio of pop culture phenomena: *Rent*, *Wicked* and *Glee*.

"I feel fortunate every day to be involved in three of these Zeitgeist shows," she says. "I am well aware of that, and do not take it for granted, especially the relationship with young audiences. When I am on tour, the way people feel they can confide in me and share their lives is wonderful." ■

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L+S screen

'Alien' resurrected

Ridley Scott's 'Prometheus' gets back to basics with this horrific thrill-ride

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

The brilliance of director Ridley Scott's original *Alien* was its simplicity: A haunted house movie set in space. It was a perfect, claustrophobic thriller, with a cast of seven (plus Jones the cat and, of course, the alien), all but one of whom get picked off. "In space, no one can hear you scream" read the tagline — has there ever been a more evocative and appropriate campaign?

The sequels were never quite as good, though *Aliens* was close: It was a *war* movie set in space. By the time they became their own genres — 3, *Resurrection*, *Vs. Predator*, etc. — the magic was gone.

Scott's back in the director's chair for *Prometheus*, a prequel (yes, it absolutely is) to the *Alien*

series that is the closest anyone has come to capturing the intensity and beauty of being scared shitless as a form of entertainment.

It's set less than a century in the future, when archaeologists (and hot lovers) Elizabeth Shaw (Noomi Rapace, one of the strangest-looking actresses working today) and Charlie Holloway (Logan Marshall-Green, who's dreamy in a hipster kinda way) have convinced a decrepit zillionaire (Guy Pearce, in fantastic makeup) that mankind's creators may live on a remote, Earth-like planet. Their expedition — 17 strong, not quite as elegant as seven, but good still — take the ship *Prometheus* there and encounter ... well, not exactly the alien we have grown to know and love, but *something*. And it's terrifying.

At least it gets there. Very little happens for about the first hour of *Prometheus*, though it would be incorrect to call that a bore, or even a tease. Instead, he's modulated it with a rhythm that's increasingly gut-wrenching, like Ravel's *Bolero*: By the time what first happens *happens*,

your heart nearly explodes ... and not like John Hurt's did in the original. It's deferred gratification at its most satisfying.

The problem with sequels is that audiences already know what to expect, so you have to deliver that — and more — sooner and more frequently. Scott rebuffs that wisdom. He's approached the material largely afresh, imagining characters unencumbered by foreknowledge about what a clusterfuck they are stepping into.

(It's probably why the ad campaign has downplayed the *Alien* roots — it wants you to forget what you already know. Oops.)

But it's hard to ignore recurring themes that have made *Alien* (and even some of the sequels)

something extraordinary: The moral implications of corporations' grabs for power, the self-destructive nature of man, the true meaning of extinction. And the inscrutable android (Michael Fassbender) is there to unnerve us via his hidden agenda (here, he has an odd obsession with *Lawrence of Arabia* and even looks like a less pretty Peter O'Toole).

The performances are all good within the context of the horror format; Charlize Theron as the icy corporate drone shows some melt in a flirtatious scene with Idris Elba, and Fassbender's quirky robot serves Scott's patented clinical coolness, interrupted by moments of voracious gore.

Prometheus has a stronger quasi-religious subtext than others in the series; it's set during Christmas, and touches on what a god really is. (*Prometheus* was a god; he gave the power of fire to mankind, and was punished for eternity for doing so.) I expect sci-fi nerds will debate the opening scene (and the ending) in countless classrooms for months. That's good filmmaking. ■

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PROMETHEUS
Noomi Rapace, Charlize Theron,
Michael Fassbender, Guy Pearce.
Rated R. 125 mins.
Now playing in wide release.

'PROMETHEUS' UNBOUND | The much-anticipated 'Alien' prequel is darkly gorgeous, as is heartthrob scientist Logan Marshall-Green, left, and quirky android Michael Fassbender.

The blonde leading the 'Blonde'



Level Ground's game effort at campy musical has energy but no excitement

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

Ambition is a good thing in theater. Thinking you can take an epic novel like *Les Misérables* and turn it into a three-hour musical takes nerve. (Even if you don't like the show, it's *huge*.) So when scrappy Level Ground Arts announced it would take on the regional premiere of **Legally Blonde**, now playing weekends at KD Studios Theater, I gave them credit for aiming high. The show isn't deep but it is frothy and entertaining, with catchy if unmemorable songs, fast-cutting scene changes (and lots of them) and a Pepto-splash of hot pink to drown the eye in garishness. Ideally, it will, if nothing else, look like the Hello Kitty factory on overtime.

But while LGA's production has a degree of energy, what it doesn't have is the polish or excitement such a faboo musical demands. Philosophically, man's reach must exceed his grasp, but when it happens in theater, it just looks disastrous.

Based on the Reese Witherspoon movie comedy, it's a confectionary romance about perky SoCal girl Elle Woods (Kim Borge) who gets dumped at graduation from UCLA by her pompous boyfriend Warner (Keith J. Warren), on his way to Harvard Law and a career in politics that requires a "serious" spouse worthy of D.C. cocktail parties. Elle follows him, surprising everyone with her legal acumen and realizing she doesn't need Warner anyhow. (The desire to include a verse of "I Will Survive" must have seemed nearly irresistible to the composers.)

