

Jiminez arrested 2nd time for trespass

Couple attends 1st court hearing in marriage equality arrest

Supporters protest at Crowley Courts and stage sit-in

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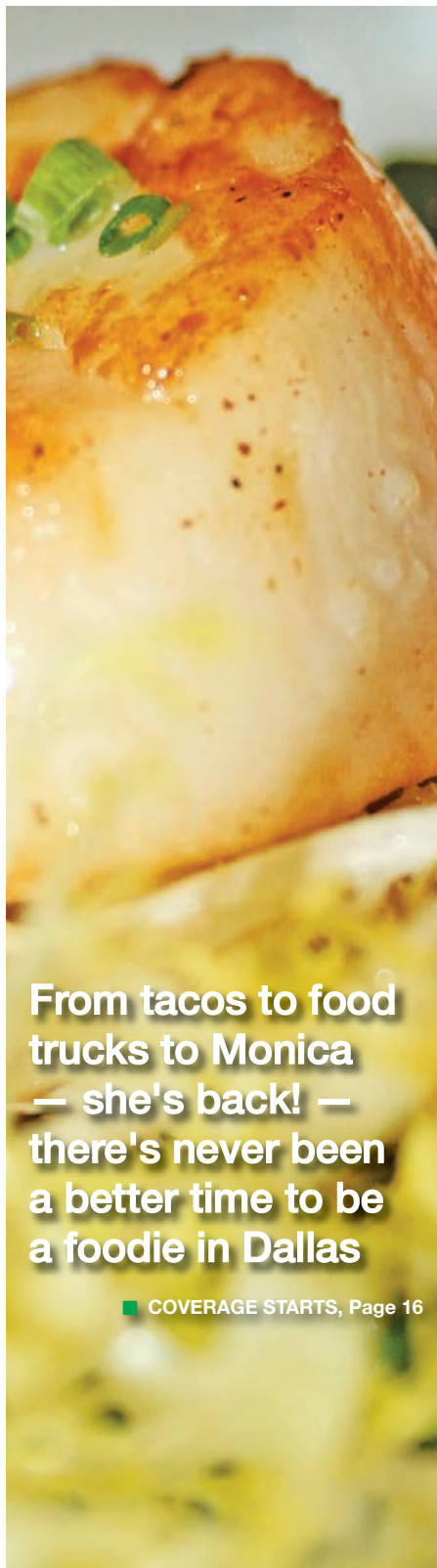
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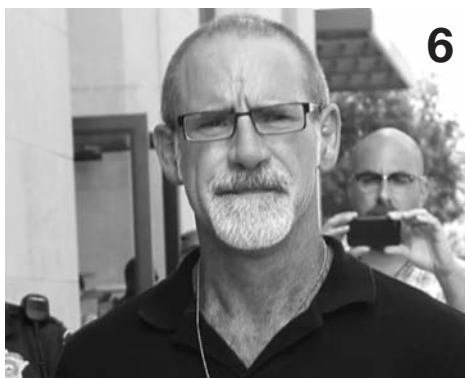


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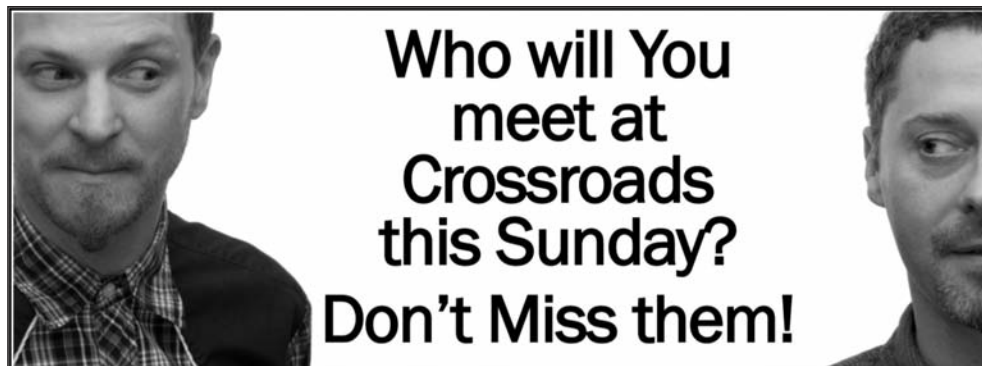


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Dr. Gene Voskuhl, left, and the Rev. Jo Hudson

Hudson and Voskuhl named as parade grand marshals

The Rev. Jo Hudson of Cathedral of Hope and Dr. Gene Voskuhl of AIDS Arms were chosen as grand marshals of the 2012 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Voskuhl just returned from the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. He said that recent studies show that being disenfranchised and stigmatized leads to greater incidents of HIV infection.

That's why this year's parade theme, "Pride Links Us Together" is meaningful to him.

"Be proud," he said. "You'll be happier and healthier."

What he likes best about the Dallas LGBT community is how diverse and integrated it is throughout the DFW area. He said the community reaches into all professions and businesses and the variety of LGBT organizations that cover everything from social to health to religious activities.

Voskuhl is proud of the growth AIDS Arms has seen since he came on board a year ago. The agency's two clinics now see 1,300 people and the goal is 2,500 by 2015.

"We're looking to grow," he said. "We're only using half of our exam space."

He said Trinity Clinic was expanding its labs and adding new equipment to provide results quicker and even offer services to other local medical offices. In addition, Metro Care has begun providing on-site mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment.

Voskuhl said he was surprised to be nominated for Grand Marshal and even more surprised that he won.

"I'm happily surprised," he said. "I love a parade."

But he said he always watched the parade from the sidelines and has never been in it before. This year, he'll not only be in it. He'll be leading the parade.

The Rev. Jo Hudson was surprised by the nom-

ination for grand marshal and then overwhelmed when she was notified of her win.

Hudson, who has served Cathedral of Hope for eight years and as senior pastor for six, said she was humbled to be selected because of the great people who have served before her.

"I was deeply touched that I would even be included with all those great people," she said. "When I think about all the people that have been grand marshal, it's just such an honor."

A lover of Dallas' Pride parade, Hudson said she's only missed one parade in the past nine years because she can't stand to miss one.

"I love the Pride parade because the whole community is together," Hudson said. "I think it's a real honor to be the lead of the parade, to be recognized and it's an honor for our church."

Hudson said she finds joy in Pride with the unifying aspect and how members and allies of the LGBT community come together from all walks of life, all professions and nearby cities to join hands in celebration.

She added that this year's theme was fitting since both grand marshals represent organizations that link so many people within Dallas' community.

"The Dallas LGBT community has a great history of working together and a great history of being supportive of each other," she said. "We all bring different things so that we can have an impact on our community and the city of Dallas."

Proud to represent Cathedral of Hope in the parade, Hudson said she's excited about leading the parade alongside Voskuhl, but what she's looking forward to most is continuing to lead by example in the future like those who have led before her.

"All the people who have been before us [as grand marshals] have been inspirational people for me, and so maybe in some way I can be that for somebody else," she said.

And while Hudson and Voskuhl were in the Dallas Voice office for photos and interviews, they were already coordinating their outfits for the parade.

— Anna Waugh and David Taffet



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Jiminez arrested 2nd time for criminal trespass



PERP WALK | Mark "Major" Jiminez was arrested for criminal trespass again after refusing to leave the Dallas County Records Building when he and his partner Beau Chandler were denied a marriage license. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Couples have 1st court hearing while supporters stage sit-in, march for marriage equality

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Four couples applied for marriage licenses in Dallas on Aug. 2 and after they were denied, one person was arrested for criminal trespass.

Supporters of Mark "Major" Jiminez and Beau Chandler marched from the County Records Building to the Crowley Courts building at 7 a.m. before the first hearings for the couple charged with criminal trespass in a July 5 arrest.

After the hearings, more than 20 supporters returned to the Dallas County Records Building where four couples including Jiminez and Chandler applied for licenses. Each couple was told, "I cannot issue marriage licenses to same-sex cou-

ples."

Mackenzie Lechtenberg said she applied for a license with Elizabeth Clinton to show support for equality. She said she is straight and engaged to a man.

"I feel horrible that the people I love are denied rights just because they're a different sexual orientation than I am," she said.

Julie Van Zandt is a lesbian who also tried to get married.

"It's ridiculous for people to tell me who I can love," Van Zandt said. "It's stupid we have to do this in 2012."

After each of the couples was denied, they sat in the line but were told by building security to move behind the entry.

"They put us at the back of the bus," Jiminez said. "Out on the muffler."

While the rest of the group sat behind the line, Jiminez handcuffed himself to the pole at the front of the line.

He could have been arrested for blocking a passage, but Dallas police LGBT liaison Sr. Cpl. Laura Martin said that as long as people could get through, he wouldn't be arrested for that. Instead, deputies waited until 4:30 p.m. when the building closed and again arrested Jiminez for criminal trespass.

Earlier in the day, Jiminez and Chandler made their first court appearances for the July 5 arrest. Neither was asked to enter a plea. Their cases are assigned to separate courts but they will probably be moved to the same court but with separate trial dates. Chandler's next court date is Sept. 26 and Jiminez's is Aug. 23.

Attorney Dax Garvin called this first appearance a cattle call. He said this was mostly procedural so the judge would know attorneys have been retained and to set a date for the defendants to enter a plea and the district attorney to offer any plea deals.

Attorneys and the couple agreed that they

would both plead not guilty.

Garvin is an Austin attorney who is also defending three people charged during a similar protest at the Travis County courthouse on Valentine's Day.

Kim Butler is a Fort Worth attorney who deals with LGBT family issues with a specialty in criminal misdemeanor cases.

Jiminez and Chandler waited outside the courtrooms wearing white ribbons as their attorneys spoke to the judges in the cases. The ribbons are part of the white knot campaign.

"We should be able to tie the knot," Chandler said.

