

The Sports Issue: Summer Edition

From Dallas' first gay hoops league to an Olympic torchbearer, it's game on!
Plus: Song Yun takes aim, and what local gay teams have going on this summer — and how you can sign up

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PROUD MARY

28-year-old Mary Gonzalez, who will soon become Texas' 1st out lesbian lawmaker, prepares to try to change hearts and minds in the Legislature

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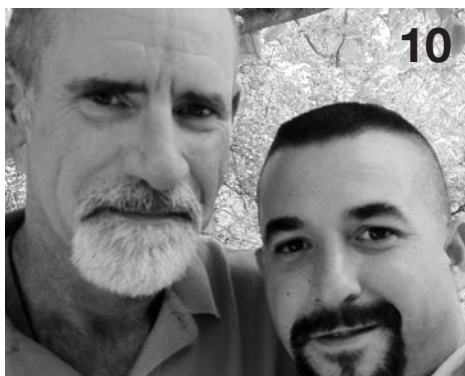
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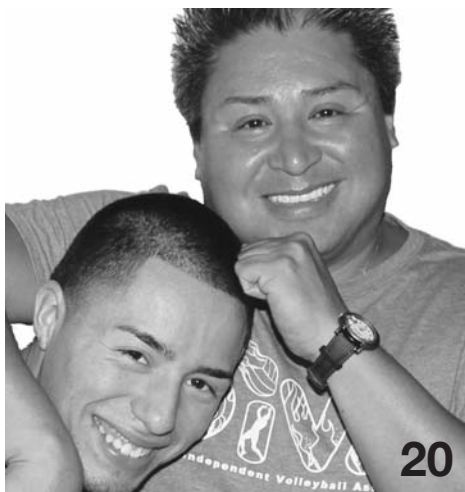


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Raeline Nobles to step down as AIDS Arms executive director

Raeline Nobles, executive director of AIDS Arms Inc., announced that she will step down from her position at the end of the year. She has been with the agency for more than 14 years.

Nobles said she has no plans after leaving other than finishing her master gardening course, learning bartending and taking some time off.



Raeline Nobles

For the last four years Nobles has helped lead a capital campaign that ended last year with the completion of the Trinity Health and Wellness Clinic.

"Frankly, that took a toll," Nobles said.

She said she spent months thinking about stepping down before

making her decision. She informed her board of directors in April, and a nationwide search for a new director has begun. The search committee is being chaired by Scott Chase, AAI's former board chair.

Nobles said while it wasn't an easy decision, she felt this was the perfect time for a transition given that the agency is "in a position of strength" and has "a wonderful future in front of it."

"I have to say I am a different, so much better per-

son now after spending the past 14-plus years here," Nobles said. "It has changed my life in deep and forever ways that I will always be so grateful for."

John Loza, board chair for AIDS Arms, said: "Our community has been extremely fortunate to have Raeline as the leader of AIDS Arms for over 14 years. Her outstanding leadership and advocacy have made a tangible difference in lives of countless people living with HIV and AIDS throughout North Texas."

AIDS Arms is the largest nonprofit HIV/AIDS service organization in North Texas, serving over 15,000 at-risk and HIV-infected individuals every year.

— David Taffet

Donations sought to help families displaced by Oak Lawn blaze

Donations are being accepted for the 10 families displaced by an early morning fire at the Congress House Apartments on Wednesday, June 27.

Firefighters were alerted at 4:45 a.m. to the fire in a downstairs apartment in the complex, at 4320 Congress Ave., according to Dallas-Fire Rescue.

A second alarm was called 10 minutes later and a third alarm for additional help came at around 5:15 a.m., resulting in 54 total firefighters fighting the flames that reached the attic and were intensified by the heat.

The fire was contained around 6 a.m. after units were able to the access breezeways to the attic and block the fire from spreading.

Ten of the 34 apartments were destroyed with an



GUTTED | Dallas firefighters battled a three-alarm blaze Wednesday morning at the Congress House Apartments at 4320 Congress Ave. that destroyed 10 apartments. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

estimated structural loss of \$200,000, according to DFR. Another \$3,000 was estimated in property loss. No injuries were reported.

Arson investigators have not yet determined a cause.

Nancy Weinberger, leader of the Oak Lawn Stakeholders crime watch group, sent an email out Thursday evening to inform the Oak Lawn community that the families lost everything they owned and are in need of clothing, furniture and other items. The American Red Cross housed the families and gave them cash cards but they will need to find permanent housing.

The nearby Braes Brook Apartments are being vacated, Weinberger said, so some of the families plan-

ning to move to Congress House will likely have to find other housing as well.

Donations can be dropped off at Sam Houston Elementary School, at 2827 Throckmorton St. While no one is in the office, Weinberger said she has spoken to school administrators and that custodial staff and teachers working summer camps at the school will be there throughout the summer to collect items. Donations can be made between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. by accessing the door off Dickason Avenue by the gym.

Weinberger said items needed range from clothing to linens and furniture.

"These families have lost everything," she said.

— Anna Waugh



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Proud Mary

28-year-old Mary Gonzalez, who will soon become Texas' 1st out lesbian lawmaker, prepares to try to change hearts and minds in the Legislature

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Mary Gonzalez was destined for politics.

With a father who served on the school board for 10 years, Gonzalez said she grew up watching *Meet the Press* instead of cartoons and observed how education and politics were intertwined early in life.

"Through him I got to see how politics could really make a difference in people's lives," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, 28, was elected to replace outgoing state Rep. Chente Quintanilla in El Paso's District 75 in the Democratic Primary May 29. The race has no Republican candidates, meaning Gonzalez will be the first woman to serve the district — and the first openly LGBT woman elected to the Texas Legislature. She will be the second openly gay representative, after Austin's Glen Maxey, who served from 1991 to 2003.

Texas is one of only 18 states that lack an out legislator, which advocates believe is key to passing pro-equality legislation. Gonzalez was endorsed by the Washington D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and the only candidate backed by the Equality Texas Equity PAC in the primary.

Victory Fund spokesman Denis Dison said the list of states without openly LGBT state legislators could drop to less than 10 after elections.

Although Gonzalez is joining a conservative Legislature, he said she will be able to at least influence dialogues in committees and during debates to change opinions.

"It will matter greatly that she's there because she'll be able to speak with her colleagues from a really authentic place about what it means to be LGBT in Texas," he said.

Ann Johnson, who was endorsed by the Victory Fund last week in Houston's House District 134 race, could join Gonzalez. Johnson won her unopposed Democratic primary but will face incumbent Sarah Davis in the general election.

"Our hope is that they come in together with really a stronger voice than even our allies could



THE NEW FACE OF TEXAS POLITICS | In addition to being the state's first out lesbian state legislator, Mary Gonzalez will be the first woman to represent her district, and the youngest member of the House. (Photo illustration by Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice)

provide," Dison said. "And we would go from zero to two, which is great because Texas is one of the largest states not to have any out state legislators."

Chuck Smith, deputy executive director for Equality Texas, said it is proven that having an out legislator is necessary to pass LGBT legislation. He said Equality Texas is excited to work with Gonzalez on priority LGBT legislation including an LGBT-inclusive employment nondiscrimination bill and family recognition for same-sex couples to have both their names on birth certificates.

"She will only have one vote," Smith said, adding that her presence will provide peer-to-peer dialogue. "Hopefully this discussion will enable people who aren't LGBT legislators to eliminate fear toward LGBT support. ... If openly LGBT people can get elected to office, then other representatives can support LGBT issues without fearing of losing their elected office."

A focused, compassionate El Paso native with

her mind set on improving the district she grew up in, Gonzalez talked about her plans for mandatory infrastructure, clean drinking water and better education in her community. But while the historical importance of her election is not lost on her, she said she remained steadfast in her campaigning even as her opponents in the primary tried to focus the attention to her sexual orientation.

"I was out, but I wasn't necessarily making it a central point of the campaign, obviously," she said. "It's really hard to talk about my sexuality when there are people without clean water in my community."

Recalling that one smear campaign highlighted her support for marriage equality during the primary, Gonzalez said she was surprised Democrats were using it against her because LGBT issues were part of the party's platform.

"It was really interesting that (my opponent) used my sexuality or my positions on LGBT issues

as a negative, when as Democrats that should be a positive," she said.

Gonzalez came out as bisexual to her family at 21. The oldest of 11 kids, she said her family supported her, though her parents thought it was a phase. Now, they recognize that her sexuality is part of who she is and helped her overcome the gay-baiting during the campaign — especially her brothers and sisters.

"I love my siblings. They're my whole life," Gonzalez said. "They keep me grounded and motivated."

Gonzalez began her civil service in high school with various groups and organizations. She later pursued a degree in social justice at the University of Texas at Austin. After serving as a political aide to former state Reps. Paul Moreno and Richard Raymond, she worked as a multicultural program coordinator at UT and then became an assistant dean at Southwestern University in Georgetown

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death

Mike Vandewater, the last surviving founder of Legacy Counseling Center, died this month in Dallas and will be memorialized at Gaston Baptist Church at 11 a.m. Friday, June 29.

Vandewater, along with eight other men who initially met at an HIV-positive support group in the mid-1980s when AIDS was still a relatively new and often misunderstood disease, recognized the growing need for specialized mental health services for individuals challenged with HIV. The other eight founders — James Measley, John Moore, Clint Johnson, Marvin Levick, Mike Coleman, Bob Gressett, Chuck Mittleman and George Constantinidis — all died of AIDS between 1991 and 1994.

Vandewater lived as an HIV-positive individual for approximately 30 years.

In 1996, Legacy Counseling Center opened Founders Cottage to provide hospice-related services for persons in the final stages of AIDS. At the dedication ceremony, Vandewater called Founders Cottage a "realization of a dream." Since that time, thanks to medical advancements in the treatment of HIV and AIDS, the mission of Founders Cottage has shifted from only providing hospice-type services to becoming a special care facility with emphasis on recovery and rehabilitation. Over the past 16 years, the demographics of clients has changed as well, from being almost exclusively gay white men to significantly more African-Americans, Hispanics and women.

"I remember meeting Mike in the earliest days of



Legacy," said Melissa Grove, executive director of Legacy who was also Founders Cottage's original program director. "The topic of AIDS was taboo for people, and it was very difficult to get support from just about anyone. Where others wanted to bury their head in the sand, Mike bravely pushed forward and made this agency survive, through whatever means he could. The Cottage was his real labor of love, and he spent hundreds of hours rehabilitating the home that would go on to help so many people who otherwise would be alone, dying without care."

Born on July 1, 1946, in El Dorado, Ark., Vandewater attended Henderson State College where he was a member of Phi Lambda Chi fraternity and was named to *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. He later received his master's degree in psychology from Stephen F. Austin University. He spent the majority of his professional career working with the Richardson Independent School District as a school psychologist. Vandewater is survived by his parents, Van and Betty Vandewater of Friendswood; his sisters, Gail Ramsell of Houston and Karen Fikes of North Little Rock, Ark.; and his brother, David Vandewater of Nashville. Vandewater's closest friends included the family of Ted Porter and Bubba and Tammy Weems, all of Dallas.

Legacy Counseling Center provides individual and group therapy to HIV-positive people and their families. Legacy also operates Founders Cottage, a seven-bedroom house that provides 24-hour care for critically ill AIDS patients in a home-like setting.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage in the name and memory of Mike Vandewater.

pet of the week / DEUCE

Deuce is a super-friendly, super-sweet shepherd-Lab mix. She's 1 year old and weighs only about 30 pounds. Deuce is a happy girl who loves everyone she meets. Because Deuce has been at Dallas Animal Services for more than 45 days, there's no cost to adopt her!

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DPD says glitch halted posting of vice arrests

Department's practice of putting info online to resume once site is fixed; defense attorneys allege unit targets gay community with unfair tactics

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
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A glitch has prevented the Dallas Police Department's vice unit from publishing prostitution, public lewdness and indecent exposure arrests on DPD's website since January, but local lawyers want the department to stop publishing the names and mug shots altogether.

Police have called the technique a deterrent for crime, saying there are few repeat offenders. But even before the glitch, not all of the prostitution, public lewdness and indecent exposure arrests made it online. Only vice arrests and those made by patrol officers who informed the vice unit about arrests were posted on the site.

