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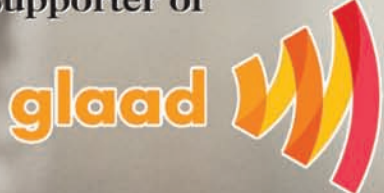
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Gay real estate developer formally announces bid for Dallas council

Gay Dallas real estate developer Herschel Weisfeld announced his intention to run for the District 2 Dallas City Council seat on Thursday, Sept. 13.

District 2 Councilwoman Pauline Medrano, District 14 Councilwoman Angela Hunt and District 11 Councilwoman Linda Koop will reach the four-term limit in 2013. Both District 2 and 14 are heavily LGBT.

Weisfeld will officially launch his campaign at Dallas Pride on Sunday with a float in the parade. He said it was the perfect way to introduce himself as a candidate to the district with the slogan "uniting our diverse city."

"We realized since District 2 cuts right down the center of Cedar Springs, the fact that we are the ninth-largest city in America [and] without a gay or lesbian representation on our City Council, that Pride would be a perfect time to kick off the campaign," he said.



Herschel Weisfeld

Weisfeld has been involved in civic affairs for many years and is known for restoring an old church into a performing arts center he renamed the Sara Ellen and Samuel Weisfeld Center after his parents. He said his background in business and finance will help the council re-evaluate plans for environment, quality of life, bike paths and connecting alternative modes of transportation.

"The issues that pushed me toward running was planning for the next 30 to 50 years, not just the next three to four years," he said. "I think those are things that will play a long-term role in the future of the city of Dallas for the generations to come, not for the years to come."

Weisfeld said his diverse background in the gay, Jewish and Hispanic communities, as he is bilingual, will help him relate to the diverse communities in District 2 and help the art venues, entertainment districts and communities thrive.

"These are all very important pieces of the city of Dallas that I believe I've got the experience and the exposure to a wide variety of issues that will be important and that will be educational components for me that I can bring to the table to the benefit of all of the citizens of Dallas," he said.

— Anna Waugh



The very best local Chick-fil-A protest photos you've never seen

I know, I know, everyone's tired of hearing about Chick-fil-A!

But I'm with Truth Wins Out founder Wayne Besen, who wrote in a column published by the Voice last week that as long as the chicken chain continues to be known as the right wing's last stand against LGBT equality, its brand will suffer.

In fact, it was in response to Dallas Voice's posting of Besen's column on Facebook that local LGBT activist Elizabeth Parker shared these photos she took on Aug. 3 — the day of the same-sex kiss-ins at Chick-fil-A locations across the country.

Parker reports that she was leaving a nearby store when she stumbled upon these students from the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District, north of Dallas. Yes, that would be the same Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District in which bigoted Farmers Branch Mayor Timothy O'Hare railed against the formation of a Gay Straight

Alliance last year.

Anyhow, Parker went over to snap a few photos and tell the students how much she admired their courage, as they stood outside in the intense heat. She said she was disappointed (but presumably not surprised) that none of the students' parents chose to stand with their children, but glad that she was able to share her mother with them (that's Parker's mom in the shades).

Parker said at one point, a female Chick-fil-A customer walked by and called out, "Fags ... you're going to hell ... nobody cares about you!!" The customer then told the driver of a car headed to the drive-thru to "run over them."

"The students simply stood their ground. I, however, suggested to her that her remarks did not sound exactly Christian," Parker writes. "So, yeah, they got a taste of what the anti-LGBT side can sound like at LGBT actions of ANY size."

Isn't there some kind of award we can give these kids?

— John Wright

Equality Texas issues call to action for Dallas County DP benefits

Equality Texas is calling on Dallas County citizens and employees to tell members of the Commissioners Court to approve offering domestic partner benefits to county employees.

The statewide LGBT advocacy group created an action letter that people can sign online and send to commissioners.

Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Chuck Smith said offering DP benefits has become a standard practice.

"It's what people in the real world, real businesses in the real world, do in order to attract and retain good employees to where it's not a big step," he said. "It's not going out on a limb for municipalities and counties to start doing this."

Dallas County would become the third county to approve the benefits after Travis and El Paso counties.

County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Elba Garcia are working on a plan to offer the benefits despite the lack of support from a regional government partner agency. A Commissioners Court vote is expected in the next few months.

Smith said he's confident that one of the other three members of the Commissioners Court will stand up and vote in favor of the benefits.

"I'm really hopeful that they can secure the support of one more county commissioner in order to put this into place because in a lot of places this is now a standard part of having a competitive benefits program," Smith said.

Omar Narvaez, president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, said Equality Texas has taken the lead on the action alert and Stonewall is spreading the word and encouraging people to contact their commissioners.

"We're really happy that Judge Jenkins with the help of Commissioner Garcia is looking for a way to make this happen," he said. "I feel very confident that we're going to get this."

Commissioner John Wiley Price is the third Democrat and could provide the third vote in favor of DP benefits, but Narvaez said just because he's the third Democrat doesn't mean he'll support the measure.

Narvaez hadn't spoken to Price yet about his support, but said when Stonewall Democrats endorsed Price earlier this year, they did so because he was most likely of the candidates to support DP benefits — not because his support was guaranteed.