After coming out of the courtroom, Garvin said the actual charges had still not been filed.

As news crews interviewed the couple in the corridor, support among other people waiting for other cases grew.

"My brother is trying to marry his partner and having trouble," said Gloria Parr, a woman carrying her baby.

She hugged the couple and told them that her brother and his partner had been together for years. They live in Waco.

As Chandler and Jiminez walked toward the escalator together holding hands, she said, "That's so sweet."

Others voiced support as the couple left the court and expressed shock that they faced up to six months in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

While the couple was in court, protesters lined Riverfront Boulevard in front of the Crowley Courts building holding marriage equality signs. Keith Campbell traveled from Philadelphia for the protest.

"In my opinion, 180 days is an unjust sentence for civil disobedience," Campbell said.

Dusty Mathews came from Odessa to support the couple. He said he was involved in a marriage equality rally in his hometown last year and also wanted to show support.

A Boy Scout in full uniform waved a Pride flag in front of the Crowley Courts building.

Clinton McBride said he was an Eagle Scout from the Circle 10 Council in northeast Texas and Oklahoma. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009 and said he was not gay, just protesting. He said he wasn't particularly concerned if the Boy Scouts decide to throw him out.

"If they want to do that, it's their choice," he said.

Boy Scouts Spokesman Deron Smith said the organization doesn't have a policy or opinion on gay marriage so any member who appears at a rally would be expressing a personal opinion.

He said the Scouts have a policy about political rallies for wearing the uniform for a presentation of colors, not partaking in the rally. Since the Scout was an employee at a camp, Smith said it would become an employee issue that could be taken up with a local branch for discussion and possible discipline. ■

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localbriefs

Fruit Bowl benefits HRC

Rock'n Bowl is this year's spin on the annual Fruit Bowl tournament.

Dress like a country or pop star and come ready to bowl. Prizes will be awarded for costumes, as well as bowling scores and team spirit. Patti Le Plae Safe is the hostess.

A silent auction and a special prize game all help raise funds for Human Rights Campaign.

"I can't wait for this event," said marketing committee member Lori Walker. "It's great that they have made it family-friendly and an all-

around good time for everyone! Don't forget your blue suede shoes!"

Bowling takes place in two waves. Family wave registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Registration for an individual bowler is \$25, \$100 for a team of four and \$125 for a team of five. Bowling goes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wave 2 registration is at 1:30 p.m. with bowling from 2-4 p.m. Individual bowlers pay \$30, \$120 for teams of four and \$130 for teams of five.

Fruit Bowl takes place on Aug. 12 at 300 Dallas, 3805 Belt Line Road, Addison. ■

Deaths



Bill Larkie

Bill Larkie, 55, died on July 8. He was born in Hawaii and moved a lot as a child because his father was in the military. He worked as a product support and implementation manager for Campbell Resources.

Larkie enjoyed many hobbies. Since 1997, he has been a member of Classic Chassis Car Club Dallas and owned numerous collector cars through the years. He also

enjoyed being on the water and co-piloting a plane and flying with his friend Jens. He also took great pride remodeling his unique round house at Cedar Creek Lake and was a talented country dancer and roller skater. He had an adventurous spirit and took advantage of every opportunity to set out to see the wonders of the world.

Larkie taught by example. He was honest, loyal and lived his life with great integrity. His sense of humor and witty personality always brought a smile.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister.

Donations in his memory may be made to Resource Center Dallas or the SPCA of Dallas.

Services are scheduled to celebrate his life at Resource Center Dallas on Aug. 11 at 3 p.m. ■

pet of the week / Arturo

Arturo and his brother were transferred from a local shelter and brought to Operation Kindness to find a forever home. They are both gorgeous boys with different personalities and great attitudes. They are young and have not been taught all the manners they need, but with a little work you can have an awesome dog. His brother has been adopted and now Arturo is waiting for his forever home. He walks well on leash, is great with kids and is an all-around great dog. Just look at those ears! Come down and see for yourself today!

Arturo and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



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Veasey defeats Garcia in District 33 runoff



VEASEY VICTORY | Marc Veasey hugs a supporter after the runoff results came back declaring him the winner with 53 percent of the vote Tuesday, July 31. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

State Rep. Marc Veasey promises to continue his strong LGBT support if elected to Congress, turns attention to general election

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

State Rep. Marc Veasey won the highly sought Democratic nomination for the new Congressional District 33 on July 31.

Veasey and former state Rep. Domingo Garcia faced off in a runoff after a pool of 11 candidates narrowed down to just them in May. Veasey won the runoff with 53 percent of the vote.

The cheers and applause for Veasey's victory on Tuesday night were explosive but Veasey reminded the crowd that the work was not over, as he will face Republican Chuck Bradley of Fort Worth in the Nov. 6 general election. The district is heavily Democratic.

Veasey thanked his supporters after his win, reminding them that amid the racial and

county separations during the race for the district, which encompasses many minorities including some of the most heavily LGBT precinct in Tarrant and Dallas counties, that the race was always about "representing North Texas fairly and honestly."

Domingo Garcia told Dallas Voice that he was proud of the support he gained, especially with 70 percent of the vote in Dallas County. He said coming within a close margin, he would review the numbers closely and decide whether to run again for office in the future.

"I'm really proud of the effort that our volunteers and campaign put in," he said. "We had terrific support from the LGBT community."

Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats President Felipe Gutierrez was a personal supporter of Veasey who joined in celebrating his victory.

Veasey was a strong LGBT ally during his time in the Texas House, and Garcia was also an ally while he served on Dallas City Council.

Gutierrez said that while both Garcia and Veasey showed strong support for LGBT issues in the past, Veasey stood out as the best candi-

■ **VEASEY**, Page 11

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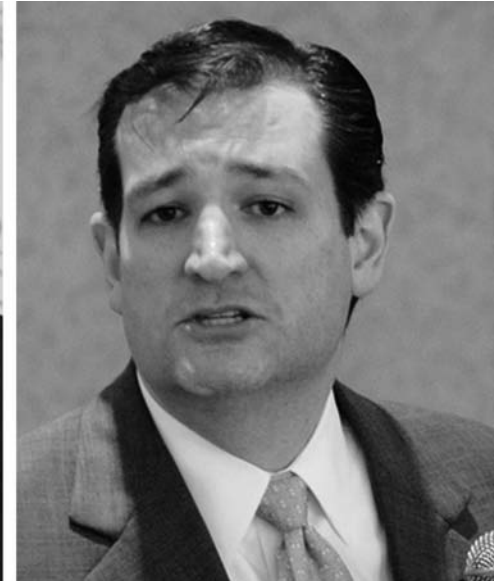
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Incumbents fared poorly in runoffs



David Dewhurst



Ted Cruz

Dewhurst is the highest profile Texas political veteran who did not succeed in his bid for new office

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Incumbents fared poorly in July 31 runoff elections. Low turnout may be to blame for wins by some of the more extreme candidates.

Equality Texas Deputy Executive Director Chuck Smith said that the results of the runoff elections were examples of what can happen when only 7 percent turn out to vote.

"A lot of incumbents were turned out of office and replaced by tea party people," he said. "If people sit on the sidelines, it allows races to be decided by the few people who participate."

Incumbents fared poorly not only in re-election runoffs but also in races for different offices.

That was the case with Ted Cruz who won the Republican nomination for Senate over David Dewhurst, who has served as lieutenant governor

since 2003.

And Rep. Warren Chisum, an author of Texas' constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, lost in his run for the Railroad Commission.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Omar Narvaez called Tuesday a bad day for Republican incumbents.

"Ultraconservatives have taken over Texas," he said.

The exception to that may be Dallas, where moderates prevailed in two closely watched races.

In state House District 114, Jason Villalba beat tea party-backed Bill Keffer. Villalba has visited gay Republican groups in Dallas and is considered a big-tent Republican. Keffer served in the House from 2002-2006.

In the race for a seat on the State Board of Education, Tincy Miller trounced Gail Spurlock. George Clayton, the incumbent, was outed as gay last year and came in third in the May primary. In 2010, Clayton beat Miller. He is planning a write-in candidacy.

Spurlock, who ran on a platform of abstinence-

■ **INCUMBENTS** Next Page

GOP gains 2 gay precinct chairs

Gay Dallas GOP leader Rob Schlein won his precinct chair race after beating Homer Adams by five votes in the far north Dallas precinct 2041.

Adams, the husband of Eagle Forum President Cathie Adams, known as one of the most anti-gay voices in Dallas, has been precinct chair for the past 12 years. Schlein lost to Adams by three votes in 2010.

Schlein said he felt "pride in my personal accomplishment, and pride in my neighbors who have, in majority, decided that the hateful ways of the Adams' are no longer acceptable in one of the most staunch and reliable conservative precincts."

In Tarrant County, gay Republican William Busby won in South Fort Worth's precinct

4256. The 20-year-old said he decided to run because the current chair has served for more than a decade and has rarely attended important events and committee meetings in the past year.

While open about his sexuality, Busby said he won the race without his opponent running an anti-gay campaign, despite few gay Republicans being open in his political circles.

"I'm pretty much one of the few," he said, adding that his stronger presence in the party will help change any anti-gay attitudes. "I think it helps to bring openness to the party."

Busby is one of the few openly gay Republicans elected in Tarrant County, if not the first. And while he won with seven votes in a race that garnered 17 total votes, he said the impact was still important.

— Anna Waugh

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■ **VEASEY**, From Page 9

date because of his record, strong endorsements, personality and demeanor.

"Although I find Domingo Garcia a champion for a lot of our [LGBT] causes, I think voters in Dallas and Tarrant County made the right choice," he said. "He will stand for LGBT issues. His record shows that. He's going to stand for the blacks and the Hispanics and every minority group. I would be saying that if Garcia had won the nomination for District 33."