Sr. Cpl. Sherri Jeffrey, a DPD spokeswoman, said around January the police website was compromised and taken down. During that time, it was discovered that one of "the weaker points of the website was the portal the vice section utilized to upload the indecency arrest information."

The police website was restored quickly but the vice portal is still being worked on. Jeffrey said she had no timeline but said police intend to resume posting the arrests.

"The site was created to deter the behavior and reduce the number of offenses occurring especially in city parks and public restrooms," Jeffrey wrote in an email to Dallas Voice. "We do not have a timeframe for when our CIS (Communication Information Service) department will put the site back up."

Dallas defense attorney Tim Menchu disagrees that the publicity prevents crime and said he hopes police don't resume the postings.

"It's not a deterrent," he said. "These cases they have no business publishing."

Menchu said he has handled more than 200 cases and often gets the misdemeanor charges reduced or dismissed. But he said police should be posting suspects arrested for hard crimes like murder, rape and burglary, not sex crimes between consenting adults. Menchu also said he thinks the vice division targets the gay community as a group with the arrests.

"They do it for character assassination," he said. "I think they're unfairly targeting a group of people."

Jeffrey said police have been publishing the indecency arrests for about seven years. Even though many police departments publish prostitution arrests, it is unclear whether any other city in the U.S. posts public lewdness and incident ex-



Tim Menchu

posure arrests. Lt. Michael A. Coleman of the vice unit said when DPD began posting the arrests seven years ago, Minneapolis, Chicago and San Diego police were also posting them.

However, only prostitution-related arrests could be found online for those departments, and Coleman acknowledged that he didn't have updated information regarding those cities.

Gay defense attorney John Loza was a member of the City Council in 2005 when the council supported posting the arrests online. He opposed the idea and agrees that the tactic isn't a deterrent. "I've always been against putting anyone on that website," he said. "You're basically branding people who haven't been convicted. ... I can't imagine why it would be a good idea to label someone an offender on a website when they haven't been convicted of anything."

Loza, who has represented hundreds of clients in indecency cases, said they are "pretty much overwhelmingly gay." He called police tactics "questionable" and said the public has come to doubt the validity of police arrests.

In March, Loza had a jury return a not guilty verdict shortly after hearing his client's case. He said it showed how skeptical the public is when presented with the facts.

"They are trying really hard to lure people into a situation where they do something illegal," Loza said of vice officers.

Sgt. Jamie Matthews, a former spokeswoman for DPD, previously told Dallas Voice that the site had a disclaimer at the top stating that suspects haven't been convicted. "It's used as a deterrent, basically," Matthews said. "Whether or not they are found guilty, the fact of it is, they were arrested. That fact's going to remain the same."

When police first began posting the arrests, Menchu said he threatened them with a lawsuit because the information read that those listed had been convicted, not arrested. Although the wording was "quickly changed," he said all it would take is one defamation lawsuit to make police seriously reconsider publishing the arrests.

Loza said he thinks police use entrapment to target the gay community, whereas Menchu called the tactics "enticing," explaining that he believes police "invite certain conduct or even ask for certain conduct."

"Quite frankly, I believe many times when the conduct didn't occur the officer will go ahead and charge for," Menchu said. "Not all of them but some of them." ■

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July 5 protest may end in Dallas' 1st-ever gay-rights arrests

Mark Jiminez, Beau Chandler to apply for marriage license to mark Independence Day, say they won't leave Clerk's Office until it's issued

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Two local LGBT groups plan to mark Independence Day in distinctly different fashions — one with a sit-in and one with an ice cream social — but both events will spotlight the importance of the freedom to marry.

Mark Jiminez and Beau Chandler plan to get married on Sept. 13, but they're not leaving anything until the last minute.

Since the Dallas County Clerk's office is closed on July 4, they'll stop by the county offices on Thursday, July 5, to apply for their marriage license.

"Unlike my co-workers who went to another state, we're both Texans and we want to get married here," Jiminez said.

While other same-sex couples have applied for marriage licenses in Dallas and been turned down in the past, Jiminez and Chandler don't plan to leave the county clerk's office until the license is issued.

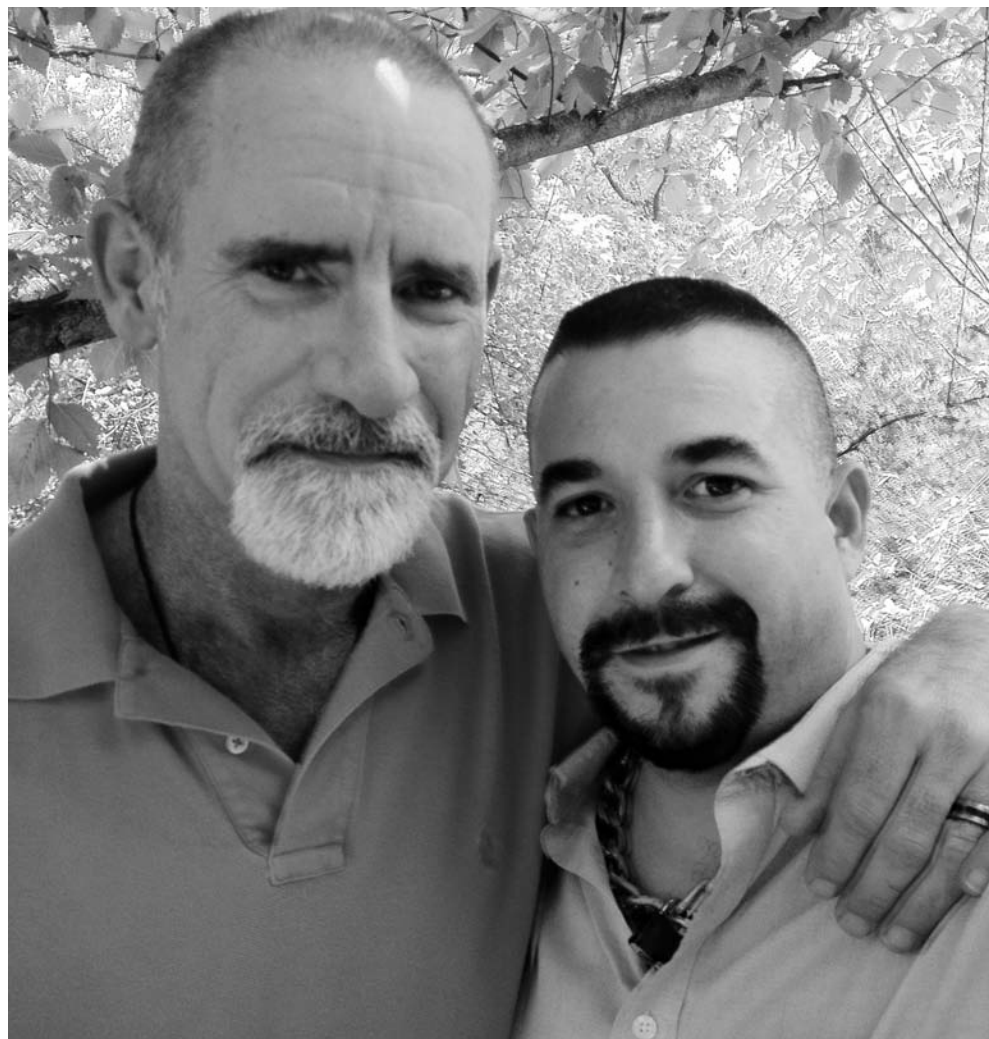
Jiminez likened his protest to that of Rosa Parks.

"I'm just tired of this," he said. "I've been paying taxes since I was 14. We're just like everyone else. We just want to get married."

Michael Diviesti, co-state lead organizer for the direct action group GetEQUAL Texas, said the couple will bring all the items necessary to get a marriage license issued and go through the same process everyone else does.

"They'll either leave with a license or in handcuffs," Diviesti said.

He said the Texas constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage actually makes all marriages illegal with wording that the state "may not create or recognize any legal status identical or similar to marriage."



Mark Jiminez, left, and Beau Chandler

"Our amendment actually outlaws all marriages," Diviesti said. "So the county clerk can either give them a license or stop issuing any licenses."

On Valentine's Day this year, same-sex couples around the state applied for licenses. In Dallas, after couples were turned down, they left the Dallas County Records Building peacefully. Diviesti accompanied a lesbian couple to the Travis

County Clerk's office. When they were denied a license and refused to leave, they were arrested. Diviesti said GetEQUAL has already raised money for bail for Jiminez and Chandler, if necessary, and has an attorney ready.

"We plan to do these things continuously for the next few years until we get marriage equality," Diviesti said.

He said he expected to see equality in the next

few years as a result of cases challenging California's Proposition 8 and the federal Defense of Marriage Act that are headed to the Supreme Court.

Diviesti said the sit-in at the County Records Building is open to anyone who would like to support Jiminez and Chandler or other couples who would like to apply for marriage licenses. He said sitting-in and/or being arrested was not necessary to participate.

Jiminez and Chandler plan to apply for their license at 3 p.m.

"We might not get anywhere," Jiminez said. "But at least we tried."

If they are taken into custody, this would be the first time anyone in Dallas has been arrested protesting for LGBT rights, although anti-gay protesters have been arrested at gay events, according to longtime local activists.

According to Dallas County Sheriff's Department spokesman Raul Reyna, the pair will probably be charged with criminal trespass, a class-B misdemeanor. The penalty for that is up to 180 days in jail and a maximum \$2,000 fine.

Reyna said county offices close at 4:30 p.m. Once the office closes, everyone must leave, and they will be arrested if they do not.

"It will be a simple deal," Reyna said.

Three Denton County groups also will mark Independence Day with a freedom to marry theme but in a completely different style. Denton County Stonewall Democrats, Harvest Metropolitan Community Church and PFLAG Denton will hold an ice cream social on July 4 at 2 p.m. according to Stonewall President Joy Pierce.

She said the gathering at Harvest MCC begins early so people have time to get to other outings and fireworks displays. The event will include a Powerpoint presentation that begins with the 1967 Loving v. Virginia ruling that made interracial marriage legal in all states and leads into marriage equality for the gay and lesbian community.

At its Thursday, June 28, meeting, Denton Mayor Mark Burroughs sent a proclamation to Denton Stonewall naming that day LGBT Pride Day in Denton, according to the group's former president, John McClelland.

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■ **PROUD**, From Page 6

at the age of 25.

Her work in Austin led her to education because she wondered after seeing the political process firsthand how else she could make a difference.

"Changing policies is really important, but it's also really important for the process to parallel changing people's hearts and changing people's minds," she said. "We could pass marriage equality, but it won't be until we are able to change people's hearts and people's minds that we're actually going to be getting to the end of oppression."

It wasn't until Gonzalez worked in education that her passion for politics truly came alive. She discovered how connected the political and education worlds were, and said she realized while working on her Ph.D. that if she wanted to help sustain a quality education for citizens, she'd need to return to the capital.

"These worlds work to inform each other and so I think it's great that I move in and out of both worlds to make a difference," she said.

Gonzalez still maintains leadership positions, serving as president for the national Latina-based service sorority Kappa Delta Chi and on the board of allgo, an organization that supports queer people of color and allies in Texas and plans programming. She said she helps with long-term strategic planning on the board and supports fundraising.

When Gonzalez begins her work in the state House in January, she'll be the youngest representative. Being young and in power is nothing new to her, and she said she's used to standing her ground amid older co-workers to be effective.

"I think in a lot of positions me being young, not only being young but looking young (was hard). I'm 5 feet tall, and small," she said, laughing. "I don't look like what you would normally imagine to be a state representative."

Although she's not sure what legislation she'll be able to pass for the LGBT community, she said she's sure her presence in the state House will help end "some of those really ridiculous conversations" about sexuality, because there will be "someone from the community there."

"I also think it's important for me not to be the sole voice of LGBT issues at the Capitol because I think that will hurt the movement," she said. "I think what I can definitely do is work with all the Democratic Caucus to make sure we have more awareness and we've learned how to advocate for the LGBT community and do so in effective way."

But her election is still a first, something not lost on others like Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez.

Valdez said she was thrilled when she learned Gonzalez had won but also knows she'll face challenges as the only open LGBT lawmaker.

