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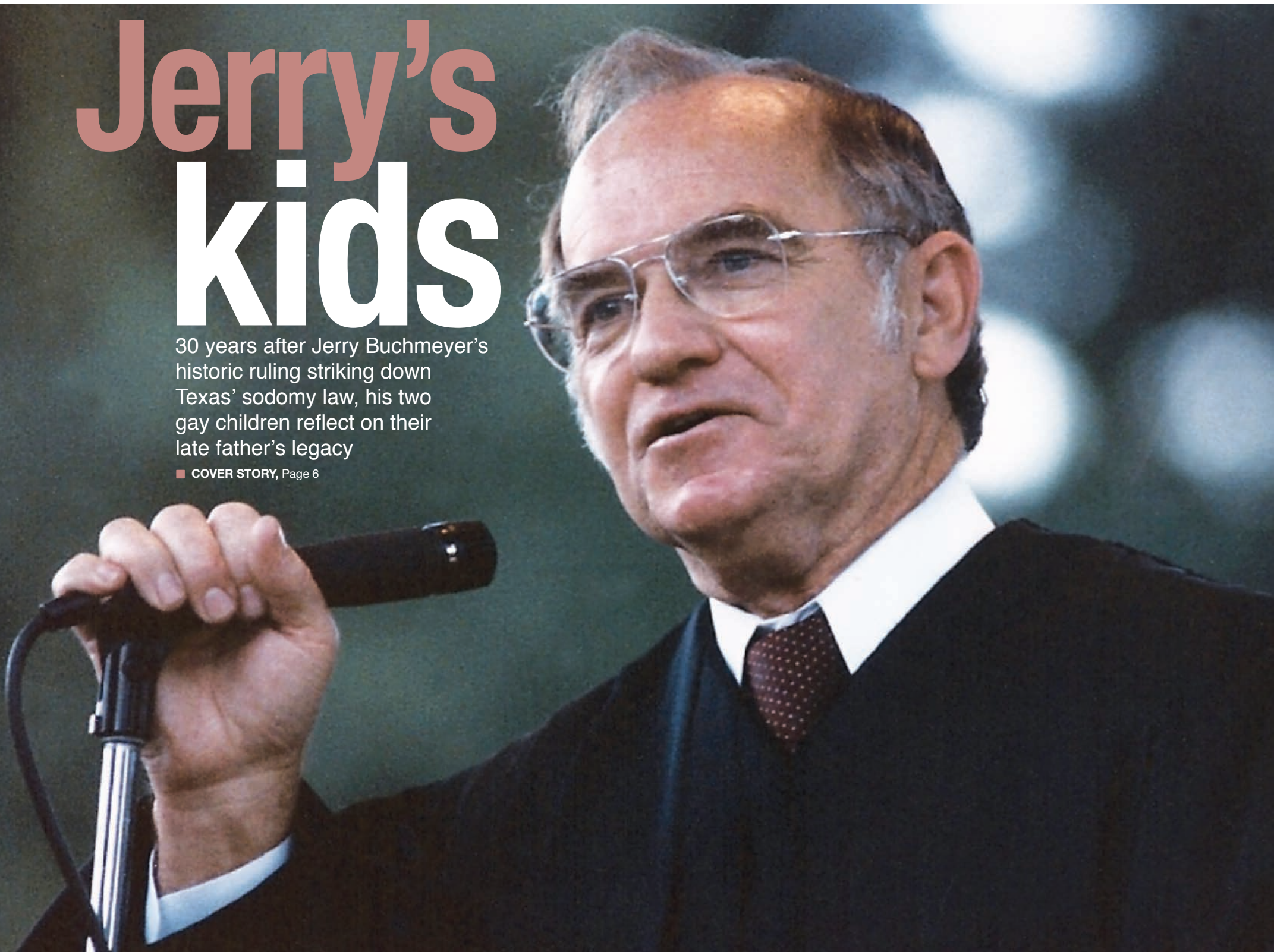
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# Jerry's kids

30 years after Jerry Buchmeyer's historic ruling striking down Texas' sodomy law, his two gay children reflect on their late father's legacy

■ COVER STORY, Page 6







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## instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea

### DPD probes Chick-fil-A incident

A Dallas police sergeant has been transferred to the jail after he allegedly made inappropriate comments to two lesbian patrol officers concerning Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day last week.

Sgt. Mark Johnson, a 12-year-veteran, has been assigned to the jail pending the outcome of an internal affairs investigation, according to Assistant Chief Michael Genovesi. The two lesbian officers complained after Johnson placed a Chick-fil-A bag in front of them on Aug. 1 and said something about having eaten at the restaurant.

Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day, organized by anti-gay former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, was designed to show support for Chick-fil-A's opposition to same-sex marriage. And the lesbian officers said they felt Johnson, their supervisor, was trying to send them a message. Later during a meeting, Johnson read an announcement sent out by Genovesi concerning how officers were to handle a gay kiss-in planned at Chick-fil-A restaurants last Friday. The kiss-in was organized by members of the LGBT community in response to Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day. As Johnson read the announcement, he was looking at the lesbian officers. Feeling intimidated, they left the meeting early.

"I would reiterate that we do take any type of discrimination or harassment issue seriously," Genovesi told Instant Tea. "I'm optimistic that the investigation will ferret out what happened on this, and we'll take action if action is called for."

Genovesi said he spoke with both the lesbian officers and Sgt. Johnson after being notified about the incident by a lieutenant from the Southeast Patrol Division, where the incident took place.

"There's some overlap where they seem to be in some agreement, but their stories also differ as far as who said what and when," Genovesi told Instant Tea. "In the interim, the supervisor was moved so that we don't have a continuation, or the potential of a continuation."

Genovesi noted that just having a Chick-fil-A bag or having eaten at the restaurant on Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day wouldn't be a violation of department policy. But he declined to elaborate on what allegedly transpired, adding that his interview with the two lesbian officers was brief.

"It was a discussion regarding the Chick-fil-A situation, but as far as who said what and when, I'm not going to go into that because there are differences," Genovesi said. "I didn't get too down into the weeds knowing that we are already going to send this to internal affairs. It was good enough for

me that they were offended."

Genovesi said he doesn't believe anyone else overheard the conversation between Johnson and the two officers. He said it's unclear how long the internal affairs investigation will take, and he declined to comment on possible discipline. Genovesi said while he's dealt with male-on-female sexual harassment cases, he doesn't recall another one involving harassment based on sexual orientation.

"Obviously we take it pretty seriously," he said. "We provide training for it. It's not something we tolerate. ... I'm not going to speculate on the potential discipline until I know what we do or don't prove."

DPD's LGBT liaison officer, Sr. Cpl. Laura Martin, said she had not been aware of the incident but is confident the department will deal with it properly.

"I can tell you that comments and inquiries regarding someone's sexual orientation is considered sexual harassment in Dallas and it's not tolerated ever, on any level, and if he was transferred immediately, that's a message that we're not going to tolerate this, and I'm sure an investigation is going on about whatever happened in that detail room," Martin said.

DPD has conducted LGBT diversity training for new recruits for two decades, Martin said.

"The training is designed to hopefully make people more tolerant, and hopefully more accepting," Martin said, adding that as a 12-year veteran Johnson would have undergone the training. "If someone has the belief, based on whatever, that your sexual orientation is wrong, you can't change that through training. You can't change years of religious training — or whatever you base your hate upon — in a four-hour class."

Martin said while she is one of the few DPD officers who is out publicly in the media, it's not uncommon for younger officers to be open about their sexual orientation. "They're not ashamed of who they are. It's not unusual to go into an evening shift or a deep night shift, where officers are younger and they're open and they're out at work."

Martin added she thinks the fact that the officers reported the incident shows they trust the department to address it. "That to me shows that you feel like you work in a place that is tolerant," she said. "I think that says something about the progress that we've made. There was a time 30 years ago that you wouldn't stand up and say a thing if that had happened."

— John Wright

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# Jerry's kids

30 years after Jerry Buchmeyer's historic ruling striking down Texas' sodomy law, his two gay children reflect on their late father's legacy

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

"Dad tried to decriminalize my life," Pam Buchmeyer says. "I thank him for it."

Buchmeyer's dad was Judge Jerry Buchmeyer, who famously struck down Texas' sodomy law in *Baker v. Wade* — 21 years before the ban would finally be declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Aug. 17 marks the 30-year anniversary of Jerry Buchmeyer's landmark decision.

Several weeks after the decision was handed down, a celebration was held in Lee Park. (News spread slowly before the Internet, and Dallas Voice wouldn't publish its first edition until 1984.)

In 1983, Dallas held its first Pride parade, commemorating the anniversary of Buchmeyer's historic ruling. The timing of the celebration in Lee Park is among the reasons Dallas Pride is held in September, while most other cities hold their celebrations in June.

The ruling, which found that the sodomy ban violated the constitutional rights to privacy and equal protection, was a milestone in Texas LGBT history.

But to Pam Buchmeyer, an out lesbian, and her brother Jon Paul Buchmeyer, who's openly gay, Jerry Buchmeyer was just dad.

"He lived a big life and I couldn't keep up with him," Pam says.

