

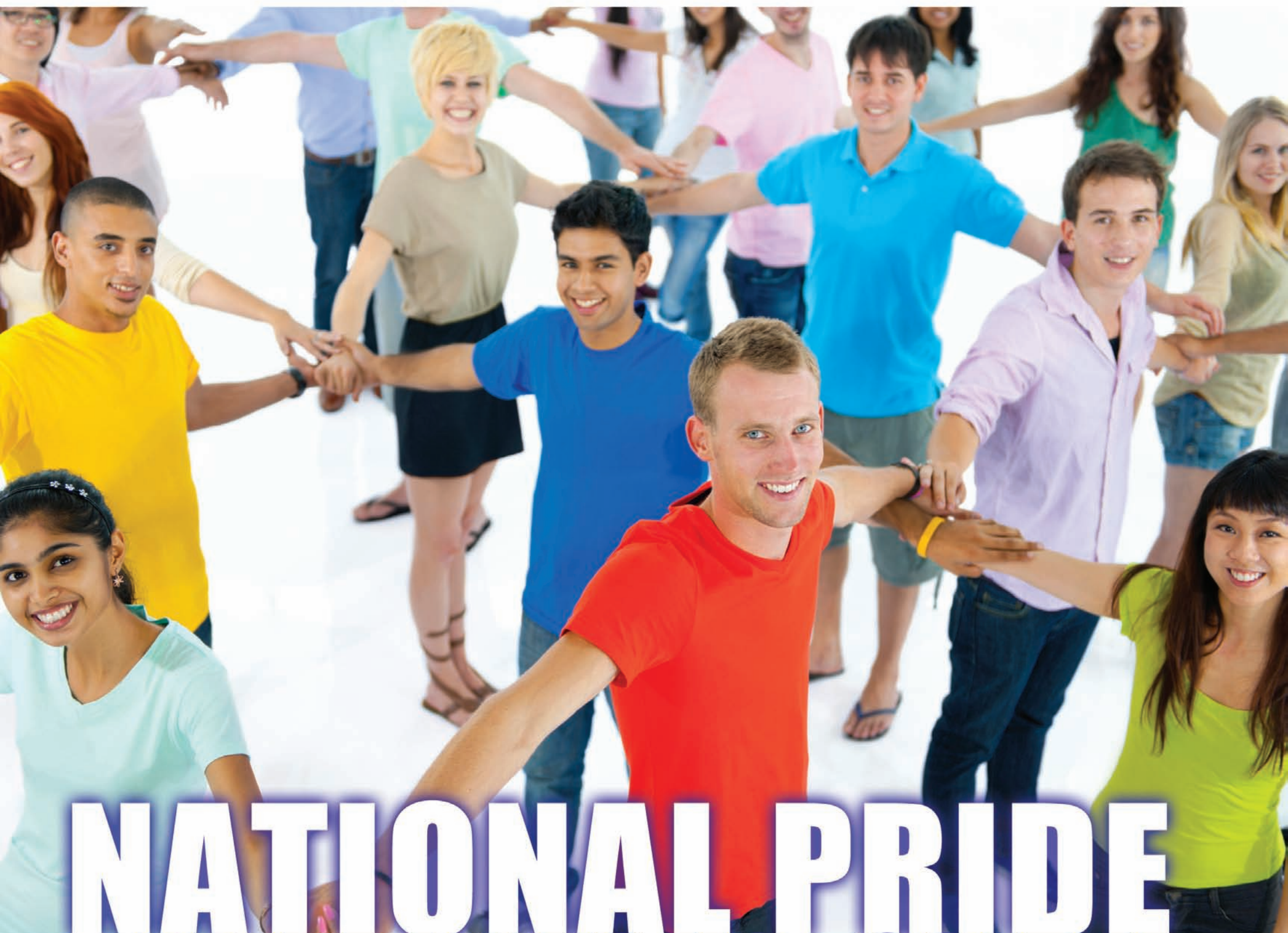
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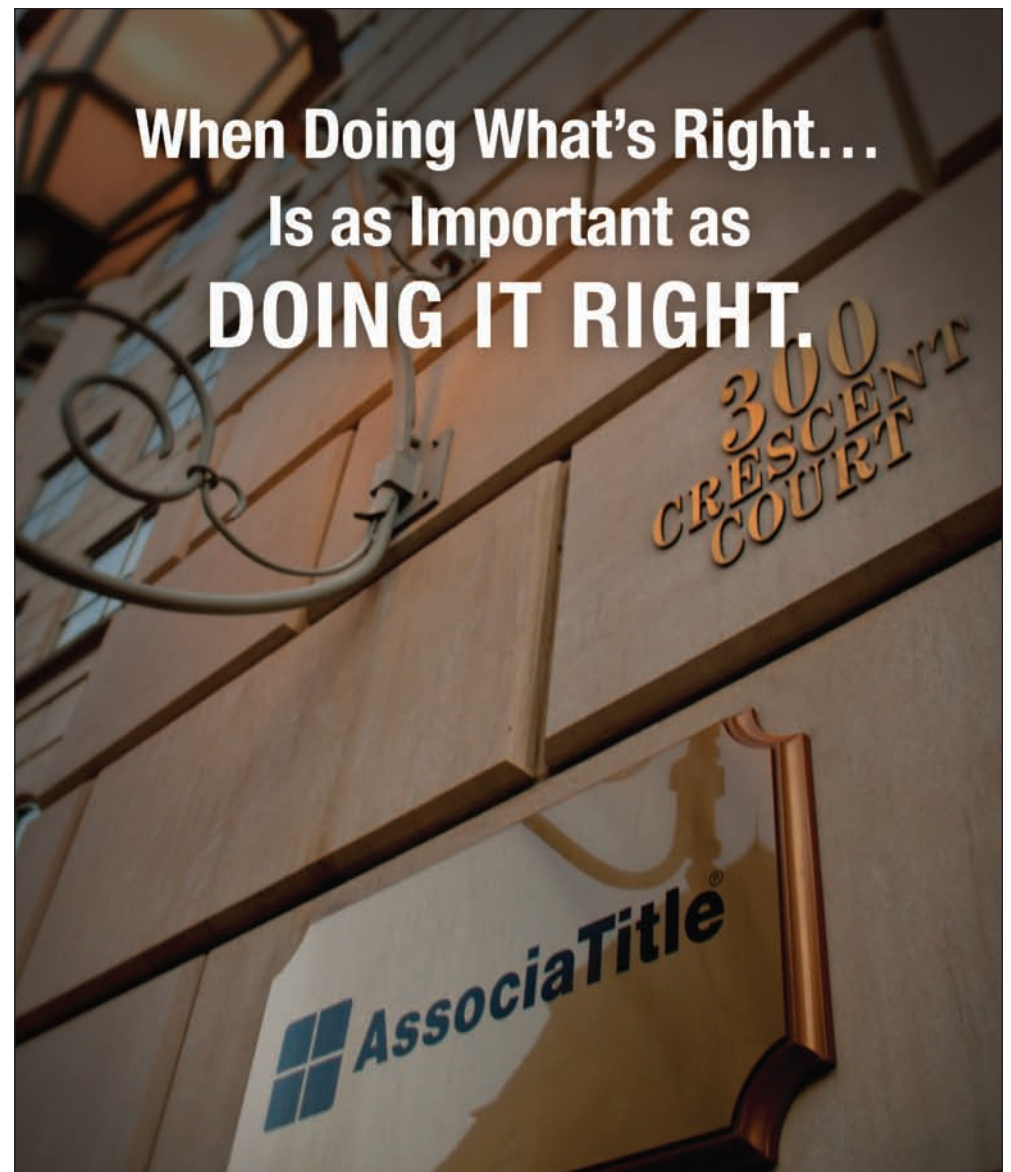
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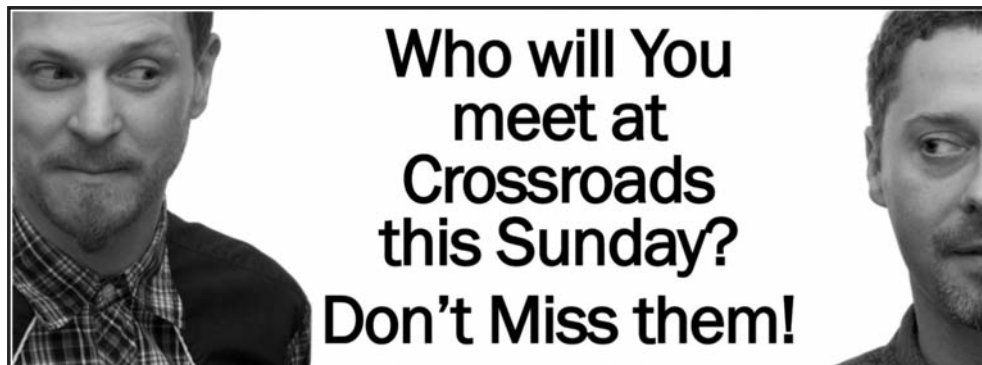
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## Arlington police arrest 2 suspects in anti-gay hate crime; 3 others expected to turn themselves in

Arlington police have arrested two teenagers and expect three more to turn themselves in after video footage identified them as suspects in a vandalism spree June 10 that included anti-gay slurs spray-painted on a lesbian couple's SUV.

Sgt. Christopher Cook said Wednesday during a press conference that Fort Worth teen Daniel Sibley, 18, was arrested Tuesday, June 19. He was in custody on a \$2,500 bond.

Cook explained that two surveillance cameras on residences captured several teens spray-painting derogatory images and words on homes and cars in a total of 13 incidents. The second video captured the vehicle information and led to the identification of five teens ages 16-18.

As of Thursday, only the female juvenile had turned herself in so far.

All suspects will be charged with the state jail felony of criminal mischief for damage ranging from \$1,500-\$20,000.

The punishment for a state jail felony is 180 days to two years in jail and up to a \$10,000 fine. If the classification is enhanced by the hate crime statute to a third-degree felony, the teens could face two to 10 years behind bars in addition to the fine.

A racial slur was spray-painted on a vehicle, but Cook said it's not being reported as a hate crime because the man who owned the car was Caucasian.

He said based on the statement from Sibley that the teens saw a sticker on the lesbian couple's SUV — which featured two female caricatures with a child and pet — and made an assumption that they were gay before vandalizing the vehicle.

Acting police Chief Will Johnson said it was clear that the incident involving the lesbian couple was a hate crime from early on because the words "queers" and "faggot" were spray-painted on their SUV.

"A crime of hatred is not only a crime against an individual but it is a crime against the community," he said. "Early in this investigation it was clear that hateful and biased language was used to damage property at multiple locations. It was equally clear that at least one of our 13 victims was targeted specifically because of their sexual orientation."

He said the incident would be reported to the FBI as a hate crime and that authorities would continue to investigate and prosecute hate crimes in Arlington in the future.

"We are committed in Arlington to prevent all crime especially crime that was committed for no other reason than possibly toward hatred," Johnson said.

"This type of behavior will not be tolerated, it will be fully investigated — and to the fullest extent of the law prosecuted."

Kim Lovering said she and her partner were woken up by police early Sunday morning, June 10. Neighbors had already called police but she said her family was unaware of the vandalism to their SUV. She said she was grateful her son, not yet 2, was too young to understand what happened.



**CADILLAC OF COLOR** | Members of Amarillo's LGBT community recently painted six of the cars at Cadillac Ranch — a well-known public art installation — in rainbow colors as part of the city's gay Pride festivities. View more photos at DallasVoice.com. (Photo courtesy OUTstanding Amarillo)

From the police presence to Johnson calling her later that day to check on her family, Lovering said she was impressed by the support from the community and police.

"They stood behind us," she said. "It was really a huge relief that something like this was handled the right way. And I'm glad it's our city."

As for the arrest and suspected capture of the remaining suspects, she said it will help her sleep at night and hopes the teens' arrests will change their attitudes.

"I'm so thankful for the way this turned out just for our safety and peace of mind," she said.

Fairness Fort Worth President Tom Anable praised the police response, calling it a "textbook" example of how police should respond and engage with the community.

Anable said anti-gay slurs are "so offensive and

dehumanizing" and "will never go away," adding that the quick identification and arrest of suspects send the message that hate crimes won't be tolerated anymore.

"It's nothing new for us. What is new is having a dialogue with law enforcement and the FBI," he said. "I can't say enough about how well the Arlington Police Department handled this. ... It is absolutely textbook perfect."

Anable said his organization has reached out to the Human Rights Campaign to try to bring national attention to "how things can go right."

"The citizens of Arlington should take great pride in their police department and the quality of their city," he said. HRC released a statement Wednesday applauding Arlington PD for "responding swiftly and thoroughly."

— Anna Waugh



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**EMBRACING HISTORY** | The Rev. Carol West hugs Chief Jeffrey Halstead at the premiere of 'Raid of the Rainbow Lounge' in March. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

# Rainbow redemption

3 years after FW bar raid, the city's response has become a model — and an award-winning film is helping to cement the saga's place in history

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

FORT WORTH — It's been three years since Fort Worth police and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission officers raided the Rainbow Lounge on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, leaving disaster, pain, confusion and an infamous date for LGBT North Texans behind.

But while the hurt and mistakes from that night's events still linger with the dozens of people present and with the community as a whole, the improvements in communication and trust result-

ing from the raid shine brighter now than any negative spotlight that was cast on the city and police.

## A 'perfect storm'

In the early hours of June 28, 2009, officers would decide to make Rainbow Lounge the third stop during a night of bar inspections. The 40 minutes they spent in the bar led to six arrests and the injury of a patron who was sent to the intensive care unit for internal bleeding.

Todd Camp, founder of Fort Worth's Q Cinema, was at the bar that night, the second weekend it was open. Amid the protests and the LGBT community's outcries for an investigation and answers, Camp said the event, the date of Stonewall and the group of people in the bar combined to create a "perfect storm" of activism — and later change.

"I honestly think it was a long night and they'd

### Anniversary screening

*Raid of the Rainbow Lounge* will screen on the three-year anniversary Thursday, June 28, at Magnolia Theater, 3699 McKinney Ave. The screening is at 7:30 p.m. followed by a panel discussion. Tickets are \$12 and available at [RaidoftheRainbowLounge.com](http://RaidoftheRainbowLounge.com).

been other places where they'd had problems and when they got to our bar they were mad and they were ready for a fight even though there was no reason to expect one," he said. "It was the wrong time, it was obviously the wrong day, and they did it in front of the wrong gays."

Three investigations into the brute force and disregard for following policy resulted in the Fort Worth police department revamping its inspection

■ REDEMPTION, Page 16

## Hunt seeks \$1.1 million for Cedar Springs improvements

Upgrades could range from wider sidewalks to gateway arches

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

City Councilwoman Angela Hunt has proposed adding \$1.1 million to the city's November bond package for improvements to Cedar Springs Road.

"There's a real need to make the area safer and more inviting for pedestrians," Hunt said.

Even with recent improvements to the street, she said, pedestrians are taking their lives into their hands — or feet, if you will — when they cross the street.

The discussion with area merchants began after four accidents involving pedestrians, including two fatalities, occurred within two months last year. Since then, new crosswalks and warning lights have been installed. A traffic light at Knight Street and Cedar Springs Road was scheduled to be installed in June but that has been delayed until at least September.

Hunt said her proposal is similar to the one she added to the 2006 bond program for improvements along Lower Greenville Avenue soon after she came into office. She said at the time the money was added, merchant and neighborhood groups knew that something was needed but no specific plan had been drawn.

"We want the community and business owners to embrace whatever solution we come up with," she said. "We need everyone behind it."

She said the variety of improvements may include wider sidewalks, landscaping that has a calming effect on traffic and benches to make the street more pedestrian friendly.

"When we put the money in the '06 bond package, we didn't know exactly where the money would go," she said. "But we knew we needed to make the area safer."

Lighting on side streets has been a priority, but she said the funds she's requesting would only be for improvements to Cedar Springs Road between Oak Lawn and Wycliff avenues. She said she'll continue working with Oncor to increase lighting on cross streets to improve safety for those who park and live behind the entertainment district.

"The Cedar Springs corridor is such an important part of our city," she said. "This [the bond

■ CEDAR SPRINGS, Page 14

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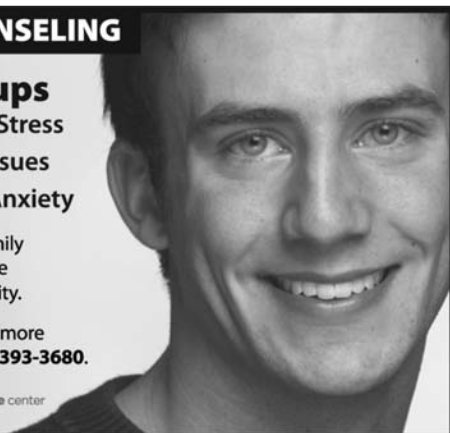
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■ localbriefs

**Table captain sales under way for 31st annual Black Tie Dinner**

Table captain sales have begun for the 31st Black Tie Dinner that will take place on Nov. 3 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

The table captain purchases 10 seats at a table and is responsible for selecting the table, inviting nine others to participate, collecting money for the seats and distributing the tickets.

Black Tie Dinner benefits 19 local organizations and one national group, the Human Rights Campaign.

Up to 3,000 are expected to attend. Tables may be purchased online at [BlackTie.org](http://BlackTie.org).

**2nd annual North Texas Pride Party set for Saturday in Lewisville**

The Second Annual North Texas Pride party is slated for Saturday, June 23, at Tierney's Tavern, 208 E. Main St., Lewisville.

Proceeds will benefit C.U.R.E. and Health Services of North Texas.

Entertainment will be provided by the Ducado Vega Band 6-8 p.m. and DJ Fierce 9 p.m.-midnight. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

An afterparty takes place at the nearby Best Western Plus, at 330 E. Corporate Drive, Lewisville.

**Death**

Jeffrey W. Muha, 53, died of lymphoma at Parkland hospital on June 10. He was born in Ellsworth, Mich., graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory and lived in Dallas for the past 32 years.

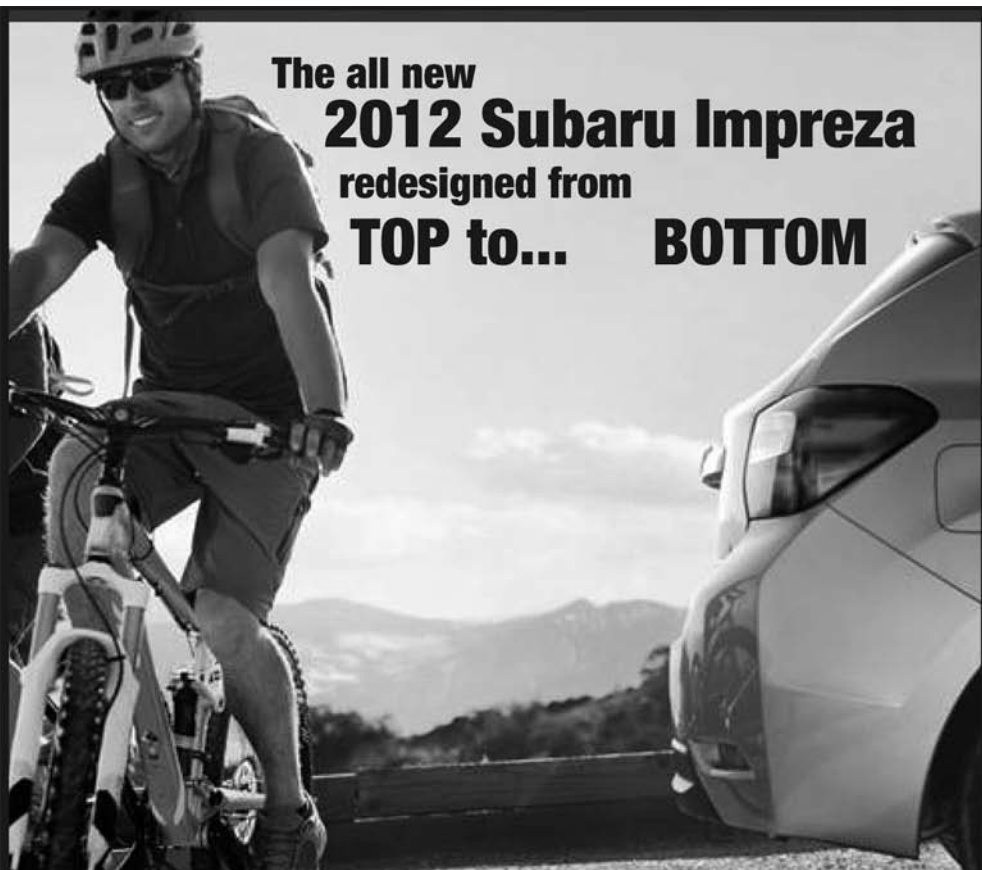


Muha co-owned and operated Outer Planets Trading Co., an eBay store, and also worked part-time as an individual contractor with Manpower. In 1981, he began working for Placid Oil, which became EDS, where he was employed for more than 20 years as a software engineer.