"For one thing I'm glad we're going to have an open lesbian in the state Legislature, but unfortunately because she is only one there's going to be a lot of roadblocks in some of the things she would want to do," Valdez said. "It's always difficult to be the only one, and unfortunately our state Legislature is mostly Republican, so she may not find as many allies as would be necessary for

■ **PROUD**, Next Page



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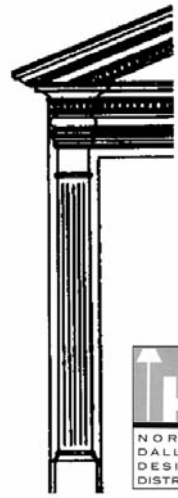
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TRAILBLAZER | Gonzalez, far left, poses with the Muniz family at a meet-and-greet on the campaign trail in Socorro, Texas, in early May.

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good work to be done through her."

Valdez emphasized that Gonzalez's position has the power to influence lawmakers to look past hate and discrimination and get to know an openly gay person, changing negative views.

"As more of us stand out, there can't be as much hate when they know you and look at you in the face," Valdez said. "Once you get to know them and once you get close to them, I think some of that discrimination goes away and she's making that possible in the state Legislature."

Valdez offered the same advice that she said helped her succeed when she was new in office: a strong support system of people she trusts and respects.

"When everything is dark, she needs to find a way to reach out to some light," she said.

One of those people she'll look to for guidance is former state Rep. Joseph Moody, one of Gonzalez's mentors. Moody lost his District 78 seat to Republican Dee Margo two years ago after winning the seat at 27, and the two will meet in a rematch in November.

Moody said he never doubted that Gonzalez would win her race. He said her "amazing amount of talent and a great energy to get things done" overcame the negative attention on her sexual orientation.

"I know that the issue of equality has been somewhat front and center in El Paso. I think El Pasoans are very accepting people and I think that the issue really wasn't one that mattered," he said. "I think that they looked past (her sexuality), they saw that she was a great person and it was just

part of who she is."

As for Gonzalez's future political career, Moody said he sees no limits in what she can accomplish, building relationships and passing legislation that could impact the entire state.

"I think she's well on her way to becoming a great leader for our community — and not just for our community but the entire state of Texas," he said. "She's going to make a difference on a wide range of issues from equality to education, health-care and infrastructure."

Gonzalez is still recovering from her historic election after a whirlwind of a campaign, which began right after she concluded teaching a social justice class at Southwest University. She said she's focusing on taking summer classes with a goal of finishing her Ph.D. within the next two years — her only immediate goal for herself.

"I want to finish by the time I'm 30 ... but that's my only deadline for myself," she said.

Gonzalez's election became an international phenomenon with the world's attention turning to Texas as its first lesbian state representative was elected, the press holding up her success for other LGBT youth and labeling her a role model for the next generation. But Gonzalez said she doesn't quite consider herself a role model yet as she still strives to impact change in the many communities to which she belongs.

"I think anyone who works to be a leader should consider themselves a role model so they can realize that their actions impact other people," she said.

"I can't speak for LGBT youth, [but] if that is what they would like to assign to me, that's fine and I take that with full responsibility." ■

Houston attorney aims to join Gonzalez

Ann Johnson will be sworn in alongside Mary Gonzalez in January if she wins the general election in November, which would bring two openly lesbian legislators to a body where an openly LGBT representative has been absent for a decade.

Johnson, a former Harris County assistant district attorney who now focuses on child advocacy cases in a private practice, ran unopposed in the Democratic Primary in Houston's House District 134. She will face one-term Republican incumbent Sarah Davis in November.

The Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund endorsed Johnson this week, an endorsement that means Johnson could very well win the seat in what she calls a swing district.

"I think our chances are great, and I think our chances are great because this is a fantastic district that values education and values a strong Texas economy," she said.

Johnson wants to focus on making public education in Texas a leader in the nation instead of it "trailing the nation."

"I think it's clear from a lot of people that we have got to have people in the Texas Legislature that are going to make education a priority and I welcome joining that fight," she said.

Victory Fund spokesman Denis Dison said having two openly LGBT legislators join the Texas

House would intensify the impact and change in dialogue among the conservative-controlled House.

"Ann's deep experience as an assistant district attorney and legal advocate for kids makes her well-suited to serve in the Texas House," he said. "She is carrying on her family's impressive legacy of public service, and we are proud to support her campaign."

Johnson said she plans to seek Equality Texas' endorsement, but Deputy Director Chuck Smith said both Johnson and Davis have expressed interest in working with the organization. After runoffs in July, Smith said both candidates will be evaluated before an endorsement is announced.

Davis voted for some anti-bullying legislation but also supported efforts to defund campus LGBT resource centers at Texas universities.

Johnson said she would support LGBT legislation, but highlighted that her election would mainly benefit her campaign platform for better education and a stronger economy.

"I think winning is going to be a victory for District 134 and I think it's going to be a victory for the state because there needs to be the kind of leadership who will stand up in Austin and fight for those that need fighting for," she said.

— Anna Waugh



Ann Johnson

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viewpoints

Why I'm going to Portland, Texas

It would hardly be surprising to learn teen lesbian couple's shooting was a hate crime given recent anti-gay rhetoric from preachers, platforms

The more victories the LGBT movement racks up, the more vicious our opponents become. When I look at the anti-gay extremism in 2012, I'm reminded of 1998's "Summer of Hate," which began with a national "ex-gay" advertising campaign, escalated with a flurry of anti-gay legislation in Congress, and ended with the horrifying death of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

"We didn't know who Matthew would be, but we could have certainly predicted that there would be some very, very tragic violent deaths over the summer," former Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch told *The Today Show* following Shepard's murder.

Following an eerily similar outpouring of raw hatred coming from politicians and the pulpit, two teenage girlfriends in a five-month relationship were shot in the head with a large-caliber handgun in Violet Andrews Park in Portland, Texas, this weekend.

Mollie Judith Olgin, 19, died in the attack, while Mary Christine Chapa, 18, was rushed to a hospital where she is now listed in serious but stable condition.

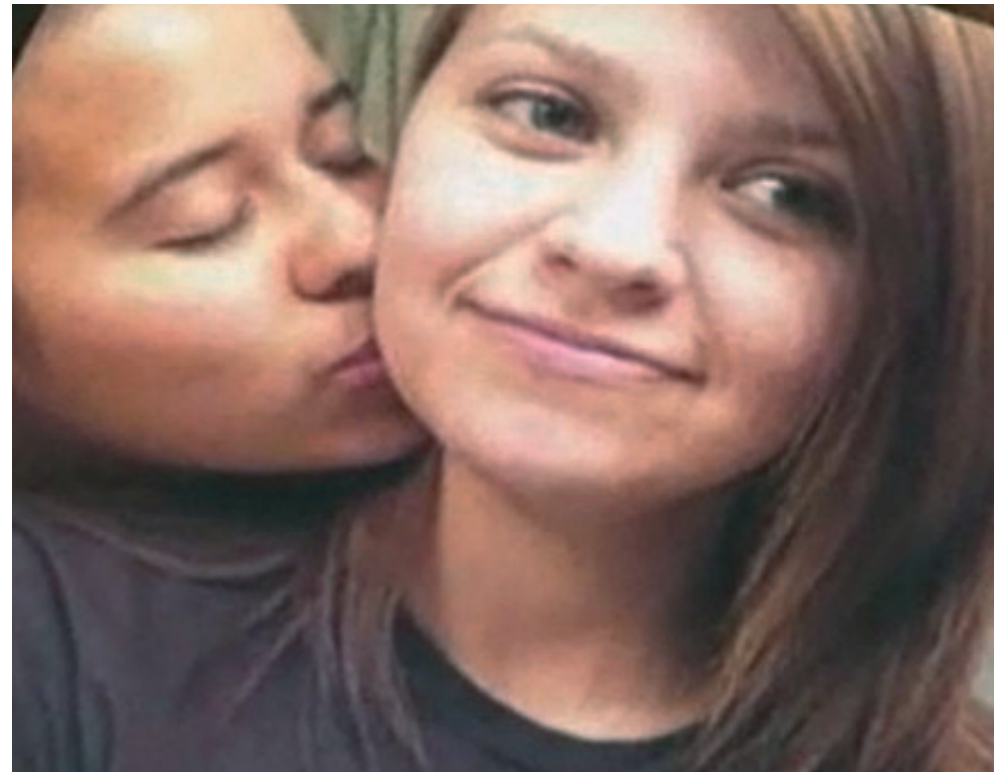
Although it has all the hallmarks of a hate crime, we still don't know precisely what happened and we should not prematurely jump to conclusions.

"There's no evidence to suggest that this crime was committed as a bias against the girls or their lifestyle," said Portland Police Chief Randy Wright. (Although a cop using the odious term "lifestyle" hardly inspires confidence.)

Nonetheless, as Birch previously pointed out, we know that a heightened level of anti-gay vitriol inevitably leads to violence. When you have fanatical enemies dedicated to bullying, berating and belittling, it can come as no surprise when their behavior eventually devolves into brutalizing and bashing.

As if on cue, the Texas Republican Party just released a repulsive platform that went out of its way to demonize the LGBT community: "We affirm that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society and contributes to the breakdown of the family unit," the platform states. "Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, recognized by our country's founders, and shared by the majority of Texans."

It is folly to separate such vituperative voices from the violence that follows.



IN MEMORIAM | A vigil for Mollie Judith Olgin and Mary Christine Chapa will be held Friday night, June 29, in the park where they were shot in Portland, Texas. A vigil is also planned in Dallas on Saturday night.

A report published by the Southern Poverty Law Center in November 2010, analyzing FBI data from 1995 to 2008, found that LGBT people are 2.6 times more likely to be attacked than blacks; 4.4 times more likely than Muslims; 13.8 times more likely than Latinos; and 41.5 times more likely than whites.

The Anti-Violence Project (AVP) released their national report on hate violence for 2011. Nationwide there were 30 killings of LGBT Americans due to hate which is the highest yearly total ever recorded.

Could these awful numbers surprise anyone, considering the whackos are coming out of the woodwork? Exacerbating matters are the dangerously false and inflammatory claims by anti-gay organizations that Christians must choose between gay rights and religious liberty.

For example, in a May 8 Family Research Council fundraising letter focusing on gays in the military, the group's President Tony Perkins wrote: "Enemies of Christianity, those who would silence the Gospel and eradicate our faith, are pushing hard, working fast. ... Forcing acceptance of open homosexuality in the military was only the beginning. Muzzling those who speak out against this policy goes hand in hand with it."

Bryan Fischer, a talk radio host for the American Family Association and major player in GOP pol-

itics, has a daily show that reaches a million listeners in 35 states. In one broadcast he told his audience, "Homosexuality gave us Adolf Hitler, and homosexuals in the military gave us the Brown Shirts, the Nazi war machine and 6 million dead Jews."

Here are a few more chilling incidents that recently occurred:

- Indiana pastor Jeff Sangl and his congregation encouraged a 4-year-old to sing a song called, "Ain't no homos gonna make it to heaven."
- Kansas pastor Curtis Knapp said in a radio address: "They [gay people] should be put to death. ... Oh, so you're saying we should go out and start killing them? No, I'm saying the government should."
- North Carolina pastor Charles L. Worley called for all LGBT people to be forced into camps with an electrified fence, where food would be dropped until they died off.

While such fiery rhetoric is good for raising money, I suspect it also raises body counts. I'm going to Texas on Friday to mourn the loss of a beautiful young girl at a vigil in the park where she and her girlfriend were shot. But I'm also hoping this tragedy wakes people up to the nightmares on the horizon that are sure to come if our foes don't halt their rancid and reactionary rhetoric.

Wayne Besen is founding executive director of *Truth Wins Out*, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization that fights anti-gay religious extremism. He can be reached at WBesen@TruthWinsOut.org.



Wayne Besen
Special contributor

There's been no glasnost for the gays in the former Soviet Union

LGBT activists brutally beaten by neo-Nazis in Kiev; Moscow bans Pride parades for 100 years; Russia considers federal anti-gay bill

This is not a good time for gays in Georgia, Ukraine, Russia or — presumably — other parts of the former Soviet Union.