— Anna Waugh

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Business 'returning' to Cedar Springs

As Warwick Melrose Hotel unveils plans for Bronx restaurant property, vacancy rate along Dallas' gay strip nears zero for 1st time in 5 years

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Warwick Melrose Hotel plans to begin construction at the site of the Bronx restaurant by early 2013, according to General Manager Larry McAfee.

The Bronx property has been vacant since the iconic Cedar Springs restaurant closed after 30 years and the Warwick purchased the property in April 2011.

Plans call for a parking structure, a conference facility, a spa with treatment rooms, a fitness center, a pool and a ballroom that seats 400.

"We're a historic structure, and there are rezoning issues," McAfee said, explaining the delays.

The company purchased the property to add amenities to the hotel. The current ballroom in the main hotel seats only 200, and pillars obstruct the view.

Because the hotel is a landmark, plans for the addition must be approved by the city's historic preservation commission.

"And we discovered half of our parking area is dry," McAfee said, meaning alcohol can't be served there.

So the entire property needs to be rezoned wet. Otherwise, it could be illegal to carry a drink across the new ballroom.

As the Melrose moves forward with its plans, the vacancy rate along the Cedar Springs strip is approaching zero for the first time in at least five years.

This month, a spin studio opened in the location once occupied by An Occasional Piece and which served as a leasing office for ilume.

Keith Owens, owner of S4L Studios, said he moved his spin studio from McKinney Avenue to Cedar Springs Road. He said he brought most of his clientele with him from the old location and has been steadily picking up new clients.

A new restaurant, Italia Express, is going in to the former Hunky's space — most recently occupied by Macho Nacho — on the corner of Throckmorton Street and Cedar Springs Road.

Construction barriers have been removed from the storefront and the interior is nearing completion.

Down at ilume, Monica Greene opened her new restaurant Monica's last month. Greene said business has been excellent thus far.

A space next to Buli Café that was previously home to Zen Salon remains vacant.

According to Richard Longstaff, owner of



LODGING AND FOOD | The Bronx restaurant, above, has been vacant since April 2011. The Melrose Hotel, background, purchased the property and plans an addition that will house a 400-seat ballroom. Two blocks down, construction barriers have been removed from the storefront of Italia Express, right, a new restaurant at the one-time site of Hunky's. (Photos by David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Union Jack, there's been a lot of activity showing the space recently, and he expects it to be rented soon.

Dave Richardson, owner of Skivvies and president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, said traffic in his store went flat during the year of reconstruction of the Cedar Springs bridge over the Dallas North Tollway. Then, when the recession began, business remained flat for his business while declining for others on the strip.

"What I'm hearing from merchants on the strip is business is returning," Richardson said.

Last year was his store's biggest year ever and





GIVING THE STRIP A SPIN | Keith Owens, right, owner of S4L Studios, recently moved his spin studio from McKinney Avenue to Cedar Springs Road. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

this year he is on track for a 30 percent increase. Richardson said Caven Enterprises put off remodeling the upstairs lounge at JR.'s Bar & Grill until they saw an uptick in business. That renovation is now complete.

"I'm seeing excitement and optimism from member merchants, customers and other people who visit the strip," Richardson said.

In fact, throughout Oak Lawn, building is booming. Of the 15 high-rise construction cranes currently operating in the city, most are in the Oak Lawn and Uptown area.

On a long-vacant lot on Throckmorton at Hall streets, next to Thairrific, a row of new townhomes is nearing completion.

At the north end of the Cedar Springs strip, Crosland Group began construction on ilume Park, which should be renting next fall. The new ilume will not have additional retail space but will add more than 200 residential units.

Omni Hotels and Gold's Gyms corporate headquarters will move to a new six-story building on the former site of gay bars Buddy's and The Brick on Maple Avenue.

About 275 employees will occupy the new building on the Old Parkland Hospital campus on Maple Avenue between the Tollway and Oak Lawn Avenue.

The company is expected to move from Irving into its new Oak Lawn facility next summer.

About 1,000 residential units will be added throughout Oak Lawn over the next year and a

half.

On the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Turtle Creek Boulevard, two eight-story buildings are under construction. The 6-acre lot, vacant for about 30 years, will be home to 347 residential rental units. An office building may be added later on the property that once housed the Gulf Insurance Co. building.

Across the street, on the corner of Bowen Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard, a property that has also stood empty for decades and now fronts the Katy Trail was purchased by Hillwood Development, the company that developed Victory around the American Airlines Center.

A new bridge will be built spanning Turtle Creek to access the property and a mixed-use development, like many of the buildings at Victory, is planned.

On Throckmorton at Brown Street, the Chev-elle Apartments were torn down over the summer and the property rezoned for denser housing. Construction has not begun on that site.