He was a member of Dallas Levi Leather Association and played softball with the Pegasus Slow-pitch Softball Association.

He is survived by his partner, Max Falagan of Mesquite; mother, Jean of Ellsworth, Mich.; brothers, Michael of Wixom, Mich., and David of Centerville, Ohio; and sister, Jesse Ewing of Irvington, N.Y.

A celebration of his life will be held at a private residence on June 30 at 6 p.m.



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■ pet of the week / AILEEN

Aileen and her littermates were transferred from a city shelter. They were too young for adoption at that time. All three puppies looked like Piglet when they first arrived at Operation Kindness with their pink skin showing under their white coats. The pups are part Shar Pei and possibly part Pittie; however, they will not grow to be very big. They are 12 weeks old now and still small. While they don't look so much like Piglet anymore, they are still just as adorable.



Aileen 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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**HAVING A BLAST WITH THE PAST** | Members of the Dallas Way's board and officers, shown earlier this year, began meeting last summer, writing one-page histories of groups and events. They'll present their first public program next week. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

# The Dallas Way to perform 'Outrageous Oral' at Sue's

Storytellers at GLBT History Project event will include Monica Greene, George Harris, Penny Pickle Crispin, Michael Doughman, Lori Masters

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

A year after a small group of longtime Dallas LGBT residents began piecing together the community's history, The Dallas Way: The Dallas GLBT History Project will present its first public program, Outrageous Oral.

Restaurateur Monica Greene, The Dallas Way co-founder George Harris and HIV nurse Penny

**Free lessons**  
'Outrageous Oral' will take place in the Vixen Lounge at Sue Ellen's on June 28 at 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Pickle Crispin are among the storytellers. Harris and his partner Jack Evans began the project last year after pulling together information for a story about their 50th anniversary. "Jack had read that there were other cities that had done this project," Harris said. "So Jack sent out a mass email and asked, 'Will it fly?'" But Harris' own reaction was a little different. "Lord, not another organization," he said recently. ■ **ORAL**, Page 15

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■ CEDAR SPRINGS, From Page 10

money] is a smart investment.”

Cedar Springs Merchants Association President Scott Whittall said his group needs to meet with Hunt and Councilwoman Pauline Medrano to discuss the possibilities. Cedar Springs Road divides the two council districts, but Hunt said the money would come from her district's bond allocation.

Whittall said that he would like to see arches announcing the entertainment district and new signage. He said cobblestoning has worked well in Bishop Arts District and seating adds to a relaxed ambiance.

His organization has been in touch with Lower Greenville merchants who claim that blocked entrances and parking issues during construction put several merchants out of business.

“That’s a huge misstep we’ll avoid,” he said.

If any street parking is taken, Whittall wants that to be replaced with alternative off-street parking, and he wants to discuss with councilmembers the possibility of using some of the bond money to acquire land for parking.

Meanwhile, some improvements on the street have already been funded for work scheduled to begin in June. In addition to the traffic signal at Knight Street, the turning island at the corner of Cedar Springs and Douglas Avenue was to be removed. That would force traffic making a full right turn onto Douglas to make a stop at the light or slow to make a sharp right turn.

However, according to Daniel Rydberg of the city’s Department of Street Services, planners are still trying to decide on a final design for the intersection.

Some merchants would rather see a center island installed between Knight Street and Wycliff Avenue that would force all traffic from Ilume and Knight Street to turn right, according to Whittall. Others objected to an island that would disrupt the annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade from proceeding down the middle of the street.

“There are a number of engineering challenges,” Rydberg said, referring to the jog at the intersection as well as Ilume’s driveway.

Right-turn-only may be part of the solution. Rydberg blamed the delay on his office being short-staffed.



**ENTERTAINING SAFER STREETS** | Dallas City Councilwoman Angela Hunt, shown at an LGBT Pride Month kickoff at City Hall recently, says the Cedar Springs bond proposal is similar to one she put together for Lower Greenville Avenue in 2006.

Another factor is anticipated new construction on the northeast corner of Cedar Springs and Douglas with the announcement that Crosland Group has secured financing to build Ilume Park.

Rydberg also said that the traffic signal system at that corner is more than 30 years old. A change to any component would require new signals for the entire intersection.

Oak Lawn residents and merchants attended an Oak Lawn Stakeholders Crime Watch meeting on Wednesday, June 20, to discuss with city planners whether the new lights, signs and crosswalks along the street have been effective. Most attending from the area at the meeting agreed that they have not.

Some wanted speed bumps across Cedar Springs, which wouldn’t be legal to install on a main street. Others suggested having the new lights flash only when someone was in the crosswalk.

Rydberg noted that since the street improvements, no pedestrian accidents have been reported. He said that was his department’s goal.

A meeting to discuss Hunt’s portion of the city bond program is set for 6:30 p.m. at Lee Park Arlington Hall on June 28. ■

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■ ORAL, From Page 13

peatedly to anyone Evans approached about the project.

Nevertheless, a group of about 20 people began meeting last summer, writing one-page histories of Dallas groups and events.

Bruce Monroe served as president of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Resource Center Dallas in the early '90s and is now on the board of The Dallas Way. His goal has been to collect oral history. Outrageous Oral is the beginning of that effort.

"It adds color to the dry facts," he said.

For his story, Monroe will talk about "AIDS is a Drag," one of the early fundraisers that brought together groups from Oak Lawn Counseling Center and the Resource Center who had never worked together before then. After the fundraiser in Dallas, 11 of them headed to Love Field and flew to Austin together for a fundraiser there.

"All of us had big hair with tons of hairspray and the only seats available were in the smoking section," Monroe said.

Monroe said he sat between two businessmen who tried to bury themselves in their newspapers. But before the flight landed, one of those businessmen was helping him with his nails.

"It added some levity to the seriousness of the times," he said.

And they raised about \$25,000.

Harris plans to talk about Downtown Dallas in the 1950s with its active nightlife that included a variety of gay bars.

Crispin ran the Pentamidine mist program that Dallas Gay Alliance offered when Parkland Hospital refused. The inhalant was used to fight a form of pneumonia that killed many people with AIDS in the '80s.

"I was on the board of Razzle Dazzle Dallas and my brother had AIDS," she said. "And one of my first patients was Terry Tebedo."

That program was the beginning of what became the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

Although Outrageous Oral is free, sponsors have contributed money that will go toward an archiving project. The Dallas Way is partnering with University of North Texas to archive Dallas LGBT history. Copies of every Dallas Voice since the newspaper's founding in 1983 have been moved to climate-controlled storage at the university and will be microfilmed and put online in searchable format once funds are raised through grants and fundraising events.

Monroe said that The Dallas Way is beginning to work with the One Archive in Los Angeles that has a similar arrangement with University of Southern California. That project has been ongoing for about 50 years.

He said he hoped to review contracts that One Archive has with USC and gain ideas from them to maximize the relationship between The Dallas Way and UNT.

Real estate veteran and Women's Motorcycle Club founder Lori Masters and Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman are the other storytellers.

Two more storytelling events are planned for Sept. 18 and Jan. 17. ■

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■ **REDEMPTION**, From Page 10

policy for establishments serving alcohol. TABC would later reveal that 19 policy violations occurred that night.

Fort Worth police Chief Jeff Halstead had only been on the job for about six months when the raid occurred. He immediately drew criticism from the community when he stood behind his officers' claims that bar patrons made sexual advances toward them. Over the course of the investigation, he began to admit that mistakes were made, he said.

"I was speaking from a position of fact, when it was really partial information that was delivered to me in a different manner," he said. "And that put me in a very, very tough position early on in this incident."

Halstead said what strained the effort the most was a three-week break for City Council during the raid and an inability to bring city officials together to discuss the incident. When the council finally met, the meeting went well past midnight because of the heated and passionate community response.

After the meeting, he said two officers came out to him and told them they were proud to have him as their chief, a moment he said he'll always remember as a turning point.

"I knew we were actually turning a big corner at that point," he said.

**The fight for Fairness**

After a dialogue opened, the healing progress began. The city created a Diversity Task Force that made 21 recommendations for the City Council to consider in relation to the LGBT community, ranging from sensitivity training for city employees to adding transgender protections to the city's nondiscrimination ordinance, which occurred later in 2009.

Fairness Fort Worth President Thomas Anable said recently that the only item still outstanding from the recommendations is comprehensive healthcare coverage for transgender city employees. To date, about 88 percent of the city's 6,000 employees have participated in the diversity training over the last 25 months.

"As far as the city's concerned, they kept every commitment they've made," Anable said.

Although Fairness Fort Worth was created as a grassroots organization to help witnesses of the raid come forward and give their statements in a neutral environment, Anable said the organization has grown into an umbrella group, focusing on healthcare, bullying and directing the LGBT community to the proper resources.

Halstead also turned his attention to healing the community and building back the public's trust in the police department. He appointed a full-time LGBT liaison and mandated that officers undergo sensitivity training. A few weeks ago, the

department reached a 100 percent completion for the in-service training, a proud moment for Halstead.

But while addressing criticism and later changing policies wasn't easy, he said the hardest part was gaining the community's trust back.

"In this profession, you're so proud of the job you do and the service you deliver and when the service is delivered in this manner — when it's so offensive to members of our community — you really, really have to pull yourself out of the rank and out of the position to understand how it was perceived by members of that community," Halstead said.

Camp said the response from the city and police was overwhelming as time went on and a lot of positive change happened when officials listened to the community's concerns. He said he thinks the LGBT community has healed in the years since the raid but would still remember its impact.

"I think they knew that they'd screwed up and to their credit they did everything they could do to fix it as quickly as possible," Camp said. "I can't help but be anything but impressed and proud with what we were able to accomplish. I think as a city and as a community, not just the GLBT community, but the community as a whole, we're all the better for it."

Anable echoed those sentiments, highlighting the channels of communication that opened and



**UNFORGETTABLE IMAGE** | In perhaps the most memorable photo from the raid, officers can be seen tackling patron Chad Gibson. (Chuck Potter)

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**RALLYING A RESPONSE** | Protesters line the sidewalk outside the Rainbow Lounge on Sunday, June 28, 2009 — hours after the raid. (Dallas Voice file photo)

still exist today, helping the LGBT community find its voice — and keep it.

“The biggest change is that in Fort Worth everyone got to get permission to talk about LGBT issues and feel safe and not ridiculed or get fired or ostracized,” Anable said. “That attitude wasn’t here before.”

### Cowtown’s coming of age story

Robert L. Camina spent 2½ years working on the documentary *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge*. The film premiered in Fort Worth in March, followed by a Dallas showing in April and a screening at Fort Worth’s June Q Cinema film festival, where it won Audience Choice Award. The film then won Best GLBT Film at the 32nd Breckenridge Festival of Film in Colorado.

A screening in Dallas on the three-year anniversary June 28 will feature a panel discussion afterward involving several of the parties involved in the raid’s aftermath.

Camina said he hoped the film would be used in a training aspect some day — and it already has. Clips from the film were used in Northern District of Texas U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldaña’s June 7 diversity event.

Camina also attended a White House Pride event June 15, and the White House and the Department of Justice have requested copies of the film, he said. They were requests he was more than happy to fill.

“I would love to continue that momentum and use this in any form possible as an educational tool,” he said.

Camp, who is featured in the film, said the “interviews are so raw that the emotion is all right there on the screen.” He said he wasn’t surprised that a film festival in Colorado gave it an award, demonstrating the power of the film to impact complete strangers.

“It’s really bizarre to think that me and several of my friends are out there on a big screen in another city talking about something in a bar that no one knows about and that they’re able to tap into that emotion and react to it as much as we did almost,” Camp said.

Camina called the film a coming of age story for Fort Worth, which grew into a stronger and more progressive city after the raid.

“I think Fort Worth really came into its own with the raid,” he said. “With the raid, it united a dormant community, and I think Fort Worth is a stronger city because of that. I think it’s a stronger LGBT community.”

### ‘It is an absolute model’

As the months and years passed and business went back to usual for the Rainbow Lounge, many people will forever remember the events of the raid and it’s powerfully effective aftermath.

Although it’s not as revered as Stonewall, Camp said it ignited the gay rights movement in North Texas just as Stonewall did for the nation decades ago.

“I’d like to hope that we have some place in GLBT history,” Camp said. “We’ll always be a part of that narrative and I think certainly for the people that live in this town it will be remembered.”

Camina said the raid is “part of our fabric of our history now” and will forever be “connected with the Stonewall raid because of its haunting parallels,” but hopes that other cities learn from the past that history so recently repeated.

Halstead described the first few months of the aftermath as “the hardest thing I had ever faced in 22 years of police work,” but said he’s grateful for the experience because it made him a more patient, understanding and detail-oriented chief. He sees the event and the documentary as a teaching opportunity to prevent similar incidents in the future.

“We are going to have other incidents in other parts of the country and we may have them here, but I know now relationships we have been strengthened and solidified,” he said, adding that Fort Worth is a model for other cities. “It is an absolute model, but the model takes time and it takes the right leaders in the right areas of our community to work with us, so hopefully those leaders exist in other cities, because they were invaluable to our success.”

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**PURR-FECT PARTNERSHIP** | Tami Manning, left, and Alisa Lee, who run the Texas Siamese Rescue in Corinth, met 15 years ago but did not become a couple until three years ago. "We have always been best friends," Lee said. "So I got the best of both worlds." (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

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# Rescuing a rescue

Lesbian pair tries to raise \$40K by December to save Siamese sanctuary in Corinth they took over last year after its owner died, leaving behind 179 cats

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

CORINTH, Denton County — A year ago, the Texas Siamese Rescue faced possible closure after its founder died. And the 179 cats still awaiting adoption faced animal control's arrival — and euthanasia.

But Tami Manning, who'd volunteered at the rescue for about six years, and her partner, Alisa Lee, stepped in and organized the few volunteers to help care for the cats.

Animal lovers, the two moved into the house to oversee the rescue — and the now 70 cats on site — full time. Lee now serves as the organization's director, while Manning handles kennel manager duties, with the couple living and working on the ranch.

"We love this place to work, but it wasn't our ideal of a home," Lee said, adding that she and Manning occasionally have a night of peace away from the ranch to regroup.

But the passion they had for the cats has only grown during the challenging year of balancing the bills between their income and the rescue's finances.

The rescue began in 1998, and its volunteers have helped rescue and find homes for nearly 20,000 cats. But the founder and director became ill in December 2010 and passed away months later, leaving behind a massive debt on the property and 179 cats.

Lee said she and Manning went through all the rescue's finances, discovering that \$244,000 was due on the 3,500-square-foot house on a ranch in Corinth and that taxes hadn't been filed since 2000. Luckily, she said, the rescue somehow maintained its 501(c)(3) status.

The owner of the property lives in New York and has agreed to forgive a large portion of the debt, giving the rescue a year to raise \$40,000. Lee and Manning have implemented dozens of changes to help meet the deadline, but they said

■ **RESCUE**, Next Page



**SIAMESE DREAM** | While only about 20 of the 70 cats at the ranch are Siamese because other cats were accepted by the previous director, Lee said she wants to shift the attention back to rescuing Siamese cats exclusively. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)



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**FEEDING FRENZY** | Lee, above, and Manning, next page, said the biggest change they made was an open space for the cats to live and socialize. Instead of cages lining the walls, the rescue has a large room filled with climbing fixtures and cushions so the cats can play and nap peacefully. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

■ **RESCUE**, From Previous Page

they're still in need of donations.

The two have overseen the re-branding of the rescue, revamping the logo, reaching out through social media to gain volunteers and adoption interest, and cutting the cost of operations by two-thirds by reducing energy use, switching power companies and using coupons. They even have a volunteer photographer to take professional pictures of the cats, making them look their best for potential adopters.

But perhaps the biggest change they made was an open space for the cats to live and socialize. Instead of cages lining the walls, the rescue has a large room filled with climbing fixtures and cushions so the cats can play and nap peacefully.

A smaller, quieter room off to the side offers a calmer environment for cats with social or medical issues, a few of which are caged while others purr and play with less vigor than in the room next door.

Lee and Manning met 15 years ago at work. The two hit it off and became close friends. They remained best friends until three years ago when Lee said they "finally crossed that line" and went from friends to partners.

"We have always been best friends," she said. "So I got the best of both worlds."

The couple's strong foundation in their relationship has helped them overcome the stress of saving the rescue and helps them push through their efforts to keep a roof over the cats' and their heads.

"This place hasn't broken us or changed us; it's just separated us for a while," Lee said. "I don't think you could pay me to not take this over again."

But while the cats seem to keep coming in and the money running out, Lee said she doesn't want just anyone to adopt. She handles the adoption applications, which consist of an online application, background check, reference checks and vet records for other pets owned by potential adopters before a scheduled visit to see the cats.

Home visits would be ideal, but Lee said the rescue doesn't have the manpower to go to the many homes of interested adopters.

After the application is processed, Lee said she explains to adopters that cats will often choose the people they like, whereas many people want to adopt the first cat they think is pretty.

Manning said in reality people return and often volunteer a few times to get a good feel for the right cat, especially since they are free-

roaming in a more natural environment versus being caged.

"People come in here several times and spend hours here before they choose," she said.

While only about 20 of the 70 cats at the ranch are Siamese because other cats were accepted by the previous director, Lee said she wants to shift the attention back to rescuing Siamese cats exclusively. She also would like to keep the number of cats on site down to 50.

"It doesn't matter how many I have in-house, it matters how many I'm adopting. If I'm not adopting, I'm not doing my job," Lee said. "I'm not going to push adoption either because anybody who comes through that door I'd rather tell them not to adopt. I'd rather them spend time here, get to know my animals, find out what it is they really want. Don't be a five-second buyer."

Ruth Clevenger started volunteering at the ranch last year after a co-worker adopted a Siamese from the rescue. She said the cat was so

**Giving the ranch a hand**

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"I've never seen a Siamese that loveable," she said. "I always thought Siamese were kind of stuck up, but they're not."

Clevenger said the cats' environment of a playroom and ability to be free unless caged for health reasons allows them to socialize and grow into their personality. The time and care put into the cats by Lee and Manning is what makes them great pets later, she said.

"They're not caged and they can roam free and it really makes a difference on how they react socially," Clevenger said. "That's what I fell in love with, is how they treat the animals."

Joy Kunkle has also volunteered at the rescue for the past year. She first discovered the rescue when she was looking for a Siamese after hers died two years ago. After some time passed and she was ready to adopt, she said she told Lee what she wanted and what her home was like with two dogs and another cat, and Lee picked out Sunny for her.

Sunny was abandoned and had been at the rescue a year. While many people often want kittens, she said 3-year-old Sunny was social and fit in flawlessly with her family.

"He turned out to be absolutely perfect," she said.

Kunkle said she was looking for a place to volunteer and now helps out at the rescue once a week. She said she appreciates the time Lee and Manning put into training every cat to be adoptable.

"Each cat is so different. They're like people," she said. "I think they see that there, and they work really hard to find even older cats homes."