The glasnost, or openness, that was supposed to come with the breakup of the megastate has faded on many fronts. Not the least of them is the freedom for which LGBT people had hoped and planned.

It's not as if the Russia of old was bereft of those whose sexuality strayed from the "norm." Mere moments online turned up this factoid from a Middlebury College posting: "Some of the oldest original writing in the Russian tradition portrays gay love.

The 11th century Legend of Boris and Gelb tells of George the Hungarian, who was 'loved by Boris beyond all reckoning.'"

Many creative Russians have been gay, among them composers Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, theatrical innovators Diaghilev and Cocteau, writers Mikail Kuzmin and Nicolai Gogol. I do not know

Kuzmin, but a Middlebury posting attributes to him "the first Russian coming-out novel." Kumin called his 1906 book *Wings*, because accepting homosexuality made his hero feel so free.

Gogol I did know and, like many of you, had read his work in school. That I found it depressing makes sense if, again, the Middlebury posting is accurate. It asserts that Gogol never "acted on his impulses" because he was so religious. No wonder his best-known work is entitled *Dead Souls*. Our souls would be dead, too, if we spent our lives trying to "pray away the gay."

But let's move forward some 150 years. In 1988, Mikhail Gorbachev had spoken of glasnost. On May 17, 1990, the International World Health Organization stopped considering homosexuality a disease, and activists declared an International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO). In 1993, Russia decriminalized homosexuality and opened the military to gays.

But bigotry has made a comeback. In Georgia, homosexuality has been "legal" since 2000, but the state does not recognize same-sex relationships or marriages or permit same-sex adoptions. No

physical crackdowns have made the international news, but that's not to say that none have occurred.

In Ukraine, too, homosexuality is "legal" and a few brave people have created a Gay Forum. But recently, LGBT activists have suffered brutal attacks in broad daylight. A video of Kiev's neo-Nazis beating two gay guys is posted online, a police edict cancelled the Gay Pride parade and a parliamentary "gay gag rule" seems likely. Here's one Ukrainian lawmaker's opinion: "If some people are suffering from the mental illness of homosexuality, they should not display it in public or promote it to children."

The mention of children brings us to the heart of the problem: Russia. In St. Petersburg and three rural districts, an anti-LGBT law recently went into effect.

Introduced by United Russia, the party of President Vladimir Putin, it purports to protect children and imposes a range of fines for "public actions aimed at promoting sodomy, lesbianism, bisexuality, or transgender[ism] among minors" and for "public actions aimed at promoting pedophilia."



Phyllis Guest
Taking Notes



As the Daily Kos noted, "Bigots in Russia have been more successful than their American counterparts in linking the idea of non-normative sexuality with non-consensual rape of minors."

Another ghastly aspect of the push against our community is its backing by the Russian Orthodox Church. The church couches its bigotry in terms of the right of children to be protected against "confusing and deviant behavior."

If the support of the Russian church for St. Petersburg's Article 7 reminds you of the heft the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) threw at California's Proposition 8, you are not alone.

It is hard to know what to make of all this except that it bodes ill for members of our worldwide community who live in the former Soviet Union. We deal with just three states here, Europe-facing Georgia and Ukraine and giant Russia. The Asia-oriented states are no better.

So let's just end with the latest information, posted online this month.

First, St. Petersburg courts ruled in favor of LGBT activists who had protested their fines under the new law. It's hard to know what effect that ruling might have.

Then, Moscow banned LGBT Pride parades until 2112. Officials "justified" the 100-year ban by citing violence that marred the recent LGBT film festival tour of Siberia.

Next, Russian legislators began considering a federal anti-gay bill, which the United Russia Party and the Russian Orthodox Church favor. Presumably such a law would impose not just financial penalties but prison time as well.

One last note. At the recent G8 summit in Chicago, Russia vetoed a statement of protection for "sexual minorities."

For the latest info, go to www.allout.org, a two-year-old organization based in New York, plus such older advocacy groups as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Phyllis Guest is a longtime activist on political and LGBT issues and is a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Send comments to editor@dallasvoice.com.

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- Yes: 19 percent
 - No: 55 percent
 - Depends on context: 26 percent
- 396 votes cast

Playing with *fire*

Danny Simpson gets his flame on as Olympic torchbearer

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Like most gay men, Danny Simpson carries a torch for someone in his past. But unlike almost anyone else, he looks forward to carrying one in the future. And it allows him to cross an item off his bucket list. On July 1, Simpson will run at least 300 meters near Redditch in the United Kingdom, carrying the official Olympic torch as it's relayed from person to person en route to its final destination at the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games, where it ignites that giant lantern that burns throughout the event.

Talk about a flamer.

Simpson's role as a torchbearer has nothing to do with his athletic ability, even though he's participated in sports most of his life. Instead, he received the honor from his peers at InterContinental Hotels Group, who nominated

him because of his involvement in various charitable and nonprofit organizations. In addition to his career in management with ICHG, Simpson is also owner of 77 N-Motion Entertainment, an event planning and DJ service.

"I'm very involved in the community, including serving as senior co-chair of the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS and junior co-chair of the Gay and

Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation," he says. "I also either volunteer time or financially contribute to the fight against autism and various animal shelters, just to name a couple."

With such involvement, the initial nomination was a no-brainer; after that, it became a waiting game before his participation was made official.

"The Olympic Committee narrowed the list of torchbearers down during shortlist processes over several months" before selecting Simpson, he says. Even though the distance he'll transport it is less than a quarter of a mile, he's been training just in case it requires more.

"I've been increasing my cardiovascular activity several days per week," he says. "I'm confident that everything will go as planned. I've traveled the world in the Navy as well in my personal life and I'm confident the trip to London and the privilege of being torchbearer will be great."

He'll be decked out in the official white 2012 London Olympic jumpsuit, which he'll receive once he gets to London — a souvenir that will forever represent his role in the worldwide celebration.



SHORT FUSE | Danny Simpson's civic involvement more than his athletic prowess landed him the privilege of carrying the Olympic torch near London. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

"The Olympic Games are an opportunity for people of all faiths and sexual orientations, from all around the world, to unite and participate in various sporting events," he says.

Simpson adds that, to the best of his knowledge, there haven't been any other torchbearers from the Dallas-Fort Worth area who identify as gay. For that reason alone, he sees his participation as historic. And along with people from all over the world cheering him on, both his mom, Carolyn Choate, and his partner, David Cavazos, will be there to watch his once-in-a-lifetime run.

And hopefully everyone can resist the temptation to ask, "Got a light?"

To follow Simpson before and after his torchbearing duties, follow him on Twitter @77NMotion.

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A league of their own

The new Dallas Gay Basketball Association fills a need in sports community



RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

The unmistakable quick *snikt* of rubber-soled shoes squeaking against the Reverchon court is abundant on a Saturday afternoon. Several men — and one woman — run up and down the floor, vying for three-pointers, steals and rebounds as a small crowd cheers in a way only sassy gay men can.

It is just their second week of summer play, but within three hours, the six teams of the new Dallas Gay Basketball Association are getting their sweat on — and they love it.

The DGBA is still the new kid on the sports block in a community already flush with sports and teams, but it's filling a need this sports-crazed city has needed — even among the gays.

"Several players have been so emotional and rejoice in the fact that they now have a basketball community," says Robbie Baker, president of the league. "That's the fruits of our labor in this: Seeing their excitement, raving about the games. It's really a rich feeling and our main focus was to create a community."

In short time, the DGBA has put down quick roots. Its board capped the league at 42 players; for the inaugural season in January, six teams (of seven spots) signed up — a healthy start, which both thrilled and flabbergasted Baker.

"Initially we decided to make a traveling team," he says, meaning one crew would travel to nearby cities for interleague play. "But then

we started working on the league. What started out as a Facebook group grew into all these people itching to play."

That was a year ago and now the DGBA joins the ranks of other queer sports initialisms: DIVA (volleyball), PSSA (softball), OLBA (bowling), OLTA (tennis) and others. DIVA was especially crucial to DGBA's genesis. Their board imparted organizational skills and helped them navigate the paperwork to establish nonprofit status. (Baker's former group, the Seattle Basketball League, was also the basis for structuring DGBA.)

"Well, it's a shit-ton of work," he laughs, "but it's been a huge success on most standpoints: Perfect budget, number of teams, website. We're doing everything we needed to."

Once the nine weeks of summer play conclude, the DGBA will be in a position to increase its membership. The goal now is to jump from six teams to 10 or 12 — an achievable goal, according to marketing director Steven Coleman.

"Word grew really fast for us and there continues to be a lot of excitement," he says. "We're looking to increase our membership and then break into levels much like DIVA with competitive and rec divisions. That should get more players involved. And then we're looking to clinics."

Baker says the level of play is pretty high. Lay-ups and dunks are frequent and intense player



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HOOP DREAMS | DGBA board members Steven Coleman, Matt De La Rosa, Patrick Cornelius and Robbie Baker keep their eyes on the ball while building their basketball association. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)



COURT DATE | The Hawks get out on the fast break during play at Reverchon Park Rec Center during the second week of the season for the newly minted DGBA. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

contact is the norm. It can be intimidating to newcomers. This day, players fell and ran into walls and each other, but as sportsmen, and games were exciting. Hoops fans know it's a physical sport, but the league wants to stress the camaraderie of it all. To keep it social, DGBA host monthly happy hours at Woody's both for the players and to introduce the league to the community. Baker is especially hopeful more women will jump on board.

"I miss my lesbians!" he exclaims. "You can always rely on a lesbian — women tend to be more committed. We want to increase all of our demographics, but more women players would be great."

Membership is wide-ranging already. Players span ages 18 to 55, and include business professionals and students from diverse backgrounds. You don't need to be gay to join, though it is of course gay-targeted.

To expand their presence, two traveling teams — Dallas Hotshots and the Dallas Ballers — will head to Austin next month to represent the DGBA at the National Gay Basketball Association tourney. That may lend itself to another of Baker's goals: Eventually hosting a national gay basketball tournament in Dallas.

But the DGBA can't get too ahead of itself. For now, they just want to play basketball. A year ago, Baker, Coleman, vice president Matt De La Rosa and finance man Patrick Cornelius were just four guys shooting hoops at the YMCA; they never imagined they would be heading a league of their own creation that's fulfilling a need not just for them, but for many Dallas athletes as passionate about b-ball as they are.

"I would do anything for this league," Baker says. "I don't think our job is done yet." ■

For more information, visit DallasGBA.com.

Where to get your gay team sports fix

The Dallas Gay Basketball Association isn't the only gay sports league with a summer schedule. Other sports organizations continue their seasons — a few even have major events along the way.

Women's football: Saturday may or may not be the last game of the season for the Dallas Diamonds Football team, pictured. This professional women's team enters the playoffs against the Lone Star Mustangs June 30 at Pennington Field. The Diamonds look to take a win and move on in the playoffs while taking out the Mustangs for a third consecutive time. And if all goes well, maybe the Diamonds can garner a fifth world championship. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. DallasDiamondsFootball.com.

Volleyball: Dallas Independent Volleyball Association is midway through its summer season with games taking place Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The co-ed group alternates courts between Reverchon and Polk recreation centers until July 18, and concludes its season with the summer tournament July 21 at Polk. (DIVA is also accepting members for its upcoming fall season.) DIVADallas.org.

Softball: On July 29, the Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association celebrates at the Rose Room with its End of Season Banquet, then in August, six teams will represent Dallas in the 2012 NAGAAA World Series in Minneapolis in B, C and D divisions. Good luck, guys! DallasPSSA.org.

The les-centric league North Texas Women's Softball Association began their 2012 season last week with play Sundays at Trinity View Park in Irving. The season runs through Aug. 12, with teams heading to the ASANA World Series in San Diego Aug. 20–25. NTXWSA.net.

Bowling: The Oak Lawn Bowling Association will host the 11th Annual Big D Classic Aug. 10–12, as leglers from around the country descend on Dallas for this International Gay Bowling Organization sanctioned event. BigDClassic.com. and OakLawnBowling.com.

— Rich Lopez



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Bull's-eye!