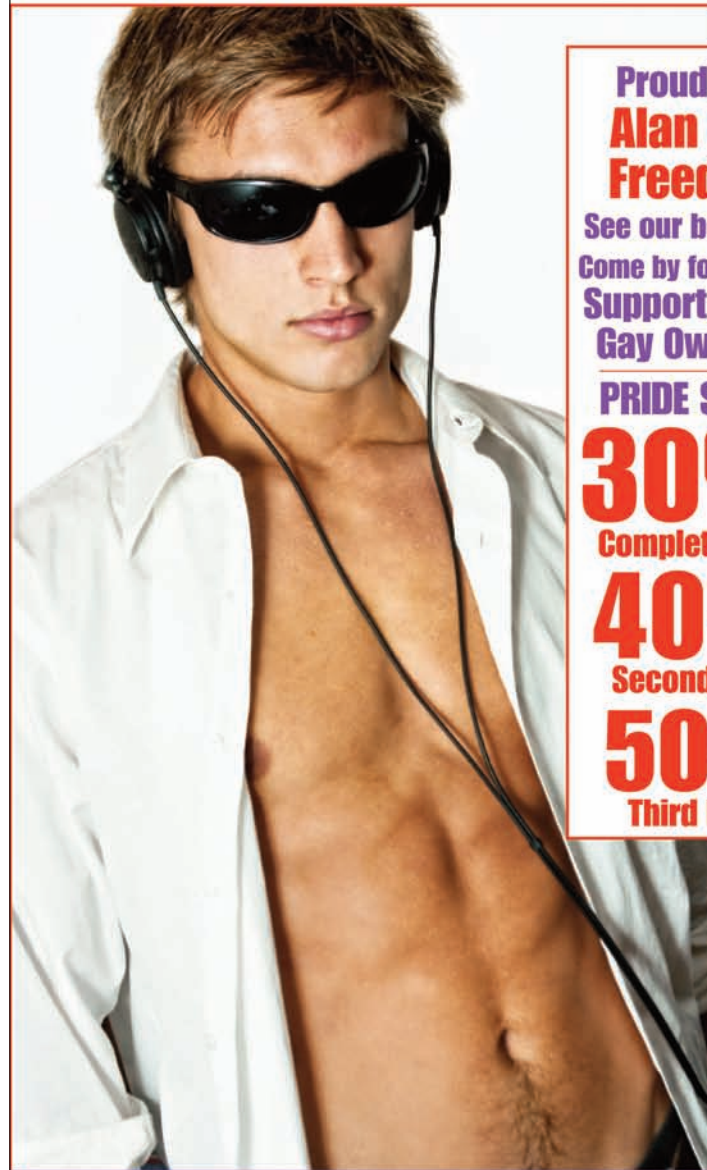
Two apartment complexes on Congress Street, between Wycliff and Douglas avenues, have been vacated and are being renovated. One was damaged by fire earlier this year.

Just across the Katy Trail, the Oak Lawn building boom continues. An office building at 3000 Carlisle Street, the former home of Dallas Voice, was torn down for new residential construction. Additional apartments are filling in most of the vacant land around Uptown/Cityplace Station. ■

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localbriefs

U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldaña keynotes Rainbow LULAC summit

U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldaña will be the keynote speaker at the first LULAC 4871 social justice summit. The conference takes place in the School of Management Building at the University of Texas at Dallas on Saturday, Sept. 15.

"Since we're the first Rainbow Council, we get a lot of calls for resources," said Raul Hinojosa, president of LULAC 4871.

Last year an LGBT council started in Houston as well. After President Barack Obama endorsed same-sex marriage, LULAC passed a resolution at its national convention supporting marriage equality at the urging of the two Texas LGBT councils. Hinojosa said requests for resources from the Dallas group have increased since then.

"It's a one-day opportunity so people can learn how to connect with the community or start their own council," Hinojosa said.

Last year, Saldaña's nomination passed the Senate after a two-and-a-half year delay. Although she is a Democrat, her nomination was supported by Republican Sens. John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison and opposed by Democratic Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Lloyd Doggett of Austin.

Johnson objected to Saldaña's role in prosecuting black Dallas city leaders including former Mayor Pro Tem Don Hill in the City Hall corruption scandal. Doggett wanted all nominees to be

vetted by the Democrats after Obama took office. Saldaña became Texas' first Latina chief prosecutor.

UT Dallas, School of Management Building, 800 W. Campbell Road. Sept. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$40. Students \$20.

Pride Run benefits AIDS Interfaith

Dallas Front Runners is sponsoring the Dallas Pride Run on Sunday, Sept. 16. The 5K run in Reverchon Park begins at 8:30 a.m. Pick up registration materials between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. at the park before the race.

The race course goes up the hill from the park to the Katy Trail, then to Blackburn Street and back.

Registration is \$25 through Sept. 15 and \$30 at the race. Proceeds benefit AIDS Interfaith Network. A number of raffle items have been donated that will also benefit AIN.

Sponsors include Avita Drugs Pharmacy, Park Inn, Corner Bakery Cafe, Arcus Media, Run On, Racing Systems Inc. and Heritage Auctions.

Heritage Auction has provided parking at its building at 3500 Maple Ave., but runners must move their cars by 11 a.m.

Dallas Front Runners is an LGBT running and walking group and part of Front Runners International. They meet Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. at the statue of Robert E. Lee in Lee Park.

For more information, visit DallasPrideRun.org.

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Zeke 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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Deaths

William L. (Dub) Moore Jr., 86, of Dallas passed away Friday, Aug. 24, 2012.