Tarrant County Stonewall doesn't endorse in the primary, but Gutierrez said it was evident that the group's members who regularly attend meetings were completely supportive of Veasey. The group will now vote to endorse Veasey in the general election, of which he said is now the focus of the campaign.

President of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Omar Narvaez said the runoff's results were "bittersweet." Garcia was endorsed by Dallas Stonewall in the primary, so he said it was a disappointment when Veasey won.

"Obviously we're disappointed that Domingo did not win, but we're grateful he ran and he has been an advocate for us in the past," he said.

Narvaez said the Democratic candidates that won and were not originally endorsed by Dallas Stonewall will have the opportunity to meet with the group with new questions in a screening process to possibly gain an endorsement in the general election. Since Veasey already reached out for the group's endorsement in the primary, Narvaez said he will be asked to come in for different questions by the end of August.

"We're already in conversations with him and the possibility of endorsing him in the future," Narvaez said. ■

■ **INCUMBENTS** From Previous Page

only education, ending bilingual education and the intrusion of the Obama administration in education, has only a high school education and lost in the runoff.

In other parts of the state, more extreme candidates triumphed.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth of New Braunfels was defeated by tea party favorite Donna Campbell. Wentworth was the only Republican senator to vote against pre-abortion sonograms.

But in District 59, Sid Miller, the author of the sonogram bill was also ousted by a doctor who billed himself as "pro-family, pro-life, pro-gun" and the only true conservative in the race.

In Tarrant County, Matt Krause, an attorney with the Liberty Institute, best known for defending a student's right to harass a gay teacher in class, beat incumbent Barbara Nash for the Republican nomination for the District 93 seat.

Narvaez said that Paul Sadler, who won the Democratic nomination for senator this week, will have a tough time in the fall election facing Cruz.

"It's a long-shot race because Sadler hasn't built a grassroots network yet," Narvaez said. "That's difficult to do with little to no money."

Smith blamed low turnout on dissatisfaction with both parties.

Stonewall president ties in precinct race

Stonewall President Omar Narvaez tied in his race for Democratic precinct chair in his northeast Dallas neighborhood.

He and incumbent Al Ortiz each received 16 votes.

"My understanding is there are several ways this could be resolved," Narvaez said.

The race could be decided by a game of chance such as a coin flip, roll of dice or card draw. Or the executive committee, made up of other precinct chairs, could vacate the election and choose a new chair.

Either way, Narvaez said he feels he did well against a 20-year incumbent.

"Of course, I wish I had gotten out one more voter," he said.

More than 1,000 people are registered to vote in that precinct and about 40 percent are Democrats.

— David Taffet

"A lot of people don't like what either party is saying," Smith said, noting the Democratic Party's lack of a full slate of state candidates and the Republican Party's infighting between mainstream and tea party factions. ■

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Dallas could gain gay councilmember



James Nowlin



Herschel Weisfeld

Several gay candidates eye heavily LGBT districts as they consider seeking election to fill 3 term-limited City Council seats in 2013

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

While it's still too early to officially announce their candidacy for City Council seats that will be open because of term limits, gay candidates are making their rounds to determine whether they should seek election.

District 2 Councilwoman Pauline Medrano, District 14 Councilwoman Angela Hunt and District 11 Councilwoman Linda Koop will reach the four-term limit in 2013, possibly making way for the next gay councilmember. Districts 2 and 14 are both heavily LGBT.

The City Council hasn't had an openly gay member since Ed Oakley stepped down to run for mayor in 2007. Prior to that, there was at

least one openly gay person on the council for 14 consecutive years.

Openly gay Dallas real estate developer and political newcomer Herschel Weisfeld is eyeing Medrano's seat.

"I feel like it's an opportunity for me to offer my experience to the city," he said.

While District 2 is traditionally a Hispanic district, Weisfeld said he had a strong Hispanic upbringing in The Valley and is bilingual.

"I believe the city of Dallas is ready for fair and equal representation without the color of your skin," he said. "I feel that I can represent the Hispanic community very fairly and very equally."

Weisfeld said his possible candidacy for the Council seat would go beyond ties to the Hispanic, gay and Jewish communities because he would represent the city's diverse culture. His involvement in the arts and homeless spheres, as well as crime watch as one of creators of the Oak Lawn Stakeholders Crime Watch group, help add to his diversity.

Weisfeld also said his sexuality is a "small

piece" of who he is and who he would represent, adding that it is of more importance to have qualified candidates than diverse ones, of which he said he is both.

"I think I have a cross of experience and exposure to a lot of arenas that makes me an ideal representative on the City Council," Weisfeld said. "I believe it's important that we have qualified candidates representing our community. The fact that I am gay adds another valuable commodity to who I am and who I represent as a city."

Although Weisfeld hasn't made any formal announcement on his candidacy either way, he said he is in the process of meeting with stakeholders to "understand and gauge what the needs and necessities are of the community and how I as a city councilmember can facilitate the needs of our community."

Another possible candidate for District 2 is Adam Medrano, a Dallas school board member for District 8 and Pauline Medrano's nephew.

Medrano said he's received "broad support" over the past year by people asking if he would run for the seat.

"I've thought about it. It's a possibility," he said. "I'm strongly considering it."

But Medrano works for the city's park department, so he said he'd have to quit his job in order to run for City Council, something he's also considered.

"I've considered it all," he said.

Openly gay candidate James Nowlin was among Hunt's challengers in 2011, when she sought re-election to her seat after considering a run for mayor.

Campaign mudslinging from both Hunt and Nowlin supporters divided the gay community as LGBT groups endorsed both candidates.

Nowlin said recently that he was "still assess-



John Loza

Casie Pierce

ing my options," if he decides to run again for the District 14 seat, adding that he'll maintain a strong campaign and backing.

"We ran a strong race last time and last election cycle my candidacy was taken very seriously," he said. "I was a very strong candidate and extremely proud of what my supporters accomplished. If I decide to run again, that

strength will be multiplied."

Although no one is rumored to be eyeing Koop's seat, Nowlin said he wouldn't consider moving to run unopposed. He said he sought the District 14's position because he was so deep-rooted in the district's community.

"District 14 is my home. It's the heart and the soul of the city," he said. "It's a dynamic district that calls for dynamic leadership and it's where my heart is."

A redistricting plan approved by the Council last year made many changes among districts including moving District 3 Councilman Scott Griggs into Delia Jasso's District 1. If they were forced to run against each other, it could cost the LGBT community an ally. There are rumors about a lawsuit challenging the plan, but Griggs declined to comment on the rumors or redistricting, saying he hasn't thought about running against Jasso.

"Right now I'm focusing on my constituents," he said. "There's still a lot to do in District 3."

Griggs gave the same answer about staying focused on his present constituents in reference to rumors about another redistricting plan to move Griggs' district into District 14 where Hunt is termed out next year.

Casie Pierce, a lesbian who ran against incumbent Carolyn Davis in District 7 in 2011, said she has considered running again next

year. She, too, said she wouldn't move because she loves her district.

"I'm just not sure. I'm still on the fence about it," she said about running.

Aside from the challenge of unseating an incumbent in a black district, Pierce said her being a lesbian increases her difficulty of gaining the votes of the district's socially conservative constituents.

"Even though people are pretty liberal in the district, they're Democrats, it's [the district's] kind of conservative on the gay thing," she said. "So, it's kind of hard for a lesbian to go up against that."

Former City Councilman John Loza, who served on the Council from 1997 to 2005 for District 2, said he expects to have many LGBT members on the Council in the future. He said he thinks the times are changing to where, even in Texas, an LGBT candidate could win a council seat in any Dallas district.

Echoing Loza's sentiments, Nowlin said diversity is always needed on the Council, but said he would want to win the seat based on his experience, not his sexual orientation.

"My background is a part of who I am but not all of who I am," Nowlin said. "I do believe that the Council could benefit from diversity but I'm certainly running based on my ability to serve and not on my background. I will run and win as the best candidate period." ■

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viewpoints

Food Fight

The Chick-Fil-A fight is about not doing business with a company that spends millions of dollars supporting organizations that actively work to take away rights

I guess it was inevitable. Eventually, I would have to cluck in on the Chick-Fil-A silliness, and that is just what it is, silliness.

First let me say, I have never eaten at a Chick-Fil-A. I have never liked the way they butcher the English language. Additionally, about the only time I ever was near one of the poultry purveyors stores was on a Sunday, and they are closed on Sunday, (which they claim is the Sabbath).

Now, I don't have a problem with a company running itself however it wants so long as it doesn't break the laws or discriminate against minorities. So the fact that Chick-Fil-A claims to run on biblical principals is fine. However, when the CEO of that chicken outfit starts taking his beef about LGBT people to the press, then it's time to start clucking.

Chick-Fil-A CEO Dan Cathy said in an interview when questioned about same-sex marriage, "I think we're inviting God's judgment when we shake our fist at him, you know saying, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage.' And I pray on God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we would have the audacity to try and redefine what marriage is all about."

When asked about his business he said, "...as an organization we can operate on biblical principles. So that is what we claim to be. Based on biblical principles, asking God and pleading with God to give us wisdom on decisions we make about people and the programs and partnerships we have. And He has blessed us."

OK, he is entitled to his opinion, and that's fine, but I don't have to do business with him, and I won't. End of story.

But I can't let this go without pecking at it a bit more. That whole thing about running his business on biblical principals really sticks in my craw. You see prior to converting to Christianity, I was raised in a Jewish household, so the Old Testament, what Jews call the Tanakh or just "the Bible" for short, is near and dear to my heart.