Even at its best, *Legally Blonde* is hardly a classic, though I have enjoyed two productions of it (on Broadway and its national tour). But LGA's version, despite a cast of nearly 30, is fatally scaled down. Elle's consumerism is at the heart of much of the comedy; her titanic wardrobe alone garners a chuckle. But here, despite numerous costume changes, the clothes look tacky, the sparse sets colorless and flimsy (a depart-

ment store scene, meant to wow Elle's humble new boyfriend, looks more like a yard sale than the men's shop at Barneys). What a boon a utilitarian, painted backdrop could have been to set the tone and evoke peppiness more than the black upstage wall in scenes where a single chair serves as the scenery.

Legally Blonde needs to burst like a piñata, spreading its candied good will over the audience in a sugary orgy. There are so many times when all that's really needed for a scene to work is a spark between actors, but the cast has energy, though no excitement. When singing his break-up song to Elle, Warren barely glances at her, scanning the audience as if playing to the balcony; Borge doesn't seem to notice, looking disengaged. Dreadful sound problems plagued the opening night performance, but the cast did little to make up for them. Why don't actors project anymore?

The less experienced cast members could take lessons from Sara Shelby-Martin, who plays the blowsy cosmetician Paulette. With or without a mike, Shelby-Martin's strong, searing voice can be heard clearly in the lobby ... and her big solo is a *ballad!* Sometimes, ensemble members do great with improvised business that gets laughs; other times, they overdo trite moves that grow quickly tired. On the hilarious number "There! Right There!," where Elle tries to decide whether a witness is "gay or European," Magdiel Carmona flicks at his hair so much, I thought he was swatting at head lice.

Even without feedback on the microphones that threatened to crack the walls, a chorus sometimes too timid to hear and line flubs and missed cues that are every actor's nightmare, this *Legally Blonde* would benefit from fewer (and better cast) actors and a more sophisticated execution. Objection sustained. Move along, counselor. ■

LEGALLY BLONDE

KD Studios Theater, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 180.
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MISTRIAL | Elle (Kim Borge) is a bit too blonde for this show. (Photo courtesy Michael C. Foster)

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Reshot J.R.

'Dallas' is back as hunky new Ewings join a classic cast for suds, sleaze, sex

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

My confession — to be honest, a minor point of pride — is that I *never* watched *Dallas*. Not growing up, not in reruns, not on DVD ... just the occasional episode while visiting someone who did watch. That's probably a good thing: If I'd thought people in Dallas were *really* like they are on this show (with everyone double- and triple- and counter-crossing everybody else), I probably would never have moved here.

Even so, in the 1970s and '80s, you couldn't live in America and not know *something* about *Dallas*: The Ewings, Southfork, Bobby's death was a dream (for two seasons!), etc. Heck, to appreciate its influence, just consider two of the city's premiere gay bars: JR.'s and Sue Ellen's. Lack of interest is not the same as ignorance.

So seeing these things come back to life after

21 years for TNT's reboot of *Dallas* is both exciting and nostalgic. Exciting as the chords of the opening credits now are overlaid with some different names and new landmarks (the Omni Hotel, the Calatrava bridge); nostalgic because there's enough familiarity (Patrick Duffy, Larry Hagman and Linda Gray return, with cameos by other original cast members) to make it twinge the cerebral cortex.

Time has passed for the Ewings as it has for the rest of us — everyone's a little grayer and fatter. But in other ways, nothing has moved from that closing moment from the series finale way back in 1991: Leopards don't change their spots.

This new *Dallas* suffers from the same problems all soaps do: People react dramatically instead of humanely. So, when Bobby's (Duffy) son Christopher (Jesse Metcalfe) finds out his dad has cancer, he doesn't express sympathy but anger that he wasn't told sooner; when Bobby punches out a man who sent a provocative, hurtful package to his new wife Anne (Brenda Strong), Anne doesn't feel grateful but upset he resorted to violence. (Victoria Principal's Pam disappeared without much explanation.) And things happen both with lightning speed and at a syrupy slog (J.R. goes from catatonic state in and old folks' home to social butterfly in two scenes).

But there is a vicarious thrill in watching J.R. (Hagman) — the original "man you love to hate" — explore his evil machinations, this time bolstered by his equally devilish son John Ross



LIKE FATHERS, LIKE SONS | J.R. (Larry Hagman, above left) is up to his scheming, only this time son John Ross (Josh Henderson, above right and below left) helps him tear the family apart; Bobby's goody-goody adopted son Christopher (Jesse Metcalfe, below right) tries to stop him.

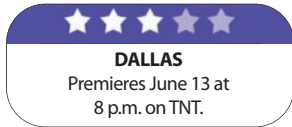
(Josh Henderson).

The plot — or rather, plots — revolve around 2 billion barrels of oil under Southfork that will require fracking (timely?! And unlikely ... just Southfork?!?! Are there no neighbors with leases?), Christopher's love life and even the return of Cliff Barnes (Ken Kercheval), which probably means something to longtime fans but kinda washes over newcomers.

The end of the two-hour premiere has a juicy cliffhanger; by episode 7, the surreptitious

glances, paternity allegations and political chicanery have reached outrageous levels. None of the actors hold back, though it never devolves into campy emoting — there's a weird sincerity to everything.