He was born on June 27, 1926, in El Dorado, Ark., to William L. and Lorena Julia Moore.

After elementary school his family moved to Monroe, La., where he graduated from high school. He then earned a bachelor's in science from Louisiana State University.

Moore was executive director of the Greater Dallas Planning Council and after retirement worked for Lakehill Preparatory School in Dallas. He was a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his partner, and is survived by several cousins and a host of friends.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the St. Michael Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 8011 Douglas Ave., under the direction of the Rev. Jim Frenshley.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial to your favorite charity.

Kevin C. Snelus, who oversaw the meeting needs for hundreds of corporations, associations and citywide conventions at the posh Adolphus hotel in downtown Dallas, died Sept. 1 at his home in Dallas. He was 52.

"Kevin died peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family, friends and dogs Lola and Ella," said his partner of nine years, Larry Cook.

With more than 20 years in hospitality manage-

ment, Snelus was well known and respected in the close-knit Dallas/Fort Worth hotel industry.

A native Texan, Kevin attended Holy Family Catholic School and Southwest High School in Fort Worth, and then studied theater and voice at Texas Christian University. He began his hospitality career at the Worthington Hotel as director of catering services. Once his reputation for excellence was established, he was soon able to combine his love of travel with a wide variety of hotel and catering positions. Among his A-list employers were the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe, N.M., Rowland's Catering in Atlanta, Neiman Marcus in San Francisco, and the Fairmont Hotel and the Dani Group in Dallas.

But it was at the Adolphus where he put down deep roots and found contentment. In fact, after a decade at the historic luxury hotel, Snelus was chosen to appear in a marketing campaign that highlighted iconic images of the venerable property.

Snelus met Cook in 2003. Together, they traveled the world and indulged their love of theater, fine dining and Barbara Cook performances. The countries they visited included Greece, Italy, Spain, Ireland, France, Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico and Canada.

Snelus is survived by Cook; two brothers, Joe and Paul Snelus; and two sisters, Lee Schilling and Mary Dornan.

A celebration of life service was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Sept. 7.

In lieu of flowers, memorial funds may be sent to Operation Kindness.



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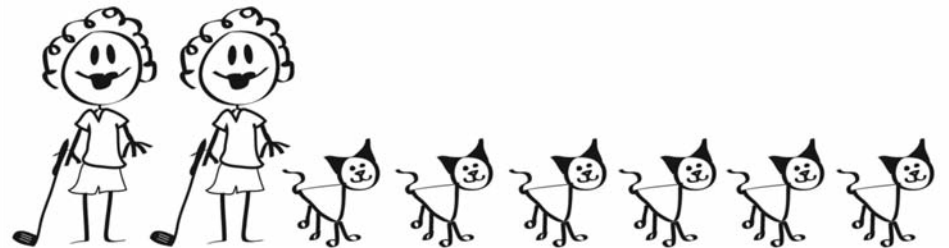
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ANNIVERSARY



CUEVAS-CUSIMANO | Tony Cuevas and Leo Cusimano celebrated their 31st anniversary on Wednesday, Sept. 12. Cuevas works for Southern Methodist University. Cusimano is the advertising director for Dallas Voice. The couple lives in Oak Cliff with their two sons, Elijah and JJ.



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'He's challenged us to be better'

Dallas' gay-affirming Royal Lane Baptist Church honors 97-year-old civil rights pioneer Bruce Lowe with special Sunday service, scholarship

LOGAN CARVER | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Baptists typically aren't lauded for their progressive views on civil rights.

But those often ostracized by the church — gays, lesbians, blacks and women — have an unlikely ally in a 97-year-old Baptist pastor named Bruce Lowe, as well as the members of Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas.

Lowe dedicated his life to ensuring everyone had a place at the table, regardless of race, ethnic-

ity, gender or sexual orientation.

His "Letter to Louise," a painstakingly researched treatise detailing the Bible's affirmation of homosexuality, has been online for more than 10 years, has given hope to countless questioning Christians and continues to receive more than 50,000 page views annually.

Lowe pushed for women in clergy and even left the pulpit for a career in civil rights during the 1960s after his Southern Baptist congregation expressed displeasure over his support for racial integration.

This Sunday, Sept. 16, Royal Lane Baptist Church — a welcoming and affirming congregation — will hold a special service to honor Lowe and his wife Anna Marie for their lifetime of advocacy.

"For me, these two saints are my greatest heroes," said Nancy Ferrell, a friend of Lowe's for



DELIVERED | Bruce Lowe, shown with wife Anna Marie, wrote 'Letter to Louise: A Biblical Affirmation of Homosexuality' after a friend became distraught over the belief her gay brother was going to hell. The letter, posted online at GodMadeMeGay.com, gets 50,000 page views annually. (Logan Carver/Dallas Voice)

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more than 30 years. "I've never met anyone who could match them in kindness, faithfulness and courage."

An unlikely ally

Lowe is kind, intelligent and epitomizes what a gentlemen is and should be; but he is fierce when it comes to civil rights, Ferrell said.