I also know from study of the scriptures and the Talmud that it is not a guide to running a



We Didn't Invent Christian Hate Organizations
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THE BEEF WITH CHIKIN | Fake Chick-Fil-A ads popped up on the Internet including this one that equates the company to Westboro Baptist Church.

business, especially one that sells fried chicken. The mere fact that Chick-Fil-A is open on Saturday, the real Sabbath, is testament to their screwing up on biblical principals. Add to that the menu for breakfast which includes not just bacon and pork sausage, but cream gravy and I defy Mr. Cathy to show me those foods being OK with the same Bible that he is pulling his principals from.

Mr. Cathy is picking and choosing his biblical principals to suit his business model, not the other way around and that is a grand hypocrisy that he shares with most "fundamentalists" in their pious condemnations of LGBT people. They have defiled the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament by trying to turn these books of collected wisdom and ancient spiritual teaching into a list of bumper stickers. He uses the old Baptist tradition of "sword verses" to slay his opponents with a quick biblical quote. The idea that just quickly pronouncing a few lines from the Bible will end an argument with a quick thrust is a completely bird-brained idea and just plain immature theology.

His statement is really a feathered pronouncement of bigotry and ignorance, and rather than calming the fuss, Cathy has brought down a whole flock of trouble. Companies like Jim Henson have severed business relationships and several cities have actually sent letters to Chick-Fil-A telling them in effect, "we don't need your business in our town."

It has even hatched a "kiss-in" protest to highlight the issue and I suspect it will not go away for several years.

Meanwhile, for LGBT people, boycotting Chick-Fil-A is a win-win situation. First, you don't give these folks your hard earned hen scratch, and second you stand to improve your cholesterol and waistline! Finding that kind of outcome in today's polarized world is as rare as hen's teeth.

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

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From palette to palate

Gay designer-cum-restaurateur
Ron Guest gets creative on
walls *and* plates

TACO KING | Ron Guest has designed spaces for other restaurateurs, but occasionally opens his own, as he did with Taco Republic. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

JOSE RALAT-MALDONADO | Contributing Writer
ralatmaldonado@gmail.com

It's not a long, yellow-corn tortilla road from interior designer to restaurateur. At least it wasn't for Ron Guest.

Guest has been the eye and hand behind the insides of many iconic Dallas restaurants. He's the fabulously queer mind responsible for the warm wood that makes the foie gras torchon at Toulouse richer, the Carrara marble tabletops that make Taverna's balsamic risotto with chicken rollatine sweeter; he had put the final tile touches on Sangria Tapas y Bar (and other Lombardi Family Concepts properties where he typically plies his design skills).

Guest began his career at a residential interior design firm in 1985 before he founded his own firm, Guest Group, in 1990. His intent was to build his residential portfolio.

Then came a commission to design Toscana restaurant in 1995; Franco Bertolasi's Mediterraneo at the Quadrangle followed in 1996. It took just two restaurant projects to realize living rooms and foyers weren't his calling; Guest needed banquet tables and private dining rooms.

"I knew I was now doing what I absolutely loved to do. So, I transitioned from residential to hospitality and haven't looked back," he says.

Eventually, even matching chairs with the proper caning pattern didn't cut it. Once inside the restaurant, it's difficult to not look past the four tops and at the poissonnier's station. He opened his own restaurant, Café San Miguel — which featured the style of

food the Kingsville, Texas, native grew up on — in 2005.

"I tried my hand at the restaurant business because at the time, there was not an option other than Javier's that represented true Mexican cuisine in a contemporary setting," he says. "It felt like a natural fit. Thus, Cafe San Miguel. The bug bit me, as they say."

Guest later sold his stake in the operation, moving on to other projects — mostly more designs. But his latest endeavor opened in January of this year: Taco Republic, a fast-casual concept offering specialty tacos, along North Central Expressway.

Another taqueria? Hardly. The gussied-up tacos served at the Richardson restaurant are more than highfalutin ingredients slapped into house-made tortillas and sold at a premium. Selections like the steak frites and "The Philly" tweak American dishes (or foreign recipes with wide popular appeal) and recast them as tacos. Guest's take on classic doesn't flirt with creativity to the point of being off-putting. The Thai Chihuahua's description reads like a warning of imminent cloying disaster sparked by a basement Chinese-American restaurant's poor attempt at diversity. What arrives, however, is a signature dish that embraces a sneaky heat and nectarous pork to create one of Dallas' finest tacos.

Just because he's a taco magnate, doesn't mean he's left the drafting board. Like his approach to design — "I listen," he says is a core value to his success — he realized customers in the suburbs need more than fancy tacos to nourish their Tex-Mex cravings.

Guest and his Taco Republic partners then supplemented the eatery's menu with enchiladas and margaritas; two weeks later, business increased by 30 percent.

Guest continues to work with the Lombardi clan. Most recently, Guest Group designed Bistro 31 in Highland Park Village, and the firm is designing a biergarten/grill-style concept in the Bishop Arts District for Alberto's daughter Sarah called Oak Cliff Mercantile across from Tillman's Roadhouse and utilize the El Padrino taco stand in front. (At the time Guest was interviewed, El Padrino had received a three-months notice to vacate the property.) He'll also design Lombardi's new Cafe Des Artistes, which Dallas Voice broke last week as opening in One Arts Plaza.

Guest has more culinary concepts in the planning stages but is keeping mum on them ... for now. Designers, like magicians — or chefs — have their secrets. Guest will keep us guessing and coming to whatever table his talent touches, be it taco or window treatments.



TaQUEERias: Five spots where you can get a great taco in the gayborhood

Before Oak Lawn was christened Dallas' gayborhood, it was known as Little Mexico. What remains of the ethnic enclave is now dominated by condos, clubs and restaurants, but teasers of the old nabe endure. They're found in the taco joints and eateries slinging south-of-the-border fare at the margins along the Crossroads.

Below are a handful of gayborhood-area taquerias that are still carrying on the culinary tradition of the old neighborhood, be they glitzy or hole-in-the-wall. When you're walking home from the bars, it's nice to keep a good taco joint in mind.

— Jose Ralat-Maldonado

El Tizoncito, pictured right. The third in a small, local chain of taquerias owned by Mexico City native Leo Spencer, this Lemmon Avenue spot offers traditional pork al pastor, prepared on the vertical spit called a "trompo." The *al pastor* is the foundation for El Tizoncito's signature dish, the *alambre*, finished on a flattop grilled and joined with bacon, poblanos and grilled onions. But before you dig into the choriqueso appetizer, a bubbling vermillion marriage of chorizo and cheese atop a trio of tortillas, your table will receive a epazote-scented black bean soup (frijoles charros) instead of hackneyed chips and salsa. El Tizoncito, meaning "little coal," will fire up your taste buds and cart them off to Mexico's capital.

5150 Lemmon Ave., Ste. 111. 214-521-0201, ElTizoncito.com.

Hermanos Cruz Restaurant. Hermanos Cruz gives the intrepid taco enthusiasts a gamey reward, lamb barbacoa. Because the rinky-dink hovel with little in the way of furniture design—empty display cases, cheesy pastoral scenes teetering on walls, is that plant fake?—has *nada* to provide when it comes to ambience. Studded with fat and sweating sweetly, one bite of the lamb and Dallas Tex-Mex institutions Ojeda's and Avila's restaurants up the road will become distant memories ... unlike that night at nearby Kaliente with what's-his-name.

4525 Maple Ave. 214-586-6778.

Mia's Tex-Mex. It's all about the beefy bits at Mia's Tex-Mex, a Dallas icon since 1981. The specialty Butch's Original Brisket Tacos platter is required pre-Round-Up Saloon tank filler. A pair of soft brisket shares tortilla real estate with Jack cheese, onions, and poblanos served with brisket gravy and all the fixin's. Of course, any mention of Mia's can't leave out the Tuesday night chiles rellenos special with rice and beans. Reservations are strong recommended before karaoke, and you know where to get some fooder before Wild West Wednesdays.

4322 Lemmon Ave. 214-526-1020, Miastexmex.com.

Taco Diner. M Crowd's spiffy mod answer to taquerias, Taco Diner offers contemporary Mexican cuisine with more than 10 takes on the humble taco that are anything but. This location—one of six—anchors an inner corner of the West Village mixed-use development. The pastor, with its luminous citrusy and sour qualities is fine enough to crawl under the tortilla with. The Tacos Campeones (champion tacos) platter is hunky. The shrimp, moreover, isn't shrIMPY—if you know what we mean. Pair your dish with the Don Julio "Shaker" or the Mambo Taxi cocktails—the latter with frappe sangria and brandy. Get woozy, and rock your taco.

3699 McKinney Ave., Ste. 307 214-521-3669, MCrowd.com.

Tortas La Hechizera. From this freestanding restaurant near the intersection of Maple Avenue and Inwood Road come eats bantam and big. The tacos are average-sized jobs filled with fajita, carnitas, the standard meats. Meanwhile, sandwiches, like digit-sucking diversion pambazo (bolillo bread bathed in sticky red chile sauce then stuffed with potato, chorizo, queso and lettuce) are the sort that test jaw muscles along Maple Avenue taco district. Wash your meal down with a tamarind agua fresca.

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Keep on truckin'

To keep their food truck *and* their personal life running smoothly, partners Caroline Perini and Miley Holmes let a lot slide ... easy

JOSE RALAT-MALDONADO | Contributing Writer
ralatmaldonado@gmail.com

Six food trucks are gathered in the Sigel's Greenville Avenue location one Wednesday night, and the Easy Slider Truck is the only one with a steady line. The consistent business and breezy service is as welcoming as the adjacent truck seems abandoned. One customer knocks on the rig's exterior counter and utters a tentative, "Hello?" The question goes unanswered for several minutes. Eventually, all the trucks are turning tickets, but none are as busy as Dallas' first and only gourmet slider truck, owned and operated by partners Miley Holmes and Caroline Perini.

The couple, along with friend Darius Holley, is taking orders, making passing cracks, asking about on-hand ingredients.