With lots of local color and popcorn-chewing intrigues, the show will probably get you tuning in for the remainder of the season — there are worse ways to spend a hot summer in Dallas than experience the heat of family discord in a big oil city with awful Texans doing sexy, evil things ... No, wait ...



Bitches, please: 'GCB' on DVD

Oh, the sting of what might have been. The packaging for the DVD release of **GCB** clearly identifies it as "The Complete First Season." Rather, it looks to be the "Complete and Entire Series." ABC dumped the soapy sitcom from its schedule last month, choosing not to renew it to take over the hole left by the departure of *Desperate Housewives*. *GCB* wasn't a brilliant show, but it was a good one that had tons of promise and deserved more than the 10-episode first season now available on DVD.

GCB — it's short for "Good Christian Bitches," although ABC (which also airs the series "Don't Trust the B— in Apt. 23") pretended it was short for "Belles" — is set in Dallas, and it has about as much in common with the reality of life in Big D as the Ewings clan does. Then again, it's also as entertaining, with catty plots and sexual gamesmanship played to the hilt by a cast that largely doesn't understand restraint.

Amanda (Leslie Bibb) was the mean girl back in high school in Dallas, but left to marry a rich guy and live in California. She avoided her former life, until her husband died getting head from his mistress, leaving an empire crashing from his illegal deals. Amanda is forced to move back in with mom (Annie Potts), although she rejects her money and connections and insists on making it on her own. (Ummm, if she really wants to make it on her own, why move back with mom?)

But Amanda's former classmates — led by Bible-thumper Carlene (Kristin Chenoweth) — have never forgiven her, and seek revenge with a series of social slights, humiliating blog posts and outright larceny, all in the name of Our-Lord-and-Savior-Jesus-Christ-Amen.

The show was developed by Darren Star (*Sex and the City*) and Robert Harling (*Steel Magnolias*), so there's a huge swath of sassy gayness permeating its pores like Oil of Olay. It's a withering if not particularly subtle indictment of hypocrites (Carlene secretly owns a tittie bar, hallelujah!) who mask their hatred, bigotry and homophobia under a Sunday bonnet. There's even a hot gay hubble living in a lavender marriage with one of Amanda's nemeses; I really wanted to see where that was headed — something the deleted scenes, extensive commentaries and other bonus features couldn't answer.

Alas, that storyline (and all the others) will remain a mystery. Despite a write-in campaign to bring back the series, ABC treated it like a redheaded stepchild since announcing it would air last season, perhaps cowering to those on the right who objected to a comedy about religious haters. Kinda proves the show's point.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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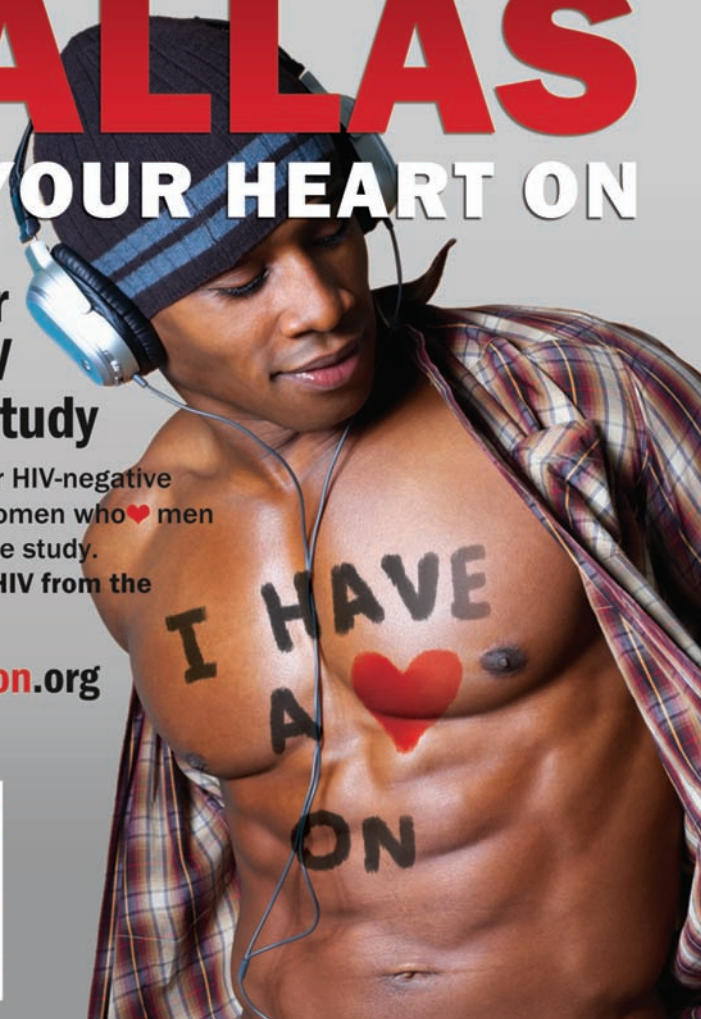
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For the queer couple seeking a romantic haven, the island of Maui is waiting to welcome travelers with bright rainbow leis. From snorkeling to eco-tourism to lounging on a remote gay beach, Maui is paradise found.