After standing up for women and blacks in the church, Lowe turned his focus toward the acceptance of gays and lesbians around 2002. He admittedly harbored some prejudice against the LGBT community until a friend, distraught over the belief her brother was going to hell for being gay, prompted him to research what the Bible actually says about homosexuality.

The result was "A Letter to Louise: A Biblical Affirmation of Homosexuality," which can be found at GodMadeMeGay.com. The academically structured letter is a thoroughly sourced, reasoned and scripturally supported call for acceptance and inclusion of gays and lesbians.

"Our churches need to change, for the churches ought to be havens for gays and lesbians from the insufferable burdens they bear constantly," Lowe's letter states. "But when the world believes that churches despise and condemn homosexuals, those who hate them find encouragement."

Ferrell said even though Lowe was retired, he became an online chaplain to people who emailed him after reading "A Letter to Louise." He counseled parents who were trying to come to grips with the identity of their gay children, as well as adult gays who were struggling with their own identity and faith.

David Chapman, a former Royal Lane member now living in Austin, who set up GodMadeMeGay.com as way for Lowe to publish "A Letter to Louise," said that until recently, Lowe personally handled all the emails in response to the website.

"I know that he has saved lives, there's no question," Chapman said. "How many? I don't think you could pry it out of him."

Lowe, who graduated Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1946, read more than 40 books and pored over scripture before coming to the conclusions contained in "A Letter to Louise."

He wrote that the people who vote against affirming homosexuals are the people who have never studied it and are basing their decisions solely on prejudice.

"Now I know that gays and lesbians do not choose their orientation, for they are created by God, in his image with an unchangeable orientation which is good and with a God-given purpose," Lowe wrote. "I know the love between gays and between lesbians is no less than that of others. I am convinced the Bible supports their loving, committed relationships, that there is no moral evil in such and that society and our churches should affirm them fully."

It's no surprise that Lowe would write with such conviction about equality, given his back-

ground, Chapman said.

Lowe was the pastor of a church in Louisiana during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Southern Baptists weren't supportive and Lowe couldn't stand it. Lowe's congregation went so far as to hold a vote of confidence to determine whether he could remain pastor despite his stance on civil rights. He survived the vote, but immediately flew to Washington and convinced the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, now the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, to hire him in its office for civil rights.

Lowe thought he could have a greater impact and do more good working for equality than he could in the pastorate.

The department put him to work the next day and he worked for civil rights until his retirement at age 79.

"What he's done with regard to gay and lesbian issues is just a continuing pattern for Bruce's life," Chapman said.

Progress in practice

It's also no surprise that Lowe would find his church home at Royal Lane.

The historically progressive North Dallas church was early to integrate and to ordain women and was kicked out of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 2010 over the church's acceptance of openly gay deacons.

Harry Wooten, minister of worship at Royal Lane, said the break from the state's largest Baptist group wasn't the result of

anything radical.

A committee was formed to rewrite the church's mission statement, and with a long-standing history of diversity, including openly gay members serving as deacons for more than a decade, the committee felt inclusive language was necessary to accurately reflect the congregation's philosophy and makeup.

The church describes itself as a vibrant mosaic of varied racial identities, ethnicities, sexual orientations and denominational backgrounds.

"That's been true for the 15 years that I've been here and it was true some years before that," Wooten said.

Apparently the powers that be in the BGCT never read "A Letter to Louise," and in May 2010 voted to no longer accept funds from Royal Lane.

More than two years later, Royal Lane remains strong and will gather Sunday to honor one of its most progressive members — a determined voice for equality ahead of his time.

Royal Lane deacons last week approved the establishment of a scholarship in Bruce and Anna Marie's name. The Bruce and Anna Marie Lowe Scholarship allows the church to tell the Lowe's story each year when the scholarship is awarded and keeps alive the name of the man who touched so many lives.

"He's challenged us to be better than we were," Ferrell said. ■


Bruce Lowe Day

A service honoring Bruce Lowe and his wife Anna Marie for their lifetime of advocacy will begin at 10:55 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, in the Royal Lane Baptist Church sanctuary, at 6707 Royal Lane in Dallas.

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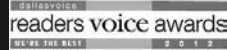
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OUT ON THE TRAIL | Ann Johnson, left, and partner Sonya Cuellar are shown at a July fundraiser for Johnson's campaign at Stoneleigh P in Dallas. They have been together for two years. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Ann Johnson vies to join Mary Gonzalez and give Texas 2 LGBT legislators

Houston Democrat says education, healthcare are priorities as she tries to beat GOP incumbent who voted to ban LGBT resource centers

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Time is of the essence for Ann Johnson. The Houston child advocacy attorney has the November election in sight while she aims to reach more voters every day.

Johnson, an out lesbian, ran unopposed in the Democratic Primary in Houston's House District 134. She will face one-term Republican incumbent Sarah Davis in November. Johnson told Dallas Voice this week that her challenge is reaching voters and informing them of the differences between her and Davis.

If Johnson is elected, she would join El Paso Representative-elect Mary Gonzalez, who identifies as pansexual, giving the Texas Legislature two

openly LGBT representatives — the first since Austin's Glen Maxey left the House in 2003.