"Eighty-six the Nutty Pig," Holmes calls out. They have exhausted their peanut butter supply.

The dwindling stock is in stark contrast the stress levels in the Easy Slider's culinary heart. The trio works in a Lilliputian space with a facility as stunning as the French Revolution — three ounces of Angus beef topped with prosciutto,



Gruyere, grilled red onions and a slather of Dijon mustard. They were meant to do this.

From the moment they met six years ago, Perini and Holmes knew they wanted to run a food truck. At the time, the two were working at the House of Blues in the West End: Perini as logistics manager, Holmes as a music hall supervisor. Instead of touring vans and Marshall stacks, Holmes and Perini traded in what they call

■ **TRUCKIN'**, Page 21

TAKE IT EASY | Perini, left, and Holmes turn the mini-burger into a gourmet experience — including a portobello slider, inset — in seven minutes flat. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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L+S dining

■ TRUCKIN, From Page 19

“the ultimate street food.” Few people, if any — we haven’t met one naysayer yet—are prone to disagree. One bite of the Sweet & Lowdown (beef, bacon, goat cheese and a smear of strawberry jam) and you’re hooked.

“During our soft opening at Double Wide, our very first customer returned three times for our sliders. I was shocked,” recounts Holmes. “That’s when I knew something good was happening.”

Negotiate the competing demands of a romantic relationship paired with a business partnership that’s going gangbusters took some adjusting. “At first it was difficult to switch off,” Holmes explains. “We used to talk sliders constantly. Now, when we’re off, we’re off.”



“You just make it work,” adds Perini. Whatever they’re doing is working professionally and personally, but Holmes and Perini are taking it in stride, never identifying as pioneers. “We hope to keep our heads down, keep providing creative, high-quality food, and have a good time doing it,” they agree.

“Our priorities are creating quality food and great experiences, and it is very exciting to see people respond to that in a positive manner,” says Holmes. “We certainly aren’t the first women, gay women or couple to build a successful business. It has become obvious that our fans identify with us as people, which is super cool. If we can inspire one person out there to pursue the wacky dream job that they were born to do, it’s worth it!”

Follow the Nutty Pig at EasySliderTruck.com.

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Magic happens when you walk into the door of Chocolate Secrets. Maybe it’s not as over-the-top as the Willy Wonka Factory, but it welcomes you with a neighborly sense and a tapestry of personalities from the general manger to the house chocolatier. And that’s all before even getting to the chocolate.

“Oh that makes me so happy you say that,” owner Pam Eudarc-Amiri says.

The former attorney opened the boutique sweet stop 10 years ago, eight spent in her current Oak Lawn location. But while the shop is located on the cusp of the upscale shops of Oak Lawn from Lemmon, the last thing you feel is any sense of frou-frouery. Eudarc-Amari wants this place to be an extension of home for everyone walking through the doors.

Chocolate Secrets may be the home to hand-painted truffles, delightfully-colored macaroons and gourmet ice cream (champagne floats are on the menu), but with a curriculum of classes (including like French lessons), wine pairings and live music, it’s more like an intimate haven in the gayborhood.

“To me this is a quiet place, a place where the answer is always ‘yes,’” she says. “If you wanna come here and sit and draw, study, eat chocolate or listen to jazz, yes, just come in and sit there and be happy!”

Eudarc-Amari speaks about her shop with heaps of enthusiasm that extends to her staff. She credits her West Indian heritage to the loose mood, which abounds with spacious furniture and board games, or café tables that conjure a Parisian bistro without a touch of stuffiness. And her team of employees feels more like a family than a staff.

Eudarc-Amari lets chocolatier Kate Weiser speak for the goods. They create about 70 percent of the items for sale in the shop with special fun molds — like footballs and Texas-themed items that have become a signature — all thanks to Weiser.

“Pam was primarily purchasing chocolate, before I came in. But I walked in here and was so



taken by it,” says Weiser, pictured with some of her confections. A former pastry chef at both Stephan Pyles and Nobu, she “loved the challenge of just working with chocolate. I can give Dallas something new.”

You can taste that in her Madagascar vanilla bean, or the bananas Foster bonbons that look like marbles, or the deep blue octagonal sea salt caramel bites. Sometimes, the hardest thing is bringing yourself to eat them — they look like tiny, organic works of art.

And if you’re trying to be good on your diet, Eudarc-Amari says don’t count out chocolate.

“I don’t market chocolate as an appetite suppressant, but it’s so good for you,” she says. “It has to be good quality chocolate, but I started out at a size 20 and now I’m aiming to a size 6!”

— Rich Lopez

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Rocco suave

Why hunky, hetero Cooking Channel star David Rocco dreams of gay Pride

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
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David Rocco is everything a gay man wants in a husband: Handsome, smart, funny, multi-talented and he can cook. And, unfortunately, straight. But that isn't about to stop him from getting a title he really wants: Grand Marshal of Pride. Dallas Pride, Toronto Pride, any Pride.

Before getting to that particular wish, let's start at the outset of Rocco's career, when his love for food first blossomed. The Italian-Canadian lived in a house with what he calls "cliché Italian family dinners."

"It was a bit dysfunctional," he laughs. "Yelling, kids running around, aunts, cousins — the whole extended family. One of the nice things I can say is that there was this inclusive factor. Everyone was at the table together. There wasn't an adult table where the adults had foie gras and steak and the kids sat at a small table with Kool-Aid and hot dogs."

Instead, they supped on traditional Italian favorites loaded with flavors from old family recipes prepared by his mother and grandmother. These weren't half-hour dine-and-dash meals — they lasted entire afternoons. It was during these marathon meals that Rocco first learned to cook.

"I love cooking. I'm not a formally trained chef, but that's very Italian. It's passed on. It's generational. You learn from osmosis," he says. "I think when you like to eat, you're more inclined to learn quickly."

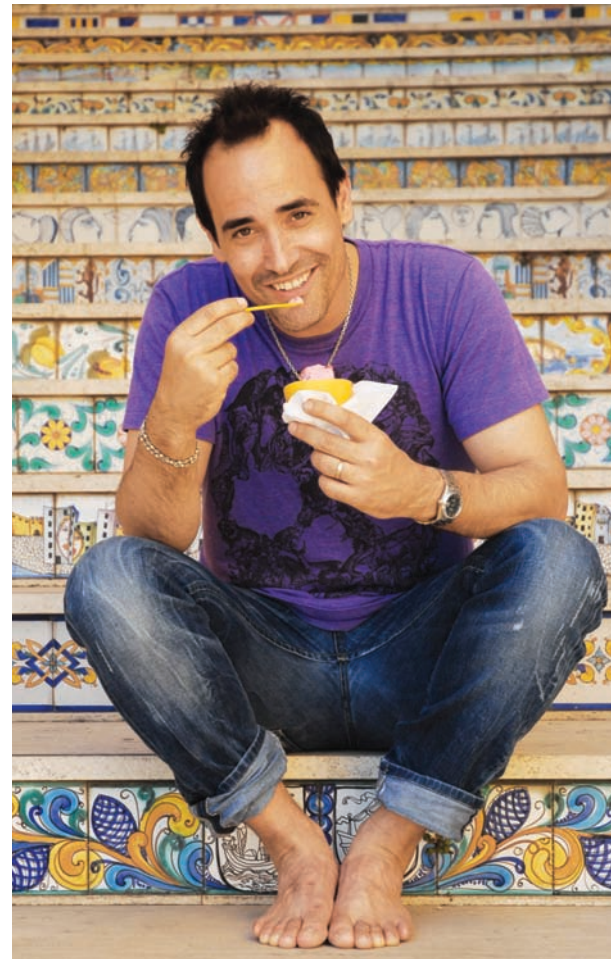
Fast forward to the 1990s. Rocco's pursuing work as a filmmaker, but inspiration from his heritage and his past experiences sends him in a whole new direction.

"I thought doing a cooking show would be a lot easier. I shot a cooking show on PBS, and I got hooked on the whole food cooking show racket."

His first series, *Avventura*, was followed by *David Rocco's La Dolce Vita*, which was shot entirely on location in Italy. His new series, *Amalfi Getaway*, just started airing on the Cooking Channel.

"Twelve years later and I'm still doing the racket," he says.

His next show will focus on the Italian influence in all types of cooking. Dallas restaurants



NOW YER COOKIN' | David Rocco lives 'La Dolce Vita' — and not just on his TV show.

could even be a possibility, after he enjoyed a recent meal as a local Tex-Mex restaurant that served a version of caprese salad.

As host of travel and cooking shows, Rocco has toured not just Italy "from the top of the boot to the bottom of the heel," but the world over. His message on living *La Dolce Vita* (which means "the good life") is finding the perfect tone in his current collaboration with Ruffino Winery, which allows him to bring that message to a wider audience while creating recipes that utilize a variety of wines from their portfolio.

"Ruffino is iconic Italian. It was the first Chianti to be imported into the U.S. almost 100 years ago. I think it's symbolic of Italian-American history. You look at films and you see the cliché godfather/Italian scene, but the straw decanter of Ruffino Chianti is always there," he says. "When they called me, it was a part of my history, something we always had growing up, and it also touches on what modern Italy offers



today.”

Then almost seamlessly, Rocco launches into a pitch of Ruffino products, hawking them with a sincerity indicative of his passion for everything he’s involved in.

“Ruffino prosecco is, like, 15 bucks. You can drink it everyday, but it’s also good for a wedding. You don’t have the guilt of a \$60 bottle of champagne, but you still have the glamour. It’s quality without expense. You can achieve the finer things by not trying to overcomplicate things,” he says.

Rocco has a new book, *Made In Italy*, featuring

plenty of recipes that exemplify the point-of-view that the finer things can be achieved at home. The photos alone should make any reader salivate.