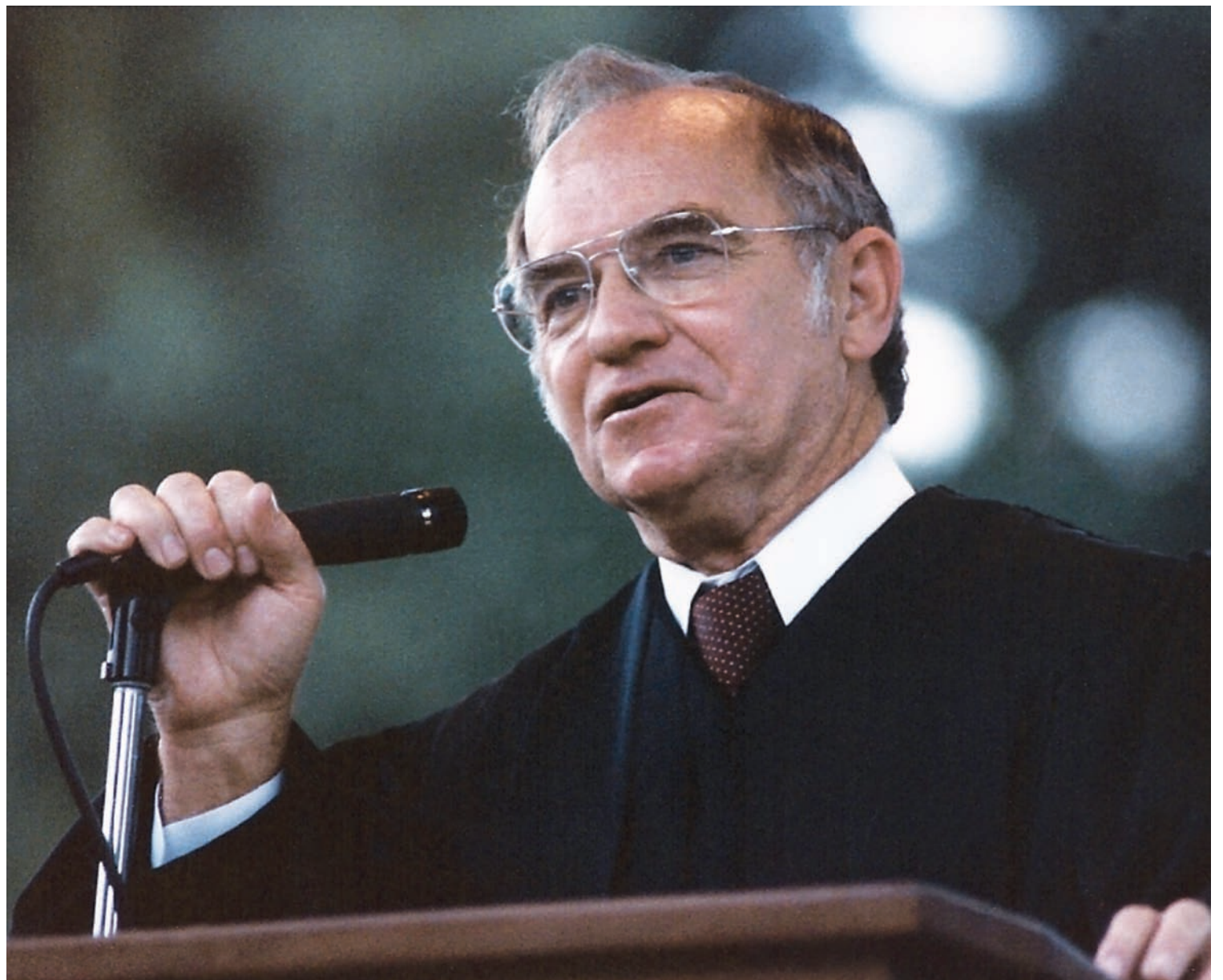
At the time of *Baker v. Wade*, she was in college. After graduating, she married and had two daughters who are now in college before coming out in the early 1990s.

Jon Paul was in grade school at the time of the ruling. Pam says if her father knew he had not one but two gay kids, he would have ruled the same way.

"He called Baker his greatest ruling," she says.

But it certainly wasn't his only historic ruling, and Judge Buchmeyer did more than just try to make the lives of the gay and lesbian community better.

"He was a kind, liberal jurist who saw an injustice and corrected it," says William Waybourn, a founder of what was then known as the Dallas Gay Alliance.



**BLIND JUSTICE** | Judge Jerry Buchmeyer had no idea when he issued his 1982 ruling in *Baker v. Wade* that he had two gay children of his own. But his lesbian daughter, Pam, said it wouldn't have changed anything. 'He called Baker his greatest ruling,' she says. (Courtesy of Jon Paul Buchmeyer)

Among Buchmeyer's other rulings, he desegregated the Dallas Housing Authority, forced improvements to West Dallas housing projects and converted the City Council to single-member districts.

As a result of the latter ruling, blacks and Hispanics have been regularly elected to the council for the first time — and so have gays.

Jon Paul Buchmeyer remembers the desegregation decision from a different perspective. Although the family received death threats after the *Baker v. Wade* ruling, integrating the Dallas Housing Authority prompted law enforcement to place federal marshals outside the house, and they followed Jon Paul to and from school.

Pam, who is now an attorney practicing part time as a reservist for the U.S. Small Business Administration, says her father explained at the time that putting together the *Baker v. Wade* case wasn't easy.

Because the sodomy law was generally used to intimidate rather than to prosecute, finding the right plaintiff to test the statute proved a challenge.

"This criminal statute that's never prosecuted is used to deny employment," Pam Buchmeyer says, recalling her father's explanation to her.

He understood that it was used to criminalize and demonize people in family courts.

"You had to lie and hide or you'd lose rights to your children," she says.

The plaintiff in the case, Don Baker, was a Dallas Independent School District teacher and president of the Dallas Gay Alliance. After coming out as gay in a television interview, he lost his job. He agreed to be the plaintiff in a case challenging Texas penal code 21.06, which reads, "A person commits an offense if he engages in deviate sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex."

Waybourn says he was the perfect plaintiff. "Very well spoken," Waybourn says. "Religious background. Media savvy. Wore a suit. Don didn't scare the crap out of people."

AIDS Services Dallas President and CEO Don Maison was an attorney at the time. His law partner Jim Barber was Baker's attorney.

"Don was very thoughtful, businesslike and worked quietly," Maison says.

He says that as DGA president, some people in the community didn't think he was confrontational enough.

"But what he did in that lawsuit was very courageous," Maison says.

Longtime LGBT activist Lousie Young described Baker as an Oak Cliff grade school teacher who served in the Navy during Vietnam.

"He was the whole package," she says. "His passion in education carried over into activism. His life was about dispelling myths and stereotypes."

Buchmeyer had been appointed U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas in 1979. At the time, Baker said he was glad the case was assigned to a new judge who he thought might render a more favorable ruling.

Waybourn says when they got to the courtroom, they saw Buchmeyer's young son in the court.

"There's something unusual going on here,"



## online exclusive

Read the full text of Jerry Buchmeyer's 1982 ruling in Baker v. Wade at DallasVoice.com.

Waybourn says he thought at the time. "It was remarkable and out of character for a Texas judge. It gave us a ray of hope."

Jon Paul says he remembers the trial vividly. He was 13.

"My father said he thought it was important for me to see," Jon Paul says. "It was about civil rights and someone fighting in the face of adversity."

While Waybourn says seeing Jon Paul in the court is one of his clearest memories of the trial, Jon Paul says Baker is his.

"Don was a role model to me," Jon Paul says. "What he had gone through — I knew it was OK to be gay."

He says at the time there weren't positive images of gay people in media.

"I watched *Dynasty* and saw that tortured gay guy marry Heather Locklear," he says.

Jon Paul says he knew at the time of the trial that he was gay. However, when he came out to his father about five years later, Judge Buchmeyer maintained he had no idea about his son's sexual orientation.

Today, Jon Paul echoes his sister's comments about the case.

"It was a gift my father gave me," he says.

And he believes that was why his father had him attend the trial, even though he didn't know he was gay.

"I could become a civil rights hero like Don," he says.

His sister agreed.

"With Baker, Dad felt he was paving the way," Pam says. "He was on the cutting edge."

She says she doesn't know where her father's liberal streak came from.

"He grew up in East Texas in the Jim Crow South," she said.

And while Waybourn, who kept in touch with Buchmeyer for years after the trial, says the judge was quite comfortable with gays and lesbians, his two gay children remember him differently.

"He had conflicted, homophobic feelings," Jon Paul says. "It was very hard for me most of my adult life."

He thinks his father based his decision finding the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional strictly on the facts of the law.

Buchmeyer took quite a bit of time to write his 20,000-word decision. Jon Paul remembers the reaction in the courtroom.

"Some gasps," he says. "Some real tears. Hugs. And everyone on the plaintiff's side was in shock."

The Dallas Morning News wrote a damning editorial about Buchmeyer in response to the decision. Jon Paul says his father didn't often pay attention to that sort of criticism.

"But this one he cut out, highlighted, went through and explained to me why it was wrong

■ JERRY'S KIDS, Page 12

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## localbriefs

### Resource Center Dallas transfers LGBT history library to UNT

DENTON — Resource Center Dallas is transferring the archives of its Phil Johnson library to the University of North Texas to create the Resource Center Dallas LGBT Collection of the UNT Libraries. That collection will become part of a larger LGBT collection in UNT's Department of Archives and Rare Books.

Dreanna Belden, UNT Libraries assistant dean for external relations, said the school collects materials from groups underrepresented in other libraries.

"We need to raise money to digitize it so everyone in the world can see it," Belden said.

UNT began working with the LGBT history group The Dallas Way more than a year ago to begin collecting and archiving the history of the LGBT community in North Texas.