The first step in planning your memorable jaunt to Valley Isle is finding accommodations. Several queer-owned or -friendly hotels and resorts dot the island. Some of these properties, like the Maui Sunseeker, offer LGBT-specific packages and host commitment ceremonies. (In 2010, Hawaii became the seventh state to legalize same-sex civil unions.)

With a population of less than 150,000, the gay scene is much smaller on Maui than on popular Oahu, but there is a tight-knit LGBT community and a lot of great activities geared toward gay tourists. Whether you want to surf, canoe or kayak, opportunities abound on Maui for the outdoor enthusiast; No Ka Oi Adventures offers nature-based excursions for the queer traveler — small group tours featuring off-the-beaten-path destinations on the island.

If you're looking for something lower impact, Maui is the leading whale-watching center in the Hawaiian Islands. From the beach you can try to spy a humpback, dolphin or sea turtle. That's also a prime place to catch one of the amazing sunsets Hawaii is known for.

The amazing coastline is one of the main reasons to visit Maui, and Little Beach is the most popular gay beach here. This nude beach in Makena State Park (South of Wailea at the end of Wailea Alanui Road — you have to walk over a lava flow trail to get there) is a great place to meet and greet the local gay set and gay tourists from all points.

After a day of fun in the sun, seek out the local gay nightlife. While you won't find a wide variety of dance clubs like in Honolulu, you can definitely have a great time. One of the most popular bars for gays and lesbians on the island is Ambrosia, which offers daily entertainment and

eclectic décor as well as exotic local drinks: Its selection of specialty martinis is the perfect way to cap off an adventure-packed day. There are also great drink specials at the nightly happy hour.

Betty's Beach Café is also a great place to eat, drink and be Mary. The Sunday brunch is out of this world, featuring amazing omelets, egg scrambles and signature cocktails. No trip here would be complete without trying one of their "Betty" drinks, like the Bettie Paige (red wine, peach schnapps and pineapple) or the Betty Rubble (a Blue-beri Hawaiian). Happy hour is always a blast, with \$3 mai-tais and \$4 Long-board Kona beers.

While there's never a bad time to go to the islands, October is when Maui Pride is celebrated (this year, it takes place Oct. 5–7). The festivities begin on Friday with an aloha reception at the Maui Sunseeker, a great mixer for hobnobbing with the local queer community. The main event this year takes place at the Maui Tropical Plantation, with free admission and numerous vendors and activities, including drag races in the morning and the chance to hula your ass off. Rhat night, DJs and live performances (including former Dallasite Deborah Vial, whose band is now based here) are scheduled to entertain the masses.

Before leaving Maui, a helicopter ride overlooking the island is a must. Air Maui and other operators offer tourist flights of just 45-minutes, but the memories will last forever, from the breathtaking sea cliffs to awe-inspiring waterfalls.

When the luau is over and you're depressed that you have to leave the dream vacation of a lifetime, take solace, when you say "aloha" it means goodbye and hello. The friendly islanders will be there to welcome you back with sweet, sun-kissed smiles.

— Jon Fairbanks

For more information about gay destinations visit GayTravel.com.

COAST PROTOCOL | The seaside vistas from Maui offer epic sunsets, but it's also great to view them on one of the must-do helicopter tours available on the island.



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www.LGBTsurvey.com



About the Gay & Lesbian Community Survey®: Tremendous strides toward full equality have been achieved by our communities over the past decade. There's Power in Our Pride. Power to make a difference!

Gay and lesbian survey studies have opened doors (and minds) in leading corporations and organizations, which in turn have recognized the value of their LGBT employees through the establishment of equal hiring policies and domestic partner benefits. This has been a catalyst, leading to sweeping changes in political and social inclusivity.

Demographic reports also influence marketing investment. Virtually absent until recently, we now see a growing variety of products and services represented in gay media, celebrating our diversity. Ads keep LGBT publications and websites in business, serving their communities with independent news and information.

Beyond simply advertising, though, these companies support us in many ways, including sponsoring community events and funding community-based charities in order to earn our loyalty.

Taking an annual pulse on market trends through surveys helps demonstrate the LGBT community's growing power, and influences positive change.

We respect your privacy. All personal survey data is held securely by Community Marketing, Inc., a gay-owned and operated, independent market research and communications firm based in San Francisco, and will not be sold to third parties or used for marketing purposes. CMI was founded in 1992 and is proudly NGLCC-Certified. Thank you!