Adoption fees range from \$75-200, depending on age. Lee has also developed a sponsorship program, starting at \$25, for people who want to help with the cost of caring for a cat but can't take on any more pets at home. The option is popular among children who see the rescue's cats at adoption fairs and can later go online and see their sponsored cat.

"And they never have to take them home, and we do all the work," Lee said.

But once a cat is adopted, Lee and Manning's work doesn't end. They offer support, training and tips on how to help a new cat adapt — and they'll take any cat back for any reason.

"We support them all the way through to death," Lee said. "If it's something I started, I will finish." ■

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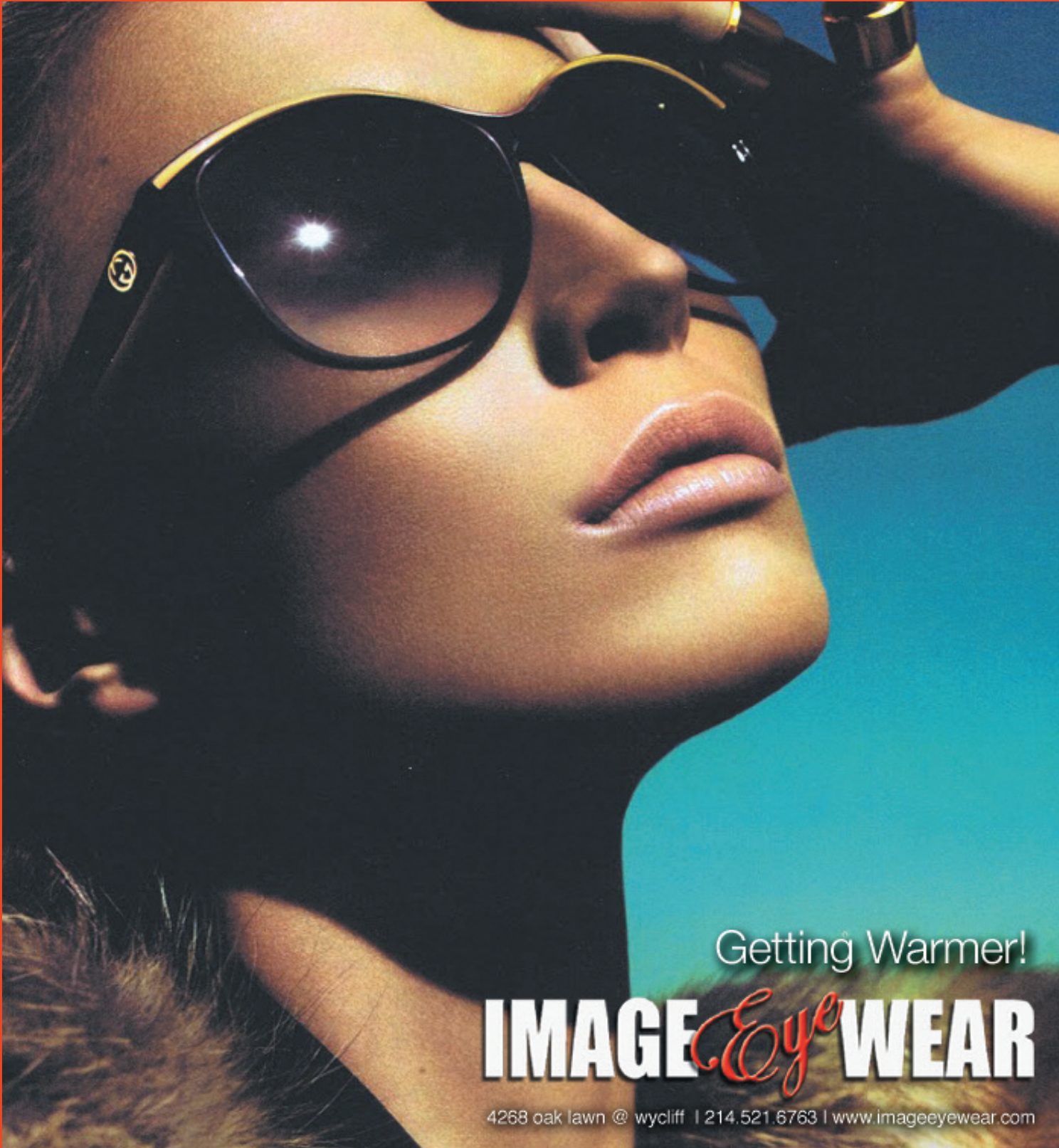
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**RAPID RESULTS** | James Lester, a registered nurse at Resource Center Dallas' Nelson-Tebedo clinic, demonstrates the OraSure rapid HIV test this week. The test is already being used at Nelson-Tebedo but has not yet been approved by the FDA for home use. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## The positives, negatives of in-home HIV testing

Experts say OraSure could lead to more people knowing their status but fear those who learn they have the virus won't get counseling, care

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

When longtime Fort Worth activist David Mack Henderson tested positive for HIV, all sorts of things went through his head.

"If I didn't have people around me when I got the news, I don't know what I would have done," he said. "That's not news you need to learn alone."

But that's what's likely to start happening soon, after in-home rapid HIV testing from OraSure was approved by an advisory panel of the FDA on May 15. Counseling, along with medical information and referrals, is commonly provided to those who test positive at an HIV/AIDS agency or in a doctor's office.

"Some might unnecessarily commit suicide because they didn't know they had a life to lead,"

Henderson said. "There is a psychological imperative to having someone present."

Others, like Jeff Strater of Dallas, said while he shares some of the concerns about the missing counseling component, he believes there's value in wider availability of testing.

"It might appeal to some who wouldn't otherwise get tested," Strater said, adding that for someone who gets tested annually, checking at home six months later would be a good option. "But for the first-time tester, the clinic is the best place."

Local HIV/AIDS experts also said they have mixed feelings about in-home rapid HIV testing.

The test utilizes a mouth swab and returns results in 20 minutes. Other in-home tests for HIV that have already been approved require taking a blood sample that is sent to a lab.

"The hope would be that the rapid at-home test would help us identify some of the 1 million HIV-infected people who remain undiagnosed," said Bret Camp, health services director at Resource Center Dallas.

Camp said in-home testing could lead to more people knowing their HIV status and, in turn, earlier intervention.

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Dr. Nick Bellos, an Oak Lawn physician with a specialty in HIV care, called the in-home test a step forward that will increase accessibility. He said some people are more likely to test at home than at a clinic or a public event like a health fair.

Bellos said he's seen three or four patients who've done the mail-in blood tests at home, but even with the new rapid oral version, a positive result needs to be confirmed.

"But anything that encourages people to get into the healthcare system is good," Bellos said.

Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo clinic uses a rapid test made by the same company seeking approval for the in-home version. Camp said that the accuracy rate of the rapid test at the clinic under controlled conditions is 99.8 percent.

However, the FDA report indicates an accuracy rate of only 93 percent for in-home tests. In pre-approval studies, the reasons for test failure range from not understanding or fully following the directions to mishandling the product.

Even with such a high accuracy rate at the clinic, Camp said all tests are confirmed with a blood test.

"We want to make sure there's not another auto-immune disease such as multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease or lupus going on," he said.

Camp said he's worried about people who don't understand the need to follow the diagnosis with medical care before the onset of symptoms.

"There could be a disconnect if they get a diagnosis and do not seek treatment," Camp said.

He said that the main reason he hears people say they do not seek medical care is, "I don't feel bad."

The test only reveals HIV status. After diagnosis, testing is necessary to determine viral load and T-cell count, Camp said. Those are important numbers to determine when to begin taking medication. To remain healthy, the recommendation is to begin medication before the immune system is destroyed.

The in-home rapid test can detect the virus beginning three months after exposure. A nucleic acid amplification test will detect the HIV virus 10 days after exposure, but that won't be available for in-home testing.

Camp said a negative result on an in-home test might give someone a false sense of security. Someone who does an at-home test too soon after

 **online exclusive**

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day. For a list of local events, go to [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com).

exposure and then continues risky behavior is more likely to spread the disease than someone who is positive, on medication and has a negligible viral load count.

Camp said that no matter how good the literature accompanying the test, "one size does not fit all."

Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk Myers said he also has concerns about the in-home test, especially for his target constituency in South Dallas. He said couples who come to his agency are always tested and given results separately. Myers said he fears possible domestic violence when positive results occur from an at-home test and no counseling is available.

Another concern is people not accessing healthcare.

"Will people go underground?" he said.

Myers said that he and his staff walk many people through the process of testing to accessing healthcare when they come to his agency. He worried that some people who get a positive result at home would ignore the results until their immune systems were so compromised that the first contact with healthcare was while battling an opportunistic infection.

Myers also noted that for some, the in-home tests won't be affordable.

"At \$50 a pop, a lot of people won't have access to it," he said.

But Bellos said he hopes at that price, most people purchasing the test will take it seriously, read the accompanying material and seek medical care if positive.

Those looking for lower-cost alternatives or not willing or able to read the directions could continue to access reliable, lower-cost or free testing at clinics or HIV/AIDS agencies.

The FDA will decide this year whether to approve the product for sale. If so, in its report on the product to the agency, OraSure has promised to blanket media with advertising "to drive consumer awareness and testing."

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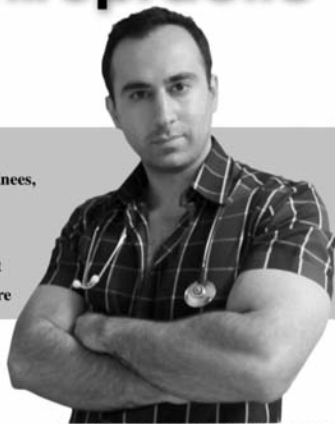
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# Since HIV diagnosis 20 years ago, minister has devoted life to education about disease

Deneen Robinson, who'll receive DFW Pride Movement's Icon Award, wants people who are positive to know they can still live a great life

TIFFANY AUSTIN | Contributing Writer  
editor@dallasvoice.com

Following a period of homelessness after leaving a marriage, Deneen Robinson decided not to let the setback determine the course of her life and moved to Austin with her two daughters to attend college.

During her last year of school in 1992, Robinson became ill and was hospitalized. She learned that she was HIV positive and was given about six years to live.

Despite the devastating news, Robinson still managed to finish school with a 4.0 GPA, and she decided she would always strive for the same excellence in the remainder of her professional and personal endeavors.

"The diagnosis took my life on a different course," Robinson said. "My course can be summed up in this statement: 'I want to plant seeds so my daughters will remember me.' This is the statement I made to myself as I heard I had HIV for the first time. This is the statement that marked the journey in living with, understanding, educating and ultimately becoming an advocate for my and others impacted by HIV."

Her quest for knowledge about her disease led to her wanting to share the information with others. Robinson always had a passion for educating, writing and public speaking, and her HIV diagnosis gave her an unexpected sense of empowerment, leading her to devote her life to removing the stigma associated with HIV and homosexuality in the African-American community.

"I wanted to see African-Americans really work together as a community and support the work that is necessary to stem the tide of HIV in our community," Robinson said. "I would like us to respond openly to the internalized homophobia that we are dealing with as a community."

"As a community we are gifted in so many ways and we have allowed others to label us, name us, categorize us ... all these things to defeat us," she said. "We cannot afford that anymore. We are dying due to our choices, our fears and our silence. We must begin to heal and help each other so we can respond to the devastation that is being caused by HIV."

Robinson began as an educator for South Dallas Health Access Inc.'s Margaret K. Wright Clinic, now the Peabody Clinic, then moved on to help-



Deneen Robinson

ing individuals in the last stages of life due to conditions related to AIDS at the Legacy Founders Cottage, also in Dallas.

Robinson went on to create support and education groups throughout North Texas, including At The Kitchen Table, a woman's group she created in 1999, and to have her works on HIV education published in Newsweek and several other local and national publications. She has also made numerous television appearances on behalf of HIV/AIDS education, including on *The Tavis Smiley Show*.

But perhaps her most significant contribution to the LGBT community is the work she's currently doing as an education coordinator for HVTN 505, where she conducts research to find an HIV vaccine, and her work as a patient navigator for Project H.O.P.E., a study looking to re-engage hospitalized individuals in HIV care.

Always a spiritual woman, Robinson did not allow her diagnosis or sexuality affect her quest for religious fulfillment in a Christian context. In 2004 she became a member of the Living Faith Covenant Church in Dallas and began ministry outreach, serving as the director of external ministries for her church.

Twenty years after her diagnosis, Robinson is in an 11-year committed relationship with a



### 'Celebrating Our Own'

The DFW Pride Movement's 2012 Trailblazer's Hall of Fame Awards will be at 8 p.m. June 29 at the Angelika, 5321 East Mockingbird Lane. The event is slated to be a Red Carpet "White Tie" Affair with this year's theme being "Celebrating Our Own." The ceremony will be followed by an afterparty at PLUSH Night Club at 1400 Main St. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at DFWPrideMovement.org. For more info, contact Derrick Spillman at derrickdfwpride@gmail.com or 214-440-9300. This year's honorees are:

- **Rising Star Award:** Jai Makokha, Harold Steward, Ivan Nolen, Shemar Collins Dupree.
- **Trailblazer's Award:** Roy Murray, Teedee Davis, C.D. Kirven.
- **Pioneer Award:** Isiah Payne, Carter Brown, Angela Amos, Joy Williams.
- **Icon Award:** Alex Byrd, Felicia Miller, Auntuan Wiley, Dennis Coleman, Deneen Robinson.
- **Legend Award:** Donald Sneed, Garfield Lee, Jr., Betty Neal, PT Dupree, Kelexis Davenport, Clinton Blade aka DJ 008.
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"wonderful woman" and has refused to allow her HIV status to negatively determine the course of her life.

"I have a very accomplished family including a spouse who I love deeply and two daughters," Robinson said. "I am very proud of their respective accomplishments and proud to be their mother.

"They remind me that toiling and tilling in order to plant seeds is worth the work," she said. "Until I die, I will live out the mission to create a world that I want to live in and work hard to leave my spot better than I found it. I want individuals living with HIV to know it is possible to not just deal with HIV, but have a great life. It is possible."

When DFW Pride Movement Executive Director Derrick Spillman decided that he wanted to throw a gala honoring those in the African-American community who are making a difference in the DFW LGBT community, Robinson came to mind when he was selecting who to bestow the prestigious Icon Award.

"Deneen was selected for the Icon Award because of her diverse background in HIV prevention and education in the Dallas LGBT community. She daily displays her commitment to helping educate people about the disease and works for an amazing program that is trying to find a way to keep the disease from spreading," Spillman said.

"Deneen walks the walk and talks the talk. Her passion to help stop the spread of this disease has taken her across the country seeking knowledge that she has freely brought back and shared with her community."

# Obama cashes in on support for marriage

Despite apparent jump in LGBT contributions after announcement, president trailed Mitt Romney in overall fundraising during May

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

President Barack Obama has been greeted with thunderous ovations and untold dollars in LGBT contributions since his May 9 announcement that he supports allowing same-sex couples to marry.

BuzzFeed.com reported that "a Democrat" claimed \$1 million poured into the Obama for America campaign within 90 minutes of President Obama's interview saying he supports the rights of same-sex couples to marry. An unidentified campaign spokesman later told NPR that wasn't true, but "one source" said the surge in contributions was "astounding."

Whatever the number of gay dollars tallied, the

money was part of a \$60 million haul for the re-election campaign in May. During that same month, however, the coffers of Republican Mitt Romney grew \$76 million. It marked the first month in which Romney outraised Obama.

Did Obama's same-sex marriage support have any influence on that? Probably not. A variety of independent surveys by news and polling groups showed the two major party candidates tied since the beginning of May — trading the lead but almost always within the margin of error. And an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll of 1,000 registered voters May 16-20 found that 62 percent of registered voters surveyed said the two candidates' positions on same-sex marriage — Obama for, Romney against — made no difference in their expected votes.

"When it comes to your decision to support Barack Obama, does his position favoring same-sex marriage reinforce the reason to support him, give you concern about supporting him, or really not make much difference either way?" asked the



**PRESIDENTIAL PRIDE** | President Barack Obama speaks Friday, June 15, in the East Room of the White House during a reception to celebrate National LGBT Pride Month. (Associated Press)

poll of those respondents who said they were leaning toward Obama. Sixty-two percent said it didn't make much difference either way, 31 percent said it reinforced their support, and 7 percent said it gave them some concern. When the pollsters asked Romney supporters how the Republican's position opposing same-sex marriage affected them, the responses were nearly the same: 59 percent said it didn't matter, 32 percent said it reinforced their support, 8 percent had concerns (and 1 percent was unsure).

An ABC-Washington Post poll of 1,004 adults May 17-20 found only 1 percent considered "gay marriage/gay rights" to be the "most important issue" in their choice for president. Ditto, a CNN poll of 1,009 adults May 29-31.

Still, gay money in the campaign has been getting a lot of attention. A CNN analysis published June 6 credited gay donors with raising at least \$8 million for the Obama re-election campaign even before the president's May 9 announcement. It said its analysis of Obama's biggest donors showed "at least 33 — or about one in every 16 bundlers — is openly gay." A Washington Post article May 7 estimated one in six of Obama's contribution bundlers were gay.

OpenSecrets.org, an independent organization tracking the flow of campaign funding, posted a chart of 27 LGBT bundlers — 13 of whom had raised more than \$500,000 each. Among those 13 were Sally Susman, an executive vice president at

■ OBAMA, Page 29

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OBAMA, From Page 26

the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer; Joseph Falk, past president of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers; James Costos, a vice president at HBO, and his partner, designer Michael Smith; Kathy Levinson, former president of E-Trade; and Chicago Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts.

To put the bundlers' role in perspective, the Human Rights Campaign political action committee reported that, through April 30, it had received contributions totaling \$218,816. The national gay conservative group GOProud and the political action committee of Log Cabin Republicans show no money raised for campaign financing.

Obama appeared before several high-profile, big-ticket LGBT fundraisers in the past few weeks. On June 6, he spoke to a fundraiser sponsored by the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Leadership Council in Los Angeles. Then, he spoke to a fundraiser nearby at the private home of Ryan Murphy, the creator of *Glee*.

An estimated 600 people attended the DNC-LGBT gala at the Regent Beverly Wilshire, paying somewhere between \$1,000 and \$5,000 each. According to a White House pool reporter, the audience there gave President Obama a "prolonged standing ovation, chanting 'Four more years!'"

The more private reception at *Glee* creator Murphy's cost the estimated 70 attendees \$38,500 each. According to the White House pool reporter, the president spoke for about 12 minutes then took questions but the reporter was not allowed to stay for the question-and-answer period. Although the pool reporter did not recognize anyone in the crowd, he said a campaign official told him it included actors Julia Roberts, Reese Witherspoon and Jane Lynch.

It also included Jack Calhoun, the president of Banana Republic/Gap Inc., and Michael Lombardo, another HBO executive.

The two events were expected to raise several million dollars for the president's re-election campaign.

"I could not be prouder of the work that we've done on behalf of the LGBT community," said President Obama, in front of the DNC-LGBT Leadership Council gala. "From the work we did to facilitate hospital visitations to ending the HIV/AIDS ban, to the work we did to pass the

Matthew Shepard law, to repealing "don't ask, don't tell," to all the administrative work that's been done by agencies to make sure that folks are fully recognized is something that I'm personally very proud of."

The DNC's LGBT Leadership Council, founded in 2000, works to ensure the Democratic Party's platform includes and respects the rights of LGBT Americans. At its gala last year in New York, some in the audience criticized President Obama for not endorsing passage of the then-pending legislation in the New York legislature to allow same-sex couples to marry.

The Leadership Council also held a fundraiser for Obama in New York last month, with entertainer Ricky Martin as host. That fundraiser sold out after President Obama gave his interview in support of same-sex marriage, according to OpenSecrets.org.

But whatever millions the LGBT community has chipped into the Obama re-election coffers, it pales in contrast to the money piling up on Republican nominee Mitt Romney's side.

Politico.com reported last month that Republican political strategist Karl Rove and allies have promised to raise \$1 billion in pro-Romney communications.