"The challenge is the time," Johnson said. "I'm trying to connect with as many people as possible and I hope everyone in the district will have an opportunity to know what I'm standing for, what I promise to do in representing 134 and to know my opponent and her history."

Davis is a personal injury lawyer for the national firm Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, where she defends individuals, local businesses, and Fortune 500 companies, according to her biography on her Texas House of Representatives webpage. Her office did not respond to requests for an interview.

Davis voted in favor of anti-bullying legislation but also supported efforts to ban campus LGBT resource centers at Texas universities. She also supported defunding Planned Parenthood, something Johnson has stood firmly against.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in late August that Texas can cut off funding for Planned Parenthood clinics, but Johnson said she's focused on refunding the organization because it helps



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"There is critical care that needs to happen," Johnson said. "We need to be able to use the resources that can provide that care, and Planned Parenthood is one of those organizations that provide that care."

Part of Johnson's passion for healthcare funding comes from the time the 38-year-old spent battling thyroid cancer seven years ago. She said she was fortunate to live near M.D. Anderson and receive advanced treatment to beat the cancer, but she feels more research funding is needed to help discover cures for more diseases.

"I benefited from that kind of medical care," Johnson said. "I want other people to have the same opportunity that I have had for my particular diagnosis with any future diagnosis that they may come up against."

El Paso's Gonzalez has campaigned for Johnson after meeting her recently. She said Johnson's passion and knowledge of state policy issues make her a "dynamic leader."

"She's exactly the kind of person Texas needs to make sure we're moving forward," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said having Johnson alongside her in the House would provide additional diversity and have more impact than just Gonzalez's presence.

"I think that in order for there to ever be true diversity in the Texas House, we need to have more than just one person. We need to have difference across the table," she said. "This is a great opportunity for those of us in the LGBTQ community to support another candidate and to really make a difference in this year's November elections."

Johnson comes from a political family. Her father, Jake Johnson, was a state representative in the '60s. Johnson's mother is former Civil District Judge Carolyn Marks Johnson. While she attributes her values and passion for public service to her family, she said the issues of healthcare and education inspired her to run for office.


"I have an incredibly supportive family. My partner's incredibly supportive," Johnson said. "They understand the importance of this election and all of us are working very hard to try to make sure the voters know the option that they have available in 134."

As for education, Johnson's main focus is making sure every Texas child has a quality learning experience. She applauded the anti-bullying legislation H.B. 1942 that went into effect this September.

"I think any effort that can be done to provide children the tools to help one another and schools the resources to provide a safe environment for children is absolutely needed," she said. "I think the most essential thing is to provide an environment that is tolerant and gives children an opportunity to learn from one another and not to be in a position to want to harm one another."

Although the bill does not provide LGBT protections for students, Johnson said she would support adding them.

■ JOHNSON, Page 23



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STAMP OF APPROVAL | Bruce Monroe, a board member for The Dallas Way: The GLBT History Project, talks this week outside the Oak Lawn Post office. Monroe is collecting petition signatures to rename the building after pioneering Dallas gay activist Bill Nelson. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Rep. Johnson wants Oak Lawn post office named for Bill Nelson

But Dallas congresswoman says decision will be left to community; group starts petition calling for facility to be named for pioneering activist

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson wants to rename the Oak Lawn Post Office after pioneering Dallas gay activist Bill Nelson.

Johnson said her office has heard from community groups and received letters asking for her assistance in naming the post office after Nelson.

"Personally, I think Nelson would be an amazing choice, but this is not my decision to make, it is the community's," Johnson said. "Though he

passed years ago, he is still making an impression in the neighborhood with things like the community clinic and the Resource Center of Dallas."

Don Maison, president and CEO of AIDS Services Dallas, said he received a call from Johnson's office asking what he thought of the idea or if someone else in the community was more deserving of the honor.

"I knew Bill and respected him," Maison said. "He opened doors and changed minds and made a big difference in the gay community. I don't think anyone holds a candle to Bill Nelson."

Bruce Monroe, a board member for The Dallas Way: The GLBT History Project, said his group will collect signatures on a petition to name the post office after Nelson at this week's Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and encourage people to write letters to Johnson.

Johnson told Dallas Voice that post offices are built to serve residents and communities.

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Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

"If the Oak Lawn community wants to name their post office in Bill's honor, then it's my job to support their wishes and proceed with proper legislative procedures," she said.

Monroe called Nelson's effect on Oak Lawn transformational.

"Bill made a big difference in the middle of the AIDS crisis," Monroe said. "But he wasn't just a gay activist, he was a community activist and a business owner in Oak Lawn."

Nelson was a founder and early president of the Dallas Gay Alliance (now the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance). He helped create the Foundation for Human Understanding (now Resource Center Dallas), using that ambiguous name because few people in Dallas at the time would write checks to an organization with AIDS in its title.

Nelson served as president of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, president of the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association and a board member of the Dallas Homeowners League.