Gay Market Research +
Development Lab™

 **Community Marketing, Inc.**

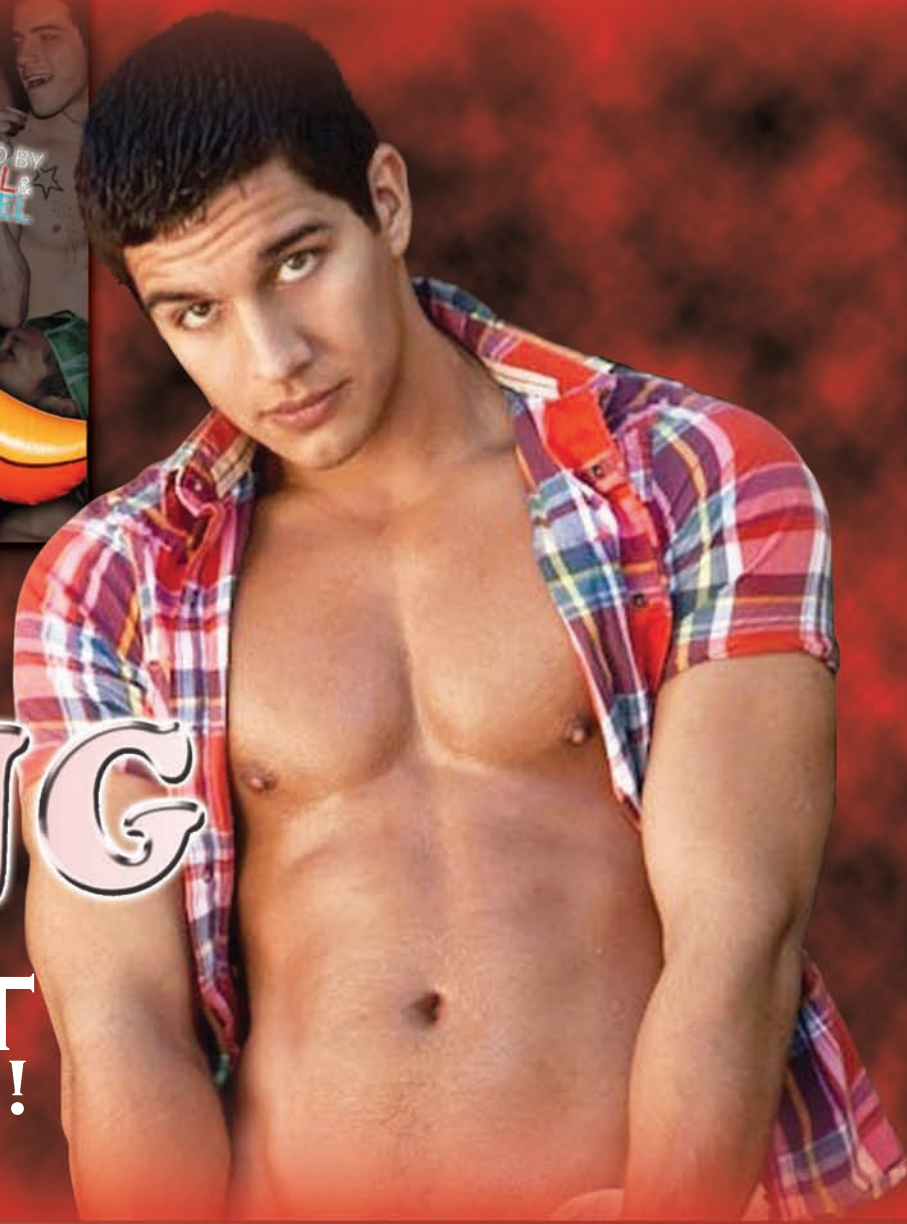
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Friday 06.08

Cole play

A night of legends come together for two nights. Michael Feinstein, pictured, teams with conductor Marvin Hamlisch for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Cole Porter Tribute. Classic standards such as "Anything Goes" and "I've Got You Under My Skin" are part of a long list of the Porter songbook that will come to life.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 8 p.m. Through Saturday. \$22-\$125. DallasSymphony.org.

Friday 06.08

Girls on film

Alex Remington turns his photographic eye onto drag queens in his new Carapace of the Divas. Comparing the facades found in ordinary life to the fabulous facades of drag queens, Remington captures glamazons hard at work to both humorous and stunning effect. We just hope none of them broke a nail.

DEETS: Alex Remington Studio, 4839 Cedar Springs, Ste. 48. 6 p.m. AlexRemington.com.



Friday 06.08

Fire dance with me

Leather/Levi club Firedancers Dallas turns 25 at this weekend's Ruby Slipper Run. The theme is Silver Phoenix Rising 25 and it's three days filled with social mixers, the centerpiece pool party, poker draws highlighted by the Mr. Firedancer contest. Just be sure to register first at the Door.

DEETS: Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Road. Registration at 7 p.m. Firedancers.org.




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FRIDAY 06.08

COMMUNITY

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

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

THEATER

2 Couples 2. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. 8 p.m. Through June 23. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

Boeing-Boeing! WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through June 17. \$20-\$50. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

SATURDAY 06.09

COMMUNITY

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

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

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 06.10

COMMUNITY

Expressions, a free gender support group for men and women led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

Cowtown Leathermen cookout. Best Friends Club, 2620 East Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

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

MONDAY 06.11

COMMUNITY

PFLAG Mesquite. St. Stephen UMC. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

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

TUESDAY 06.12

COMMUNITY

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.



ON THE RADIO

Councilwoman Delia Jasso talks to 'Lambda Weekly' Wednesday.

Lambda Pride Toastmasters. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.FreeToastHost.us.

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

WEDNESDAY 06.13

COMMUNITY

Cathedral Business Network meets. Contact Anity Haddy at 214-351-1901. CathedralOfHope.com.