RCD CEO Cece Cox said in a press release, "By partnering with a nationally recognized library facility at the University of North Texas, we are ensuring that our valuable history will be available for future generations of students, academics, researchers and the general public."

This week, copies of Dallas Voice from 2006 to the present went live on the UNT History Portal and all prior issues will be added once funding is secured to scan the older papers. About 400 boxes of materials from the Phil Johnson library will be transferred to UNT. Belden said the first step will be to transfer the items to acid-free boxes. They will be stored in new climate-controlled facilities built on campus to archive historical papers.

Belden said after the material is stored, it will take a librarian about a year to go through the boxes and

take an inventory of the items.

She said that the next step will be to begin putting non-copyrighted material online. Once available on the Internet, users may help update items such as photographs by helping to identify people in pictures and where and when events took place.

The collection of historical material at RCD began with a donation in 1994 from Phil Johnson, who had been collecting magazines, newspaper clippings, posters and other LGBT-related items since the 1940s. Since then the collection has grown with donations of photographs, books and other artifacts including the personal papers of John Thomas, RCD's first executive director. After the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," Servicemembers Legal Defense Network board member Dave Gainer donated boxes of papers related to that two-decade struggle. The collection also includes items like the soapbox used by Queer Liberation to stand on street corners and discuss equal rights.

Under the agreement with UNT, the Resource Center will be able to display portions of the collection at its current and future homes. Material may still be added to the collection by donating at the Resource Center. Belden said UNT is collecting material from communities underrepresented in other libraries. Two other special groups include a North Texas Latino collection and horse ranching materials. She said that there are 500 horse ranches in Denton County alone.

The library at the Resource Center will close, and librarian Sandy Swann will be laid off. Clients will still have access to computers in the library.

View the UNT History Portal at [TexasHistory.UNT.edu](http://TexasHistory.UNT.edu).

— David Taffet

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# Mary Gonzalez comes out as pansexual

Texas' only openly LGBT legislator will be nation's 1st out pansexual elected official, after saying she rejects both 'lesbian' and 'bisexual'

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

After winning her Democratic primary in May, Mary Gonzalez made international headlines as "Texas' first openly lesbian representative."

With no Republican candidate on the ballot in her El Paso district, Gonzalez is set to storm Austin in January.

But Gonzalez is not really a lesbian.

In an exclusive interview with Dallas Voice this week, Gonzalez said she identifies as "pansexual," an orientation many would call bisexual, except pansexuals don't believe in a gender binary and can be attracted to all gender identities. Gonzalez said she doesn't believe in a gender binary because "gender identity isn't the defining part of my attraction."

After coming out as bisexual at 21, Gonzalez said a few years later she started dating "gender-queer" and transgender people, and later identified as pan.

"As I started to recognize the gender spectrum and dated along the gender spectrum, I was searching for words that connected to that reality, for words that embraced the spectrum," she said. "At the time I didn't feel as if the term bisexual was encompassing of a gender spectrum that I was dating and attracted to."

Gonzalez was the focus of a Dallas Voice cover story in late June. The article referred to her as gay, lesbian and openly LGBT, because while Gonzalez had disclosed privately that she was pansexual, she had not granted the newspaper permission to use that term.

After the article's publication, Gonzalez informed Dallas Voice that she still didn't embrace the term lesbian and was comfortable coming out as pansexual.

"During the campaign if I had identified as pansexual, I would have overwhelmed everyone," she said this week, adding that people don't know what being pan means. "Now that I'm out of the campaign, I'm completely much more able to define it."

Although her election focused on helping El Paso's District 75 citizens gain access to clean drinking water and better educational opportunities, her sexuality was front and center, and something she had to repeatedly address. Mainstream media called her the Latina lesbian lawmaker. The coverage led to negative comments about her dating men in the past and accusations that she was not a "true lesbian," Gonzalez said.

But the campaign trail was difficult to maneuver as it was, and Gonzalez admits that giving



Mary Gonzalez

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## NCTCOG is 10th local agency to add LGBT protections in recent years

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

ARLINGTON — The North Central Texas Council of Governments added sexual orientation and gender identity to its employee nondiscrimination policy, making it the 10th local agency to do so in recent years.

The agency employs more than 300 employees and works with local governments from 16 counties to collaborate on common goals and regional development, Executive Director Mike Eastman said.

As executive director, Eastman handles the human resources policy changes and decided to add the protections based on the agency's inclusive practices in late July. He said he spent the last two months briefing executive committees on the changes to the discrimination policy, which is now listed on the agency's website and will be added to the employee handbook. "It just really puts on paper what we've always tried to practice," he said. "It was the right thing to do."

Representatives with Resource Center Dallas and Fairness Fort Worth approached Eastman last fall to discuss adding the protections. RCD's Rafael McDonnell said Eastman was very receptive to making the changes. He said he hopes the inclusion of LGBT protections helps the organizations start conversations with other cities and other counties that are a part of NCTCOG that may not necessarily be open to a dialogue about LGBT issues.

"We're certainly able to start that conversation with open and out employees at NCTCOG," McDonnell said. "Hopefully that'll open the door for conversations with other cities and counties."

NCTCOG also operates a police training academy that trains roughly 40-90 recruits a year from

its 16 counties that send new hires to the academy. Eastman said diversity training is already a part of the academy, so the nondiscrimination policy would not affect training.

Eastman said he approached adding the protections from a legal perspective so employees of all backgrounds and diversity would be covered by the agency electing to include them.

"It's been our practice. It just wasn't an official policy," Eastman said. "Anytime you see something written on paper it makes it a little more official."

Jon Nelson with Fairness Fort Worth said the addition was important because it demonstrates a level of safety to LGBT employees that the federal and state government do not offer them.

"It makes the employees feel secure," Nelson said. "In this day and age, it's also encouraging for employers because they're going to get qualified people to apply for jobs that they might not have before."

The North Texas Tollway Authority added LGBT protections to its nondiscrimination policy in April. Other agencies that have updated their policies recently are Dallas County, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas County Community College District, DFW International Airport, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Tarrant County College District, Fort Worth Independent School District and the city of Fort Worth.

Nelson said the number of agencies and companies that have elected to add LGBT protections is increasing because positive growth comes from being more inclusive. He said he expects many more area agencies to follow suit in the near future. "The question used to be if companies and governments were going to deal fairly with their employees," Nelson said. "It's no longer a question of if; it's now a question of when." ■

### RCD, DART discuss DP benefits

After Dallas Area Rapid Transit officials refused to meet with a former police officer about offering domestic partner benefits, Resource Center Dallas met with DART officials this week.

RCD's Rafael McDonnell, CEO Cece Cox and board member Gary Fraundorfer, who is vice president of human resources at AT&T, met with DART Deputy Executive Director Jesse Oliver to discuss LGBT issues after RCD sent a letter requesting a meeting. McDonnell said the meeting went well and Oliver encouraged them to speak to board members, offering his personal support.

"He outlined and stated his support for LGBT issues," McDonnell said.

McDonnell said it will take some "serious educating" of DART board members before they vote to add DP benefits. The discussion also touched on trans health and other LGBT issues, but those would also require board approval.

Former employee Andrew Moss created a Change.org petition a few weeks ago to get

DART to add DP benefits after health issues prevented him from working. His husband still works for DART.

Although DART refused to meet with Moss, he said he helped RCD meet with Oliver because the organization had tried to schedule meetings with no success.

McDonnell said the "petition has certainly put DP benefits on their radar." He told Moss about how the meeting went, and Moss said he thinks board members wouldn't need too much education if the problem and inequality was explained to them.

"I really, honestly believe if you have the support of executive management, I don't see why it wouldn't happen," he said.

Overall, he said he's glad DART agreed to meet with someone about the issue and believes DART will soon offer the benefits.

"I feel very optimistic," Moss said. "I think it's going to turn out like it should."

— Anna Waugh



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■ GONZALEZ, From Page 9

media the broad label "queer" as her identifier was a poor choice because "the history of the word is complex."

Without giving a more specific label, Gonzalez eventually went by "gay," which naturally led to "lesbian." And by then, she said, her sexuality was so lost that she thought it best to wait until after the election to clarify amid other battles she was fighting during the campaign.

Denis Dison, spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which endorsed Gonzalez, said there are several openly bisexual politicians nationwide but none have used the term pansexual.

"People should inform the media and others about the term they prefer, and that sort of education is a good thing," Dison said. "It's also a little more tricky in politics to be cutting edge and inform people about something they may not be familiar with."

Robyn Ochs, a co-founder of the umbrella organization BiNet USA and nationally recognized educator in gender and sexuality, agreed.

"To not use that word because people don't know what it means is never going to move us forward," Ochs said. "By using language, we change understanding. We create understanding."

Ochs, who identifies as bi and pan, said labels are subjective and personal. Any person who



Robyn Ochs

identifies as LGBT or pan would give a different definition of what that sexuality means, she said.

Identities are important, though, because they help people understand who they are, communicate that understanding to others and create community. But identities also create confusion if not explained and can cast a shadow on a person once they are honest, she said.

"Many people perceive a risk in being honest," Ochs said. "Once you are honest it can become noise and get in the way of what you're trying to do [in your job]."

Even amid the difference in terms, Gonzalez

said she was always honest about past relationships, even when she faced criticism from the LGBT community for not coming out as bi.

"I have not been secretive about my relationships with men or with women or even with transfolk," she said. "I've been honest about it all."