That leads us to another type of salivation: That of people the world over, gay men and straight women alike, who dream of Rocco. His face reddens briefly at the discussion, but turns to a huge smile at the mention of a “Chefs with Hot Bodies” Internet forum where his physique — and his sexuality — are frequent topics of discussion.

“Who are they saying is hotter than me?” he

laughs, appearing genuinely curious. As for the gay thing, he shrugs that off with another laugh.

“I’m not gay, but it’s a non-issue,” he says. He notes that Matthew Smith, a publicist who frequently accompanies him on trips, has a favorite “gay Rocco” story.

“Matthew is my travel buddy and date. A few months back [we were on] one of those really packed flights. Matthew was in [boarding] group four, I was group one,” he explains. Then the gate agent recognized Rocco.

“I motioned to Matthew and said, ‘Sweet-heart, come on over.’ I told the gate agent, ‘We

just got married, can he board with me?’ People didn’t know if I was serious or not. And I think Matthew was more embarrassed about it than me.”

More recently, on a promotional trip for the Cooking Channel, he received a panicked phone call from the person trying to book his ticket. She informed him that it was Gay Pride in the city he was headed to and asked if he was OK with that.

His response? “I don’t care, but I *will* mind if I’m not the gay pride marshal. Make it happen.”

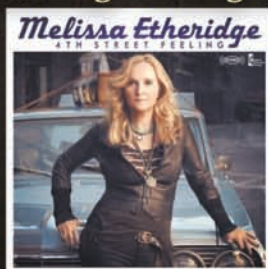
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Tasting notes

Monica's back in the gayborhood, gay-owned Roots Juices presses the flesh and Bishop Arts gets happy

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

It has been five years, almost to the day, since **Monica Greene** shuttered her Oak Lawn eatery, Ciudad D.F., a beacon of Mexico City-style cuisine amid the twinkling lights of traditional Tex-Mex. Now, Greene is back to the gayborhood with **Monica's Nueva Cocina and ME Lounge**, a dual purpose experiment at the ilume. On the Cocina side, Greene and exec chef Hector Hernandez will create Mexican-influenced dishes (not, though, a Ciudad retread Greene says — that's been done); on the ME side, smaller bites and drinks will carry the day.

The kitchen started serving last night with a soft opening, working out service and perfecting the dishes; it'll expand to lunch and dinner service as of next Tuesday before the formal VIP invitation-only grand opening the following week.

Look for a full-length interview with Greene — as well as a review of the new restaurant and lounge — in upcoming editions of Dallas Voice.

Brent Rodgers got the idea for **Roots Juices** while traveling the world. Most places where people drank fresh juice, he

noted, cold-pressed the fruits and vegetables to maintain the nutrients. Why not try it in Dallas? In just three months, the reaction has been strongly positive as his delivery service of freshly made juice combinations swimming in antioxidants has kept Rodgers and his staff busy.

The combo juices have names like Restore (it look like True Blood — a thick, dark glass of beets, carrots, aloe, apple and ginger, with a slight kick) and Glow (the best-seller, Rodgers says — a mix of apple, spinach, celery and lemon). They even offer a detox juice cleanse kit that will purify you in five days. Of course, they also make great mixers with vodka, Rodgers says ... just so you know. You can order and learn more at RootsJuices.com.

Artizone.com, an online market and home grocery delivery service, started this week offering free Downtown Dallas pickup service every Thursday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. behind **Spaghetti Warehouse**. The service will allow

Downtown residents "a no-fuss solution to getting locally sourced groceries," according to Amber Dietrich, Artizone.com's VP of marketing.

Artizone has also teamed up with **Green Grocer**, a Chicago-based concept set to open its "intimate market" on Lower Greenville Avenue near **Gloria's** and **Snuffer's**. The



GREENE'S DAY | Monica Greene's new dual-concept resto/lounge space moves into Cedar Springs almost five years to the day after she closed her acclaimed Mexico City restaurant Ciudad. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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store, which will feature local, artisan and organic foods, is set to open in September.

Those who are selective about groceries because of food allergies might want to check out the second annual **Gluten & Allergen Free Expo**, which returns to Dallas in September. The two-day event brings chefs, cookbook authors and nutritionists to the Westin Park Central where they can give tips for making dishes for those with food sensitivities that don't taste like shoe leather. (The top eight allergens? Milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy and wheat.) To order tickets online for the Sept. 8-9 event, visit Gfafxpo.com.


The **2012 Caesar Salad Competition** has announced the 10 chefs who will be competing for the best Caesar recipe. Among them are **Jeffery Hobbs of Sissy's Southern Kitchen**, **Andre Natera of Pyramid** and **Joel Harloff at The Second Floor**. The competition itself — a fundraiser for the American Institute of Wine and Food — will take place Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Westin Galleria. For details, visit Aiwf.org/dallasft-worth.

303 Bar & Grill in the Bishop Arts District offers *two* happy hours every weekday. Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., then again late night from 10 to midnight, you can enjoy specials like call drinks for \$4 and imported drafts for \$4.50, as well as specialty drinks for as little as \$3.50. 303BarandGrill.com.

Hotel ZaZa, home of the terrific **Dragonfly** restaurant, will expand its ballroom to double its current size by October. That should offer even more room for its wild monthly Sunday School Brunch. ■



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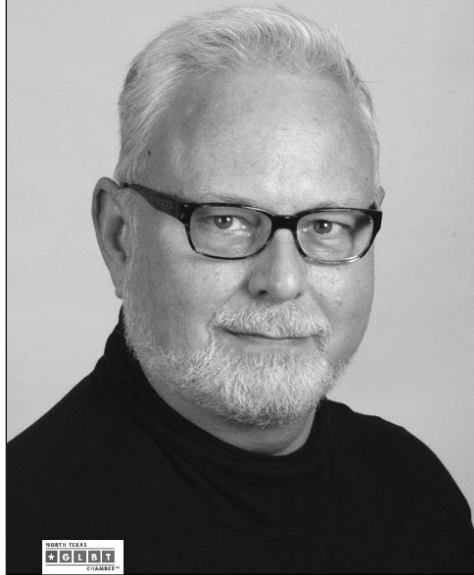
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L+S screen

Another kind of queen



Marie Antoinette indulges in something other than cake in 'Farewell, My Queen'

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

The historic line on Marie Antoinette, the Austrian royal who became the last queen of France, before losing her head after the revolution, is that she was so frivolous, pampered and detached from her subjects, she couldn't even tell they were starving. ("Let them eat cake!" she famously declared.) The new film *Farewell, My Queen* does little to dispel the idea of Marie (Diane Kruger) as flighty and self-centered, but what it does show is a woman of strong sexual energy. And it's not all directed at King Louis.

Director Benoit Jacquot wastes no time in portraying the queen as flirtatious toward her handmaid, Sidonie (Lea Seydoux); it's not 10 minutes in before Marie has snuggled up next to her, their breath heating each other so much even the frigid aristocrats who see them are scandalized by the sexual tension.

But her servant isn't the only one; rumors fly about a lady at court, Mme. Polignac (Virginie Ledoyen) is also carrying on an affair. Is Marie a predatory lesbian or merely the object or suspicion and gossip, merely a superficial flirt with attention deficit?

Jacquot and his co-screenwriters begin the film late in the life on the monarchy — long after the murmurs about Marie and Polignac had become common knowledge — at a time when the queen was on the brink of being marginalized. The story is really told from the perspective of the impressionable but quickly wise Sidonie, who seemingly has the trust of everyone from

the sexy gondolier to powerful royals. Through her, we interact not only with Marie Antoinette in her chambers, but the people in the streets (and in the candle-lit halls of the palace) and the entire French Revolution.

Jacquot's suggestive sexuality is soon eclipsed by the day's politics; it all plays out amid the rich, Vermeer-like lighting and glowing earth tones. Still, it plods along with characters engaged in up-against-the-wall sex that it look as if they were designed for the covers of the bodice-ripper pulp fiction for which they were named. It's like *Downton Abbey* in French.

And yet, not nearly as good as that TV show. Its beauty and the uniqueness of the insights into the

queen aside — and despite a strong performance by Kruger — the pacing and structure are derivative from almost every period film set in an era when women wore hoop-skirts and men dressed in white stockings. Indeed, few films since *Dangerous Liaisons* have come close to capturing the intensity and energy of the era. *Liaisons* itself was exceptionally racy, too ... and that was almost 25 years ago.

I can't help but feel that if the story of *Farewell, My Queen* started earlier, and could have been developed outside the insanity of the revolution, it might have shown more insights into the nature of Marie Antoinette's personal life. Ultimately, it's as shallow as we have come to feel about the queen herself, where surfaces mean too much. ■



FAREWELL, MY QUEEN

Diane Kruger, Lea Seydoux,
Virginie Ledoyen. Rated R.
100 mins. In French with
subtitles. Now playing at
Landmark's Magnolia Theatre



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To read an interview with Gina Gershon, co-star of *Killer Joe* opening today, go to Instant Tea at DallasVoice.com.

OFF WITH HER HEAD | The French queen Marie Antoinette (Diane Kruger, above right) flirts with other women, causing a scandal, in the beautiful but ultimately superficial period drama 'Farewell, My Queen.'



Friday 08.03

DMA exhibit explores Mesoamerica

The ancient culture of Southern Mexico, including the patron diety Quetzalcoatl, is the subject of an elaborate new exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art, *The Legacy of the Plumed Serpent*. The collection of Mesoamerican codices, textiles and other precious items just opened, but will be on display through November.

DEETS: Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Nov. 25. \$14 special exhibit fee. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Monday 08.06

Liz Mikel has the blues; just listen

Liz Mikel spends her night off from appearing in Dallas Theater Center's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by performing a different kind of music: The blues. The B-way veteran sings Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Moms Mabley and other greats in her concert show entitled *A Pigfoot and a Bottle of Beer*.