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is councilwoman Delia Jasso. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 06.14

COMMUNITY

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

PFLAG Dallas. Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Boy George turns 51 on Thursday. As the lead singer of '80s band Culture Club, Boy George became an icon of the decade. He diversified his work as a DJ, solo artist, author, fashion designer and songwriter. He announced a 30th anniversary reunion tour in 2011 which amounted to two shows, but he and the group confirmed that new material would be released sometime in 2012.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Refuse friendly invitations to shop. Focus on career goals that need changing. Jupiter entering your sign brings a year of good luck, but you need discipline to make the best of it.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Outspokenness is your best and worst trait. Infuriating authorities is rarely a good strategy. Subtlety and subversion is better. Keep your mouth shut and your eyes open.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Pushing too hard makes you very cranky and even sick. Brilliant observations lead to disaster. Run them by a well-trusted friend before acting on them. Don't mistake good sense for pessimism.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Falling out with friends proves to your advantage. Jupiter is kicking off a great year for your work and reputation. Let folks know what you have to offer, but don't get pushy and oversell yourself.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You won't win any arguments this week. Open up to big new ideas. Take a class or go abroad in the coming year. Plans made now will need reevaluation, but start planning anyway.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You can win friends or arguments, but not both. Overwork causes illness. Forge ahead with clear purpose, pace and rest as needed. Medical surprises are better learned sooner than later.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

A year of improving your relationship status is just starting. Current plans and ideals should be reconsidered so you can aim higher. Talking with your partner is essential.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Domestic disputes get nasty. There are hidden agendas on all sides, even yours. Be clear on your frustrations and try to empathize. This can become a healing experience.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

A few of your ideas are brilliant. Share them with a friend before you present them at work. You can't prove your abilities to amuse and inspire, but just let it flow and the evidence will be there.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Dreading the future translates into good art or terrible money decisions. Reconsider priorities and tend to worst case scenarios. Let your frustration out and your outlook will soon improve.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

As your energy improves, you're more eager to get things done. That eagerness puts you at odds with co-workers. At least make an effort to see it things their way.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

A year of financial good luck begins. Resolve to save money and try saving your breath. Your brain races into great challenges, but your tongue can get too far ahead.

THIS WEEK

Jupiter entering Gemini brings a year of new ideas and communications and short travels. Sign up for a class and find a better way to commute. Improve relationships with siblings and neighbors.

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

JANE'S WORLD



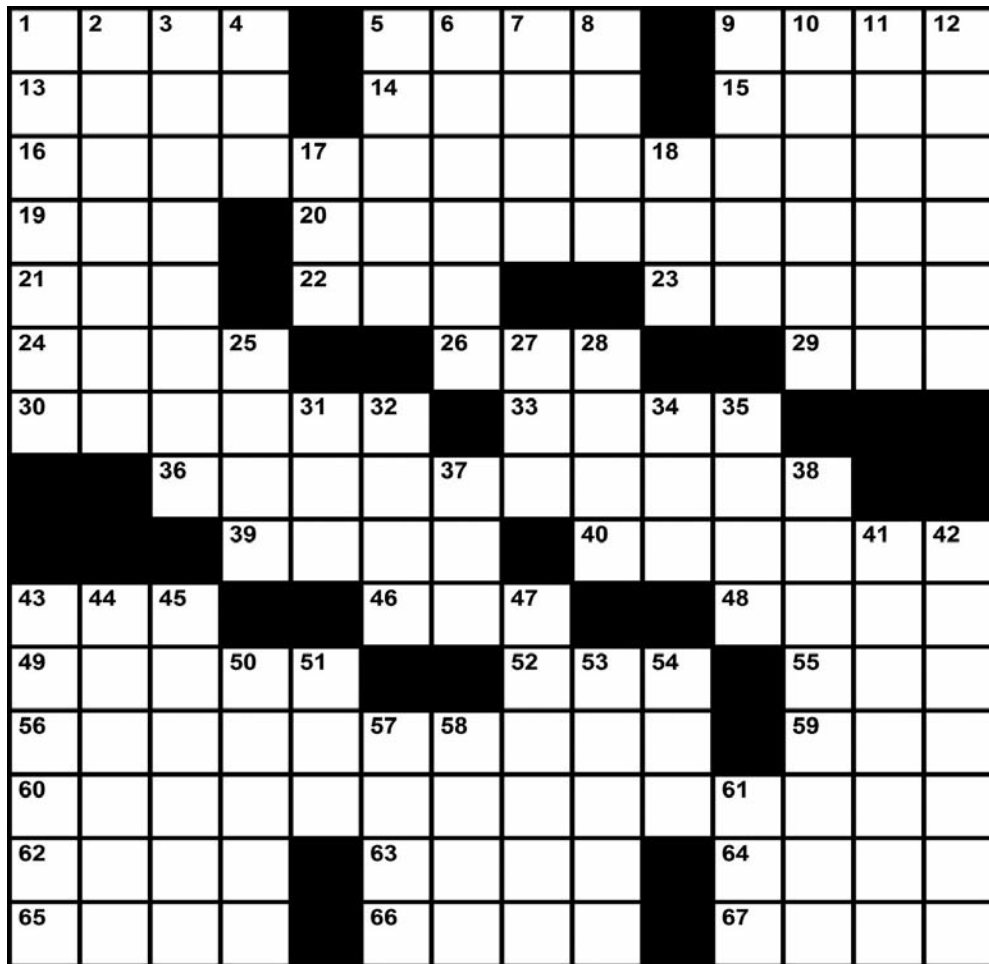
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bitter girl