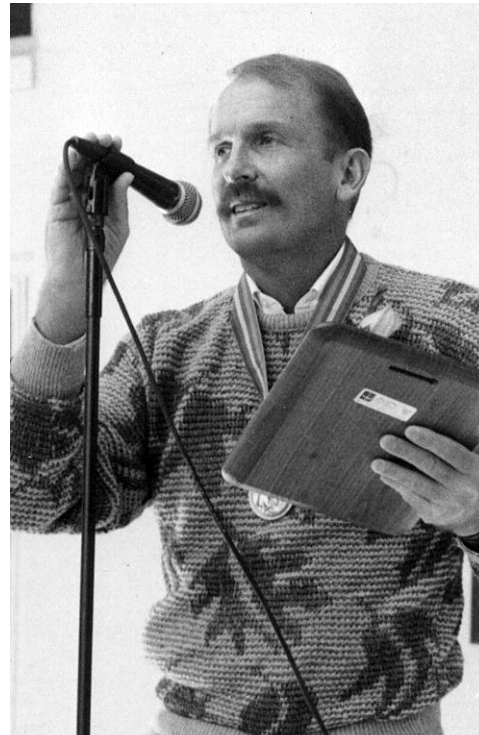
For 10 years, he taught literature and humanities at W.T. White High School in North Dallas.

After a student recognized him in a newspaper photo taken at a gay rights rally in Lee Park, Nelson refused to accept a censure from DISD and resigned his teaching position.

Along with husband Terry Tebedo and friends William Waybourn and Craig Spaulding, he opened Crossroads Market, which functioned as Dallas' first gay community center.

When Nelson realized some people he knew with AIDS didn't have food to eat, he put a sign on a shelf at Crossroads Market encouraging people to leave a canned item — and people who needed the food to take the cans. That was the beginning of Dallas' AIDS food pantry.

In 1980, Nelson began his fight against 21.06, the Texas sodomy ban. A group of political activists met in his living room to map out a strategy



Bill Nelson

to enlist people to attend Democratic Party precinct conventions and become delegates to the state convention. They successfully got a plank included in the state party platform calling for the repeal of 21.06.

In 1985 and 1987, Nelson ran for the Dallas City Council.

In 1985, Lori Palmer won the seat, but she appointed Nelson to the Civil Service Review Ad-junct Board.

Nelson was forced to resign when he refused to sign an oath to abide by all Texas laws, including 21.06, which remained on the books.

In 1981, Nelson, Tebedo and other friends pulled together a new social event called Razzle Dazzle Dallas. As AIDS hit Dallas hard over the next few years, that event rapidly became a major fundraiser for the new AIDS service organiza-tions.

In 1985, Nelson was honored with the third Black Tie Dinner Humanitarian of the Year Award, now known as the Ray Kuchling Award.

In 1989, Johnson, then a state senator, authored legislation prohibiting discrimination against persons with AIDS and improving access to health care for them. She sponsored a resolution that passed the Texas Senate honoring Nelson for his accomplishments as a community leader.

Before he died, Resource Center Dallas named its health clinic after Nelson and Tebedo.

The clinic was originally called The William Nelson Terry Tebedo Community Clinic for AIDS Research.

Nelson died on Feb. 22, 1990. He was 40.

His funeral was attended by about 600 people, including modeling agent Kim Dawson, former Mayor Adlene Harrison and Councilwoman Diane Ragsdale. Written tributes came from U.S. Rep. John Bryant, state Reps. David Cain of Dallas and Craig Washington of Houston and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby. ■

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■ JOHNSON, From Page 19

"I would support protecting all children and if that is needed to make sure that all children feel safe to go to school and feel like they're in a welcoming, learning environment, then that needs to be the priority of the Texas Legislature," she said.

Chuck Smith, interim executive director of Equality Texas, said adding LGBT protections to the bill is not "high up on our agenda" because the bill is still new. He said he expects lawmakers to go forward to try to add the protections in the new session, an effort Equality Texas would support.

Smith said an endorsement is in the works for the District 134 race, but the organization may also end up not endorsing in the race.

"It is in play. We're still working on it," he said.

The Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has already endorsed Johnson. A Victory Fund endorsement typically means a candidate has a decent chance of winning.

Smith said Johnson has completed Equality's Texas' candidate questionnaire but Davis has not, though both have expressed an interest in working with the organization. Equality Texas worked with Davis on the recent anti-bullying legislation.

"We have a working relationship with the incumbent in that race. We are looking and analyzing both candidates," Smith said. "As an organization that is actively seeking to make equality a bipartisan issue, we're looking for opportunities to work with Republicans and Democrats."



BACKING GAY RIGHTS | Johnson expressed support for a Texas ENDA and same-sex adoption legislation. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Smith said Equality Texas would decide in the coming weeks whether to endorse in the race, but Davis would need to complete a candidate questionnaire to gain the endorsement.

"We're evaluating the answers on the questionnaire and evaluating the status of our relationship with the incumbent," Smith said.

Johnson said that she also supports a statewide Employment Non-Discrimination Act and adoption legislation for same-sex couples, two priorities for Equality Texas in the upcoming session.

"Any efforts that are being put out there to try to help everybody feel safe and protected under the law, of course I would support them," she said, adding that issues of equality are not her main focus. "The issues that I'm most concerned about right now and will deal with next session is making sure every kid has access to education and healthcare."

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Will Frank's remarks hurt Obama with gay Republicans?