Gonzalez said she's not focused on how her constituents will view her sexuality now and isn't concerned about being re-elected because she ran an authentic, honest campaign and she wants to remain open.

"I've never been concerned about getting elected or re-elected," she said. "I've always been concerned about serving my district and my people and the state of Texas."

But she admits coming out to her district was a process from before and after the election, and she had to work to prove her qualifications to those who didn't understand her being called queer or gay.

"The idea of a queer woman period freaked them out," she said. "I had to be able to connect with my district and I couldn't do that if I'm freaking them out every day."

Gonzalez views coming out as a learning experience, made harder because she was the first out woman to run for the state Legislature.

"I think if I wasn't the first woman, it would have been easier," she said. "Me coming out was a process, not only for myself but for my district and so I had to take things step by step." ■

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**LIVING LEGACY** | Pam Buchmeyer, right, kisses her partner Shellie Crandall outside a Chick-fil-A in Dallas on Friday, Aug. 3, during National Same-Sex Kiss-In Day. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

■ **JERRY'S KIDS**, From Page 7

and that one day we'd have equality," he says. "It was always on his bulletin board as a reminder that when you do the right thing, there will be backlash. But that's no reason not to do the right thing."

Today, when rulings are issued, they're available immediately on the Internet.

In 1982, copies of rulings had to be purchased from the Government Printing Office. After the Baker decision was released and people wanted to read it, they contacted Buchmeyer's office. He referred them to Crossroads Market in Oak Lawn.

Waybourn, an owner of Crossroads Market, said they bought a copy and had about 100 copies printed to give away to anyone who wanted to read it. That was a bigger job than it seems now.

"That was before there was a Kinko's on every corner," Waybourn says.

The ruling stood for about three years.

Attorney General Mark White planned to appeal, but White was elected governor, and new Attorney General Jim Mattox refused to do so. However, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals gave an Amarillo district attorney standing and he appealed.

The Buchmeyer decision was overturned by a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit, and that ruling was upheld by the full court in 1985.

Maison calls the 5th Circuit's ruling a hodge-podge.

"It's utter reliance on mores, morals, tradition had nothing to do with the law," Maison said. "It was purely political."

Soon after the ruling was overturned, Waybourn invited Buchmeyer to speak at a DGA meeting. From that talk came one of his most famous quotes.

"There may be justices sitting in the 5th Circuit, but there's no justice in that ruling," Buchmeyer told the group.





**'A GIFT MY FATHER GAVE ME'** | Jon Paul Buchmeyer says he believes his dad made him attend the trial at age 13 to teach him about civil rights and overcoming adversity. (Courtesy of Jon Paul Buchmeyer)

Baker appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court decided to hear a Georgia sodomy case instead. The court's ruling upholding Georgia's sodomy law, *Bowers v. Hardwick*, stood for 18 years before it was overturned in 2003 by *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Pam says her father felt vindicated by the 2003 decision that concurred with his ruling from more than two decades earlier. But she said he wasn't surprised because he knew he was right all along.

Baker and his partner, Mike Hartwig, moved to Boston in the mid-'80s after the 5th Circuit decision. Hartwig got a teaching job. Baker taught software applications for a computer company.

At the time of his death from brain cancer in 2000, Baker was enrolled in Harvard Divinity School, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

When not practicing law, Pam keeps busy writing mysteries for mid-grade readers. In the '90s, she was an award-winning writer for *Dallas Child* magazine and was fired the day after a report ap-

peared mentioning her as one of Buchmeyer's gay children.

Jon Paul lives in New York and also writes. This summer, he and his partner Juan Pablo were legally married. He credits his father with paving the way.

Buchmeyer retired from the bench in 2008 and died in 2009. While his primary impact on Dallas has been through his rulings, people who knew him remember him for his keen sense of humor.

The Georgia sodomy law upheld in *Bowers* prohibited sodomy between any two people, not just gays.

"He used to joke that in Georgia, no one gets a blow job," Pam says.

Not many Texas judges were performing same-sex weddings 20 years ago, but Buchmeyer officiated at quite a few.

Pam says he always ended the ceremony with the line, "By the power that *should have* been invested in me, I now pronounce you..." ■

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viewpoints

Mississippi madness

With no solutions for real problems, congressional candidate instead advocates taking up arms against politicians who oppose Chick-fil-A

Mississippi Libertarian congressional candidate Ron Williams has a message for the Yankee mayors opposed to Chick-fil-A's anti-gay agenda: They "need to be introduced to the Second Amendment ASAP."

In a letter to the (Gulfport) Sun Herald, Williams wrote: "Let me make it clear, the CEO is being punished by government officials because he exercised his First Amendment right of free speech. The Constitution is very clear. When government restricts and punishes the people for exercising their First Amendment rights, then we are to default to the Second Amendment (right to keep and bear arms). These two mayors need to be introduced to the Second Amendment ASAP. ... The correct response to these mayors would be to send troops or whatever to remove these men from office, by whatever means is necessary."

Williams later clarified his statement:



Wayne Besen  
Contributing columnist

"I'm not saying anybody should go shoot these mayors," Williams said. "But politicians need to be reminded, our founding fathers were quite clear that it's quite possible for our country to fall back into the hands of tyranny. ... I'm a thou-shalt-not-kill kind of guy, but these guys should be reminded of the Second Amendment. ... I guess the word reminded would have been better (in the letter). ... I needed a thesaurus beside me."

Once again, we have a grandstanding politician in Dixie, whose obsession with defending fundamentalism — WITH GUNS — overrides the urgency of fixing his state's massive problems. For those who don't know, Mississippi is the most religious state in the nation, but the least Christian in terms of sharing the priorities that Jesus would actually care about.

Its healthcare system is such a shambles that it has turned to Iran for help. Nevertheless, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant might not take federal money for the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), because presumably he prefers Ahmadinejadcare.

Deep fry and feast on Mississippi's misfortunes:

- Sixty-nine percent of adult Mississippians are obese or overweight (Keep eating Chick-fil-A!)
- A Mississippi black man's life expectancy is lower than the average American's life expectancy was in 1960.
- A quarter of the state's households don't have access to decent, healthful food.
- The state has the highest rate of teen births in the nation. (Yet, there is one abortion clinic in Mississippi, and Gov. Phil Bryant is working hard to close it down.) Until this year, schools

taught abstinence (which we just found out last week isn't even working in Uganda, the very nation conservatives put on a pedestal as the crown jewel of such programs).

- In the U.S., the black infant mortality rate is more than twice that of white infants, so Mississippi, which is 37 percent black, has huge neonatal intensive care units. Caring for the thousands of premature babies (weighing between 1 and 4 pounds) costs millions of dollars. According to Dr. Glen Graves of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, these tiny, deprived babies grow up to be plagued with chronic illnesses.

- Human Rights Watch calls the Deep South "the epicenter of the HIV epidemic in the United States, with more people living and dying of AIDS than in any region in the country."

- Blacks in Mississippi are dying from AIDS at a rate 64 percent higher than the nation's average.

- Of the state's population of nearly 3 million, 550,000 are uninsured.

- The state has 176 doctors per 100,000 people, the lowest such number in the country.

I know that the good ole boys in Mississippi like to talk tough and stroke their beloved guns. But given that seven out of 10 Mississippians are obese, I'm placing my bets on Chicago or Boston if a bunch of funnel-cake fundies waddle north to pick a firefight.

At least they go to the gym, instead of stuffing their faces with Slim Jims. Plus, I wouldn't mess with Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel — he doesn't seem to take any guff.

But in all seriousness, with the state's residents in crisis, why are blowhards like Ron Williams distracting voters with trivial issues? Maybe, because they don't have any real solutions to offer the citizens of this ailing state.

I'll conclude by asking that Mississippians don't take this column personally. After all, I'm from the dysfunctional state of Florida. We gave the nation Terri Schaivo, Elian Gonzalez and hanging chads. We are one election and two Chick-fil-A sandwiches from becoming you — God, forbid.

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](mailto:WBesen@TruthWinsOut.org).

Feedback

They cannot steal my happy

I own a small apparel business called You Can't Steal My Happy. I have been selling online and at local specialty stores around Dallas including Skivvies in Oak Lawn.

Thanks in large part to the gay community I have been enjoying brisk sales as many people enjoy the upbeat message of You Can't Steal My Happy. What's unique about this business is that I am a straight man and most of my clients are gay. I am grateful for their support and I am even taking part in Dallas Pride in September.

A few weeks ago, I received an email from a screen printer that I have used over the years that they were not interested in printing my Pride shirts as they felt it did not fit into their mission statement. I was shocked as I have used them for other projects and I became friends with them.

I understand they have the right to run their business as they choose, but it was the first time I could really relate personally to what the gay com-

munity is sometimes subjected to in this day and age. I really would have expected this response from a business 10 years ago, but not in today's world. This experience has made me more determined then ever to help bring equality to the human race. Below is the email, but I am withholding the company's information as I am not interested in calling them out. They are actually good people, but they are still living in a narrow-minded world. I will not let them steal my happy!

Robert,

After talking it over with our boss and co., we have come to the decision that we will have to respectfully decline the job. As a business and an organization, we don't feel that this particular T-shirt project/group falls in line with what our company stands for or our mission. If you would like to know more about it, I know John would be open to sitting down and talking with you about it, but at this time, we will not be able to help you. I hope this finds you well and that you can understand. Thanks for your continued support in our business and for allowing us to serve you.