They are aided in large part by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. In that decision, a split court ruled that the First Amendment prohibits the federal government from limiting how much corporations and unions can spend on "electioneering communications."

Through so-called "Super PACs," corporations quickly began pouring money into such communications to support pro-corporate candidates. One prominent pro-Romney super PAC, Restore Our Future, reported raising more than \$26 million through April 30, compared to the \$4.7 million raised by the prominent pro-Obama super PAC "Priorities USA Action."

One prominent donor to the pro-Romney super PAC was Paul Singer, a billionaire investor whose son is gay. Ironically, the New York Times reported last weekend that Singer has also just announced forming his own super PAC — the American Unity PAC — with plans to direct \$1 million toward Republicans who support same-sex marriage.

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# 'I'm Coming Out' still resonates

Diana Ross song inspired by NYC gay bar became an LGBT anthem 32 years ago, and its message should always be our mantra

When you think of music and the LGBT community, what comes to mind? Disco from the 1970s? Freddie Mercury? Madonna? Boy George? Lady Gaga? Adam Lambert? Broadway show tunes? "Call Me Maybe"?

If you were to make a list of LGBT "message" songs, you would likely include Diana Ross' 1980 hit "I'm Coming Out." The song was written and produced by Nile Rogers and the late Bernard Edwards, the founders of the seminal disco group CHIC.

Edwards died in 2004, but Rogers continues to perform, produce and play.

Several weeks ago, I went to the Wildflower Festival in Richardson to see Rogers and CHIC perform classic songs such as "Good Times" and "I Want Your Love." They also played songs Rogers wrote and produced for other artists, including "I'm Coming Out."

In his new autobiography, *Le Freak: An Upside Down Story of Family, Disco and Destiny*, Rogers writes that the inspiration for "I'm Coming Out" came from a 1979 visit to a long-since-closed New York City gay bar called the Gilded Grape. He and Edwards would visit the bars because they featured cutting-edge underground music and performers.

During that visit to the Gilded Grape, Rogers noticed that several of the bar patrons were dressed like Diana Ross. In a 2007 interview, Rogers describes that as "an artistic light-bulb" moment and decided that he would write a song for her that would also speak to Ross' fan base in the LGBT community.

Forty-three years after the Stonewall Rebellion, and three years after the Rainbow Lounge raid, there is still great power in coming out and acknowledging one's sexual orientation or gender identity. Harvey Milk knew it. Ellen DeGeneres and Margaret Cho know it. So do Anna Paquin, Jamison Green, Isis King, and scores of others famous and not-so-famous. Earlier this month, a new CNN poll showed six in 10 Americans have a close family member or friend who is LGBT, a rapid shift in numbers over the last two decades driven by people coming out.

But remember, this was 1980. The "disco sucks" movement was in full force; partially a reaction to the music, and part a reaction to the music's large LGBT fan base. Ross was not as certain of the success of "I'm Coming Out," or its



**BAND PLAYS ON** | Nile Rogers, who co-wrote 'I'm Coming Out' with the late Bernard Edwards, recently performed in Richardson with their disco group CHIC. (Associated Press)

not-so-hidden message.

Rogers told Rolling Stone magazine last year, "She (Ross) asked us point blank if this was a gay record and if people were going to think she was gay. It's the only time in my life I've ever lied to an artist. I looked her straight in the eye and said, 'Are you kidding?'"

As an ally, Rogers knew that the message of the song was important and would resonate with Ross' fans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"I'm Coming Out" continues to be the song that opens a Diana Ross concert. The album *Diana*, which featured the song as well as "Upside Down," remains Ross' biggest-selling album.

This wasn't the first Rogers-penned song to be adopted by the LGBT community. Sister Sledge's "We Are Family," written and produced by Rogers and Edwards, has similarly strong feelings. And CHIC's "My Forbidden Lover," the follow-up single to "Good Times," was also a gay disco favorite — and at the Wildflower Festival, I saw two men steal a quick kiss as the band played it in the Collin County darkness. And, the

world didn't end.

You could argue that the LGBT community is more "out" now than ever before. Positive LGBT images and depictions are more commonplace, rather than the exception. Yet, with a few exceptions based on where we work, we can be fired simply for who we are here in Texas — and we have no recourse.

Some of us can get married if we live in or travel to certain jurisdictions. But, those marriage certificates don't grant us the more than 1,100 federal rights straight couples receive. And more than half of our LGBT youth, according to a new survey from the Human Rights Campaign, are verbally harassed. We say that "It gets better," but the reality is the messages continue to arrive too late for some members of our community.

But each of us, in our own way, by being out, contributes to changing the future. Our authentic selves, on full display for the world to see, have great power to influence hearts and minds. And thanks to a chance encounter in a gay bar more than 30 years ago, Nile Rogers gave us an anthem to break down the oppressive closet doors. ■

Rafael McDonnell is communications and advocacy manager, Resource Center Dallas. He can be reached at RMcDonnell@rcdallas.org.



**Rafael McDonnell**  
Contributing columnist

# Feedback

## Rob Schlein column amounted to hate speech; DV should apologize

I was shocked to see the misleading headlines on both the front cover and page 6 of your June 15 issue indicating an "evolution" in the "platforms" of both major state political parties.

I was then quite distressed to find page 15 of the same issue almost completely devoted to an expression of self-hate by Rob Schlein, described as "president of the Metroplex Republicans of Dallas."

As journalists, it is difficult to understand how you reconcile the headline "TX party platforms evolve on LGBT issues" with a platform that continues to state: "We affirm that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society and contributes to the breakdown of the family unit."

If Mr. Schlein does not understand that this statement is totally unacceptable, then you, your headline writers, and your copy editors certainly should.

It is a non-starter, an acknowledgment reinforced by the party spokesman within your article that we are not welcome in that party.

At a time in which the national and state Republican parties have ramped up their hate rhet-

oric not only against the LGBT community, but also against women and people of color, no responsible publication, gay or otherwise, should be promoting the sad self-hate of a skill like Mr. Schlein.

Mr. Schlein and Mitt Romney have blood on their hands as they expose GLBT youth to the hate speech of the remnants of a once respectable national and state party.

The fact that they attempt to cloak themselves as responsible citizens makes them more dangerous than either the KKK or the Westboro Baptist Church.

At the very least, you should apologize to your readers for publishing Mr. Schlein's column and pledge to never again provide a forum for hate speech.

*David Johnston  
Dallas*

## Don't let Chisom mess overshadow good work being done in S. Dallas

AIDS Arms Inc. is concerned about the news released last week about the Anthony Chisom AIDS Foundation and its South Dallas AIDS Walk that began in 2010.

We know there are always many sides to any situation and that more information will undoubtedly be forthcoming.

Even so, we are hopeful that the news last

week does not negatively impact the reputable sponsors, donors, walkers and beneficiary organizations who were involved with Mr. Chisom based on a good faith belief that solid stewardship, accountability and transparency were present and active.

We are also saddened of the impact on the many vulnerable people living with HIV who depend on all of us in AIDS service organizations across North Texas to provide positive and transparent services and leadership on their behalf. We hope that the reported accountability problems facing Mr. Chisom's foundation are quickly responded to, resolved and that the commitments made to all of its participating individuals and organizations are fully met.

Last week's report regarding Anthony Chisom Foundation is also concerning because of AIDS Arms' strong and permanent service in South Dallas.

We know the world, and particularly the HIV world, has grown much smaller over the past years. What happens at or impacts one organization touches us all.

Public perception, future volunteer and financial support, and the perpetuation of stigma within some community circles toward people living with HIV and AIDS — these all can potentially be impacted in negative ways regardless of the direct relationship we all may or may not have to Anthony Chisom AIDS Foundation.

We hope that does not happen as there are so many positive and accountable organizations and activities happening in South Dallas and beyond to help people live better, fuller lives with HIV and to prevent others from acquiring the disease. Good work is happening in many places by many people, and we all need that to continue.

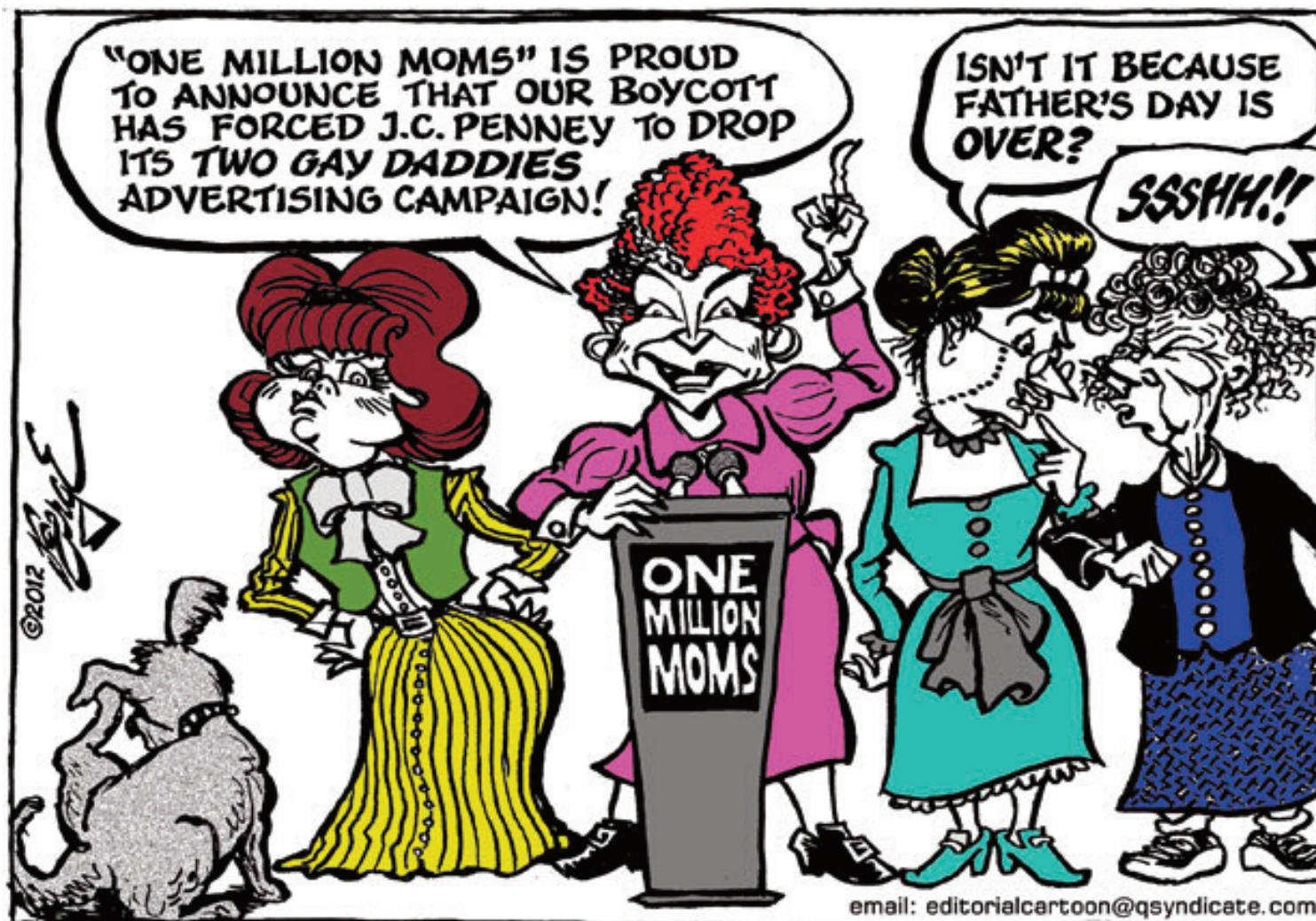
AIDS Arms' Peabody Health Center has been an active, positive presence in South Dallas since 2001, offering outpatient medical care, case management, medication assistance and free HIV testing.

Neither AIDS Arms nor our partner organizations would want anything to compromise the good work happening at Peabody and other AIDS service organizations in South Dallas.

While Kirk Myers of Abounding Prosperity may consistently report it is the only organization with a permanent presence in South Dallas, AIDS Arms has owned and operated Peabody Health Center for nearly 12 years and certainly we have provided in-home HIV case management and support to thousands of people in South Dallas since 1986.

We proudly serve nearly 2,000 HIV-positive individuals and thousands of at-risk individuals living in South Dallas today and will continue to do so in positive ways. Many other AIDS service organizations are active in South Dallas as well, and we know they all want to continue to have community support to keep their good work active for people in need.

*Raeline Nobles  
Executive Director  
AIDS Arms Inc.*



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## Speak Out poll

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Is it OK for gay people to use the word "faggot"?

### RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Does the Texas GOP's new platform mean the party is more gay-friendly?

- Yes: 14 percent
- No: 76 percent
- Unsure: 10 percent

207 votes cast

# Pot head

Potter extraordinaire Jonathan Adler brings his happy-chic accessorizing skills to his new Dallas boutique

Jonathan Adler's new Uptown boutique has been open for about a week, but until two minutes before we sit down for our interview, he'd not seen the final set-up. He scurries through the store for a few minutes, soaking it all in. "I love it!" he declares.

He should. The new Jonathan Adler boutique on McKinney Avenue in the Knox-Henderson area is chock full of Adler's many designs — not just the pottery which launched his career 18 years ago, but playing cards, embroidered pillows, candles and clutches. If, as *Steel Magnolias* queerly observed, what sets man apart from the animals is his ability to accessorize, then Adler is the manliest man out there.

Adler's products have been available in Dallas for years — including Barneys, where his husband of 17 years, Simon Doonan, is creative director ("I gave him my pretty years," Adler jokes) — but this is his first free-standing boutique in business. And, he thinks, it's about damn time.

"Dallas is a lot of fun — I've been here a million times and there's always something fun going on here," he gushes. "You know the stereotypes of Northerners [being uptight] and

Southerners having fun? That's so true. And I've always loved it — such an incredible art scene, and gay scene and style scene. And this neighborhood just feels so right for me."

Indeed, it's a bit of a gay enclave now along Knox-Henderson, with Adler's storefront facing gay-owned Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams. "And I suspect there are quite a few more on the block as well," Adler adds.

Adler is on a roll — he'll open three more boutiques this summer because, he says, "I'm not getting any younger" — but in some ways, business bores him.

"A typical day for me is spent in my New York pottery studio, getting dirty and taking credit for my team's creativity," he jokes. "My goal as a designer is to ignore strategy and branding and all that business-y stuff. Just follow your heart."

I point to one piece — a bisque lamp whose image is a repeated face, which shares an eye with the face on either side — as one of the stand-outs in the store.

"You picked one of those pieces I'm unbelievably proud of," he beams. "When something looks right, it seems to have been

uncovered rather than created."

Still, Adler owe a lot of his business success to some Dallas icons.

"Todd Oldham is an old sister of mine — he gave me one of my first breaks in the business," he says of the Dallas fashion designer. "And he and Simon knew each other independently. A lot of Dallasites have been supporters of me." He also mentions Carlos Falci, who when he had a boutique, was one of his first customers. Dallas, he says, appreciates quality.

"I'm a fancy gay, obsessed with quality," he trills. "I try to find the best workshops — I source a lot of my porcelain from China — there's a reason we call porcelain 'china.' But it takes a lot of work to make stuff with a sense of joy. My main focus is making unimpeachably chic items, but I embrace color."

That palette has helped set him apart in the marketplace. There is a summer-in-the-Hamp-tons vibe to his splashy designs with a strong nod to Palm Beach, but he says it all comes down to craft. "As a potter, I want to make things people's heirs will fight over in the will."

And that, of course, means a detailed eye and open idea of what works. He has some favorite themes — counterculture icons, like peace signs, abound — but Adler is always refining his craft.

"Simon is a writer — his latest book is fucking hilarious — and you know the cliché that writing is rewriting? It's so true. In any creative pursuit, it takes analysis, patience, resilience ... whether writing or potting. It's a tortured process."

It's at this point that Doonan, who has been lurking around the store for a half hour, wanders over, voguing his way next to Adler to add his two cents — although with Doonan, it's more like five dollars.

"Our home looks like this with some vintage thrown in," he says in that distinctive pixieish accent. "That's the secret to Jonathan's success: So many designers inflict their works on the general public but don't use it themselves."

And fashion designers who come out at the end of their runway shows in Keds and a Gap T? Doonan hates it.

"You want us to slap down \$500 for that pant and you don't wear your own clothes? And they all have menswear lines now, so there's no excuse for it anymore," he says. Adler concurs.

"I design it all for myself," he says. "The miracle of my life is that I've created a job where I get to make everything I want."

And we get to share it. ■

POT & POPPERS & 'SHROOMS, OH MY! | Jonathan Adler and husband Simon Doonan show off some of the cheek-meets-chic items at Adler's boutique in Knox-Henderson. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)





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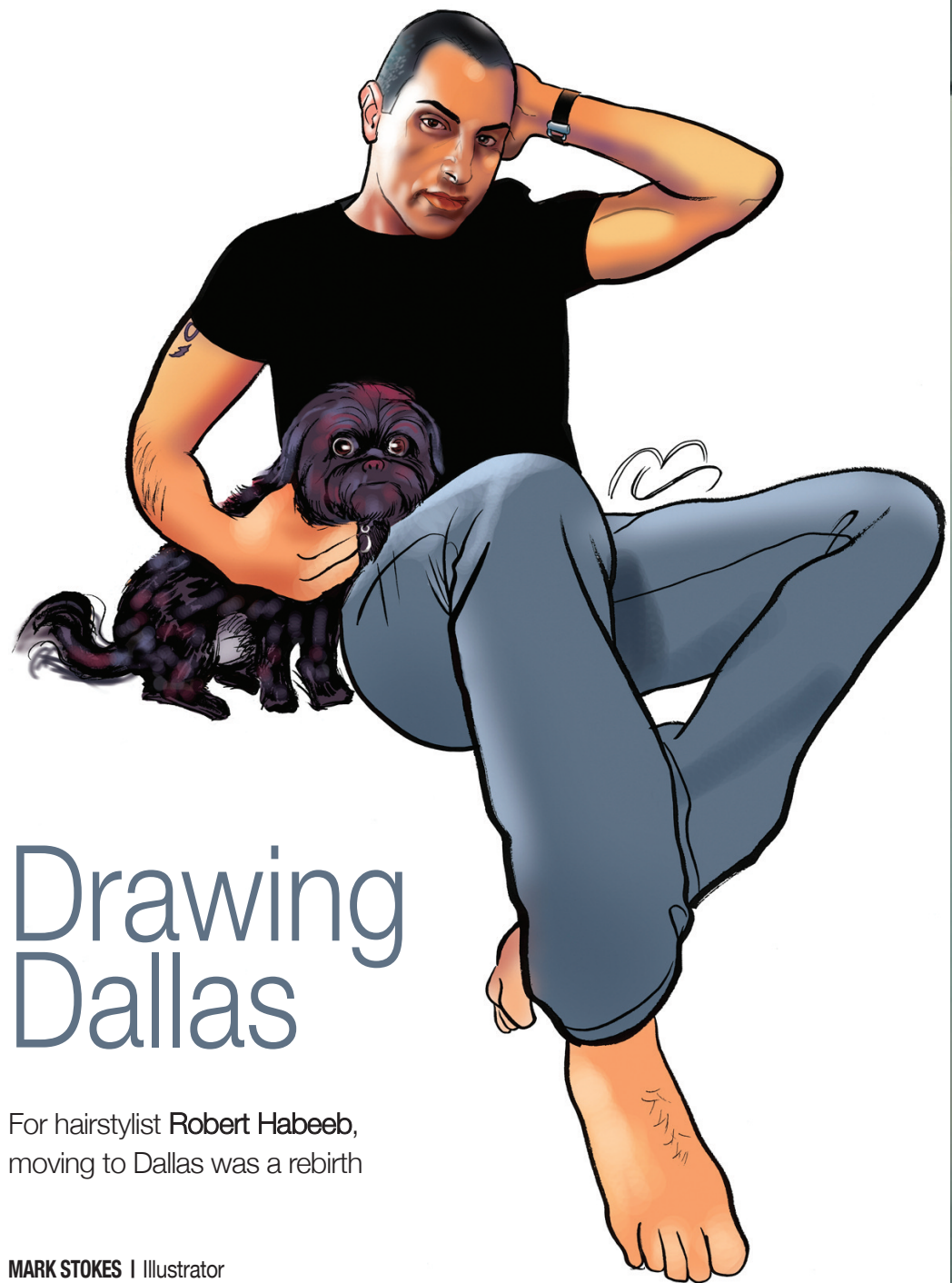
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## Drawing Dallas

For hairstylist Robert Habeeb, moving to Dallas was a rebirth

**MARK STOKES** | Illustrator  
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

**Name and age:** Robert Habeeb, 35

**Occupation:** Hairstylist, Avalon Salon in the West Village

**Spotted:** Along Turtle Creek walking his dog, Tashi

Born and raised on Long Island, N.Y., Robert is the son of first-generation Palestinian parents, and the oldest of four siblings. His parents were married after only a week of knowing one another and have been together 36 years. As the first-born son of a traditional and religious family, Robert found his coming out at 22 very difficult.