Gay darter Song Yun hopes to start a tradition with his inaugural Darts Over Texas tourney

For 20 years, Song Yun has toiled in the wilderness of dart enthusiasts. He loves the game and takes it seriously — not merely as a pastime to wile away drunken moments in a local pub, but a genuine skill that requires patience, precision, maybe even a little flair. (Hey, he's got nothing against a beer while playing.)

But for most of the last two decades, it's been a solitary undertaking. Sure, there are other darters in town, and some occasional impromptu tournaments, but nothing organized.

So two months ago, Yun set out to change that. He lined up sponsors, venues and cash prizes. His efforts culminate this weekend with Darts Over Texas, Dallas' official entry on the gay darts tournament circuit — yes, there really is such a thing.

"I really want this to be special and for it to grow every year," says Yun. "I went to other host cities, and thought that I could do this here. Plus, I was tired of traveling!"

Dallas will play host to teams both local and from San Antonio and Oklahoma City; already, 18 teams have registered for the round-robin elimination contest. Yun hopes that number will continue to grow with late registrations.

For a first-time tourney, Yun is satisfied with the numbers and the support of businesses on the Strip. He really wants — needs — this to be fun, and hopefully become a tradition, if Dallas can gain a reputation for darters.

Yun's passion helped attract 10 local sponsors and five venues for game play. Yun dug into his own pocket to purchase raffle items, advertise and even display his culinary skills. He'll even prepare a breakfast gathering on Saturday morning.

"Well, I can be a pretty good cook," he says. "Because there's no specific gay darts scene here, if I can present this to the community, it could draw interest for people. Keeping it on the Strip is important so local merchants can benefit. And I do have a committee helping me organize some of the details."

If all goes as planned, the goal is to go bigger in following years. And with heart. For the community, Yun sees the potential of not only adding Darts Over Texas to the texture of LGBT events, but to use it as a platform to make an impact.

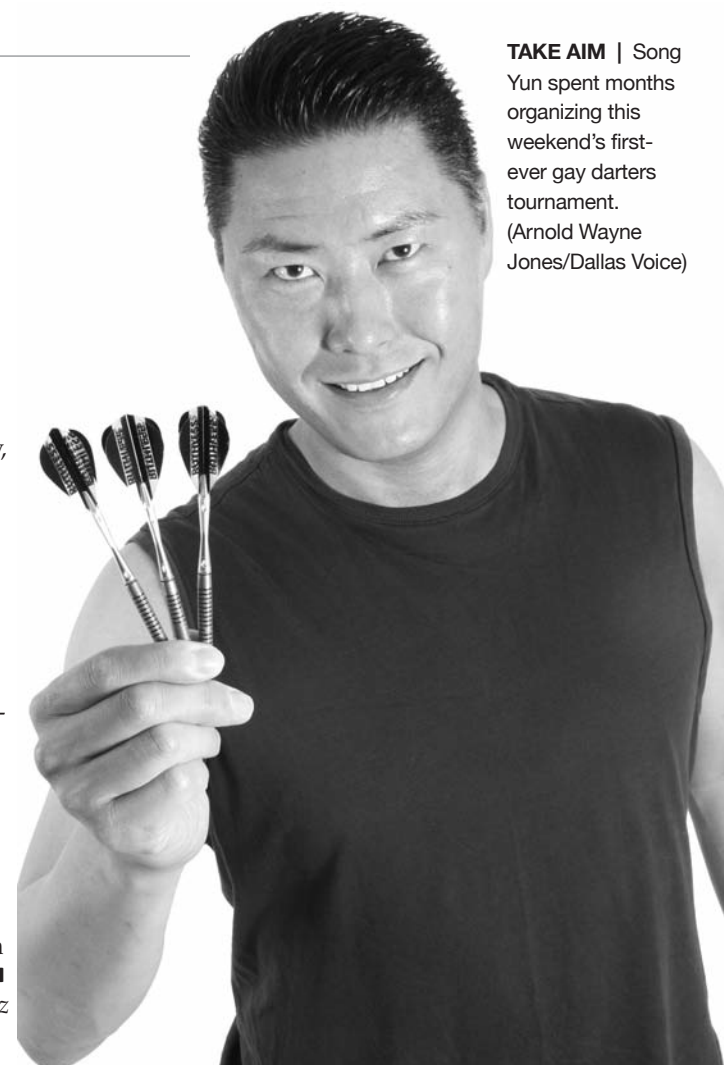
"For next year, I think it would be great to partner with a charity to benefit them," he says.

But before getting too far ahead of himself, Yun has to fine-tune the smaller details. At times he displays a nervous, "what-did-I-get-myself-into" demeanor. But when he focuses on his simple goal of playing darts with friends and peers, his eyes gleam.

"I'm looking at the bigger picture and the whole idea is to bring out the camaraderie in dart playing," he says. "This may open people up to playing darts and for visitors to enjoy Dallas. It'll be a good time."

— Rich Lopez

For more information or to register, visit DartsOverDallas.com



TAKE AIM | Song Yun spent months organizing this weekend's first-ever gay darters tournament. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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Say uncle



Lorenzo Guerra and nephew Ray Bustillos make volleyball a family affair

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Most 17-year-olds spend Friday nights on the summer before their senior year of high school hanging with friends, watching movies or attending pool parties. But Ray Bustillos isn't like most teenagers. Bustillos kicks off his weekends on the volleyball court as one of the youngest members of the Dallas Independent Volleyball Association.

Bustillos learned about DIVA from his uncle, Lorenzo Guerra, who has played for years. If they play against each other? Well, it's just more quality time with the fam.

"I wanted to show him what I was made of, but was intimidated when we first played each other," Bustillos admits. "I just went full throttle. But I wanted to make him proud."

Guerra admits he also held back at first but as the season progressed, he brought it. "The competitive side hits and so I just played the way I always do," he says.

Bustillos already had support from friends, but Guerra, who was the first family member he came out to, helped him find a gay group to add structure. When Guerra saw his nephew playing volleyball at an area rec center, the longtime DIVA member sought an exception from the group's board to allow Bustillos to play, though, at 16, he was younger than the cutoff age at the time.

"At first I was a little worried and was telling everyone he's my nephew," Guerra says. "I wondered how he'd interact with other players. But he held his own and was intermingling really

well. Now he's bringing *his* friends in."

Bustillos more than holds his own: His skills on the court placed him in the Competitive division; within two years, he surpassed Guerra's Advanced division and now plays in Power. But for Bustillos, DIVA isn't just about the game — he's found another family to rely on.

"DIVA's really opened my eyes to the possibility that anything can really happen," he says. "I've learned so much being there. I've participated in the parade, raised money for charity, and been introduced to the national organization. And I get to do it with my uncle."

For Guerra, DIVA isn't just about nurturing his family relationship, but encouraging the group to appeal to a younger demographic. Bustillos is working to get his friends to join.

"It's refreshing to see that young blood come in and keep the DIVA legacy going and growing," he says. "I'm really proud of him."

Despite competing on the court, Bustillos never loses sight that Guerra is a great uncle for whom he has deep love and respect.

"He has the best words of advice, and not just in volleyball," Bustillos says. "The entire DIVA population really looks up to him as I do."

That includes his respect for Lencha Marie. As he was reviewing the DIVA website, Bustillos stumbled on a picture of past Miss DIVA winners.

"When I saw that I was just like, 'Is that you?'" he laughs. "It was like, 'Oh my god, my uncle was Miss DIVA! I was excited to find out about it. And now that everyone knows that we're related, they call me Lencha Junior.'"

Sounds like a diva in the making. ■

For more information, visit DIVADallas.org.

DOUBLE DIVAS | Ray Bustillos shares the volleyball courts with his uncle Lorenzo Guerra in DIVA, but discovering Guerra's drag alter ego Lencha Marie was priceless. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

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I love you, you're puppet, now change

After nearly 10 years, the musical *Avenue Q* has been around long enough that it has been off-Broadway, on Broadway, back off, had a permanent show in Las Vegas, international productions and two national tours. But something you haven't seen (not in North Texas, anyway) is a regional premiere. That's surprising, considering that the market for the show — ageing Gen-Xers who suckled on *Sesame Street*, which this foul-mouthed Tony winner mercilessly satires — are famous for spending their dollars on childhood nostalgia.

AVENUE Q
Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. June 29–July 29.
Theatre3Dallas.com.

Probably the reason for it has been that *Avenue Q* presents casting issues: About three-quarters of the characters in the show are played by puppets.

But that didn't deter Michael Robinson. Robinson, a popular costume designer for numerous theaters and owner of the Dallas Costume Shoppe, has for decades also been the artistic director of the Dallas Puppet Theater. DPT doesn't perform many shows anymore, though it does construct puppets for clients, including large-form corporate and sports mascots. But assembling the foam actors for *Avenue Q* forced Robinson to flex some old muscles.

"I've worked with fleece a lot, but this kind, the big-mouthed hand-puppet? It's been new to me again," he says.

Small wonder *Avenue Q* hasn't been widely revived; to put it on in their downstairs space, Theatre 3 has to clear out an office and reconfigure the stage just to store the 36 puppets Robinson and his staff at the Costume Shoppe created in three weeks. (There are also multiple styles: two-rods for moving both hands, one-rod, live-hand — where the puppeteer wears the hand like a glove — and miniatures.)

"We had considered [building fewer puppets and] doing costume changes, but Rick Lyon [who designed the original puppets for Broadway] said, 'Don't change clothes.' That's what we did. So there are multiple puppets for each character," he says.

Multiple doesn't come close. One supporting character — Lucy, the femme fatale — has no fewer than five incarnations; romantic lead Kate Monster has six iterations. That's been a lot of work for Robinson, but almost as stressful for the show's director, Michael Serrecchia, who is also Robinson's partner of nearly 20 years.

"The other day he spent all evening doing nothing but stuffing arms," Serrecchia sighs



HAND JOB | Michael Robinson (rear left) designed and constructed three dozen puppets of all styles and sizes for Theatre 3's 'Avenue Q.'

'The Michaels' — partners Robinson and Serrecchia — 'felt' right at home teaming up for 'Avenue Q'

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

about how the show has invaded his home life. "I came to breakfast the other day and there were dozens of eyes staring at me and I said, 'That's it!'"

Working with puppets is new to Serrecchia, himself a Broadway veteran. He was familiar with the score but didn't have much interest in the show until he was dragged to see it a few seasons ago; he was immediately charmed.

"I didn't realize how touching it would be," Serrecchia says. "My work is about heart." It was a good fit. When the rehearsal process started, Serrecchia was surprised by some of the challenges.

"He looks at the puppets when he gives direction," Robinson says with a smile. "I was concerned about Michael not being a puppeteer. But he's directing the *puppets*, not the actors."

The actors themselves had to undergo a puppet boot-camp, learning to manipulate them (I tried; it's harder than it looks) and some tricks of the trade (never look *at* the puppet; make sure the puppet's eyes, not yours, are focused properly, etc.). They are set for a one-month run, but Theatre 3 hopes for an open-ended extension for as long as there's interest. Serrecchia hopes for it, too, but Robinson's probably the one who can get it done — after all, he's used to pulling strings. ■

Alfred J. Paletti, D.D.S.

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Homeless is where the art is

Gay artist Robert Mateo Diago explores our collective discomfort with the homeless

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

At some point or another, most of us have looked away when a homeless person approaches with an outstretched hand, or pretended not to notice them, even as they knock on our car window.

But for artist Robert Mateo Diago, it was important not to look away. He explores the variety of feelings evoked from the sight, even the concept, of homelessness in his show *home•less•bound*.

The exhibit, at the MAC through July 7, expands a solo show he originally created in Massachusetts. The idea was hatched after attending a photography exhibit featuring images of a homeless man who'd been befriended by the photographer. Diago awoke later that night with visions of words: "Can You Spare Change? Can Change Spare You?" From there, he set out to use plays on

words as a focal point in his exploration of new media.

"I didn't want to show faces. I didn't want to stylize beautiful black and white portraits. I wanted to do word play and get into what's in your head about the homeless," says the Puerto Rican-born artist.

Among the everyday items turned into dramatic statements are shopping carts, hubcaps, aluminum cans and an overturned Dumpster. Lenticular printing is utilized to transition a simple word like *indigent* into *indifferent*, depending on where the viewer is standing.

"I really wanted to explore the uncomfortableness, for lack of a better word, with the homeless," Diago says.