Look-Out



What's a Matzo

Solution on page 29

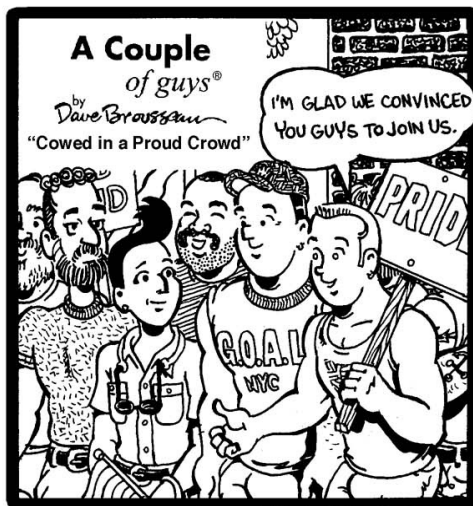
Across

- 1 Hazard for Sheehan
- 5 Like some division
- 9 Ed Wood role
- 13 Gauche side, for Debussy
- 14 New Age music superstar
- 15 Phantom scar source
- 16 Start of a Fay Jacobs saying about matzo
- 19 F.D.R. or J.F.K., e.g.
- 20 City of Capote's birth
- 21 Sked info
- 22 Home state of J. Nabors
- 23 "... farewell, auf Wiedersehen, ___"
- 24 Uncool sort
- 26 Chat rm. exaggeration?
- 29 Muscle Mary's weight training unit
- 30 Disaster sorting
- 33 Appear to be
- 36 More of the saying
- 39 Responder to "Bite me!"?
- 40 The "former next president"
- 43 Present mo.?
- 46 "___-hoo! Fellas!"
- 48 Clay Aiken was almost one

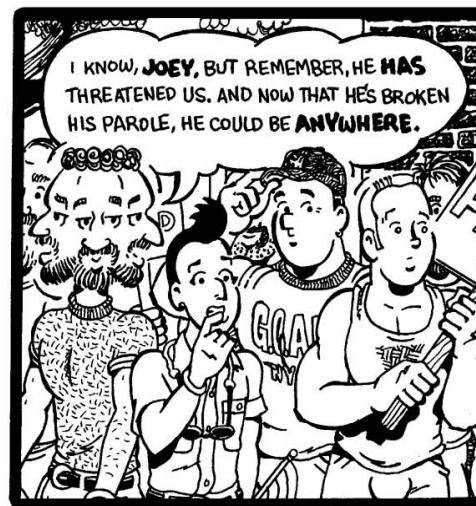
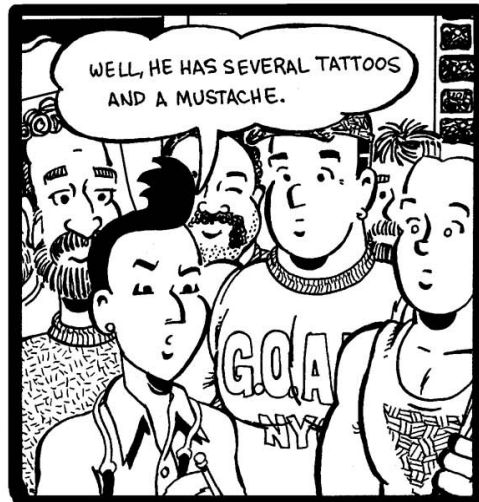
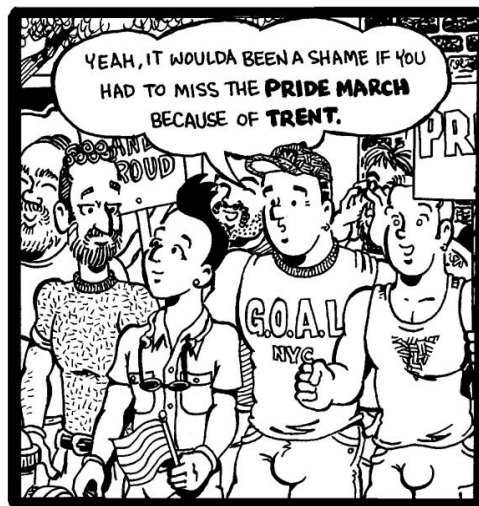
- 49 Flee to a same-sex marriage state
- 52 Neighbor of Mex.
- 55 Verb ending
- 56 Church member named for a member?
- 59 "Culpa" starter
- 60 End of the saying
- 62 A little behind
- 63 Lickety-split (abbr.)
- 64 Sgt. Snorkel's pooch
- 65 Marvel Comics superhero
- 66 ___ guys (Robin Hood's men?)
- 67 One with a foamy head