His mother's career in the beauty industry provided young Robert with access to mannequins with human hair; he created his first braids at 6. Since then, he has made it his career, working in the industry for 17 years and earning accolades. For eight years, he worked in New York at a salon and as a makeover artist for television shows such as Maury Povich, Sally Jessy Raphael and Rikki Lake. As the senior stylist at Avalon Salon, Robert works with a great team of stylists and colorists and mentors up-and-coming stylists. He has also volunteered his formidable talents to numerous fundraisers, including runway shows.

**How much is that doggie?** He adopted an adorable Shih-tzu, Tashi, from a rescue organization (Tzu Zoo Rescue). His hobbies include a love of plays and musicals, cooking, fitness training and dining out.

Not easily impressed, this princely, handsome Scorpio values quality over quantity. He strives to keep the spiritual, mental and physical aspects of his life in balance. "I'm one of those people that will take a risk. I follow my gut and trust my instinct."

**Born again.** Robert considers his move to Dallas more than nine years ago a rebirth. "I feel like I grew up here because I got a chance to live my life as I want to live it."



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## Needles exchange

Shocking 'Drag Race' winner Sharon Needles heads to Dallas

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

For three seasons, one thing you could count on about *RuPaul's Drag Race* was that it would always come down at the end to a battle of the glamourpusses ... and the most glamorous would invariably win.

Then came Sharon Needles.

In the most recent season of *Drag Race*, which ended this past spring, Sharon immediately stood out as an early favorite for her shocking, Elvira-like makeup and equally bizarre behavior and dark humor. Even her name proved divisive among the viewers. So when she made it to the final three, almost every fan of the show was rooting for her to win. And she did.

Just don't tell her you appreciate how crazy looking she is.

"I definitely take my beauty seriously," Needles says defensively. "It's very important that Sharon have a sense of glamour so I can sell it. It's a compromise between Hollywood glamour and true shock drag — American consumerism as underground punk performance art."

If that sounds oddly highfalutin, you're beginning to understand the smart appeal of Sharon Needles. And you can experience it in person this week, when she performs at the Rose Room.

"I'm still wondering who shot J.R.," she says about her anticipation around her first visit to Dallas.

Needles won after a surprising rules change in which after the entire season aired, RuPaul took into account viewer votes before deciding the winner. So while they filmed the last regular episode last August, "I found out I'd won on TV, like everyone else," she says. If you think the suspense was killing her, well, not so much.

"In that whole time, I never thought about winning — it was the last thing that went through my mind. I think that was true [of the other finalists as well]. I just wanted to be the queen of the underground. Instant fame being attached to something mainstream [never occurred to me]," she says. Still, Needles thinks she knows why she *did* strike a chord with viewers.

"I think it was the year for it. For past seasons, we've had the supermodel, the beauty queen and the diva. And this was the year to remind people that drag is fun and not about being perfect. We are celebrities of gay communities because we give them something to laugh at while we let our hair down."

So what astonished her most about the experience of being on TV? "I was most shocked at how honest I was because I am a compulsive liar," she says. But there was something she wasn't prepared for.

"I was raised via television but I never thought about the fourth wall — the clipboards, the director, the camera, the lighting ... seeing it all did take away some of the magic of Hollywood. And I have more of an appreciation for me, for Aaron [Needles' real name]. Some drag queens put on high heels but don't transform into another person. So to step outside of Sharon and Aaron and see how I pulled it off? I have to applaud myself."

Needles thinks of her alter ego not just as a character, but as a real entity with which she joins to create an artistic moment — it's just that she plies



## LIFE+STYLE

### profile

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**  
Sharon Needles may be stupid, but she occupies a glamorous world ... at least in her mind.

#### SHARON NEEDLES

The Rose Room at Station 4,  
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that art in the milieu of drag.

"I'm so protective over Sharon — I want her to be beautiful, spooky and stupid. So I told myself going in I was never gonna fight, and I was never gonna cry. And I think I cried within the first two hours. The fantasy [of drag] is our armor, our shield, and the show took away our weapons. We had to fight, love, live, cry and strut as who we are. I'm a sensitive guy. Being Sharon is so taxing — to be constantly on and witty, bat-shit crazy and stupid? I carried the façade as long as I could."

The victory was accompanied by a fat paycheck and instant notoriety, but really, those have had only minor impacts on Needles' attitude or art.

"The biggest change in my life is I'm not paying the electric bill with pennies, though I still can't buy anything over \$70 without having a panic attack," she says. "And I can no longer go into a gay bar and talk shit with the bartender. I thought fame was a feeling, but it isn't; it can only be felt by the people who see you."

The show she'll perform in Dallas "is always evolving. I tweak it for the needs of each city. In Dallas they say everything's big. So I'm interested in seeing your big wigs and big dicks," she laughs. "I know the Texas queens can take themselves very seriously but I want to demonstrate that there is a messy side of drag and I'm looking forward to sharing that."

And, she says, doing what all drag queens aspire to: "When it comes down to it, I'm a grown man in a teenaged girl's clothes entertaining drunks."



# Riding the rainbow

Celebrations across North Texas commemorate National Pride Month

Although the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade is still a few months off, Dallas can still get out to celebrate National Pride Month. Special events have sprouted around North Texas to offer fellowship and fun — and maybe a cocktail or two.

Resource Center Dallas get Pride off the ground — way off — with its Pride Power Hour on the Wet Deck of the W Hotel (that's the 16th floor, folks) on June 28. An open deck looks over Dallas providing a grand backdrop. Fashion models will preview swimwear and activewear on a runway while the community enjoys nibbles and drinks. The admission price includes three "sips" to get your drink started. Those who make it will also be automatically entered in the prize drawing of a free night's stay at the hotel. DJ Avenger will be your music guide for the night and most of all, proceeds from the Power Hour will benefit the RCD.

"This event will be the perfect way to kick off the Center's upcoming The 5 Factor event scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27," RCD executive director Cece Cox says. "The needs of our community, and the services we provide, don't take a summer break."

W Dallas Victory Hotel, 2440 Victory Park Lane. June 28 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door.

North Texas Pride out of Collin County will celebrate the gayburbs with its second annual Come As You Are party on Saturday at Tierney's Tavern in Lewisville. The party includes live music by the Ducado Vega Band with DJ Fierce on the turntables. With a decked-out venue, the party will feature carnival-like activities, vendor booths, raffle and door prizes. The event also benefits C.U.R.E. and Health Services of North Texas. North Texas Pride Planning Committee chair Morris Garcia spearheads the event once again.

"In 2011, [my partner] Tim and I decided to have a first-ever Pride event in Collin County,

one of the most conservative counties in Texas, because we felt there was a long overdue need to demonstrate to the communities here that there is a GLBTA element that needed to be recognized as good citizens and contributors to the community," Garcia says. "More importantly, we wanted to celebrate and be proud of who we are, thus the theme, Come As You Are."

And don't think suburban gays party less hard. The night continues with an after-hours pool party at the neighboring Best Western Plus. Hotel discounts are available for attendees.

Tierney's Tavern, 208 E. Main St., Lewisville. June 23 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online and \$15 at the door. [NorthTexasPride.com](http://NorthTexasPride.com).

As part of the city of Dallas' June Pride Wednesdays, Fahari Arts Institute director Harold Steward will moderate Lift Every Voice: How the LGBT Community Contributes to the City of Dallas. The conversation with organization and community leaders is the final of the city's events held throughout the month.

City Hall, 1500 Marilla St., 6th floor, June 27 at noon.

Dallas Frontrunners will celebrate a year of reorganizing with an Anniversary Run on June 23. Last year during National Pride, the group relaunched under the leadership of Lin Wang and has thrived into a successful community athletic group.

The run isn't an official 5K, but instead is part of the group's weekly Saturday fun-run. For the anniversary, however, the group invites everyone to join the Frontrunners.

Since last year's relaunch, the group has garnered enough cred to host the first-ever Dallas Pride Run, to be held in September. Dallas Frontrunners will extend its reach by inviting groups outside of the city and incorporating a different type of event during the Pride festivities then. ■

Along the Katy Trail near Knox Street. June 23 at 8:30 am. [FrontrunnersDallas.org](http://FrontrunnersDallas.org).

— Rich Lopez

**WAVE YOUR FLAG** | Pride takes many forms in Dallas from a high-in-the-sky happy hour by the Resource Center to lacing up those running shoes for a celebratory jog with Frontrunners Dallas.

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L+S dining



# Prime example

Gastropub or meta-gay sports bar? Uptown's Primebar isn't even certain

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

It hasn't been around too long, but already Primebar — which opened in the Maguire's Uptown space on the distaff side of Cedar Springs — has become that curious but frequently more common hot spot: One that boasts a mixed crowd of straight-guy beer bubbas elbow-to-elbow with faboo gay brunchers while sports play on the TVs.

It's said that the most segregated day of the week in America is Sunday, when churches become bastions of different races worshipping in isolation. It is kinda that way at Primebar's weekend brunch, with gays and straights establishing bulwarks across from each other but living in peaceful cohabitation.

There's something gratifying about the mixed customer base, which on each visit has appeared an almost 50-50 split of hetero and homo couples. It might not be the same as sharing the Eucharist, but it warms my spirit nonetheless.

So, what *is* Primebar? Ecumenical Uptown eatery? Sports bar-cum-gastropub? Meta-gay bar with cool hetero clientele?

I haven't figured it out yet. I doubt it has, either.

You sense that despite the word "bar" in its name (and not, notably, the ubiquitous "and grill"), Primebar wants to be more than a tavern where folks gather for a brew and a bowl of peanuts. Uptown — especially this finger of it, with The Common Table, The Stoneleigh P and Nick & Sam's Grill all within shoutin' distance — is a competitive neighborhood for bars that serve better-than-average pub-grub and want to be considered foodie destinations. Televisions visi-

ble from every cranny, blaring sports and news without abatement, have become *de rigueur* even at high-end steakhouses like Al Biernat's and Hibiscus. Tickling the taste buds has become essential.

Primebar makes inroads into that realm with several items that take a step above the usual bar food. The loaded kettle chips (\$7.99), with bacon, a melt of tart, chunky bleu cheese and sprinkled of giardinere (pickled cauliflower, carrots and chives). On several occasions, its appeal has depended on how quickly it comes from kitchen to table. When fast, it's fine, likable pub grub, with tangy flavors under the crisp warmth of crunchy but thin discs of potato; when slow, the chips get cold and soggy. Try ordering them anyway; you might luck out.

Much of the menu — especially the brunch menu — is better than expected, such as the calamari (\$9.99). It's a dish often overdone and under-delivered, but Primebar gets its version right: Crisp as a corporal's dress shirt with a flavorful lemon aioli and spicy cocktail sauce for dipping. With caramelized bananas foster and a garnish of nuts, the French toast (\$10.99) stands out; the bananas with syrup manage not to be sickly sweet, in part probably because the bread — thick-cut and grilled with a lovely edge — is so hearty and well-prepared.

The braised beef hash (\$9.99) sounded satisfying and unique: Hash with tender cuts of meat? I'm there. But the presentation was a disappointment. It came not really hash-style but with chunky cuts of skillet potatoes that never melded with the beef. The choron sauce (a béarnaise turned red by the addition of tomato) merely overwhelmed it. On the other hand, the braised beef itself was fatty and moist, with just enough smokiness. (The carnivore's omelet seemed to

**CARDIAC BURGER** | If you take the time to make a gourmet burger with bacon, gouda and fried egg on top, why not also grill up a thick-cut single patty?

have the same base of beef as the hash — it's a better choice if you're a hash snob like I am.)

I know some people who insist Primebar is worth recommending for the Wednesday burger deal alone; I'm undecided. Yes, the most indulgent of the burgers, topped with a fried egg, bacon strips and gouda (\$9.99), is a cardiac delight: Tall and impressively filling with flavors that fan out across your palate. But the burgers here are double-patty, something you expect more from fast-food than a restaurant trying to prove its foodie cred. The taste is fine, but the real challenge would be a thick slab of beef with that charcoal crust and rich, medium rare meat inside. At least the sliders are meant to be more bite-sized ... and again, good iterations of traditional bar food. It seems to have mastered that.

What it hasn't mastered is service, which, while friendly, has always wavered between sufficient and sloppy. At one brunch, our waitress never even glanced our way until well after our meal was over and we wanted the check, even though there were few customers; drinks have gone unrefilled for too long, and the wait between appetizers and entrees on one visit pushed the limit. (It's definitely straight-guy resto service, where girls apologize with a flash of teeth behind

## OVERALL RATING ★★☆☆

**Primebar,**  
2520 Cedar  
Springs Road.  
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lunch and dinner  
and weekend  
brunch.



Reservations accepted. Available on OpenTable. PrimebarDallas.com.

Excellent brunch items almost make up for sloppy service and a vibe that can't quite decide what it wants to be.

**Food:** ★★★★★

**Atmosphere:** ★★★★★

**Service:** ★★★★★

**Price:** Moderate

a flirtatious grin, more than a sincere verbal expression of regret.)

A restaurant slash bar slash neighborhood hang slash whatever, especially in Uptown, probably doesn't need an identity; that'll come as the clientele self-orient what they want it to be, and the management adapts. I imagine in a few months, the Primebar I've been to will have evolved. I'll be curious to see what that is. In the meantime, I bet its gay-straight alliance known as Sunday Funday will continue to attract a diverse crowd drawn to the patio where mimosas and French toast live in exquisite harmony with the rest of us. ■

## Summer menus

Summertime, and the living is easy — unless, of course, you're a Copper River salmon from Alaska, then it's certain death. But what a noble way to go.

The season officially kicked off this week, and many high-end restaurants are unveiling their new menus, taking advantage of the fresh and light fare we demand of the warmer months.

It's a hike to Season 52 in Plano, though it won't be for much longer; another location will open in the old McCormick & Schmick's place in NorthPark

Center by December. Until then, you'll just have to take the drive north along the Tollway to experience one of the better concepts in healthy cooking.

It's easy to poo-poo **Seasons 52** as corporate cooking (it's part of the Darden group, which includes fast-casual chains like Red Lobster); it would also be a mistake. With a philosophy premised on healthy eating — no dish on the menu exceeds 475 calories, and butter has been relegated to a faint memory — the kitchen is full of alchemists, solving the Rubik's Cube of low-cal flavor. And it succeeds astonishingly well.

The salmon (pictured, available only for a few more weeks) proves the point: The piece I had there recently was about as fine as any fish I've ever eaten. Richly colored and judiciously seasoned with only a dill sauce and lemon, it's sauteed skin-on trapping the moistness of the flesh, complimented by a lively corn risotto.

The Copper River salmon is merely the star of an excellent menu, which also includes a new lobster spring roll (fresh and accompanied by a trio of salsas, the best being an elegant spicy-sweet chili chutney) and a complex and diverse vegetarian tasting menu that includes a grilled beefsteak tomato covered in tapenade and a mini chile relleno. These all join the standardbearers of Seasons



52's fare: the crisp flatbreads, the bone-in strip steak and the desserts, especially the key lime pie and carrot cake, that cap off a great summer menu. The NorthPark shop can't open fast enough for me.

Closer to Downtown is **The Pyramid** inside the Fairmont Hotel, which continues to explore local solutions to the issue of inventive New American cuisine with a menu it debuted on Wednesday.

Something that always impresses me at Pyramid is how the small things are almost more important than the big ones. The technique is simple, clean and approachable (often using items from the on-site garden). That's why a mere corn ravioli — wide as a child's eye, and topped with a sliver of chicken skin — could be the best new item here, as deftly rendered as a bit of pasta can be. Fresh corn just sings of summer.

So does watermelon salad, compressed so that it's dense but refined, with the tang of sangria and feta. (Add a punch of salt to draw out the flavors even more.) There's salmon here, too, served as medallions wrapped in leeks, and one of The Pyramid's traditional strengths: A torchon of foie gras that's creamy and floral. Food like this makes the Texas heat bearable.

— A.W.J.

Visit [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) for more photos from **Seasons 52** and **The Pyramid's** summer menus.

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# Can't get her outta our heads

Kylie Minogue celebrates 25 years with (another) greatest hits CD

As part of her "K25," Minogue is unabashedly celebrating her tenure as a pop diva with her Anti Tour, the badass single "Timebomb" (strangely, not among this compilation) and another greatest hits collection (her fifth) that includes a DVD of her music videos. Her fans selected the 21 tracks on this CD, which doesn't leave much room for surprises. For diehards, Minogue hasn't delivered much that's exciting, but this disc serves as a primer for newer converts or the curious.

With no extra remastering or remixing, the CD plays as its intended: A spectrum of her big hits from the 25 years. But what does it say about the singer? Later songs, like "Can't Get You Outta of My Head" and "All the Lovers," are light-years away from her early singles, yet she's kept throughout a simple pop approach. Sometimes her lyrics are silly, even elementary, but they are also playful and enjoyable — and that's really what pop music should be.

Famously tied to the Stock Aitken Waterman songwriting team, Minogue struck big early on with "I Should Be So Lucky" and "Better the Devil You Know." With SAW on her side, those tunes were radio-friendly, blending in nicely with fellow SAW contemporaries Rick Astley and Donna Summer. The squeaky-clean dance beats and abundance of synthed-out drums was formula for a mid-'80s hit. But they sound here like the original tracks with production muted against her more recent singles.

The album isn't compiled chronologically — "Can't Get You Outta of My Head" opens the set — so Minogue's progression is hard to keep track of. Also, it doesn't do justice to some of her hits. Pitting the nostalgic sound of "Devil" against the edgier "Kids" duet with Robbie Williams is a schizo choice. Her teen-bop songs dull the excitement of her more mature releases.

The better parts come when songs like "I Believe In You" and "In My Arms" play and don't immediately register as her signature hits: Jake Shears and Babydaddy helped Minogue garner a Grammy nod for the former while trendy producer Calvin Harris was already working with the singer before moving on to Rihanna.

Then there are those other (*ahem*) "hits." Her covers of "Tears on My Pillow" is sweet, but reminds me more of Tracey Ullman's attempt at nostalgic happy days. And Kool and the Gang's "Celebration"? If there's ever a song *not* to cover, this is it — not because it is a classic that should remain untouched, but because it's like re-

making a *meh* song to begin with. Her version even tames it down a bit. Just pass on the cheese.

*The Best of Kylie* proves that her longevity and perseverance are nothing to balk at. Yes, the U.S. can be fickle, and it can make or break a young artist. Kylie didn't get that leg-up. Instead, she wrangled the rest of the world around her and has made her own history of chart-toppers and CD sales with enough American fans (read: gay boys) to keep her well afloat on these shores. ■



**KYLIE ELEISON** | Minogue's longevity cements her as one of the world's (if not U.S.'s) major divas.

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

Aussie pop goddess Kylie Minogue has lamented that the U.S. market has been tough for her to break into. But after a quarter century, she's done fine without it. With 11 albums under her belt, Kylie Minogue may play second (or even third or fourth) to her superstar contemporaries Madonna and Janet Jackson in the U.S., but she's on equal footing everywhere else in the known universe, and *The Best of Kylie Minogue* reminds fans that she's deserving of that recognition.