To further develop his theme, Diago enlisted two other artists: Willie Baronet, who's been purchasing will-work-for-food-type signs from the displaced for decades; and photographer Cristella Medrano, who focuses on the makeshift homes and meeting places created in vacant lots and underpasses. In combination, they explore very different sides of the homeless situation into one big statement.

One of the more interactive installations is titled *108 Affordable Green Homes*. Scattered about the floor are tiny sculptures of homes, each containing a word underneath such as "bus", "box" or "bench" that symbolizes "home" for so many. Most are constructed with newsprint applied in layers and painted onto their wooden bases, but some special-edition houses were created for Dallas with glossy pages of *Paper City* and other luxury publications to draw a starker contrast. Designed to sell separately from \$100 to \$150, they're also a way for individuals to easily own an original work of art and take it away from the exhibit immediately.

"As the houses disappear, it's a commentary on the lack of housing available to the homeless," Diago explains.



A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME | Wooden blocks decoupaged with newsprint provide one of the metaphors of homelessness. (Photo courtesy R. Mateo Diago)

Precious Apartment provides some of the more jarring attitudes toward the homeless. The process for this piece started with postcards that Diago gave out to friends, colleagues and others at random. People answered the question, "What are your thoughts about the homeless?" and mailed them to the MAC.

"I got responses ranging from 'The homeless are Jesus incarnate on earth' to 'Fuck the homeless!'" Diago says. "I was amazed to read many people's opinions. People are very passionate about it."

An ex-girlfriend, a schoolteacher in Newark, gave them to her class of fourth-graders.

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"A lot of them already had a very strong opinion about 'lazy homeless people' who are 'too high to work.' Where are they getting those ideas at that age?" Diago asks.

Set within an overturned trash receptacle is a digital photo frame that scrolls through 99 of the responses, along with nine joyous images of life, such as graduation and wedding pictures — pictures you'd normally see in a home, not here. When the responses from his survey are juxtaposed over these photos, it brings a new depth to the conversation. Try not to do a double take when a wedding photo appears with "Fuck the homeless" superimposed.

HOME•LESS•NESS

The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave.
Through July 7. The-Mac.org.

Ultimately, this exhibition gave Diago the means to interact more with homeless people and overcome his own discomfort with them.

"I drive around in the summer with bottled water in my car, and coats and sweaters in the winter. I've always done that, but it's been hard to make eye contact. I've always been a little intimidated to do that," he says. "Now I make a point to say hello, ask what their name is, and if I get a response from that then I ask more questions. I've had some really nice conversations."

It's a necessary reminder that homeless are all people with stories to share, if only anyone would ask. ■

Dream on

After an 8-year hiatus, Zachary Splawn returns with his heart on the line

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

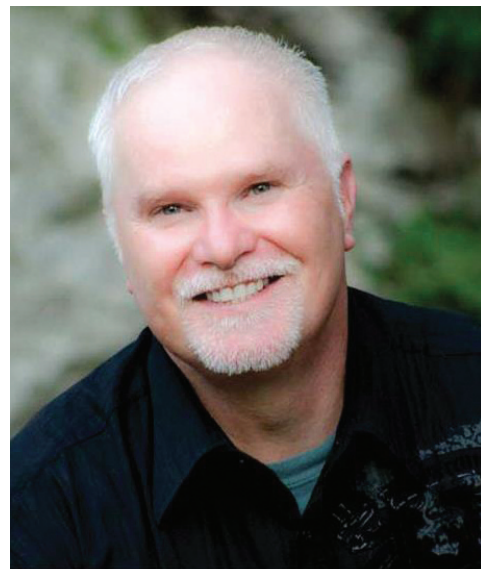
Zachary B.K. Splawn knows how to set a mood. In his newest CD *Who Am I to Dream?*, the North Texas charms with a new collection of original tracks that sound as classic as anything from the great American songbook. He still has some catching up to do with the likes of Porter, Berlin and Gershwin, but *Dream* isn't too far off from being a triumph.

There's slight irony that Splawn's last album was 2004's *Older and Wiser* — a lot of that notion is reflected here. Heartache abounds in *Dream* but he doesn't descend into bummeo-disc territory. Splawn mixes pain with a buoyancy and even optimism despite a failed relationship. "I Go a Little Crazy" is a heartbreaking farewell, while "Post Regret" goes where not many ballads have gone before. Splawn sings from a family perspective, the ache of someone leaving. Is it a parent, his partner? Who knows, but it's fairly brilliant. Where he can deliver a heartfelt ballad, Splawn can give his broken heart an uptempo beat as well. "Baby I Cried" gets the point across yet allowed me to bop along.

His balancing act is smartly played. Splawn doesn't play victim to his pain; he creates and then vents it, turning on the charm with "Those Feelings Again" or "Traces to Forever." His bruises from love are matched by his optimism for it.

As a songwriter, Splawn has a knack for direct lyrics without meandering metaphors and analogies. Sometimes that veers him into clichés (*this little thing we call life* — meh), but he can aim the messages of his tunes like a guided missile. Every so often, this is refreshing and he couples that with attractive orchestrations by co-producer Jeffrey Poteat.

Poteat does a solid job with Splawn's vocals and the music. Plus, he gets his own moment with the David Benoit-ish instrumental "Five



THE BUTCH IS BACK | Splawn's music could almost be from the Great American Songbook.

Angels." At the midway point of *Dream*, the track gives an unexpected break in the action.

Many parts of this album recall Barry Manilow, where Splawn mirrors the singer; and then there are moments where Splawn's hiatus in recording shows through. He has a gorgeously husky and tender voice; when it's on, he's impressive. But there are flashes where his confidence is lacking. In playing it safe, he has added tension to the album when he needed to just let loose. His restraint held back some of the potency of the album. If he had switched registers or even thrown in a falsetto, the emotions could have run

much higher.

Who Am I To Dream is an honest album where Splawn bravely laid his emotions out. He never fell into the dangerous trap of victimizing himself. Once he regains his security, Splawn's dynamics will shine even brighter, but *Dream* is a dazzling start. ■



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Spirit of Woman Artists

Yanna Blacy	Jewelry
Ann Campanella-Fleming	Photography
Pat Dahnke	Clothing
Mark De Lay (guest)	Graphite
Paula Devereaux	Bronze Sculpture, Oil
Pat Erickson	Watercolor
Gushikawa	Photography
Andrea Lyle	Encaustic
Susan Martin-Serra	Clay Tile
Donna Merchant-Crooks	Bronze Sculpture, Oil
Sonia Reid	Graphite, Oil
Clarissa Rizal	Fabric
Shari Silvie	Oil
Kathleen Steventon	Oil

"Ephemeral" by Pat Erickson, Watercolor

July 19-31

Opening Reception July 19

Gallery Hours:

Mon-Sat: 10 AM - 7 PM

Sun: 10 AM - 5 PM



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Quality Resort and Suites

San Juan Motel

thedallasvoice

ELIZABETH TRAILERS

E·liz·a·beth Tay·lor

[i' lizəbəθ tələ]

-n

Renowned Oscar-winning actress known
 for her social activism at the forefront of the
 AIDS epidemic.

Trail·'r

[' trɛɪlə]

-contraction of

Trailblazer: Elizabeth Taylor, now she's a trail'r!

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:

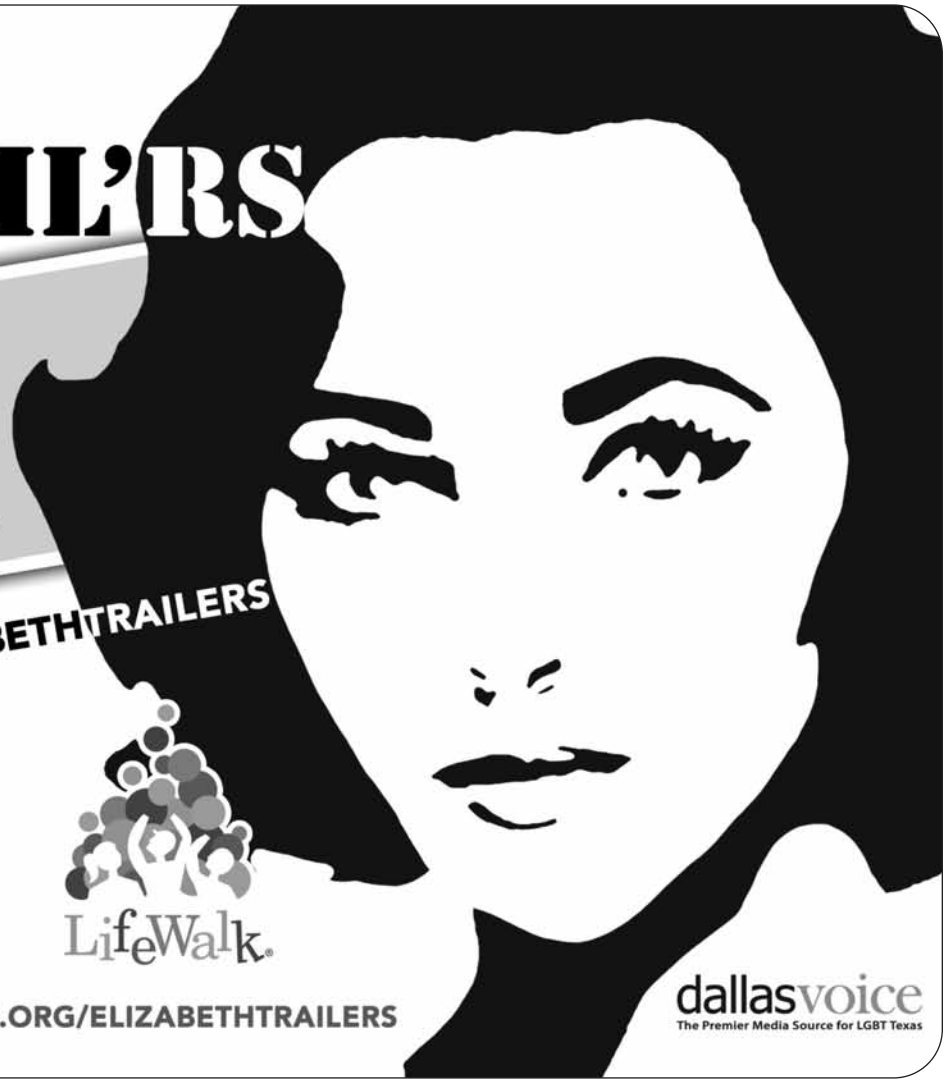
2012: Coined as a way to both honor the trail-
 blazing work of the late actress in the field of
 HIV/AIDS and inspire others to continue the
 work that remains unfinished.

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dallasvoice
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Friday 06.29

Work that coat

The Dallas Theater Center is gonna bring some religion to the stage. But, you know, the fun kind. DTC opens the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* retelling the Old Testament story of Joseph and that fabulous coat of his. You won't see it until you see the show. Through songs and a children's chorus, Joseph goes from slave to ruler in the classic tale. But in this version, DTC incorporates music from rock to country and western in the mix. They even add in a Charleston from the 1920s. But you know when ol' Joseph finally gets that coat on, he is gonna work it! Snap!

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 12. \$15-\$90. DallasTheaterCenter.org



Tuesday 07.03

Even brighter than the moon

You do realize that Addison's KaBoom Town is *the* fireworks extravaganza to see? Ranked as the third show in the U.S. by AOL, the annual July 4 show puts on a stellar display not to mention the live music, the air show and an after party. That's how to do it.

DEETS: Addison Circle Park, 4970 Addison Circle Drive. 5 p.m.-midnight. Free. AddisonTexas.net.



Sunday 07.01

L word up

Juicy is offering a whole lot more than a ladies' night out. The party promoters bring Whitney Mixer from Showtime's *The Real L Word* to stir the Dallas pot and she doesn't come alone. Joining Mixer are her music pal DJ Asha and DJ Le-zlee to help the night along. Could there be any more hotness in one room? Well, of course. Once the Dallas women show up, Winstons is going to be the hottest spot in town.

DEETS: Winstons Supperclub, 3111 Welborn Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$50. RSVP encouraged. JuicyClubLA.com/Dallas.