Robert Hearn  
Grapevine  
Via email

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# Leather

## goods

Leather Knights show their fun and charitable sides with A Weekend of Leather

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer  
rlopez5428@yahoo.com

For the uninitiated, A Weekend of Leather sounds intimidating. Or confusing. It's definitely no trunk show of trendy coats, or a shoe-fetish expo. But neither is it a reckless three days of uninhibited debauchery. Well, for some maybe, but the goal of the event for the Leather Knights is to celebrate Pride of the cowhide.

"AWOL is definitely a party atmosphere," says Steve Waldren, social chair of the Leather Knights and the sole founding member still active in the group. "We just want people to come have a good time. There will probably be a few serious moments, but this is a weekend party."

Military themes play well into leather culture and for this fourth time around, the Knights look to the open seas for Fleet Week. Or at least some really hot shore leave.

"The first three run names had covered other branches of the armed services, and this year, it was to be a naval theme," says Knights president Jeffrey Payne. It's the group's big shot to show off Dallas as a leather destination (even during 100-degree days), and with a well-paced growth over previous years, Waldren believes both the city and the organization are on their way.

"Oh, I think it's going to start happening," he says. "With people like Jeffrey [former IML champ] and [new International Leather Sir] Jack Duke, everyone knows them and we're thrilled they are both members. That helps a lot."

"If we keep going at [our current growth] rate, we could maybe someday be as big as the Texas Bear Round Up," adds member Bayles Melton.

It's not *all* about parties, though. For nearly 20 years, Leather Knights has existed not just as a haven of camaraderie for leathersmen, but as a social service organization.

"It was founded in a different time, when AIDS was the issue," Melton says. "It still is a big issue, but since 1992, the group has expanded to help other groups, like Youth First Texas. I think that's what I find fulfilling. You can belong to this sincere group of guys who want to help the community. It serves a purpose. I believe that if we can't be of service to someone, we won't be of service to ourselves."

AWOL 4 will benefit an organization named after Payne's mother, the Sharon St. Cyr Fund. Every special event the Knights host benefits a local charity; Waldren explains that they specifically choose different beneficiaries with each

event to spread the wealth. As the sole original member since the group's inception in 1992, he's pleased by the legacy the Knights have created thus far.

Waldren and a group of friends including his late husband Paul Tozier came up with the idea at the then-Throckmorton Mining Company of beginning the club. They clearly stated that it was to be both a social and a service organization. When the group signed its charter in 1993 and hung their signature black and gold colors in the bar, the Leather Knights were officially born.

"I'm so proud of what it's grown to," he says.

But AWOL 4 *will* be about having a spankin' good time — or as Melton puts it, "Just doing nothing but enjoying life." AWOL 4 really gets going on Friday with an opening mixer followed by a cigar social at Blue Smoke. But the night is highlighted by the Leather Invasion Bar Crawl visiting Woody's, the Round-Up Saloon, Hidden

### AWOL 4: FLEET WEEK

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway. Aug. 10–12. \$90 for weekend registration. [LeatherKnights.org](http://LeatherKnights.org)



**SHIP AHOY** | For nearly 20 years, Leather Knights — co-founded by Steve Waldren — have been a service organization. But they know how to party, too — like sailors. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Door and more. The Eagle Bears serve breakfast Saturday morning with a spa excursion to Club Dallas following (they aren't going for manipedis). But the centerpiece event of AWOL happens Saturday night at the Mr. Leather Knights Contest in the Rose Room.

Wait, the Rose Room? The place known primarily for drag shows?

"Yeah!" Waldren says. "It's another thing that makes me proud of the group. We've never been afraid to be leather people in places like JR.'s or the Rose Room where our dinner and contest will be. I'm proud that we're out there with all

the community and not only at the Eagle or the Hidden Door."

This year, three contestants will vie for the title with the winner representing the club throughout the coming year while traveling across the country, including 2013 International Mr. Leather next May in Chicago. Post contest, registered members will celebrate at the Victory Pool Party and Lord's Cigar Social back at the hotel.

"We raise money for the community and we share great energy and fellowship with other leather communities," Melton says. "What could be better than that?" ■



# Blues traveler

Queer reality singer Nakia brings the bears to Deep Ellum

**RICH LOPEZ** | Contributing Writer  
rlopez5428@yahoo.com

Even before nationwide attention as a contestant on NBC's *The Voice* garnered him a huge following, Austin singer Nakia already had a cadre of fans. But it's the burly gay men whose rabid enthusiasm for the bearded singer have made him an icon. And Dallas fans have Facebook to thank.

"[Bears] have always been a part of my fan-base and that's certainly a part of my life," he says. "I have several friends who identify as that and I could always expect a good showing of 'em at my shows."

But the group Live Music Lovin' Bears of Dallas blew up when Nakia posted that he'd

**HIRSUTE IN A SUIT** | The Dallas bear community set off a firestorm of RSVPs on Facebook when queer bluesman Nakia announced his set at the All Good Cafe Friday. (Photo courtesy George Hsu)

be performing here. The RSVPs swelled so that Friday night at the All Good Café should look like a mini bear run in Deep Ellum.

"When I was on the show I used to joke around with Beverly [McClellan] and Vicci [Martinez] because they were lesbians and lesbian fans can be fanatic," he says. "I learned that bears are the same way. I dig that it's kind of a thing."

Martinez actually defeated Nakia, placing him seventh, though he says by going back to his roots, he still came out a winner. He was approached to audition after casting agents saw him on YouTube. But what drew Nakia to follow up was the notion that the judges would select him based on his voice. As a blues singer, he says he's often not the image of what people imagine.

"That was the main reason I did the show. I'd been told my whole life I sounded different than I looked. Cee Lo thought I was black!" he says. "On top of that, the produc-

ers never asked me to shave or lose weight. They saw that at the core I was this blues/soul singer. And they never made a big point about me being gay. They just casually mentioned my partner and that was cool."

Nakia had been selected by judge Cee Lo Green to join his team and he applauds him for keeping him authentic throughout. But where do the blues and homosexuality meet? It's not a genre most associated with the gay music agenda. Nakia credit ZZ Top ... and his dad.

"He handed me a candy bar and put on ZZ Top. I was mesmerized and I got it," he recalls. "Now, when I sing the blues, it's coming from truth and understanding. There's still a lot of heartache in our world as gay men and I think that it's not gonna change anytime soon."

If it means more emotive tunes like "Water to Wine" or "Making It Up to My Baby," then let the misery play on. At least the bears will eat it up like honey. ■

## NAKIA

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L+S travel

# Agents provocateurs

Is it Julie and Julia ... or Jack and Ennis at the C.I.A. in San Antonio?



DAVID CURRIER | Contributing Writer  
david@kkdc.com

Creative foods with delicious aromas, impressive international wine selections, distinguished table settings with starched linen napkins, romantic flickering candlelight — it's so perfectly gay.

My partner Kevin and I have shared kitchen duties for 37 years. Times have changed since we started out — cooking space and knowledge have expanded. We survived fights in the kitchen, and whether it was yesterday's simple beef-stew-for-two served with a Russian River Lazy Bear Weekend souvenir bottle of Hop Kiln Marty's Big Red on a café table from a bazaar, or today's braised rabbit in mustard sauce for eight guests accompanied by a William Fèvre Chablis, followed by Central Market *tranches* of gooey Brie and pungent Roquefort, we've surprise our guests *and* not clobbered one another with the cast iron skillet.

Like your partner, cooking can (and perhaps should) be approached with creative passion. However, like the passion for your loved one, occasionally the ardor needs a kick-start.

Call in the C.I.A. (Cue the James Bond theme.) Not *that* C.I.A. — the Culinary Institute of America, down I-35 at the former Pearl Brewery in San Antonio. Our mission was simple: Enroll in a cooking class and expand our knowledge of global cuisines and impress guests with an unexpected cultural event.

Kevin and I enrolled in the one-day "Flavors of China" class, taught by Hinnerk von Bargaen, a

German-born former resident of China. His expertise on Chinese cuisine has earned him global recognition.

Until this point, Chinese cooking in our kitchen had been limited to microwaved spring rolls and bland sweet and sour soup picked up at Uncle Chen's shop on the way home from work; perhaps a thawed stir-fry from Costco when we're feeling racy. Nothing to brag to the boys about, that's for sure.

But C.I.A. is committed to your success on this mission. Decked out in kitchen-drag — a C.I.A. apron (yours to keep), a cute *toque* or chef's hat, a list of group mission assignments (plus a Lindt chocolate bar for K-Rations), and encouraging words from "Chef" — 18 recruits marched off to C.I.A. Indoctrination 101 at 9:30 sharp.

In the war room of the San Antonio headquarters, Chef von Bargaen elucidated the list of 16 challenging assignments, everything from perfectly steamed sticky rice (more tricky than you might think) to the scrumptious adversary shrimp toast with diver scallops.

The assignments are grouped four-to-a-team, but with four assignments per mission, each member's survival is pretty much an independent effort. Burn or brown, so to speak; your cooking project is yours to own, self-critique, plate and serve. (C.I.A. doesn't promote NFGs — non-functional garnishes. However, this gay couple was trying to impress 20 co-student strangers and Mr. Chef, too, so artistic plating was also a challenge.)

Chef's indoctrination included: explanations of how starches interact with the different cook-



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ON THE BUTCHER BLOCK | A trip to the C.I.A. is a hands-on experience. (Photos by David Currier)





**GET FRESH** | The sauces and vegetables used at C.I.A. make for a mouthwatering meal.

ing steps in each assignment's preparation; heating the wok with 10,000 BTUs (you don't find this appliance at *Target*); the salted Chinese cooking wine is a legal tax-avoidance; soy sauces? Count 'em: Three types in this class. Plus sesame oil and chili paste (mmmm, hot!).