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# Where's the magic?

Scissor Sisters wastes big-name talent (including their own) on 'Magic Hour'

The Scissor Sisters aren't particularly shy about proudly embroidering a pastiche of campy influences upon their sleeves. There's nothing wrong with that ... when it works. When firing on all cylinders, the group produces an ecstatic celebration of all things campy, disco-y and dance-y. Which is to say, they celebrate the huge influence

gay culture has had on pop music — an influence that, despite certain amounts of recognition, has never really been given its due.

When it first broke, disco was met with a wave of derision and contempt (some of it quite violent, as in the record-burning frenzy at Disco Demolition Night in Chicago's Komiskey Park in 1979, where nearly 60,000 people set a pyre of disco records in a blur of beer, spittle and vitriol.) Self-ordained "defenders" of "real" music, the Disco Sucks movement may have seemed comical at the time, but, as writer Ben Myers recently wrote, "the unspoken subtext was obvious: disco music was for homosexuals and black people." In the '70s, '80s and even much of the '90s, that was not a compliment, and as disco morphed into other styles of dance music, homophobic and racist derision segregated disco from "serious" popular music (as if there ever were such a thing).

It's all the more delicious, then, for us to find out that the Scissor Sisters latest album, *Magic Hour*, features collaborations with such hugely influential and respected artists as Diplo, Azealia Banks, Calvin Harris, Pharrell Williams and Alex Ridha — some of today's brightest talents in dance/pop/hip-hop. Those slashes are intentional; as house music continues to impress upon hip-hop, and hip-hop continues to act as the primary musical influence in American culture, the three remain interlocked, carrying the legacy of disco into the mainstream — sweet revenge on the Disco Suck-ers.

With such a pedigree of old-school and vanguard melding, *Magic Hour* could have — should have — lived up to its potential as the ultimate genre mash-up. Instead, the album disappoints on many fronts.

At first, it works. The initial track, "Baby



**BLUNT SCISSORS** | The Scissor Sisters reach some high points with 'Magic Hour,' but fail to keep that magic throughout the rest of the album.

Come Home," is a poppy jaunt through gay dance territory, based on a funky little Elton John-type piano riff with top notes of Wham! melodies and disco falsettos. Sisters recall much of that old-school Elton with their raw abandon to dive emphatically into their dance tracks. It introduces an air of optimism.

The buzz fades quickly, however. Track 2, "Keep Your Shoes," tries to keep it Prince-funky but can't commit, and as the record unfolds, it becomes clear that Jake Shears and Babydaddy (the primary songwriters in the band) have failed to take advantage of the stable of talent on-board. Instead, they rely perplexingly on a handful of ballads, begging the question, "If the hired hands have masterminded several of the past decade's best high-tempo dancefloor bangers, why waste these talents on a slow jam?"

Still, the high points are hopeful, and point toward a direction where the hybrid dance genre is going. The Harris and Ridha-produced "Only the Horses" finds that addictive little groove which holds house and disco together, where the intermingling of organic sound (simple, effective piano chords) and digital (tight drum machine beats and dancefloor-friendly synth lines) bob and weave around Shears' soaring vocals. (It's no surprise this is the album's lead single.)

"Only the Horses" is disco-y and house-y, yes, and in that it is the sound of the past. It also is the sound of the future, one in which music "for homosexuals and black people" rules the airwaves instead of being ridiculed on them. Yet it bears the burden of being one of too few strong tracks on here; it's unfortunate that the rest of *Magic Hour* doesn't quite make it there. ■

—Jonana Widner



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# Lookout! The fuzz!

New book 'Fur' explores the glories of woolly masculinity in gay culture

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

Mainstream culture continues to argue publicly about "the gay debate." Is it innate or a choice? Behavior or orientation? Worthy of marriage protection or too ho-hum. We've heard all that before, and for a lot longer than talk radio has been discussing it.

No, inside the LGBT community is another "gay debate," one that no one has ever reached consensus on: To shave or not to shave?

**FUR: THE LOVE OF HAIR**  
Edited by Ron Suresha and Scott McGillivray (Bruno Gmunder 2012). \$63; 256 pp. TLA.com.



As gay issues go, it may seem less political than employment rights or marriage equality, but it's no less furious within the community, covering all manner of sub-categories: "Masculine" versus effeminate; twink versus bear; *au naturel* versus manscaping.

The new book **Fur: The Love of Hair** doesn't come any closer to resolving the debate than we have as a culture. But it's sure has a lot of fun raising the issues.

You can tell just by the subtitle what side the editors, Ron Suresha and Scott McGillivray, fall on. *Fur* revels gloriously in the pursuit of the hirsute, with enticing, downright erotic drawings, photos and renderings of men (all, presumably, gay) enjoying their own woolly natures and those of their fellow bears. There are nudes (some couples — or more) and closeups of body parts that develop their own fuzzy ecosystems, from beards to legs to other nether regions. There are realistic drawings and impressionist



**HIRSUTE PURSUIT** | 'Fur' not only features sexy (sometimes erotic) photos and drawings of hairy men, but essays that explore the appeal of fur in gay culture.

paintings from a slate of artists and photographers. There are butch as well as tender pictures of hair- and tattoo-covered men of all shapes and sizes. As a coffee-table book, it's not something you'll want to leave out while grandma is over.

But there's more to it that the stunning images we've come to expect from publisher Bruno Gmunder. There are also essays that extol the virtues of hairiness (hair makes man appear larger, stronger and more mature, they opine — advantages in hetero mating as well as the gay sex ritual). There are quotations from

fur-lovers, and an explication of "bear codes" and its role in culture from fashion to fetish to politics. In short, *Fur* is an exhaustive and historical look at the meaning of manhood from the POV of the follicle.

Go ahead and shave if you must; admire the boys who look as fresh as peeled pears. You can probably avoid this. But *Fur* does such a thorough job at capturing the wonderment of body hair, you might actually find yourself convinced to put away the clippers, at least for awhile, and admire the brute beauty of scruff. ■

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# Mother love

Iowa teen paints a pretty picture of a modern family

A white house with a picket fence may sound trite, but if you believe sitcoms from the '50s, that's the ideal: Father wears a hat every day and mom fills the house with the smell of baking cookies. But for Zach Wahls' family, nothing was quite so traditional — and a picket has nothing to do with a fence.

In his new memoir *My Two Moms*, Wahls — the Iowa teen who became an Internet sensation a few months ago — explains how he was a member of an unusual family. Mother Terry was an unmarried internal medicine physician at a Wisconsin hospital when she decided she was ready for children. It took some convincing — IVF doctors said they did not “do” illegitimate children.

A few years later, she repeated the procedure and gave her son a biological sister. It was icing on the cake when Terry met Jackie and they fell in love. For most of his early childhood, Zach didn't think much about the fact that he had two moms. It was no big deal to other kids, so it was no big deal to him. When the family moved to Iowa to live closer to Terry's mother, though, Wahls encountered teasing and bullying.

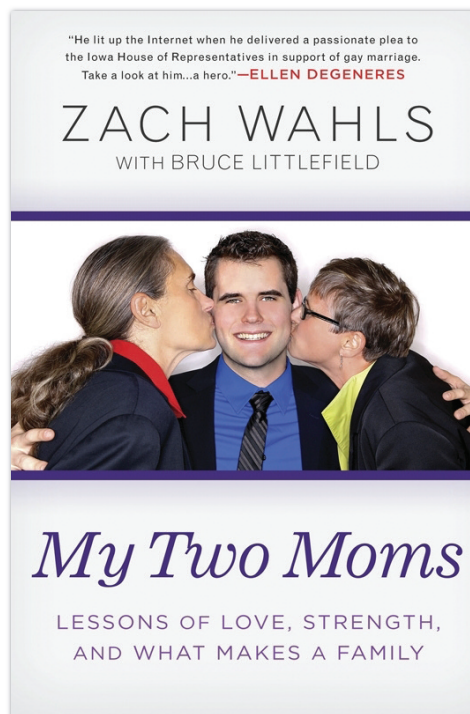
His mothers had raised him with values and character. They taught him that boys and girls are equal but different and that there is no “better” gender. They showed him that the world is rarely black and white. He learned that words can hurt, and so can being told that you have no rights.

From his “Short Mom,” he learned the meaning of commitment and loyalty; “Tall Mom” taught him cheerfulness. And when Zach was asked to testify in front of the Iowa House Judiciary Committee, both moms' lessons of bravery were evident.

Looking for a book that will warm your heart and make you proud of young men like this? *My Two Moms* will do the trick. Wahls (with Bruce Littlefield)

bounces from thought to thought in this memoir, giving us half a story here, half there, and something completely different in between. That's appealing, in an eager-puppy sort of way, but this literary spill makes a mess sometimes.

Still, Wahls' main message boldly holds this book together and overcomes the chaos to shine through. Love is love is love, he shows his read-



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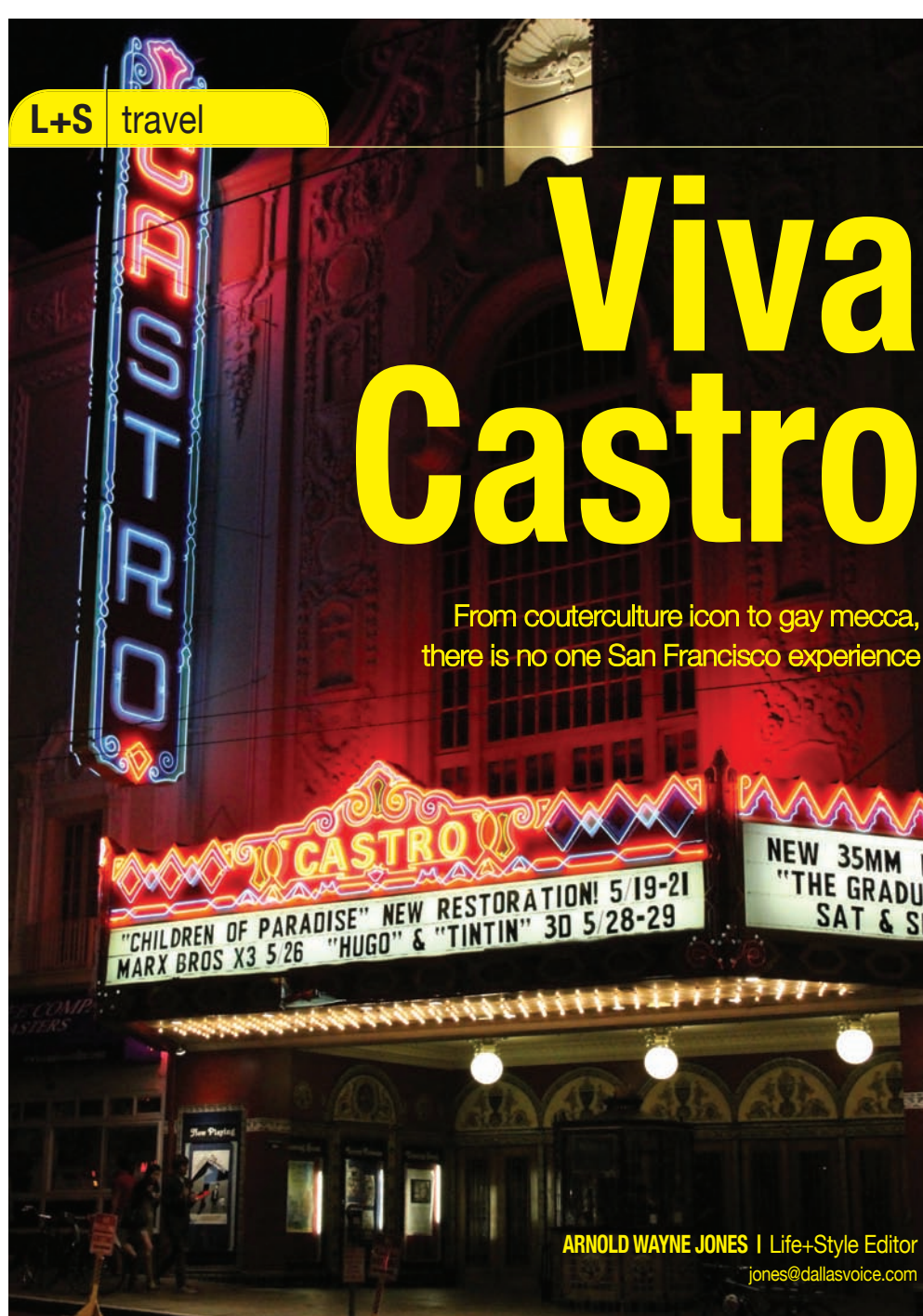
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L+S travel

# Viva Castro

From counterculture icon to gay mecca,  
there is no one San Francisco experience



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

With Milk Day last month and Gay Pride celebrated throughout June, San Francisco is on the mind of many gays who respected the openly gay member of the city's board of supervisors. More than 30 years later, SF is still a symbol of gay culture the world over.

A map of the City by the Bay is a catalogue of familiarly named neighborhoods and pop culture landmarks: The Castro, Russian Hill, The Embarcadero, Chinatown, The Presidio. There is no one San Francisco experience, though certainly there are touristy things to do, like heading to Fishermen's Wharf. Try to avoid them. Or don't, but know you're not necessarily in for a unique experience (the eateries and "boutiques" on the Wharf are as generic as Iowa.)

Still, even the ordinary can seem extraordinary in SF. For instance, wandering the Haight-Ashbury District is "touristy," but still worth it. In what other way can the MUNI be transformed into a time machine?

There's plenty of public transport here, but it can be confusing, with BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) and the MUNI (the city-wide bus and rail system) separate but somewhat parallel sys-

tems that often share the same stations but are priced differently. Get a Clipper card, which is accepted at both, and just keep track of what you need to ride. You'll definitely want to use the MUNI — San Francisco is an impossibly hilly town that might wear out car-happy flatlanders like us Texans. And the famed cable cars aren't all that common, and can be luxuries to ride with long waits. (Many of the MUNI buses look like cable cars, similar to Dallas' McKinney Avenue Trolley system.)

San Fran (which *no* one here would ever call it; ditto "Frisco") is dense with restos, so you can eat 1,000 ways, from Tex-Mex (not bad, though Dallas has it beat) to Chinese (real, authentic flavors) to almost any other kind of cuisine you can imagine. It's also a cash-friendly city, especially at the many mom-and-pop coffeehouses and neighborhood bodegas and brunch spots where dropping a credit card will be met with quizzical looks. They may be sophisticated, but they keep things off the books here.

The city is more crunchy-granola than fashion

■ CASTRO, Page 48

**GAY GROUND ZERO** | The Castro Theater still operates in the famed district that is the center of gay culture in San Francisco, if not the Western Hemisphere. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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## L+S travel

■ CASTRO, From Page 46

forward as Los Angeles, or even Dallas — dress for comfort rather than to impress. And that means a lightweight jacket at all times: Air conditioning is a mythical invention here, even in cars and mansions, and the temperature even in summer is brisk and cool. Even the gays dress like they are in a summer resort town. It's more Key West than West Hollywood ... surprising, since the temp stays low. Still, on sunny days, Dolores Park just south of The Castro looks like an RSVP Cruise deck carpeted with shirtless men.

The Castro is, of course, the gay epicenter of San Francisco, or even California, if not the Western Hemisphere — there are more rainbows visible here than at a leprechaun convention. Gay boutiques like Phantom and Does Your Mother Know sell eroticwear, sex toys and porn; local businesses proudly tout camp names like The Sausage Factory (a restaurant) and Hand Job (a nail salon). It's a district best explored on your own, though Outfit, which sells trendy, reasonably priced clubwear, is a good place to start.

Bars pepper the neighborhood, of course, and you can always find the specific atmosphere that suits you, from the older crowd at Twin Peaks (young locals call it the Glass Coffin, due to its big windows and older-skewing crowd) to The Midnight Sun; its Friday bear night is very popular, especially early with big men and good happy hour prices jammed in ... at least until they move to 440, a more sports-and-leather crowd, or Edge, which is hipster-nouveau. Toad Hall offers a more low-key atmosphere than most.

The other gayborhood, Folsom Street, is farther away, closer to the barrios of The Mission and Valencia, where you might be lucky enough to catch a street festival, and can certainly sample food from the taquerias or even Rosamunde Sausage Grill, famed for its house-made sausages.

The Castro basically abuts Haight-Ashbury to the west and Market to the east; both have their appeal. Haight was the center of hippie life in SF during the '60s, and has maintained that vibe despite more corporate additions like Ben & Jerry's. You can shop vintage clothing stores and record shops and roomy bookstores as well as just people-watch: It's a sea of long-hairs and stoners and latter-day hipsters, many of whom seem to talk to themselves but are probably offering to sell you something.

If you want to buy, go ahead. The Haight backs up to Golden Gate Park from which wafts a cloud of pop smoke from drop-outs who've been in need of a bath since the Bush Administration. It's a dodgy area unless you're specifically cruising for weed, and the edge of "civilized" San Francisco. (You might hear locals say, "I don't do the avenues," code for sticking close to downtown/east side where the gayborhood and tourist spots are concentrated; the avenues to the west are more residential, on either side of the park.)

The other direction from The Castro is Market Street, which still maintains a gay-adjacent quality with gay bars like The Lookout and eateries like Sweet Inspiration Bakery. Keep walking,



**FORGET IT JAKE** | The gate to Chinatown is as impressive as the shops along hilly Grant Avenue. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

and you'll eventually encounter the heart of downtown, including the gorgeous City Hall where Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated (best viewed from United Nations Plaza). Down a few blocks is lovely Westfield Mall, a beautiful domed monument to consumerism, with tons of high-end shops. (It's not all alternative here — if you missed the Gaultier exhibit while it was in Dallas, you can catch it here until August.)

A few blocks away, you can stroll the rolling streets of Chinatown, where main thoroughfare Grand Avenue provides a spine from which to explore curio shops or delicious (and cheap) dim sum, like at the Grant Place restaurant where a platter will set you back less than 10 bucks.

The Embarcadero is the bastard child of Seattle and NYC, its wharves harkening to Pike Place Market and the South Street Seaport, with its trendy shops, coffeehouses and photo-op friendly views, while the hilly streets and cool weather are pure Pacific Northwest.

Fishermen's Wharf, which technically starts around Pier 39 along the Embarcadero, is a tourist trap; if the phalanx of foreign families in matching T-shirts doesn't clue you in, the presence of Bubba Gump Shrimp, Hard Rock Cafe and overpriced, undermixed cocktails from dull chain restos with names like Wipeout should. But on either side of this area are some worthy stops.

Just to the southwest of the wharf is Ghirardelli Square, home of the famed chocolatier (you get a free piece when you enter the shop).

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It's a beautiful area, with great views of the water, including Alcatraz and Sausalito across the Golden Gate Bridge. The beach is lovely in warm weather — or at least what passes for warm in San Francisco.

From here, if you have it in you, hike a vertical climb up Russian Hill that would wind Tenzing Norgay; from here, you not only get a breathtaking vista (including a rare view of the Golden Gate Bridge) but a chance to walk "the crookedest street in the world," the tony stretch of Lombard that snakes through lush landscaping. You don't need a car, you can just walk the 144 steps to the next block.

On the other end of the Embarcadero, to the east near downtown, the Ferry Building is the one visitors' gathering place you *should* seek out. First, its concourse boasts a lot of local gems, from Market Bar, a wine bistro that offers nice happy hour options including oysters on the half shell, and Blue Bottle Coffee, where they treat java like a national treasure. It's also where you can catch a boat ride.

The ferry ride to nearby Sausalito is a quick and fun one (and with a Clipper card less than 10 bucks round trip). The boat gets you within pitching distance of Alcatraz Island while offering picturesque views of San Francisco (from the bay, it resembles a Mediterranean port town, or an Indian pueblo encampment carved into the hillside).

Sausalito itself evokes an artsy enclave like Santa Fe, a charming community especially if you like galleries and jewelry shops and boutiques (there are scores of them) or just wanna walk along the rocky shore — or even rent a bike and pedal around.