DEETS: The Blue Room at South Side on Lamar, 1409 S. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. 214-428-4848. SouthSideonLamar.com.

Thursday 08.09

Drag Racers Carmen & Manila play

For a while now, DJ Redeye has called the new It'll Do club his home, and he's teaming up for a week for a special show featuring Drag Race finalists Carmen Carrera, pictured, and Manila Luzon, as hosts.

DEETS: It'll Do Dancing Club, 4322 Elm St. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.



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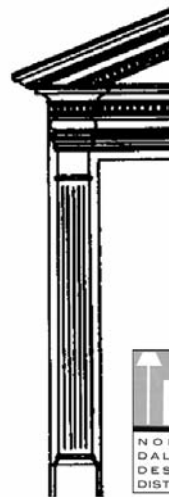
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FRIDAY 08.03

THEATER

Avenue Q. The queer-loving puppet play takes the underground space of Theatre 3 in this local production. Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. Through Sept. 16. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Importance of Being Lovely. MBS Productions brings back drag queen Lovely Uranus in this new comedic misadventure. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Aug. 11. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

SATURDAY 08.04

COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Meet at the rec house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling monthly program helps those who have lost an animal cope with their loss. Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center at 2400 Lone Star Drive. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

SUNDAY 08.05

COMMUNITY

Youth First Texas Collin County. Group for LGBTQ youth and allies up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road. Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m..

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

MONDAY 08.06

COMMUNITY

Unwired Dallas. Group of 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.

MUSIC

Liz Mikel: A Pigfoot and a Bottle of Beer. Liz Mikel performs the blues. Blue Room at South Side on Lamar, 1409 S. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. 214-428-4848. SouthSideonLamar.com.

TUESDAY 08.07

COMMUNITY

Sista to Sista support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center. Meets every first, second and third Tuesday. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 204. AOC.org.

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.

WEDNESDAY 08.08

COMMUNITY

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.. 4-9 p.m. 214-879-0400.

BROADCAST

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

THURSDAY 08.09

COMMUNITY

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

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

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. 214-455-7316.



WIN A TRIP DOWN UNDER | Out & Equal's annual signature event comes to Times Ten Cellars Thursday.

One Night Down Under with Out & Equal—DFW.

The group's annual fundraiser and mixer for its scholarship fund includes samples of wines, cheeses and other bites, plus prize drawings, live music and a live auction of tickets on American to Australia! Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect Ave., 6-8 p.m. \$40.

this week's solution

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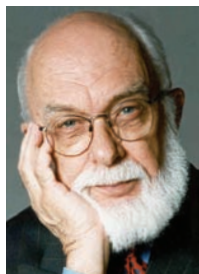
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



James Randi, known professionally as "The Amazing Randi," turns 84 on Tuesday. Famed as a magician and illusionist, but also as a debunker of the paranormal (he's offered a reward if anyone could prove psychic powers, which has never been claimed), he came out as gay only in 2010.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Friends mean well with their promises, so try to be kind and forgiving when they don't come through. Perhaps, just maybe you were expecting more than they were offering? Be careful not to reveal sexual secrets, unless you want to create some more.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Worries that have been lurking in the back of your mind are moving to your mouth. For your own sake — and everyone else's — be careful who you share that with. Conversations with your partner can open up problems that need work.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The velvet glove isn't fooling anyone — everyone sees your iron fist. Go easy on yourself and everyone around you. A heart-to-heart with a trusted friend or therapist, can get you in balance.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Life feels like trying to win the Indy 500 with your parking brake on. If you let it, the tension will only get worse and worse. Consult with a spiritual (or psychological) authority.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

There will always be a part of you that wants to be somewhere else. Don't let that stop you from settling in with the one you love. A partner will teach you more than travel.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

You're pushing ahead harder in your endeavors, but something's holding you back. Distinguish between necessary structure and dead weight. Advice from your partner could make life easier.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Don't get ahead of yourself. You can master the great ideas, but you need to start from the basics. That might mean reviewing what you think you know and finding new approaches.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Recent problems can feel overwhelming, but answers and order will come. Intuition is better than logic, though you need both. Keep asking yourself: What's the responsible thing to do?

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

You can hardly help but to push too hard. Hitting a limit in your efforts with your partner will help you clarify your capacities. It can also be a make-or-break time for the partnership.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

The longer you keep smoothing things over at home, the bigger it will backfire. Resentments and anger will come out so face them squarely and deal with them. Honesty can work out.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

With your ruler Mercury turning direct, expect everything you've been wanting to say to be heard. So will a lot that you wanted to keep under wraps.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

As much as your dreams do come true, resist the impulse to fret over those that don't. Be mature about what you have. There's a difference between dedication and stubbornness.

THIS WEEK

Venus entering Cancer brings out domesticity, familial affections and good cooking. Easy on the sweets! Mercury quincunx Neptune brings a last burst of madness (enlightenment?) as he turns direct. It will all clear up soon.

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

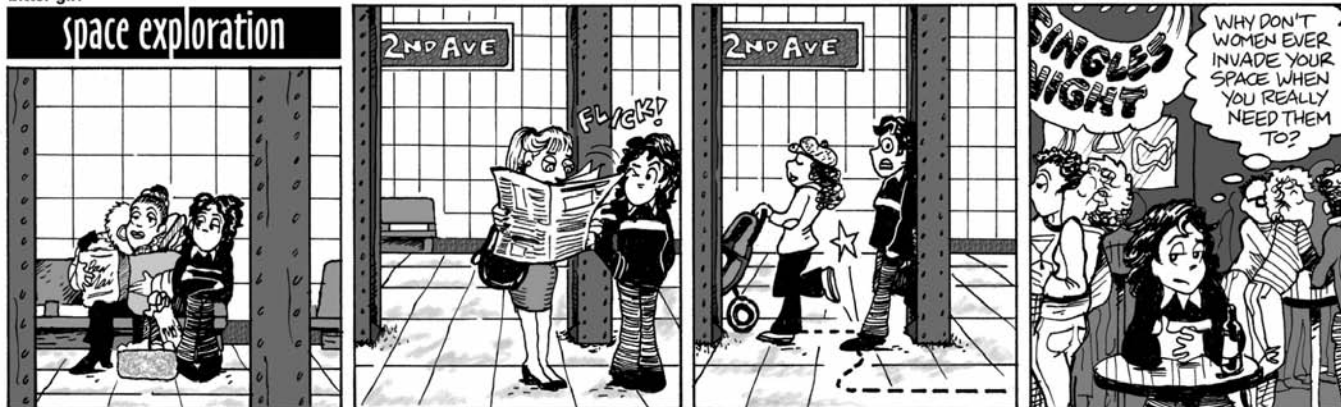
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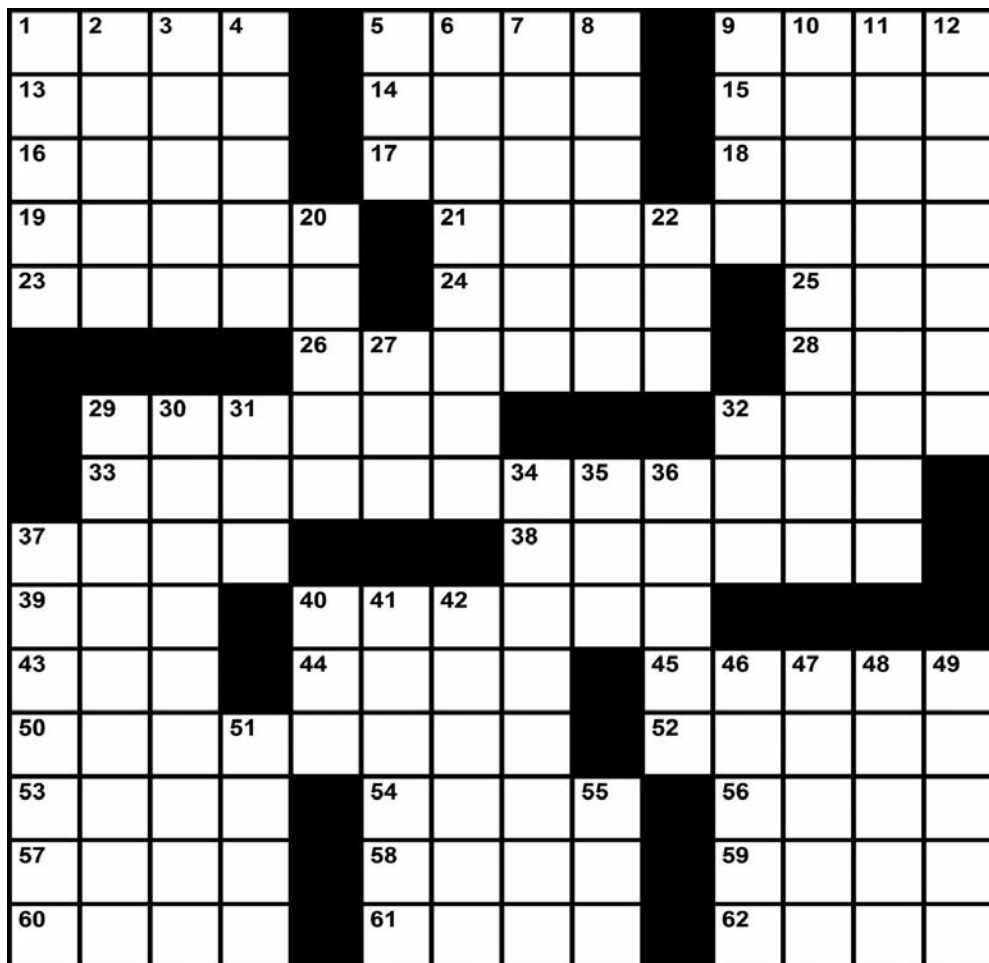
bitter girl