Down

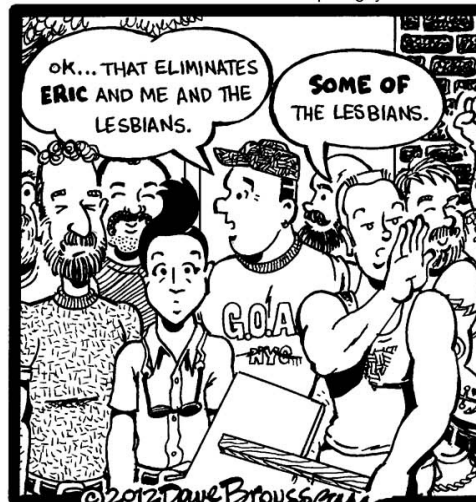
- 1 Neptune's tool
- 2 Rosie's WWII job
- 3 Prayer to the Queen of Heaven
- 4 White House souvenir
- 5 Fair kind of playing field
- 6 Like unrequited loved
- 7 "Eli's Coming" songwriter Laura
- 8 Teri of Tootsie
- 9 Worked the hayfields
- 10 It may cream your face when you bite it
- 11 Mortgage holder
- 12 Comes out correctly
- 17 Bambi character that wasn't horny?
- 18 Slangy intensifier
- 25 Mild oath
- 27 Data transmission letters
- 28 Ward of Once and Again
- 31 MD for women
- 32 Auction web site
- 34 Subj. for those of a different tongue
- 35 Threesome who went to see Mary
- 37 From ___ Z (the whole shebang)
- 38 Anal type?
- 41 Tinged with pink
- 42 She loved Franklin and Lorena
- 43 Treat, as seawater
- 44 Christian name of the half-brother of Chaz
- 45 Open one's eyes
- 47 One who's wanted
- 50 Juice, so to speak
- 51 Bowie collaborator
- 53 Oozes through
- 54 Caligula's arts
- 57 Ask for it while kneeling
- 58 Cushiness
- 61 Choreographer Fosse



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Tony, Rhonda and Henry at the Round-Up Saloon.



Rubi, Alec, Joey, Isaiah and Frank at the Tin Room.

Razzle Dazzle Days continue through the weekend. The celebration includes Friday night's **MetroBall** which benefits the **Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund**. This year, singer **Taylor Dayne** headlines the event at **Station 4**. Prove your love to her by being there which is all for the greater good. The **Classic Chassis Car Show** and **Spectrum Motorcycle Club Show** help kick off the final day of Razzle Dazzle on Saturday. Alongside the **Sidewalk Sale and Fair** and **LifeWalk Waterpalooza**, the Strip is the place to be. It's **Back to the Eighties** for the **Saturday Night Street Festival** that is the grande finale of RDD. Go-go dancers, **Voice of Pride** singers, carnival games and cover band **M-80s** highlight the free block party and will likely leave you dazzled. ... **Sue Ellen's** starts an impressive weekend of live music with **Bad Habits** on Friday. **The Bright** return to the **Vixen Lounge** stage on Saturday. Props to whoever booked **Fish Fry Bingo** on Sunday. The local jug band is kick-ass amazing to see live, so do it. ... The **Cedar Springs Wine and Pet Walk** has been rescheduled to this coming Wednesday on the **Strip**. ... If you don't go to **Panoptikon** Friday night at **3025 Main Street** for **Lord Byron's** goth, industrial and retro music, at least check out their snowcones. Yeah, we said that. ... **PSSA** teams perform their hidden talents at the **Switch Hitters** fundraiser on Sunday night at the **Round-Up**, proving they'll do anything for money. ... Before **DJ Paul Kraft** does his thing Saturday night at the **Dallas Eagle**, don't miss the **Trailer Park Casserole Cook-Off and Show** hosted by **Pinky Scott**. ■

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



Jenn and C. at Sue Ellen's.



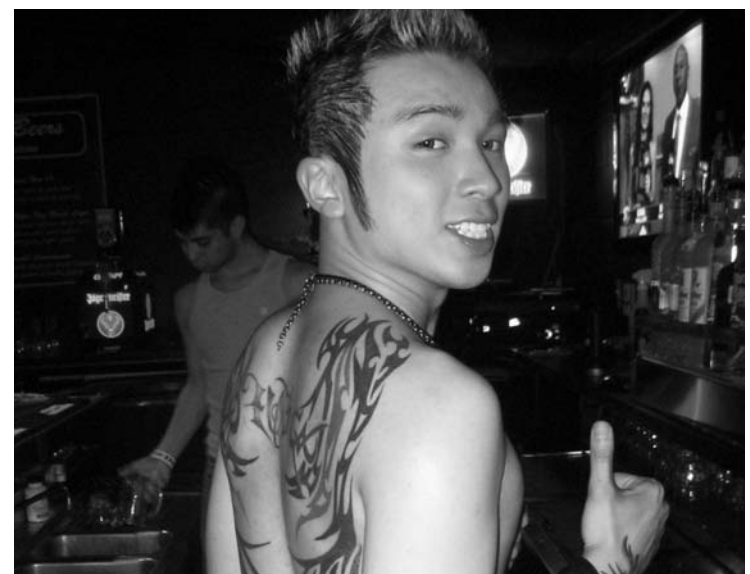
Lue and Swanie at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Dee and Doug at Drama Room.



Matthew and Jennifer at Club Reflections.



Jimmy at BJ's NXS!

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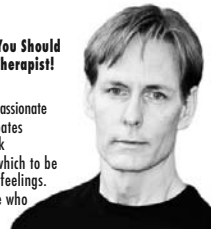
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