For an elegant lunch, go to Scoma's. There's one in SF on the wharf, but this one, also on the water, is better — an old school seafood house, with New England-style clam chowder de-



**CITY OF FERRIES** | The Ferry Building, above, and Ghiradelli Square, below, are two of the touristy things along the Embarcadero you actually should seek out. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

signed to warm the bones from the breeze off the bay (ask for the dining room with bay views). The Pacific snapper fish tacos here are enormous, composed creations, open-faced and drizzled with crema atop guacamole and pico de gallo. And of course, there's sourdough bread.

Head back to the city, and the vibe changes from elegant to kooky. I even saw naked people walking carefree through the streets — apparently, it's legal here. You can instantly tell the tourists — we're the ones reaching for our cameras to take snapshot. In SF, it's just another day in paradise. ■



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MASCULIN, FEMININ | Chrysler's redesigned 200, left, has a soft side, while the 300, below, maintains its forceful profile and muscular frame.

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Two Chryslers go head-to-head with vastly different profiles. Is your magic number 200 (the Sebring relaunch) or 300?



CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
crwauto@aol.com

There are two sizes of four-door Chrysler civility: You can steer an unrecognizably face-lifted version of the Chrysler Sebring (now sold as the 200), or go full-HEMI and get the badass butch 300. Depending on your budget and fuel thirst — and whether you go for a feminine

ride or a 'roid rager — you can choose the smaller car with an efficient four-cylinder engine or slay muscular giants with the 300 SRT8. Either way, you'll have an elegant set of wheels that can take you and four friends to the club in high style. Here are some comparisons to help with your decision: ■

**Family heritage:**

200: Ménage à Trois between Daimler, Chrysler and Mitsubishi.

300: Mercedes E-Class, generations of HEMIs.

**Claim to fame:**

200: Driven by Eminem.

300: HEMI-powered grandpappy was a NASCAR champ.

**Mad (wo)man alter ego:**

200: Peggy Olson.

300: Don Draper

**Celebrity most likely to drive car:**

200: Joan Rivers.

300: Cary Grant on 'roids.

**Action movie identity:**

200: *Contact*, with Jodie Foster.

300: Like you have to ask?

**Gay persona:**

200: Clay Aiken, numero dos, but still delivers soft tones.

300: Ricky Martin, smooth muscles and a sexy beat (gets extra daddy points for his twin boys).

**Drinking bourbon:**

200: Very Old Barton — barrel aged for six years, smooth, not expensive.

300: Pappy Van Winkle — an American classic, aged endlessly in Kentucky for connoisseurs.

**Most-desired road:**

200: The Sunset Strip on a Saturday night.

300: Wide expanses of West Texas Interstate.

**Next generation:**

200: Birthed from the suave Alfa Romeo Giulietta.

300: Not fixin' what's workin'.

**If cars could talk:**

200: "Thank God Fiat saved my ass!"

300: "Fiat worships my ass!"

**Dinner plans?**

200: Yeah, let's check out the culinary institute's pre-view night.

300: Join us at Texas De Brazil — we're goin' Dutch!

**Paws up:**

200: 2, driven from the front.

300: 4, little monster shoves from the rear or with all four grabbing.

**Seats:**

200: Leather and heated.

300: Leather, heated, and cooled. Did I mention a heated steering wheel?

**Favorite toys:**

200: Boston Acoustics audio, light pipes above headlamps.

300: Rear sunshade controlled from touchscreen, 522 watts of Beats by Dr. Dre to rattle your sista's closet.

**Cupholders:**

200: Plastic plugs in the console.

300: Heated and cooled mini-climates to turn your beverage on.

**Wheel size:**

200: 17-in. is big enough.

300: 20-in. for those who take more.

**Useless fact:**

200: Has a 40GB hard drive for music files. Like, who in Hades stores music onboard a car?

300: Luxury editions have door coverings and consoles upholstered with Poltrona Frau Foligno. God save us if the Italians get hold of our underwear!

**Best-effort MPG (city/hwy.):**

200: 20/31 with 173hp Inline 4 — bitch, please!

300: 19/31 with 292hp V6 — power to spare and the endurance to win one for the green team. (Or, go balls out and get stupid drunk on the 300 SRT8's 470hp 6.4-liter V8!)

**Imported from:**

200: Detroit.

300: Canada.

**Base price:**

200: \$19,000 — young and stylish, wheels for the Target set.

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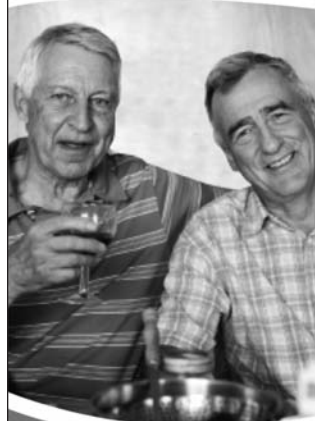
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L+S stage



# Sing like a man

It's a season of manly musicals, from 'Jersey Boys' to 'Oklahoma!'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

*Jersey Boys* is something of a musical miracle: A jukebox show about a long-since-relevant pop band (you can't call what the Four Seasons did *rock* — they were more along the lines of sophisticated doo-wop) with a dreadfully banal title that manages to defy all expectations on its way to creating a genuinely engaging and smart night of theater.

It has become easy to disparage the trend of jukebox musicals; they have become all-too prevalent on Broadway, basically excuses for stringing together proven hits from specific bands, composers or genres and call that a play. In the last decade or so, we've had ABBA (*Mamma Mia!*), Johnny Cash (*Ring of Fire* and *Million Dollar Quartet*), Green Day (*American Idiot*), The Gershwins (*Nice Work If You Can Get It*), Billy Joel (*Movin' Out*), Peter Allen (*The Boy from Oz*), '80s hair bands and bad pop (*Rock of Ages*, *Footloose*, *Xanadu*, *Urban Cowboy*, *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*) and even the hit Irish indie film *Once*. While some are entertaining, even good, they often follow a predictable format, either shoehorning songs into a flimsy plot to maximize hummability or turning the script into a mere framework around which a concert is performed.

That's not the case with *Jersey Boys*. In fact, its resistance to it parading out Four Seasons songs from the first minute to the last is one of the savviest decisions made by director Des McAnuff: You're almost an hour into Act 1 before the first song the '60s group was known for,

"Sherry," is actually sung onstage; the result is you really *want* to hear them hits. And then the hits start rolling. And rolling.

It's an avalanche, really.

The Four Seasons was neither jazz nor rock, British invasion nor disco, but squeezed out an impressive 14 Top Ten hits over more than a decade in an era when musical tastes were changing quickly. *Jersey Boys* glosses over the chronology (it starts in the late 1940s, though you'd never know it) and the context of their achievements (they were chart contemporaries of both Ella Fitzgerald and The Captain & Tennille), but by telling the story from the perspectives of each of the original members — Tommy DeVito (Colby Foytik), Bob Gaudio (Jason Kappus), Nick Massi (Brandon Andrus) and Frankie Valli (Brad Weinstock) — it explains away the inconsistencies. It's a memory play, with catchy tunes filling in the gaps.

It also doesn't have to bend over backward to work the songs in, since The Four Seasons has three No. 1 hits in rapid succession, and the others tended to bespeak changes in the group and society. And the backstory of the group real *is* a portrait of Jersey goombahs done good, told with a fluid cinematic style — it's what a musical by Martin Scorsese would probably look like.

And some sexy goombahs they are. The cast of *Jersey Boys* is always prettier than the actual mooks who sang the original songs. They are a charming quartet (OK, Foytik, as the bully DeVito, the Momma Rose of this band of gypsies, is

**OH WHAT A NIGHT** | Frankie Valli (Brad Weinstock, front) and the Four Seasons had a remarkably diverse recording career in the infectiously likable musical 'Jersey Boys,' now at the Winspear Opera House.

convincing if not appealing): Kappus is goofy-lovable, Andrus a hulking honey and Weinstock a tiny firecracker. He doesn't *sound* all that much like Valli — he's far too nasal, not genuinely falsetto — but his acting chops are solid. So are those of Barry Anderson as Bob Crewe, the group's flamboyant producer and lyricist (the show downplays Crewe's essential role in creating their sound).

The story of these friends from Belleville, N.J. — touched by the mob, beset with ups-and-downs, makers of undeniably likable songs — actually *is* engaging in ways you don't fully expect. It has a hook, and stands up. What else do you want from a jukebox?

The songs the Four Seasons produced are nothing compared to the output of Rodgers & Hammerstein. In fact, *Oklahoma!*, at the Lyric Stage through Sunday, has more classics than the dustiest shelf at the library: "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "Many a New Day," "Kansas City," "Poor Jud is Daid," "People Will Say." *Careers* have been based on less ... and that's just the first act.

For a few years now, Lyric has done the impossible, out-Broadwaying Broadway. They've landed original orchestrations, costumes, the cooperation of revered theater teams and something you *never* see: A 33-piece orchestra that knows a classic score can soar. These are big, expensive shows, and almost all — *Carousel*, *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, *Gypsy* — have been phenomenal. *Oklahoma!* is no exception.

The plot and staging are actually quite simple: Before the Sooner State was even a state, it was a frontier where ranchers and farmers led hearty lives of surprising acceptance; a Persian peddler raises no eyebrows, nor a farmhand who, today, would probably be diagnosed with Asperger's. And a dumb but dreamy cowboy

(Bryant Martin) could shyly woo a landed young lady (Savannah Frazier) by promising her a nice ride to the box social ... and might even prove his devotion by selling his horse. Their romance — in a story unexpectedly tinged with darkness and violence — is straightforward and beautiful. And the music matches it.

This show — nearly 70 years old — was R&H's first collaboration, and the score is as breathtaking and fresh as it ever has been. There's a timeless elegance to singing about your emotions and here, it never feels forced, even with clever rhyme schemes and comic lyrics. It's not corny but merely sincere.

Martin and Frazier, newcomers to me, are a perfect pairing:

Young, attractive and blessed with clarion voices. They project bigger-than-life characters without overplaying.

Even they are out-acted by Kyle Cotton's tic-filled sociopath Jud Fry. His performance is modern yet wholly believable as the porn-obsessed weirdo who seems more stalker than friend. It's a testament to the writing that it feels as relevant today both as a story and as a musical as it did in the '40s.

The supporting players score as well, from the kicky dance numbers to the comic mastery by Erica Harte's Ado Annie and Sean McGee's Will Parker.

Director Cheryl Denson, who has helmed many of the Lyric revivals, knows how to do "big" right. The sets are magnificent and even at more than three hours, the pacing brisk. More than 30 actors are onstage at times, and remarkably all ooze authenticity — the men seem like cowboys, not chorusboys. It's as bitchy as ... well, as *Jersey Boys*. And the only falsetto parts are sung by girls.

And the best thing about this *Oklahoma!*? You don't need to drive past the Red River to visit.

#### ON THE BOARDS

**JERSEY BOYS** at Winspear Opera House, 4103 Flora St. Through July 15. ATTPAC.org.  
**OKLAHOMA!** at Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd. Through June 24. LyricStage.org



#### Chris Crocker exposed! HBO doc sheds new light in Internet celeb

There is a moment in the documentary *Me @ The Zoo* where Internet sensation and mega-Britney fan Chris Crocker says, "People already saw me as this celebrity-obsessed cartoon. That's what I'll perform." And does he.


Famous for his YouTube breakdown ("Leave Britney alone!!!"), Crocker's life is revealed with surprising fascination. Web celebrities come and go, but it's easy to forget there are lives there. And Crocker's is both tragic and thrilling.


Growing into a small-time viral celeb, Crocker found himself on a triumphant rise only to have it all crash down as he was reduced to "a fucking faggot from Tennessee," as he described himself. But Crocker's admission that the web saved his life is heartbreaking. The outlandish gay kid in a small Tennessee town fought back against bullies at school and with his webcam and in a way, he won.


Love him or hate him, Crocker's story is more important than you may realize.

— Rich Lopez

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# Killer diller

For dancer Leo Moctezuma, 'Michael Jackson Immortal' is a dream come true

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

We've all done it: On the smooth floor of the kitchen or at the school gymnasium, we've practiced the moonwalk made famous by Michael Jackson. If it wasn't that, it was the signature "claw" from the "Thriller" video, or the tip-toe stand of "Billie Jean" (sparkle glove and pants flair optional).

When he was younger, Leo Moctezuma was certainly one of these people. And like all of them, he practiced enough until he had it down perfectly. Or so he thought.

"Being a fan and a dancer, I used to learn all those the moves," Moctezuma says. "I kinda knew them, but during rehearsal, I learned that wasn't the case!"

As a member of the cast of *Michael Jackson The Immortal World Tour* — the tribute show created by Cirque du Soleil that comes to American Airlines Center on Tuesday — Moctezuma learned his self-taught moves, while close, weren't accurate enough to get in this show. Soleil wanted perfection and with the Jackson family estate

supporting it, he had to get it exact.

"Everyone has their own version, but it felt better to learn the proper way. We're doing *the* version," he says. "Plus, we're learning from the best of the best."

Those "best" include an impressive roster of choreographers, among them Rich and Tone Ta-lauaga (Madonna), Jamal Sims (the *Footloose* remake) and most notably Travis Payne, who worked with Jackson on his Dangerous Tour and

his what-could-have-been production that was the focus of the 2010 documentary *This Is It*.

High-profile pop stars are nothing new to Moctezuma. He's toured with queer faves and pop heavyweights Pink, Britney

Spears and Ricky Martin, to name a few. But this tour fulfilled one of his dreams — even if part of that dream passed away two years ago.

"I feel very blessed to be part of this show. As a kid, it was always my dream to dance with Michael Jackson and so this feels like an honor. I'm dancing his dance and to his music. It's cool to sort of touch people the way he did."

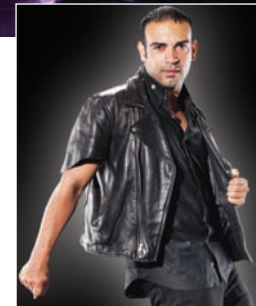
Fusing the magic of Cirque with the dance and music elements of the King of Pop, *Immortal*

## JACKSON IMMORTAL

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**CAN YOU FEEL IT?** | Cirque du Soleil's 'Immortal' is so overwhelming that dancer Leo Moctezuma, inset, feels the singer's presence in spirit.



isn't merely a concert, it's a massive all-out music-and-dance production. The intent of *Immortal* isn't to capitalize on Jackson's passing, but to honor the artistry he brought to music and, ultimately, the world. The Jackson estate helped to create *Immortal*, giving it added legitimacy and prestige.

Jackson was famous for his eccentricities, but for Moctezuma, performing the show has helped him realize something deeper. As an LGBT ally in the world of dance, he says that *Immortal* has inspired him to spread Jackson's familiar message of healing to the world.

"He was about loving and respecting yourself and being weird but in a good way. He was kind of like how Lady Gaga is now," he says. "I realize that in the community, those personal struggles are tough, but he was thinking out of the

box and making amazing work. I think that's how the community works."

Another part of Jackson fandom was dressing the part.

Whether you got the vinyl "Beat It" jacket or the cheap bedazzled glove, he had an image to live up to. For Moctezuma, putting on his costumes was more a magical experience.

"As one of the fanatics, I get to dress up in some of that gear," he says. "That part is like the comic relief of the show. But putting on that gangster outfit for the 'Smooth Criminal' bit was cool. I have moments during the show where he's so present. His spirit and voice is so overwhelming that I forget he's gone." ■

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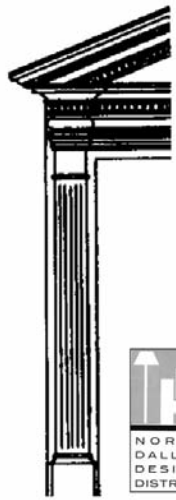
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L+S leather



# Synn-ful leather

Dallas chef Synn Evans learned a lot by becoming International Ms. Leather

JENNY BLOCK | Contributing Writer

[jennyblock@mac.com](mailto:jennyblock@mac.com)

International Mr. Leather 2012 (IML) crowned its victor last month, and it was not Mr. Texas Leather Gabe Sims. So you may think Texas walked away empty-handed in international leather competition this year. And it did ... in Chicago, a few weeks ago.

But a few *months* ago in San Francisco, the results were quite different, as Dallas' Synn Evans conclusively proved.

On April 1, Evans took home the title of International Ms. Leather (IMsL). Becoming IMsL is exactly the same as becoming IML. Except that it isn't. For starters, there's no jock category with the women. And IMsL has "hot wear" and "pop questions" categories, as well as a fantasy category; you won't find those at IML.

Although Evans has not attended IML, she has attended other men's leather competitions. In the case of IMsL though, she says, the biggest difference she sees has to do with attire.

"There's definitely a difference between the clothes in the men's and women's competitions," she says. "[The men] are more sticklers because the women may not be in traditional leather head-to-toe. But I've yet to see a International Mr. Leather in high heels and a corset."

Of course, that doesn't mean things are any easier on the women, she says. The goal of both is the same: To embody the essence of the

leatherman or -woman. Don't expect the girls to spin batons and slap on bikinis.

"It's not a body-beautiful thing; it's an image," she says. "They don't care if you're tall, short, fat, skinny. The question is: 'Are you put together? Did you take care of the clothes you're wearing?'" Even if what they wear can vary more, "you're still judged on what you wear and how you wear them."

Evans says being a butch woman like herself means the question of what to wear is not as broad of an issue as it might be for more femme women — there are no high heels and corsets on her side of the closet. But not having as many clothing choices does not mean she didn't have plenty to worry about, including making sure her wardrobe was impeccably prepared — and being impeccably prepared for the competition in other ways.

She was most nervous about being properly prepared for the interview. Questions can be personal as well as based on topics like leather history, events, current title holders and social issues that effect the leather community.

"It was very intense, because they can ask anything and it counts the most, points-wise, so it weighs very heavily," Evans explains. "It's 40 percent of the contest. Fortunately, it was the first piece, so we got to get it out of the way."

**COASTAL SUCCESS** | Synn Evans, left, with Ms. Boot Black winner Tarna Scyanne at International Ms. Leather in April. The Dallasite took the title of top international leatherwoman.



Evans was drawn last for the interview portion, which lasts about 20 minutes. Each judge asked several questions but she felt confident when she entered the interview room. "Once I was in there, I shifted my nervousness to my partner, Lilith, who was watching, and then I felt really confident," she says.

Evans was grateful for the intense preparation she began in earnest last December, including creating and carrying around 300 notecards and researching the judges.

"It was a very diverse judging panel, which I was really excited about. It really represented a lot of sub-cultures of the community. I was really nervous and really excited at the same time."

Evans also had to answer inquiries during the "pop question" portion of the hot wear category. "They asked me, if I could invent a sex toy, what would it be." Since she's a chef, she said it would be a dildo in the shape of a chef's knife. "I'd call it the Synnerator."

Now that Evans is leather royalty, her travel schedule has become insane. But she couldn't be more thrilled about it. "I'm getting requests left and right to attend and judge at events. I feel extremely honored to represent the leather community on a worldwide basis," she says.

Evans' achievement has made her royalty in Dallas' leather community, even among the men. When she returned, Gold Coast Leather Boy Michael Dane attended a celebration in her honor. "I'm having a hard time talking to you," he told me. "You're leather royalty now — you out rank me so bad." I laughed and told him, "We were friends before, we're friends now."

Evans continues her role a leather ambassador by touting the importance of boot blacks in the community.

"If you ever have the chance to sit in a boot black's chair, do it. It's incredible, they're artists. They don't get enough credit for what they do, I don't think. Boot blacks are sometimes seen as just submissive and that's not the case," she says. "I have a mission for my title year: to get boot blacks the recognition they deserve. I've always felt strongly about that and now I have the chance to really get the word out."

That's not the only message Evans wants to convey. "[The leather community] has come so far and I see us moving forward," she says. "There are still pockets here and there with a really rigid tradition and that's all right. That's them. But I see more and more communities becoming more inclusive. In fact, there were a lot of transgender women at IMsL and I was proud to be representing them."