Students also learned to manage each recipe so that your home is immaculate when company arrives. We learned that there are important points in each preparation where we can stop, leaving the final steps to within a few minutes before serving.

The race is on. It's now 10 o'clock, and each student needs to apply some time management skills so as to complete their assignment at about 1:30 p.m. You are creating an item for a late lunch when everybody will dine together on a fabulous, authentically Chinese meal, not unlike what you'd enjoy on Nanjing Road in Shanghai.

Preparing for their challenge, each student took stock of what utensils are supplied, and what is missing but required for their assignment. They then quickly toured the supply room where every size and type of cooking pan, cup, mixing bowl or knife and spoon can be found. Serving platters or bowls needed to plate and present the creations are also selected.

*Mise en place* is paramount; it's a term that Chef inserts frequently into your indoctrination,

and essential to a successful mission and on-time delivery. Perusing your assigned recipe, you circle the assembled cooking supplies required for this class.

Chef and his assistants know what everyone needs. A community island in the center of the classroom is resplendent with top quality fresh Napa cabbages, crisp miniature bok choy, green onions, wrappers for spring rolls and pot stickers, fresh garlic and ginger, dried spices, short ribs, pork belly, wood ear and shitake mushrooms, tiger lily buds, tofu knots and other exotic items.

At this point, students' (even couples') communications become limited to their mission at hand: "Do you have a set of measuring cups I can borrow? What do you think about...?" Perhaps an occasional wink or a smile of encouragement.

You've not been abandoned, however. Chef and his staff of C.I.A. agents monitor the stations, already aware of the unique challenges each recipe presents. Keeping an eye on the clock and a student's progress, the professionals quickly intervene to prevent disasters, offer tips, and say "well done."

Face it. How many of us have ever used a 100,000 BTU wok? As Chef von Barga cheerfully pointed out to my partner in crime, "Kevin, it's called stir-fry, not burn-fry. Dig down deeply and keep the vegetables moving rapidly to get rid of excess moisture." And as I lifted my pot stickers from the Teflon surface of the frying pan trying to achieve perfection, Chef helpfully intervened to say: "Pot stickers are supposed to stick to the pot and burn a bit, David. They will release themselves when they are done. They look great. Well folded and uniform in size. They'll be delicious."

Plated for serving and arranged on the island, Chef asked each of us to describe our dish and explain challenges we faced in preparation. Cameras flashed. Then the famished students and staff piled our dinner plates high, and using silverware or wooden chopsticks, we devoured some damn good Chinese cooking ... and discussed what we liked about each, and how our future attempts to create the same dish would be modified to improve results.

Kevin and I smiled at each other, now the proud and successful students of a cuisine we had completely avoided cooking from scratch. ■

Tuition for our one-day class was \$250 per person. Information about the individual campuses and the curriculum is available at [CIAchef.edu/enthusiasts](http://CIAchef.edu/enthusiasts).

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— Arnold Wayne Jones

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L+S dance

# Belly up

Trans man Draconis von Trapp explains transitioning ... to belly dancing

You might think there is no common ground between the transgender and Middle Eastern dance communities. But actually, they do have two things in common: Both are slowly gaining more mainstream popularity and acceptance (though most people get tongue-tied if you bring either up in casual conversation); and both are huge markers of my everyday life.

I started feeling the first inklings of gender variance when I was in third grade and cut all my hair off. I distinctly remember younger kids asking, as unapologetically and bluntly as young kids are apt to, whether I was a boy or a girl. Of course, I hadn't given it much thought — I just didn't like brushing my hair — but it would be a catalyst for my journey down the gender spectrum.

Throughout middle and high schools, I couldn't shake this "not quite male, not quite female" feeling, even though I was very clearly a biological girl. At 16, I confused not only myself, but all those with whom I had confided in about my gender issues, by joining a weekly belly dancing class at the Isis Studio of Performing Arts in Bedford. My interest in belly dance, in their eyes, conflicted with my "gender variance." Undeterred, I pursued it.

Belly dance styles trace their origins to Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, even North America. While the art is performed most commonly by women — dancers at restaurants, cabarets and the acclaimed dance company the Belly Dance Superstars are all dominated by women — male dancers can also be prominent practitioners.

I entered the intermediate class six months later, and my teacher started taking note of my ability to absorb techniques and choreography quickly. It seemed I had finally found my niche, something I was naturally good at ... and I got along with all my dance sisters.

Even though I enjoyed every second of belly dancing and my newfound dance family, I never felt completely comfortable performing. I knew my technical skill and fluidity were there, but I never felt genuine onstage.

One year later, I started hormone therapy and was declared the new leader of the junior dance team at my studio. When I came out to everyone, I was met with overwhelming acceptance and a promise from Isis that I would still be able to dance with her studio ... I'd just have to dress a little differently.

Six months after starting testosterone (and spending inappropriate amounts of money on male dance costuming), I won my first amateur competition at Yaa Halla, Y'all 2011, cited as a "Rising Star." This past April, I swept yet another amateur competition at the Shimmy Showdown, winning first place and crowd favorite.

One month later, I had top surgery, masculinizing my chest and giving me the freedom to finally dance shirtless. By this time I had met many male belly dancers, proving to myself and those who questioned me that you didn't have to identify as female to shimmy.

Yaa Halla, in its 12th year, attracts performers from all over the world to compete for prestigious titles and take workshops from true masters. I'll compete in a duet category with Ayanna as Obsidian Mystique, a fusion of classic belly dance with a dark twist.

In just four years, I have gone from a gender-confused teenager to an award-winning trans belly dancer ... give or take a few meltdowns. Now I'm more comfortable and confident than ever on and off stage. I've gained a small following on Facebook and YouTube, and I now teach a monthly workshop at my studio.

Of course, I still raise a few eyebrows. ■

#### YAA HALLA Y'ALL 2012

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**SHAKE AND SHIMMY** | Von Trapp did not allow expectations of gender to interfere with his desire to pursue belly dancing. (Photo courtesy Tammye Nash)



# Families in transition

New book explains how mothers understand their transgender children



Rachel Pepper

Your child constantly surprises you. Where did she learn that little habit she has? How did he figure out something you never showed him? What kind of thought-processes go on inside that wise little head? Almost every day, you learn more and more about your own offspring including, maybe,

something you never saw coming — or do you?

In *Transitions of the Heart*, you'll see how other mothers have coped with their biggest surprise of all.

Unless you've experienced it, the feelings of confusion or isolation that come when your son says he's really a girl, or your daughter swears she's a boy trapped in the wrong body, are difficult to understand. When that happens, you might think you're alone but that's not the case, as you'll see in this book. Other mothers have gone through this with strength and acceptance, and you can, too.

The thing to remember is that this is a transition for both of you. Maybe, like so many moms who tell their stories here, you aren't really that surprised after all. Everything might make sense now: Your daughter isn't just a tomboy. Your son isn't "just going through a phase." More than one mother admits that she knew her child was different when she was firmly corrected on pronouns and clothing choice.

Many women felt relief and were astonished when they realized that, as their children were allowed to openly express their true genders, they were seeing their sons or daughters happy for the first time. As the stories unfold, it's espe-

cially poignant when this joy has followed suicide attempts.

Still, it's a process. More than one mother has hoped her child might have a change of heart. There are rants in this book, heartbreak and pain. There are moms who can't believe this happened ... and in some cases, it happened more than once in the same immediate family.

And yet, most of the women in this book admit that they've come to respect their children and the difficult things they've done. For one mom, he's "someone I would not have missed knowing for anything in the world." And from another, to her child: "I'll always love you."

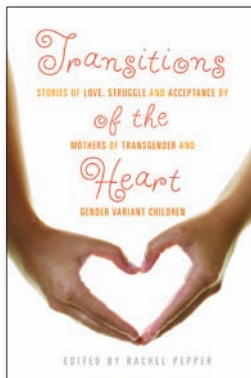
Sometimes, the "T" in LGBT seems to hide behind its fellow letters. Your friends and family might not even know what it

stands for, but *Transitions of the Heart* explains in a gentle, celebratory way.

That's a very useful beacon for anyone who feels isolated as their transgender child begins to embrace who (s)he is. But it's also important, I think, that editor Rachel Pepper included stories that aren't so rosy mixed with the stories of acceptance and encouragement. That added a stronger, more authentic message to this book and quashed the Pollyanna-ish tone that it might've had otherwise.

Although this book is for mothers, I think it would be helpful for dads to read, too. If you're journeying with your child on a trip you never imagined you'd take, *Transitions of the Heart* may be surprisingly helpful.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



★★★★★  
**TRANSITIONS OF THE HEART**  
edited by Rachel Pepper, foreword  
by Kim Pearson. (Cleis Press, 2012).  
\$17; 224 pp.