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BACKTRACK THURSDAYS

Station 4

I'm so excited Tainted Love Electric Avenue
Running up That Hill Enjoy The Silence
How Soon is Now Cities in Dust Lovesong

Adam Ant Depeche Mode Human League
Queen Devo Cindy Lauper Salt N' Peppa
Dead or Alive Go Go's Eurythmics Prince

BACKTRACK THURSDAYS
THE GREATEST CLUB HITS OF THE 80'S
Music That You Can Dance to

BACKTRACK THURSDAYS
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Music That You Can Dance to

Noise Reduction Yes No

Village Station Hits

Best of the 80's

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EDNA JEAN ROBINSON

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLAIMED BY AUCTION END

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT C.E.B.A.

RED, WHITE, & GLOW PARTY

Tuesday, July 3rd

FOURTH OF JULY DANCE PARTY AT

Station 4

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Considering the holiday schedule, please contact organizations directly for any schedule changes.

FRIDAY 06.29

COMMUNITY

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.

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

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets for those wishing to quit using crystal meth. New Hope Fellowship Church, 2438 Butler St. 7 p.m. Free. Crystalmeth.org.

ART

The Equestrians art exhibit and artists reception. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 107. 6 p.m. Through July 7. ilumeGallerie.com.

Linda Ferguson and Leigh Freeman. Local artists' work on display at the Dallas Public Library – Oak Lawn Branch, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Through Saturday.

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.

COMEDY

Dysfunctional Divas. Steven Crabtree hits the late night stage with his gender bending comedy playing a variety of hilarious characters. Superheroes, movie stars and drag queens. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Friday and Saturday at 11:15 p.m. \$12 plus one food item. PocketSandwich.com.

THEATER

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

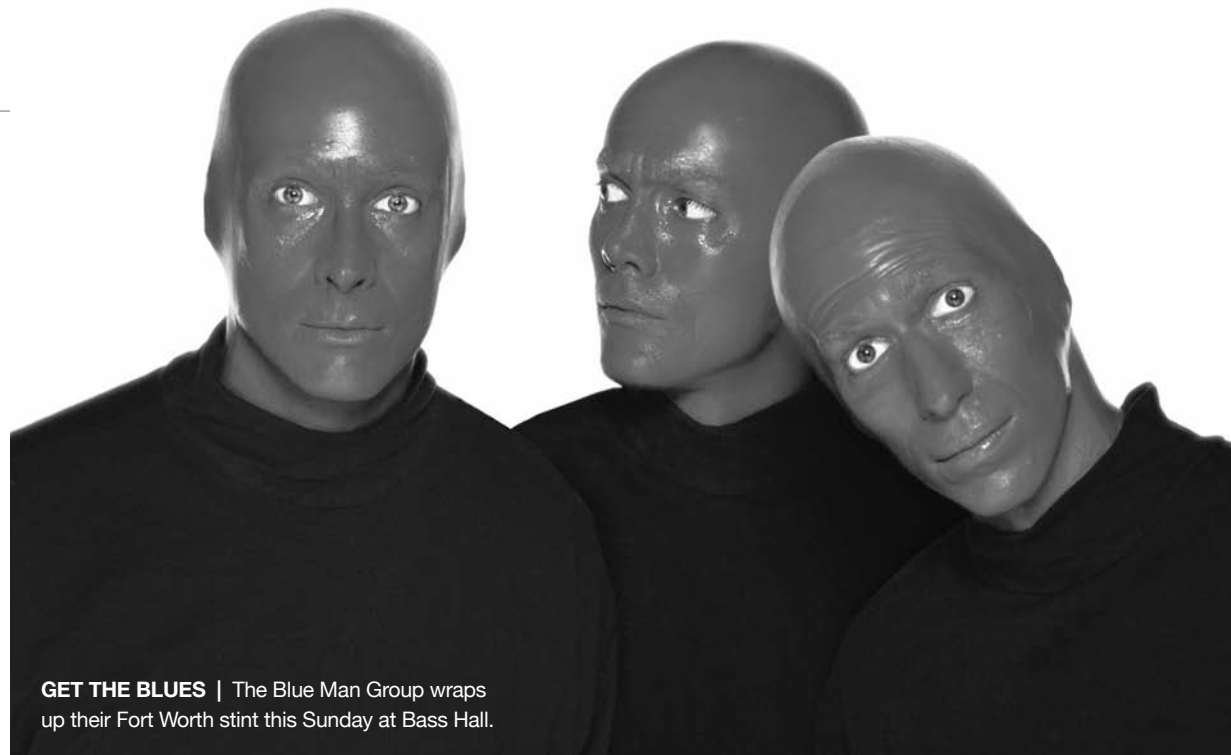
Blue Man Group. The multimedia performance art trio brings their theatrical tour to Cowtown. Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. \$49.50–\$99. BassHall.com.

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. Samuel-Grand Park Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. \$10. ShakespeareDallas.org.

SATURDAY 06.30

COMMUNITY

Dallas Vigil for Mollie Olgin and Kristene Chapa. GetEqual TX organizes this vigil for the teenage lesbian couple from Corpus Christi who were victims of



GET THE BLUES | The Blue Man Group wraps up their Fort Worth stint this Sunday at Bass Hall.

a violent crime. Frank H. Caven Memorial Garden, Oak Lawn Ave. at Cedar Springs Road. 8:30 p.m.

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

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

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 07.01

COMMUNITY

Interweave meets for lunch. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano. Noon. 972-248-9343.

Order of St. Francis and St. Clare every first and third Sunday. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 12:30 p.m.

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

Friends Associating and Relating, LGBT social group meets for potluck dinners, game nights, and more. Newcomers welcome. 214-328-6749.

DFW Prime Timers Prime Games. The group meets for board game play at member's residence. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

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

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

Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. LGBT-friendly "meditation and more" event. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality, all faiths welcome. Deaf interpretation provided. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road. 5 p.m. Donations accepted. InterMindful.com.

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

The ONE Church, 2515 Inwood Road, Ste 213. Services at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

MONDAY 07.02

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY 07.03

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

Sista to Sista support group meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. AOC.org.

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

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906

Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

Lambda Pride

Toastmasters. Regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.Free-ToastHost.us.

WEDNESDAY

07.04

COMMUNITY

Outstanding Beautiful Brothers (O.B.B.) is new support group to enhance

the quality of life for young black MSM's (men who have sex with men) living with HIV, by providing a safe and confidential space to offer support, empowerment and education. Meetings held every first and third Wednesday. 7 p.m. Call 214-702-6511 for information.

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

BROADCAST

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

THURSDAY 07.05

COMMUNITY

PFLAG Fort Worth meets. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. PFLAGFortWorth.org.

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

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

this week's solution

J	O	S	H		S	C	A	R		O	S	C	A	R	
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Johnny Weir turns 28 on Monday. Although he won gold three times at the U.S. National Championships, the figure skater has so far missed out on world or Olympic gold medals. After not competing for the last two seasons, the out athlete announced this January that he would return to competitive skating this year with hopes of going to the 2014 Olympics.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Negotiating private space with your roommate is hard. Some time alone can give you space to find a solution. It's not about negating your ego, but getting it in balance.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Don't let meditation slide into future tripping. Focus on creative efforts now to make the future more of what you want. Efforts at being sexy and provocative come off as bitchy and horny.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Keep spiritual insights to yourself. Sharing them too widely in efforts to help others will likely be misunderstood and backfire. Be alert and those new ideas could point to great opportunities.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your words are shocking to you as they are to others. That creates problems, but it's really identifying trouble already there. With patience and responsibility, solutions come in a few weeks.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your natural erotic charisma is running high. With correct prophylaxis there's nothing wrong with cheap thrills, but how cheap do you want to be? Unsatisfying efforts leave you cranky.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Focus on your identity and your own roots. Dig up the dish on your family and learn better how those have shaped the way you communicate with others.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Feeling underappreciated at work at least means you're probably not slacking. In the meantime, balance your travails with some fun escapes. Staying mentally and physically fit is first priority.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Shaking up the routine at work with new ideas creates more problems. Feeling like a misfit among co-workers will pass. Save your complaints for friends to not have serious repercussions.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Knowing where you come from is useless if you don't use that knowledge to move forward. Feeling a bit lost is the first step in finding yourself. Let your work and ambitions be your compass.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Feeling disconnected tempts you to fit in. You're too individualistic to conform. Focus on your own work and well-being. The trick to fitting in is not to worry about it.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Cutbacks at work would make you nervous. That means working a bit harder. Stress and worry are your biggest dangers. Meditate and take some self-indulgent downtime to relax.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

You may be a little too gorgeous for your own good, and simple flirtation can easily be taken as a lot more landing you on either side of unwanted sexual attentions. Easy does it.

THIS WEEK

The sun and Venus aspecting Pluto and Uranus illuminate current crises. Look for ways to speak for your community and reach out to others.

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

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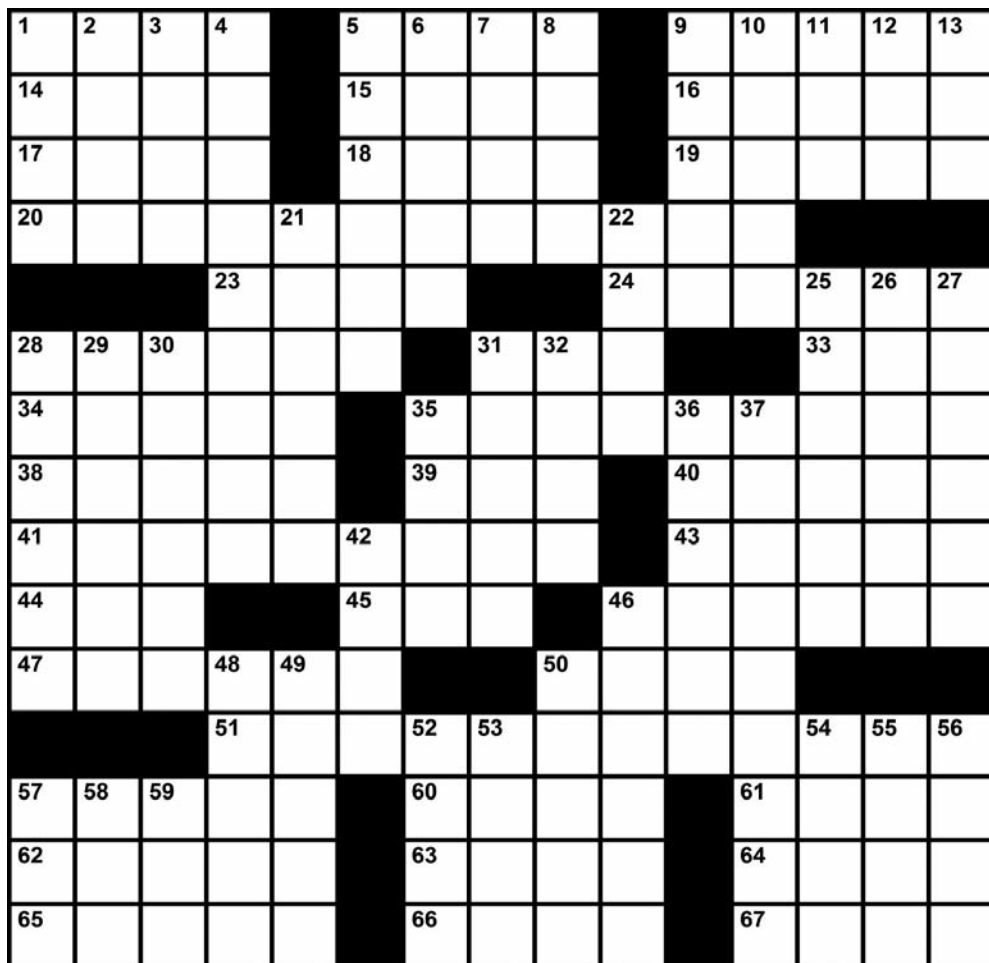
bitter girl

dis-appointment

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JOAN HILTY ©2012



Angel Among the Angels

Solution on page 29

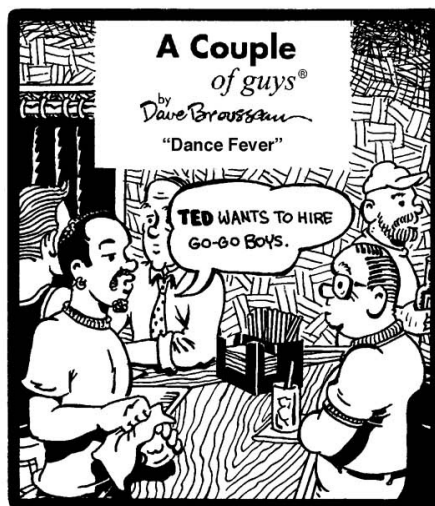
Across

- 1 Charles of Threesome
- 5 Fey feline film felon
- 9 Kidman's award for The Hours
- 14 Pro foe
- 15 Folded fast food
- 16 Be intense like a queen
- 17 Sexual partners, to the insensitive
- 18 Coffee containers
- 19 Office aides
- 20 Film in which 51-Across played a tiny circus performer
- 23 Former netman Nastase
- 24 Like a virgin's maidenhead
- 28 Polished one's cockring
- 31 Florist's wheels, often
- 33 Warhol China piece?
- 34 Ars ____, vita brevis
- 35 With 41-Across, film in which 51-Across played a fortune teller
- 38 Billy Bean boo-boo
- 39 Fraternal Order member
- 40 Reed in an old sitcom
- 41 See 35-Across
- 43 Beckett no-show
- 44 Overthrower of Bhutto