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Magic Carpet Ride

Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 AZT, e.g.
- 5 Roadies' burdens
- 9 Performed like a top
- 13 Rock's longtime companion
- 14 Man in a skirt, perhaps
- 15 Coastal raptor
- 16 Nick was his master
- 17 160 rods
- 18 Prefix meaning "middle"
- 19 With 21-Across and 33-Across, Ride up in the sky
- 21 See 19-Across
- 23 "Look but don't touch" type
- 24 It was gauche, for Debussy
- 25 Mont. neighbor
- 26 What some did at Stonewall
- 28 Summer setting in Ore.
- 29 Encourage
- 32 Tendency to get pissed
- 33 See 19-Across
- 37 Prefix with physics
- 38 Mounts the soapbox
- 39 "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" mountain

Down

- 40 Beat up on
- 43 "Xanadu" band, for short
- 44 Narrow walk
- 45 The Seven-Year Itch costar with Monroe
- 50 Challenger (vehicle of 52-Across) and others
- 52 Late NASA astronaut Ride
- 53 Six years for a senator
- 54 Many miles away
- 56 Peter the Great, for one
- 57 Internally pink
- 58 Stable female
- 59 Prisoners do it
- 60 Ruler of Valhalla
- 61 Makes tats
- 62 Salty bodies

Down

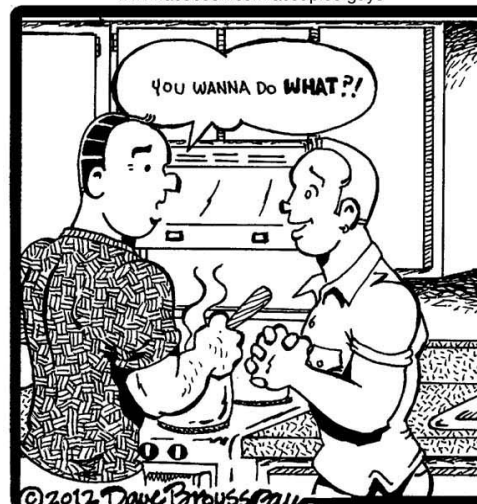
- 1 NFL source of young tight ends
- 2 LGBT rights activist O'Donnell
- 3 Too-too
- 4 The ___ Menagerie
- 5 Turkish title of honor
- 6 Feather, to Yankee Doodle
- 7 Learner's license
- 8 Slob's napkin
- 9 Sweet opening?
- 10 Situation of peril
- 11 Loosens a strap on a stallion
- 12 Nursery denizen
- 20 Nero's land
- 22 Dreaded ink color
- 27 Saturn model
- 29 Part of a full erection?
- 30 Jeopardy! category
- 31 Thurman of Even Cowgirls Get the Blues
- 32 Club for swingers
- 34 Where to find lions and tigers in pairs
- 35 Hindu title of respect
- 36 Reacts to a scare, perhaps
- 37 Copland, for example
- 40 Quick on the uptake
- 41 Meat stuffed in a hero, perhaps
- 42 Edberg of tennis
- 46 Number of bulbs
- 47 Borden bovine
- 48 Andean pack animal
- 49 Ancient Greeks plucked them
- 51 Some Feds
- 55 Hi-___ monitor



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K.C., C.Y. and Tammy at Brest Friends Club.



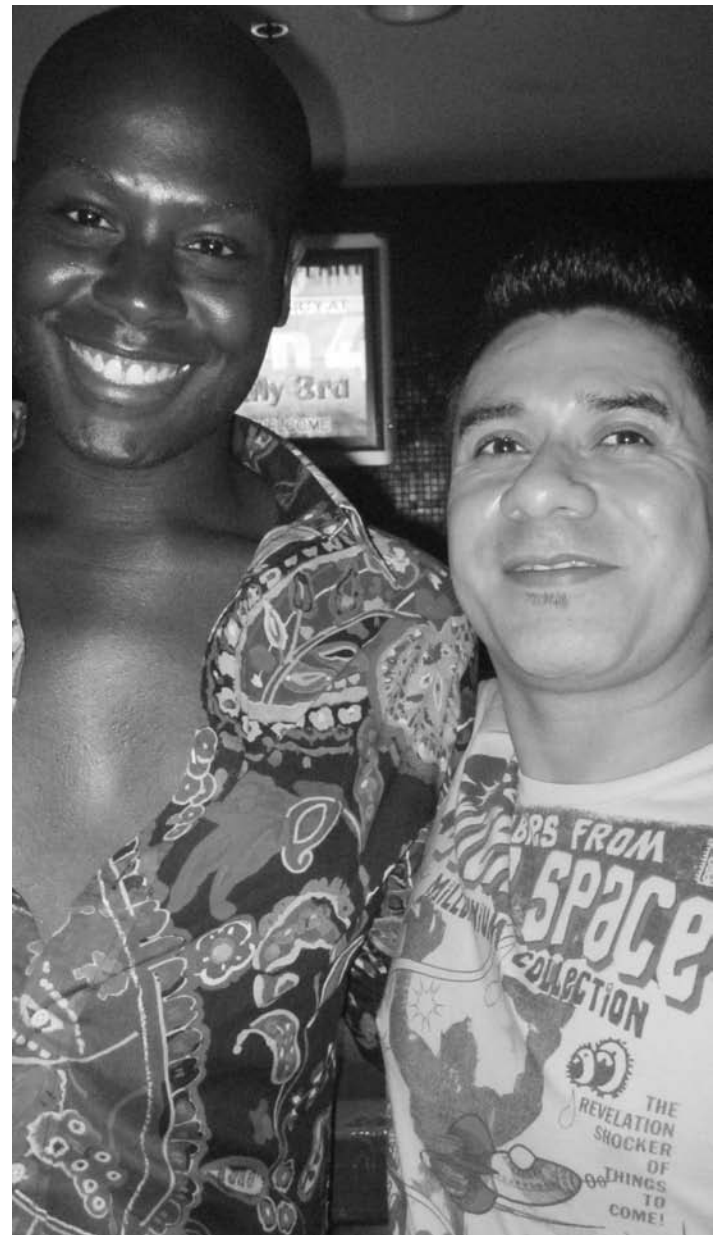
Girls' night out at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

After you go kiss someone at Chick-Fil-A today, there lots of other things to do this weekend Come see the bois at **Sue Ellen's** tonight at 10:30 in **Too Cool for School Mustache Envy Drag Kings Show** in the **Vixin Lounge**Then it's a rockin' weekend at Sue's with **Rachel Stacy** performing Saturday night and **Fish Fry Bingo** Sunday....The **DFW Sisters** raise money for their Pride float for the Dallas and Fort Worth parades with a car wash in the parking lot behind the **Round-Up Saloon** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday Drop by **The Curtain Club** Saturday for **The Dallas Battle of the Bands** finals. Listen to the top 12 Dallas bands as they jam for the title from 4-11 p.m. then put your hands together as the winning band is chosen at the end with audience applause Stop in at for some team spirit Sunday at **The Round Up's** annual **Sendoff Party** for Dallas' five softball teams heading to **2012 World Series**. Get ready to spend some dough on auction items, raffles and an underwear auction. All proceeds will help with their travel expenses While you're there, don't forget to have yourself a drink (or two or three) at **The Round Up's** 12th serving station, opening thia weekend and serving the game room and main bar. There will be drink specials and a hot new bartender to drool over **It'll Do Dancing Club** in Deep Ellum hosts a gay dance party with music by **Redeye** hosted by **Carmen Carrera** and **Manila Luzon** Aug. 9 at 9 p.m.

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



Ronnie and Wesley at Cerries.



Friends at Station 4.



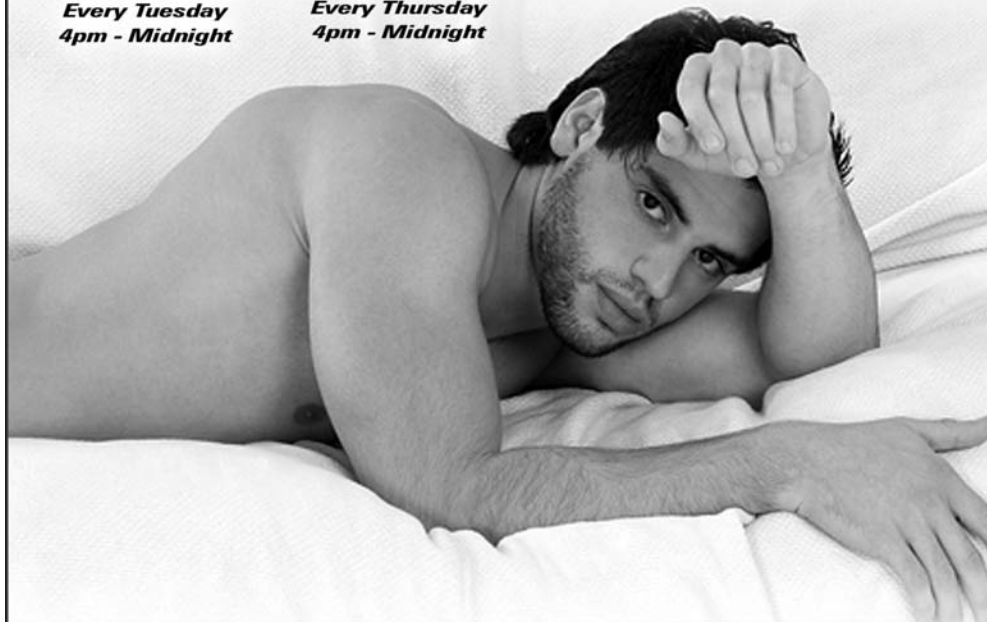
Chad and Anna at the Round-Up Saloon.



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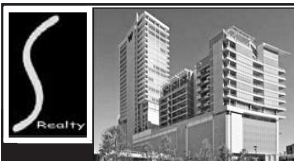


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