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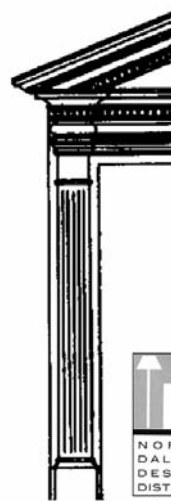
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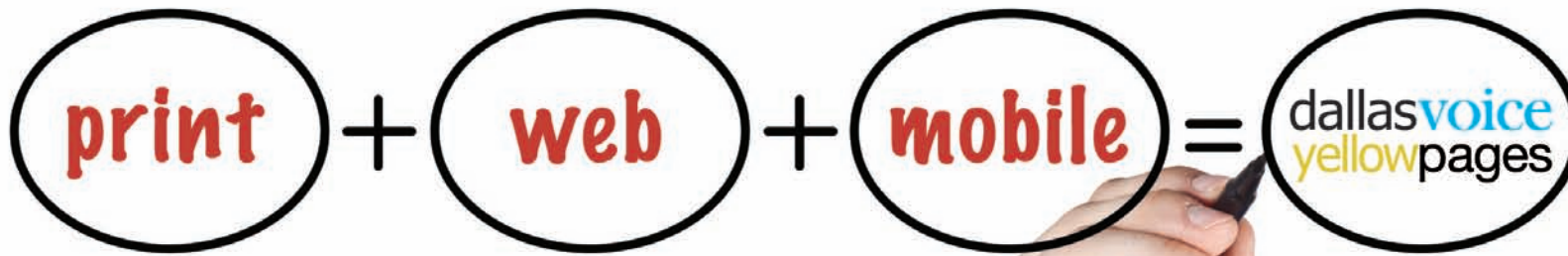
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## Sunday 08.12

### Play with your balls at Fruit Bowl

National Coming Out Day isn't for two months, but the Human Rights Campaign's Dallas chapter is starting the fundraising early with its annual Fruit Bowl. This year there are two sessions, with the theme Rock 'n' Roll for both. So show up with your 10 pounder, a team and dress as your favorite rock, pop or country star, and it won't be just the balls that are rolling in the aisles.

**DEETS:** 300 Dallas Lanes, 3805 Belt Line Road, Addison. Wave 1 starts at 10:30 a.m., wave 2 at 1:30 p.m.



## Sunday 08.12

### Who will be the next gay idol?

We don't mean Adam Lambert, or even Kelly Clarkson coming out. No, the Voice of Pride competition is winding down, and the winner will be selected from a dozen finalists at the Rose Room. Even those who don't win put on quite a show. You could even win a free iPad if you attend!

**DEETS:** The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m.

## Tuesday 08.14

### B'way season begins with some razzle dazzle

The Winspear's Lexus Broadway Series gets its new season underway with the revival of *Chicago*, starring *Seinfeld* and *Dancing with the Stars* veteran John O'Hurley as sleazy lawyer Billy Flynn in the hit, long-running musical.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 4103 Flora St. Aug. 14–26. ATTPAC.com.



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## calendar

### FRIDAY 08.10

#### COMMUNITY

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

#### MUSIC

**Nakia**, bearish blues singer from TV's *The Voice*. All Good Café, 2934 Main St. Aug. 10 at 8 p.m. \$10.

#### THEATER

**Present Laughter**, by Noel Coward. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. Through Sept. 1. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Sweeney Todd**. Sondheim's classic, presented by Level Ground Arts. KD Studio Theater, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Sept. 1. Level-GroundArts.com.

**The Importance of Being Lovely**. Drag queen Lovely Uranus returns in this comedic misadventure. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 11. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

### SATURDAY 08.11

#### COMMUNITY

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

### SUNDAY 08.12

#### COMMUNITY

**Fruit Bowl**. 300 Dallas, 3805 Belt Line Road, Addison. Wave 1 starts at 10:30 a.m., wave 2 at 1:30 p.m.

### MONDAY 08.13

#### COMMUNITY

**Unwired Dallas**. Group for those wishing to quit using crystal meth. New Hope Fellowship Church, 2438 Butler St. 7 p.m. Free. Crystallmeth.org.

**Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County**. Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

## this week's solution



**DEMON BARBER** | Andi Allen and Shane Strawbridge star in 'Sweeney Todd,' opening Friday. (Photo courtesy Mathew J. Butler)

**PFLAG Mesquite**. St. Stephen United Methodist Church. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

#### MUSIC

**Jay Brannan**. The gay singer performs at Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. Aug. 13 at 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY 08.14

#### THEATER

**Chicago**. The national tour opens at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Aug. 14-26. \$50-\$85. ATPAC.org.

### WEDNESDAY 08.15

#### COMMUNITY

**FUSE Activity Nights**. The "official FUSE hangout night." 7 p.m. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. DFWFuse.com.

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

#### BROADCAST

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

### THURSDAY 08.16

#### COMMUNITY

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. A.A. is self-supporting through contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**FUSE** drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3-8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

#### THEATER

**Some Enchanted Evening**, a staged concert of favorite songs from Rodgers and Hammerstein. Plaza Theater in Old Downtown Carrollton Square, Carrollton. Aug. 16-19.

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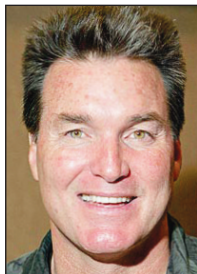
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Sam Jones** turns 58 on Monday. The star of the campy 1980 film *Flash Gordon* was the object of many gay-boy lusts — a reputation parodied this summer in the hit comedy *Ted*.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Fumbling, confused seductions can work out well. Keep your sense of humor and don't get thrown off your game. At work maintain some humility and listen more than you speak.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

You're probably worrying too much about your job. Ignore rumors and be as productive as you can. Sexual experimentation can work off the tension.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Consolidating your authority can mean shifting alliances. Try to make new friends without alienating older ones. The less you like advice from your partner, the more you should listen to it.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Worrying too much about the competition will just undermine your work and your mental health. Simply do your best and take enough time to rest so that you can do your best. Stay focused.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Rather than speaking out on issues that matter to you, try researching them. Take time out to focus on you. In your earliest memories, what do you remember your parents wanting of you?

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Pressure to succeed can be overwhelming. Remember to relax; think ahead. Does sex really get you more in balance or is it a distraction that undermines your efforts? Some time off might help. Your partner should understand. Breathe. Think. Prioritize.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Everyone wants an argument so you should be in heaven, but where is your feistiness coming from — an eagerness to play, or some deep-seated worries? You have nothing to prove.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Sexual frustration could push you to ask yourself hard questions about your habits and your priorities. Don't blame others. Assess your needs and priorities and look at changes, perhaps big ones, you need to make.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Try to be gentle with your partner — you're on the same team. If resentments come up, look at your own underlying worries. A playful slap at authority will be taken much harder than intended.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Sweetness and charm can be powerful and revolutionary; infiltration and subversion are more effective than a frontal attack. Seduce people to your side. Be ready to improvise.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Setting limits is necessary, but will probably anger some people. A conciliatory tone may be necessary, but don't let that open the door to compromise. You can be firm and gentle.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

New financial ventures can prove successful, but don't trust anything that doesn't promise a lot of hard work. Nothing will come easily. Your mate's criticism is more trustworthy than praise.

**THIS WEEK**

Aspects between Sun, Venus and Pluto warn that efforts to charm and unite may be manipulative. Mars aligning with Saturn in Libra challenges us to examine the hard work and truth of relationships.

**Kyle's Bed & Breakfast** by Greg Fox

340

THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS, MR. GRAHAM.

PLEASE...CALL ME KYLE. AND I'M GLAD I CAN HELP OUT.

THE ADULT CARE FACILITY WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE MY UNCLE FOR A FEW MORE MONTHS.

HE'S GETTING ON IN HIS YEARS NOW, AND...

BUT I COULDN'T HAVE HIM LIVING ALONE ANY LONGER IN HIS GREENWICH VILLAGE APARTMENT.

...HE REALLY NEEDS SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

MY DEAR, YOU SPEAK AS IF I'VE LOST ALL BRAIN FUNCTION.

I DO RETAIN SOME LEVEL OF SENTIENCE.

ARE YOU? I'M AFRAID I DON'T SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM.

WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME DECORATING TIPS!

OF COURSE YOU DO, UNCLE RUDY.

I'M DELIGHTED YOU'RE GOING TO BE STAYING WITH US, RUDY.

AND I CAN'T SAY I CARE FOR THIS... SKI CHALET DECOR.

C'MON...LET'S GO GET YOU SETTLED INTO YOUR ROOM.

SHORTLY...

I BELIEVE MY NIECE IS UNDER THE MIS-TAKEN IMPRESSION THAT I'M INCAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF MYSELF.

SHE'S JUST CONCERNED ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE FORTUNATE...

"ELDERLY"? MY GOODNESS, KYLE... I'M ONLY IN MY EIGHTIES.

OH, I...I'M SORRY. AND EARLY EIGHTIES, AT THAT...

...A LOT OF ELDERLY GAY PEOPLE DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES TO LOOK OUT FOR THEM.

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**bitter girl**

**KA-VOW!**

DO YOU, JESS, PROMISE TO BE ENGAGED TO ROSE TIL DOMA'S REPEALED?

I DO!

AND DO YOU, ROSE, PROMISE TO LOOK UP WHAT DOMA IS?

YEAH.

SO...THEY DECIDED NOT TO MARRY.

RIGHT.

SO THIS ISN'T A WEDDING,

NOPE.

SO WE'RE NOT GONNA PARTY?

OH, WE'RE GONNA PARTY.

JESS INVITED ALL HER EYES TO THIS?

WELL, AT LEAST WE DIDN'T ALL DATE HER AT THE SAME TIME!

THAT'S THE BEST PART!