The experience at IMsL and beyond has already shaped Evans' vision of the broader leather community.

"The more I get into all of this and the more people I meet, the more I'm seeing the men's and women's communities, and the more I'm seeing the acceptance of all kinds of different things. There were lots of men at IMsL. I want to be representative of everyone. Not just the women's community, but everyone. It's progressing ... Not that we'll see an International Mr. Leather in a corset and heels anytime soon."

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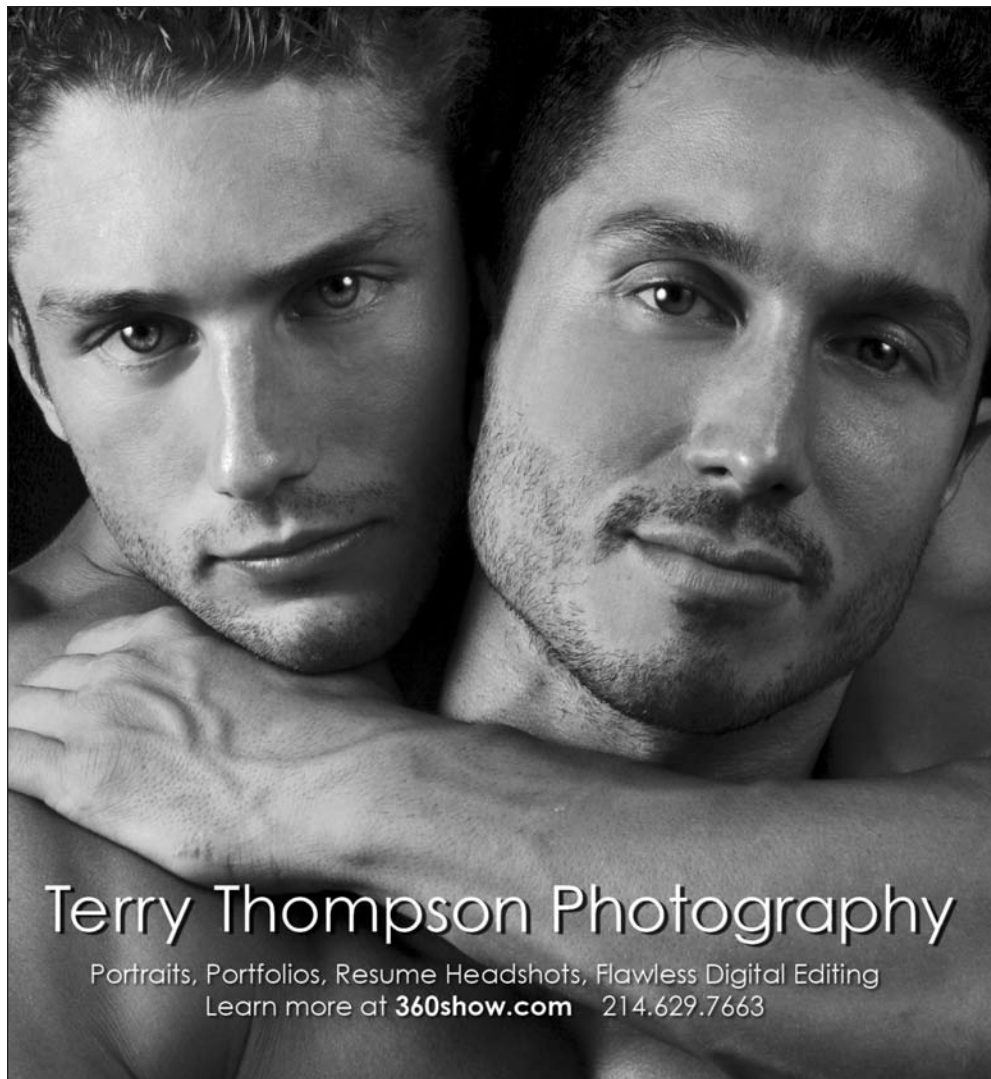


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Friday 06.22

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**DEETS:** American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7 p.m. Through Saturday. \$26.50-\$107. Ticketmaster.com.

Thursday 06.28

**Thunder road**

With *Magic Mike* coming to theaters soon, male strippers are totally hot. But when aren't they? Thank goodness for the timing of Thunder from Down Under. The hunky muscle gods come to Dallas to show off their harbored male revue which we already give an A+

**DEETS:** House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$35. HouseOfBlues.com



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## FRIDAY 06.22

## COMMUNITY

**Congregation Beth El Binah** Pride Shabbat service. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 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.

## DANCE

**Bruce Wood Dance Project.** The legendary choreographer begins his second with this limited engagement at the Montgomery Arts Theater. Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, 2501 Flora St. 8 p.m. Through Sunday. BruceWoodDance.org.

## THEATER

**2 Couples 2.** Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. 8 p.m. Through June 30. \$18–\$22. MBSProductions.net.

**Coriolanus and Twelfth Night.** Shakespeare Dallas presents the two plays in repertory. *Coriolanus*

opens and runs Wednesdays–Fridays through July 19. *Twelfth Night* runs Tuesdays, Saturdays–Sundays through July 21. Samuell-Grand Park Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. \$10. ShakespeareDallas.org.

**Oklahoma!** Lyric Stage presents the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Irving Arts Center Carpenter Performance Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvc. Irving. Through Sunday. \$25–\$50. LyricStage.org.

## SATURDAY 06.23

## COMMUNITY

**Dallas FrontRunners** anniversary fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet under the statue at Lee Park at 8 a.m. FronrunnersDallas.org.

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

## ART

**Suddenly This Summer** exhibit of gallery artists. Vibrant, dramatic works by Ruben Nieto, Charlotte Smith and Isabelle du Toit will be on display. Cris Worley Fine Arts, 2277 Monitor St. Opening reception at 5:30 p.m. Through July 28. CrisWorley.com.

## BROADCAST

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

## MUSIC

**Neon Sessions.** Queer owned music blog Groove Loves Melody teams with the Green Bandana Group for this new bi-monthly showcase of local musicians creating original electronica music. This month's inaugural event will feature Neo-Safari, Black Market Pharmacy, Taylor "Effin" Cleveland and more. The event is BYOB. TheSpace, 2516 Florence St. 8 p.m. \$5.

## SUNDAY 06.24

## COMMUNITY

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

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

**DANCE MASTER** | Bruce Wood opens the second season of his dance company at Booker T. Washington High School. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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

## ART

**ArtSlam 2012.** Benefit auction features art and photographic works by local artists and packaged items benefiting the literary organization WordSpace. Steve Paul Productions, 2814 Main St. 5 p.m. ArtSlam.us.

## MONDAY 06.25

## 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 every week at member's residence. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

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

**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.

## TUESDAY 06.26

## COMMUNITY

**JEWEL Writing Discussion & Exchange** meets on the fourth Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for the discussion topic and assignment for the month. RCDallas.org.

**DFW Prime Timers Prime Diner** at Alfonso's Italian Restaurant, 718 N. Buckner Blvd., Ste. 222. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866.

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

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

## WEDNESDAY 06.27

## COMMUNITY

**Firedancers Dallas Tribe** club night the fourth



**COLOR SPLASH** | Ruben Nieto's art is part of the 'Suddenly Last Summer' show which opens Saturday at Cris Worley Fine Arts.

Wednesday of each month at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7–10 p.m. Free. Facebook.com/TheHiddenDoor.

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

**El Sol,** an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

## BROADCAST

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

## THURSDAY 06.28

## COMMUNITY

**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.

**DFW Prime Timers** play bridge every week. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**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.

## this week's solution

J	U	D	Y	A	P	S	E	S	S	P	E	C
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**George Michael** turns 49 on Monday. The singer most recently made headlines when he canceled performances for his European Symphonica Tour last year due to pneumonia. He tweeted in early 2012 that his vocals may not be strong enough until this summer before continuing with shows in the fall. He is reportedly also working on a new album of dance music.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Urges to protect those close to you are a projection of your own insecurities. In uncertain times your instinct is to protect hearth and home. Open alliances serve you better than defensiveness.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Feeling moody and disconnected? Make time to hide out and take care of yourself. Perhaps the best way is to take care of others. Some local charity would be glad for your help.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Your work inspires brilliant, provocative insights, but may not be the best place to share them. Think ahead and consider inspiration carefully before presenting them to your boss or clients.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Crankiness triggers upsets in your relationship. Mars entering your sign can feed your irritation. Moderate exercise will help you keep balance. Overdoing it will throw you off.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

You can't avoid demands at work, but you can stick to your principles and hold your head high. Scheduling time alone, preferably with the one you love, will keep you from burning out.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

A new found sense of clarity and ambition makes you a bit too critical and outspoken. Think carefully about repercussions. You'd do better to welcome advice than to offer it.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Be nice to colleagues. Your efforts to push ahead makes trouble for them. You're all on the same team. Listen to their needs. The road to real success is slow, sure and cautious.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Precocious brilliance wins a date but upsets a more serious relationship. It's no secret your mouth is a powerful weapon; so be careful where you aim it or open it.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

A surge of libido opens up erotic sensitivities but could bring more trouble than fun. Pushing limits is one thing, tossing them away is another. Hold tight to your integrity and safety.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

What looks like true love could be co-dependency. The only relationship you should be starting now is with a shrink, a 12-step group or a nonprofit organization where you can be of service.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

New ideas challenge your value system. Make some adjustments. Don't resist new thinking, but beware the zeal of the convert. An independent mind can meld new ideas with the old.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

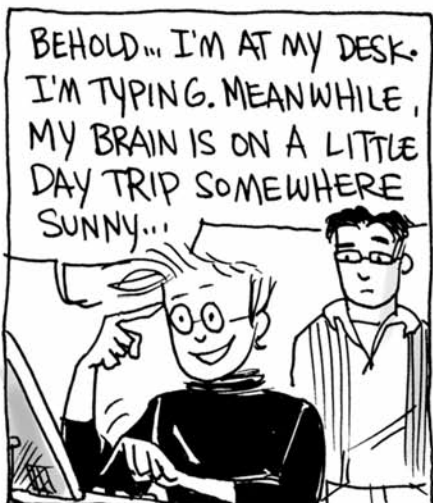
Growing and expressing yourself in new ways throws a challenge to your friends. That's fine. Just be gentle with them. You might need to make some apologies along the way.

**THIS WEEK**

The planets are all conspiring to promote misguided charm offensives, codependency running amok and disastrous efforts at wit. Restraint, humility and foresight are important, rare commodities. If you can stay grounded, considerate and focused you'll be ahead of the game.

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

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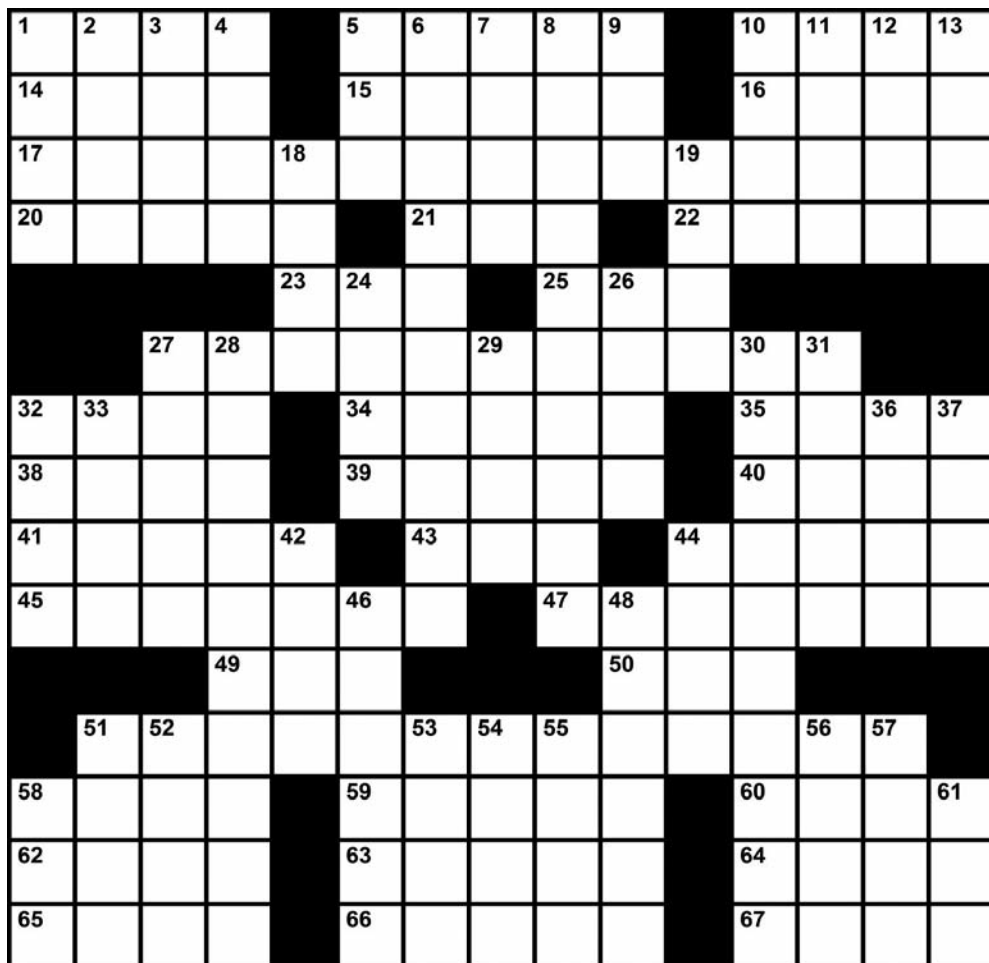
**bitter girl**



email: joan@joanhilty.net

www.joanhilty.net

JOAN HILTY © 2012



# Friends of Dorothy Fight Back

Solution on page 61

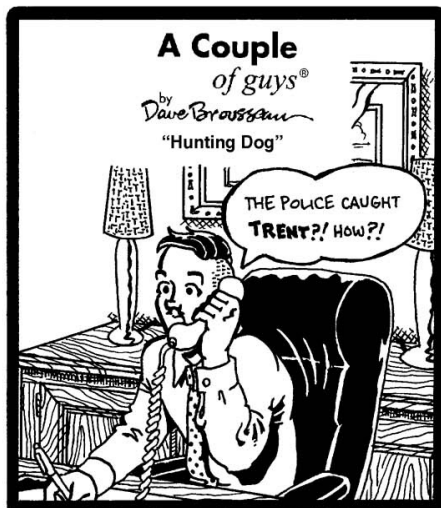
**Across**

- 1 Grief over her death may have helped inspire the Stonewall Riots
- 5 Recesses for Rev. Perry
- 10 Some writers work on it
- 14 Fortune-teller's opening
- 15 Vintner's fruit
- 16 Spicy stew
- 17 1-Across played Esther in this 1944 classic film
- 20 Easy \_\_\_ (simple)
- 21 Corporate VIP
- 22 Drama queen's emotion, perhaps
- 23 Guys and Dolls co-creator Burrows
- 25 It's in a grand seizure
- 27 1-Across played Vicki in this 1954 classic film
- 32 Mine, to Rimbaud
- 34 Well-worn
- 35 Wife of Charlie Chaplin
- 38 Do damage to
- 39 Avoid going straight
- 40 Good buddy on a radio
- 41 Chorus butches
- 43 Porter's "I \_\_\_ a Kick Out of You"
- 44 Shooting type
- 45 Rue's role on The Golden Girls
- 47 Spartacus swordsmen's defenses

- 49 Mary Cheney's partner Heather
- 50 QB's misfire
- 51 1-Across played Dorothy in this 1939 classic film
- 58 Speed at which you come
- 59 Did a slow burn
- 60 Russian river
- 62 Beat barely
- 63 Write The Hot'l Baltimore
- 64 Catch sight of
- 65 Cowardly lion actor
- 66 Like some sentences
- 67 Give the slip to

**Down**

- 1 Iwo \_\_\_
- 2 Objectifies, sexually
- 3 Bottomless
- 4 Himalayan legend
- 5 Improve wine or cheese
- 6 Spending span at Barney's
- 7 Right in the head
- 8 Brits that cruise together?
- 9 Get hard
- 10 Shakespeare's "anon" updated
- 11 Butt \_\_\_ (sex toy)
- 12 New Haven collegians
- 13 Playbill list
- 18 Sexual partners, to the insensitive
- 19 Composer Edouard
- 24 Small rum cake
- 26 Highly competent
- 27 Primary blood carrier
- 28 Early church member named for a member?
- 29 Bus Stop playwright
- 30 What you burn to get to Uranus
- 31 Dynamite inventor
- 32 Moby Dick chaser
- 33 Shopaholic's heaven
- 36 Cry out for
- 37 They're performing, in Fame
- 42 Flat-bottomed boat
- 44 Chinese (prefix)
- 46 Young one in the meat trade
- 48 In the closet
- 51 Cry of pride
- 52 Cole Porter's "Ridin' \_\_\_"
- 53 Communications Z
- 54 Ugandan tyrant
- 55 Decorate anew
- 56 Roughly
- 57 Cooks in a microwave
- 58 Come together
- 61 Ingredient in some cakes



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Hotties at JR.'s Bar & Grill



Ladies' night out at Sue Ellen's.

However you celebrate **National Pride**, just do it. These fine hot spots will help with that. ... **The Dallas Eagle** answers the question: Why workout, when you can watch others do it? Every Friday, **Pump!** features workout demonstrations by **the hottest men in Dallas**. Hey, that's what the club says and we believe it. **DJ Perry** is in the mix Saturday night which is also **Kilt Night**. But that afternoon, **Dan Perry** hosts **Dykes on Bikes** and the **Drag Races** followed by the **United Court's Diva/Devo Contest**. ... Break out the roller skates and parachute pants for **Disco Vs. Retro** night Saturday at **3025 Main St. in Deep Ellum**. **Panoptikon's** groovy dance party is right on. Ya dig? ... **The Kathy Corbin Band** starts **Sue Ellen's** weekend on Friday followed by the **Ray Primm Band** on Saturday. The Women's Chorus of Dallas presents the **L3 (Ladies Love LifeWalk) Karaoke Party** Saturday afternoon with host **Mel Arizpe**. All proceeds benefit the **AIDS Arms** charity walk. ... Put those two left feet to rest when you hit up **Club Reflections'** country and western dance lessons every Monday in **Fort Worth**. ... **Victoria Weston** makes a special guest appearance at this Monday's **Mark Alan Smith Show** at the **Round-Up Saloon**. ... The grand opening of **Bar 305** runs all weekend in Oak Cliff. Hunky **Voice of Pride** winner **Dru Rivera** hosts Friday night **Karaoke**. ... The inaugural **Neon Sessions** the LGBT-friendly **Groove Loves Melody** and the **Green Bandana Group** showcases emerging music and happens Friday at **TheSpace** in Deep Ellum. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT [DALLASVOICE.COM](http://DALLASVOICE.COM).



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



John and Cory at the Round-Up Saloon.



J.R. and M. at Kaliente.



Carmen and Brad at Station 4.



Isaac, Angel and friend on the Strip.



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[i' lizəbəθ tälər]

-n

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AIDS epidemic.

**Trail·'r**

['treilər]

-contraction of

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**E·liz·a·beth Trail·'r**

[i' lizəbəθ 'trälər]

-n

1. A person who walks to raise awareness  
and funds to remember those lost, assist those  
affected by and prevent the infection of  
HIV/AIDS.

**Origin:**

2012: Coined as a way to both honor the trail-  
blazing work of the late actress in the field of  
HIV/AIDS and inspire others to continue the  
work that remains unfinished.

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TRAIL'R!**

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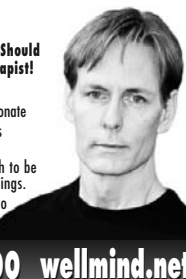
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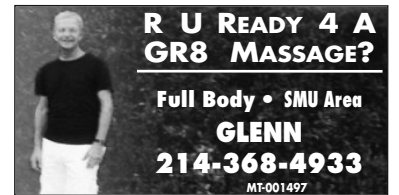


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