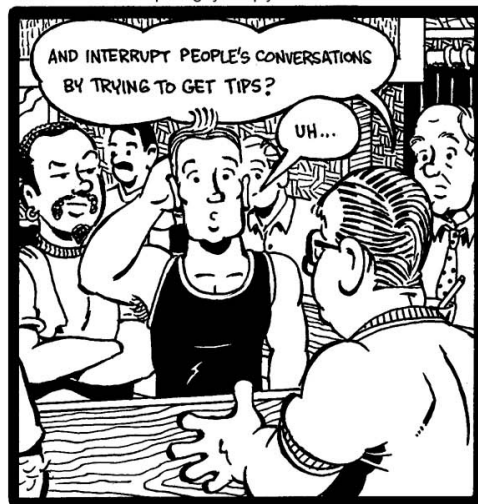
- 45 Leave open-mouthed
- 46 Peter Pan opponent
- 47 Agnes Moorehead role
- 50 Ready for surgery
- 51 She played Solly in Angel
- 57 M*A*S*H company clerk
- 60 Bird in a crazy simile
- 61 Something to think about
- 62 Greek edition of Oprah's magazine?
- 63 Chickenhawk's feathers
- 64 Greek Stoic
- 65 Carpenter's rod
- 66 Shakespeare's Hathaway
- 67 Drops the curtain on

Down

- 1 Door piece
- 2 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 3 Without a date
- 4 Trying to pick up, as at a bar
- 5 Part of KISS
- 6 Caesar's "seize"
- 7 Problem for skin
- 8 Name repeated in a Stein quote
- 9 When to have sex
- 10 Cold shower
- 11 Helmet add-on for TV
- 12 Blaster for Etheridge
- 13 Hi-___ graphics
- 21 Fabled cow owner
- 22 Bear, with "at"
- 25 Barse of Married ... with Children
- 26 Lacks the wherewithal
- 27 Until now
- 28 Tabloid fodder
- 29 Meddle
- 30 Gradual encroachment
- 31 Hold dear
- 32 Tries to get information
- 35 Sneaky Pie cry
- 36 More like Cho's comedy
- 37 Award for the best costume, perhaps
- 42 Serpico author Peter
- 46 Hester of the A-list?
- 48 Kind of orange
- 49 Like Gomer's Mayberry
- 50 Popular resort, for short
- 52 Alan of The West Wing
- 53 Climax time in a Gary Cooper film
- 54 James Dean's East of ___
- 55 Extend credit
- 56 Mekong River country
- 57 Fisherman's tool
- 58 Latin I word
- 59 Wetness on the grass



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Logan and Timmy at Cherries.



Jimmy at BJ's NXS!



Guys' night out at Station 4.

After reading about all those jocks in this week's **Sports Issue**, we're ready to blow some steam off. ... The weekend gets started at **Lord Byron's Panoptikon** party every Friday at **3025 Main St. in the old Club One** space. Byron knows how to mix his goth and retro in a helluva night. He'll even have **Son of Sam** as his co-host. ... Cutie sax player **Rusty Johnson** hosts Friday night at **Alexandre's**. If all goes well, this could be a regular gig. With the help of singer **Melanie Dutton**, we figure it's a given. ... Put on your poker face Saturday for the **AIDS Interfaith Network Monthly Poker and Blackjack Event**. With cash prizes, raffles and more, the entire event at **The Brick** will benefit the agency. ... Are those bench presses paying off? Test those pecs at **Bare Chest Night** Saturday at the **Dallas Eagle**. **DJ Paul Kraft** brings the music while you bring the beef. The **Dallas Bears** celebrate their anniversary also. And before the club gets too hopping, hit up the **Ms. Firecracker** contest earlier in the evening. ... Local faves **Mi Diva Loca** put on their armor for the **Dallas Battle of the Bands** presented by **Gorilla Music**. The duo competes for top honors at the **Curtain Club** in **Deep Ellum** on Sunday. ... **Big D Beardance** hosts **First Tuesday Showtunes** at **Woody's**. A portion of the proceeds for the night go to **Youth First Texas**. And wear your red, white and blue! ... **Steff Mahan** and **Cheley Tackett** kick off the live music weekend at **Sue Ellen's**. They play Friday and **Ciao Bella** follows in on Saturday. The **Barefoot Hippies** finish off the weekend with a Sunday show. ... **Station 4** gets into the July 4 spirit with Tuesday night's **Red, White and Glow Party**. ... And finish off the weekend with **Club Dallas' Sunday Summer Cookouts**. ... Happy Fourth! ■

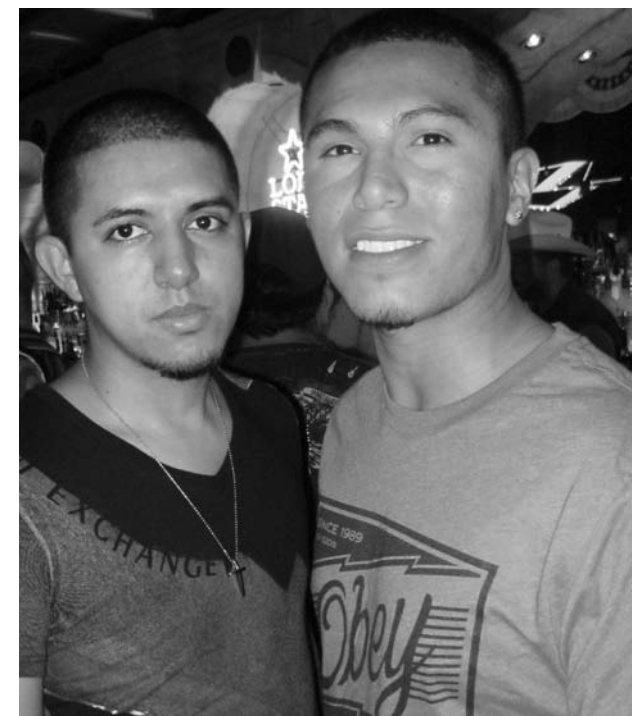
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Nicky at Sue Ellen's



J., Tyrone and friend at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Luis and J.R. at the Round-Up Saloon.

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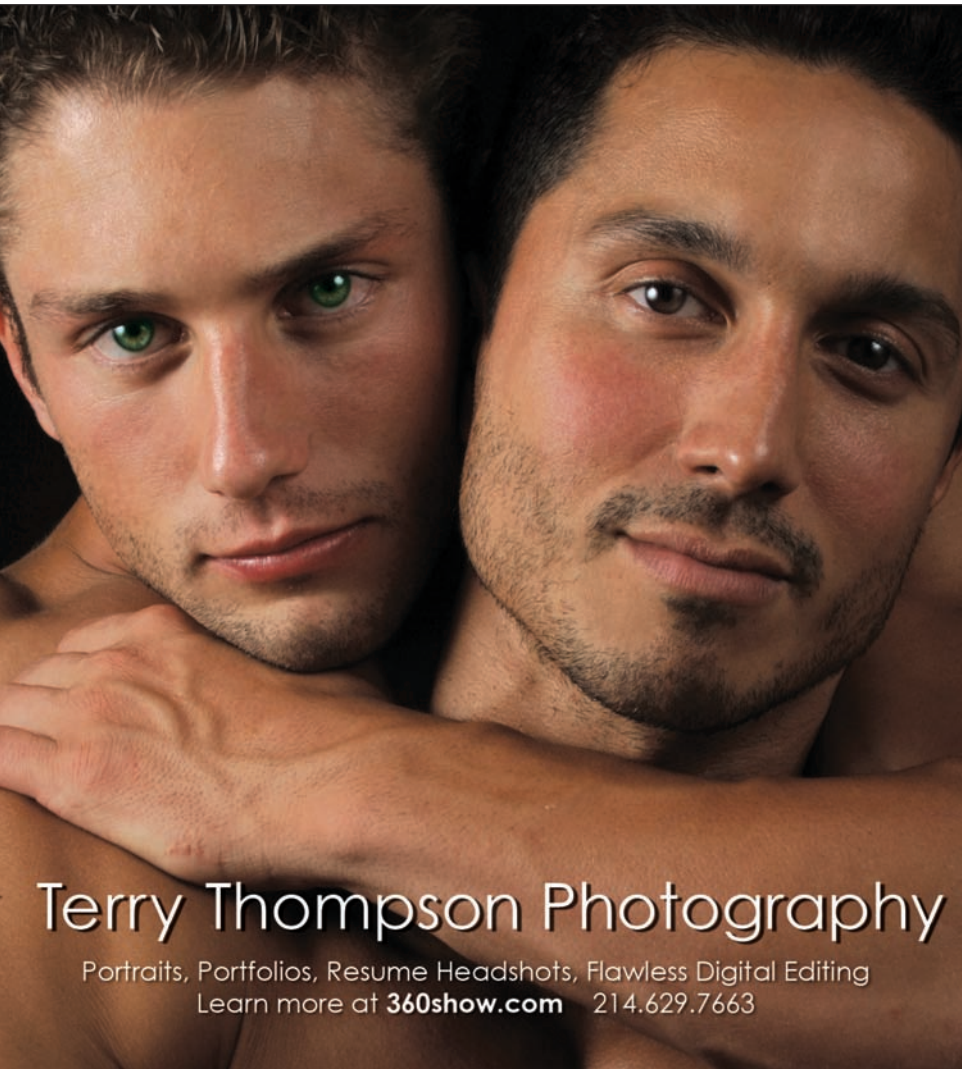
squirt.org





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EMPLOYMENT

Unique Roofing & Renovations is seeking commercial & residential sales executives. An opportunity to make 70k to 80k the first year. Candidate should forward resumes to: HR@unique-renovations.com

Carter Staffing Solutions is currently recruiting Physicians, Physician Assistants and Medical Directors, in the Dallas area. Submit resumes online at www.carterstaffingsol.com or by emailing resumes@carterstaffingsol.com. Apply today!

EMPLOYMENT

Full time cook with experience in cooking, kitchen maintenance, maintaining orders and supplies and menu planning. Work schedule M-F. Resumes to hr@aidsdallas.org or to 214.941.8144

Driver with experience in transporting individuals, including in wheelchair, to medical appointments and other agencies providing supportive services. Work schedule M-F and clean TX Driver License req. Resumes to hr@aidsdallas.org or to 214.941.8144

EMPLOYMENT

AIDS Arms, Inc. is seeking a full-time Protocol Based Counseling, Risk Reduction Specialist (PBC, RRS) for the Prevention program. The PBC Specialist will conduct and coordinate protocol based counseling (PBC), HIV/STI testing, and outreach services to targeted populations within venues, neighborhoods, and other areas of high risk behaviors to HIV exposure. Requirements: Minimum of Associates Degree in a health related or social service discipline required; bachelor's degree preferred. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aidsarms.org.

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EMPLOYMENT

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