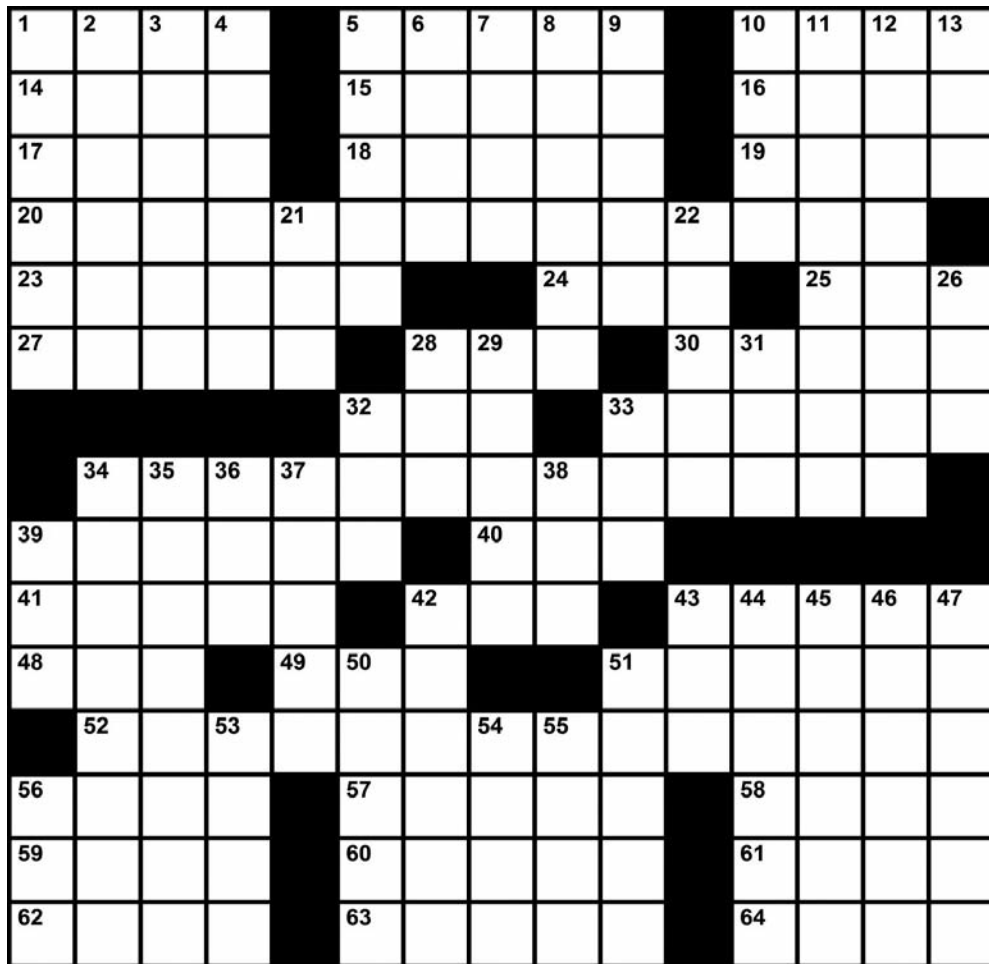
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# Movin' on Up

Solution on page 25

**Across**

- 1 Fruit cover
- 5 Has sex on a carpet?
- 10 Nuts and bolts
- 14 Obsidian source
- 15 Earhart, for one
- 16 Serpico author Peter
- 17 Ghostbusters role
- 18 Able to bend over
- 19 Large earthenware jar
- 20 Groundbreaking sitcom of the '70s
- 23 Removes, as a foreskin
- 24 Just make, with "out"
- 25 Mail order abbr.
- 27 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 28 Make a blunder
- 30 Witherspoon of Legally Blonde 2
- 32 "Y" wearer
- 33 One you may see in a shower
- 34 Spinoff of 20-Across
- 39 One with a gifted tongue
- 40 Fleur-de-\_\_\_
- 41 Jacobi of I, Claudius
- 42 Low boggy land
- 43 Religious pamphlet
- 48 Sonny, to Chaz

**Down**

- 49 Stud site
  - 51 Club head?
  - 52 He played George in 20-Across and 34-Across
  - 56 In two parts
  - 57 Like a Peru native at a public lavatory?
  - 58 Dark greenish blue
  - 59 They're performing, in Fame
  - 60 Traps for suckers
  - 61 "Render therefore \_\_\_ Caesar ..."
  - 62 High place with a flat top
  - 63 Hung beast of a simile
  - 64 Use a keyhole, perhaps
- 
- 1 Tickle pink
  - 2 Two under scores for Sheehan
  - 3 Become men, perhaps
  - 4 Poet Sidney
  - 5 Fop's footwear
  - 6 Cole Porter's "Ridin' \_\_\_"
  - 7 What you could get caught in
  - 8 Swinger who tries to put it in the hole with few strokes
  - 9 Prime piece of meat
  - 10 Mine, in Montreal
  - 11 Hammer that requires testicles for its user?
  - 12 Belafonte tunes
  - 13 9-digit ID org.
  - 21 Heston was its pres.
  - 22 Mothers, to Verlaine
  - 26 Article written by Arnold
  - 28 One who wears very little clothing
  - 29 Biathlon need
  - 31 War zone, in brief
  - 32 Musket attachment
  - 33 Mr. Williams, as Doubtfire
  - 34 Pirates go after it
  - 35 Condoms for erections?
  - 36 Sorbonne summer
  - 37 The Dark Knight role from Brokeback Mountain?
  - 38 A as in Austria
  - 39 Queer
  - 42 James of Milk
  - 43 Curry of The Rocky Horror Picture Show
  - 44 Try to get one's strength back
  - 45 Actress Dahl
  - 46 Dream up
  - 47 AIDS activist Elizabeth
  - 50 Group that won't pose for nude photos
  - 51 Be aware of
  - 53 Lohengrin soprano
  - 54 Home st. of Maupin
  - 55 Broadway scenery chewers
  - 56 Dyke's latex



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Larry and Bill at the Round-Up Saloon.



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**Voice of Pride** finals begin at 9 p.m. on Aug. 12 at the **Rose Room**. Ten finalists each sing two songs for this last competition. Advance table sales are \$100 for a table of four. General admission will be \$5 at the door. Admission benefits the **Pride Parade** .... **Passion 4 Fashion** benefits the **Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS** and takes place at **S4** on Aug. 10. A VIP reception begins at 7 p.m. in the **Granite Room** upstairs. The main event begins at 8 p.m. ... Celebrity impressionist, singer and comedian **Mark Alan Smith** appears every Monday from 10 p.m. to midnight at the **Round-Up Saloon** .... Celebrate **Dave Larson's Birthday Bash** at **BJ's NXS** all night on Aug. 11 .... **Dallas Gay Basketball Association** presents an **Underwear Auction** on Aug. 10 at **Woody's** at 8 p.m. **Gary Floyd** performs on the back patio at 8 p.m. ... **J.R.'s Bar & Grill** hosts a **Kathy Griffin** DVD release party on Aug. 14 from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m. The set includes two Bravo TV specials — **Pants Off** and **Tired Hooker** .... **Sue Ellen's** hosts a **Mary Marie** DVD release party Aug. 16 at 9:30 p.m. ... **Leather Knights** presents **A Weekend of Leather** Aug. 10-12 benefiting the **Sharon St. Cyr Fund**. AWOL events include a traditional leather run, cigar social, formal leather dinner and Mr. Leather Knights contest Aug. 10 at 8 p.m. at the **The Rose Room** at **S4**. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



L.L., Stephanie and C.J at Best Friends Club.



Renee and Mandy at Sue Ellen's



Nelson and Chris at Alexandre's.



Justin and Nat at J.R.'s Bar & Grill



Clay, Jason and Jim at Pekers.





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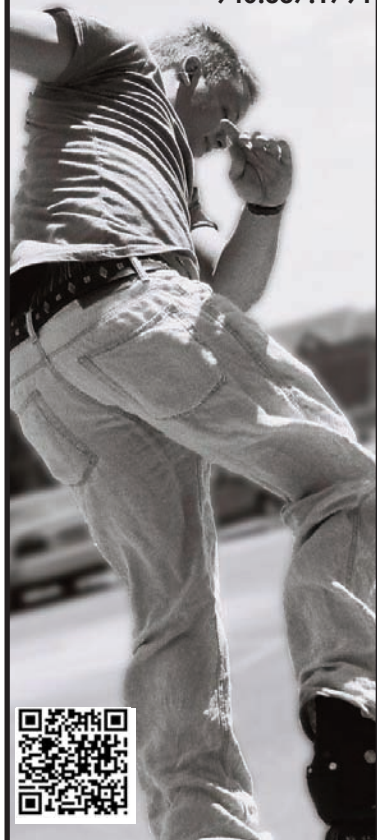
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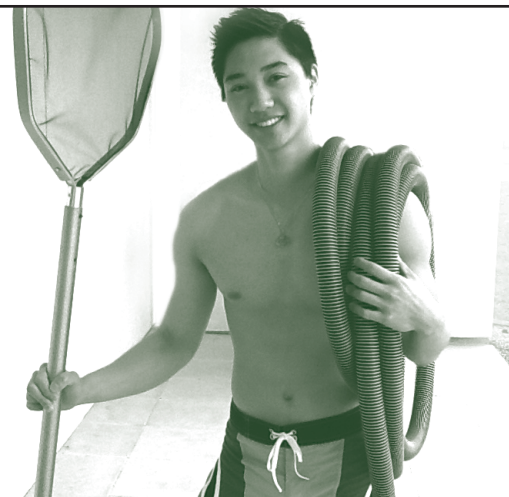
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