Gay congressman doubles down on calling Log Cabin Republicans 'Uncle Toms' despite condemnation from LGBT groups including HRC

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The presidential finish line is eight weeks off, and there's little indication that the LGBT vote in this year's presidential election will divide up any differently than it has in the past several: 3 to 1 for the Democrat.

But it is not an entirely civil divide. A stinging barb from Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., characterizing Log Cabin Republicans as "Uncle Toms," lingers on the LGBT body politic and could undermine efforts by the Obama campaign to win over gay Republicans.

Frank made his remark in at least two places during the Democratic National Convention and defended his view this week, despite reactions from other LGBT leaders who expressed disappointment in his harsh criticism of gay Republicans.

Speaking to the LGBT Caucus at the Democratic National Convention, Frank said, "When

they tell us that they are happy to be Republicans because they are getting acceptance and civility, I gotta say that I am again inclined to think that they're called the Log Cabin Club because their role model is Uncle Tom." He made essentially the same remark during an interview at the convention with Sirius OutQ News interviewer Michelangelo Signorile.

After a number of LGBT leaders, including Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin, issued statements expressing disappointment in the harshness of Frank's attack, National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director Jerame Davis punched back:

"The Log Cabin Republicans are the most weak-kneed, sycophantic apologists I've ever encountered," Davis said. "After their dismal performance at the RNC convention driving the GOP platform even farther to the right, they should give back all the money they've fleeced from their donors and close the doors."

Keen News sent a question to Frank on Monday, Sept. 10, via email, asking whether his unhappiness with Log Cabin Republicans was just over their giving Republicans their money and votes and whether he saw any value in having LGBT people working inside the party to try and



Rep. Barney Frank

change it.

Frank issued a long written response Tuesday, saying "my use of 'Uncle Tom' was based not simply on this awful fact that they have chosen to be actively on the wrong side of an election that

will have an enormous impact on our right to equality, both in fact and in the public perception of the popularity of that cause."

"If the Log Cabin Republicans — or their even more outlandish cousins, the oddly-named GO-

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Proud — were honestly to acknowledge that they let their own economic interests, or their opposition to strong environmental policies, or their belief that we need to be spending far more on the military or some other reason ahead of any commitment to LGBT equality, and on that ground have decided to prefer the anti-LGBT candidate to the supportive one, I would disagree with the values expressed, but would have no complaint about their logic.”

“The damaging aspect of the Log Cabin argument, to repeat the most important point,” said Frank, “is that they may mislead people who do not share their view that tax cuts for the wealthy are more important than LGBT rights into thinking that they are somehow helping the latter by supporting Mitt Romney and his Rick Santorum platform.”

“It is a good thing for Republicans to try to influence other Republicans to be supportive of LGBT rights,” said Frank. “The problem is when they pretend to be successful when they haven’t been, and urge people to join them in rewarding the Republicans when they have in fact continued their anti-LGBT stance. I have been hearing the Log Cabin Republicans proclaim for years that they were improving the view of that party towards our legal equality. In fact, over the past 20 years, things have gotten worse, not better. Most recently, on DOMA, when the House Republicans offered an amendment to reaffirm it, they voted 98 percent in favor of it, while Democrats voted more than 90 percent against the amendment. And it is not surprising that they have not been successful. Giving strong political support to people who are maintaining their anti-LGBT stance is hardly an effective strategy for getting them to change it.”

There is no question that the Republican Party at its presidential nominating convention in Tampa presented a carefully coded hostility to gays in the military, gays getting married, and gays being seen as citizens in the constitution. That could be seen as an improvement, if compared with the 1992 GOP convention when keynote speaker Pat Buchanan derided Democrats for allowing a “militant leader of the homosexual rights movement” call the Democratic presidential ticket (Clinton-Gore) the most pro-gay ticket in history. That’s the year Buchanan used his high profile speech to declare a religious and cultural war with Republicans on one side and “homosexuals” on the other.

Republican nominee Mitt Romney did not himself make an explicit statement against same-sex marriage or gays. Instead, he said, “I will honor the institution of marriage.” But the party’s platform and the nominee’s surrogates before a national television audience each took thinly veiled jabs at LGBT people whenever they had the chance. Running mate Paul Ryan praised Romney as “Not only a defender of marriage, he offers an example of marriage at its best.” Failed presidential contender Rick Santorum once again railed against what he perceives to be the “assault on marriage.”

A New York Times editorial characterized the GOP platform as, “more aggressive in its opposition to women’s reproductive rights and to gay

rights than any in memory.”

By contrast, the Democratic Party, through its platform and convention speeches, took its strongest stand yet in support of equal rights for LGBT people.

In his speech to the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, President Obama essentially pushed back against Republican attacks on gays and other groups. He said, “We don’t think that government is the source of all our problems — any more than are welfare recipients, or corporations, or unions, or immigrants, or gays, or any other group we’re told to blame for our troubles.” And he applauded fellow Americans for being part of the change that has ensured that “selfless soldiers won’t be kicked out of the military because of who they are or who they love.”

Numerous prime-time Democratic speakers made similarly supportive statements, and First Lady Michelle Obama twice referenced same-sex marriage in her passionate address to the convention. The first mention was a fairly routine reference to the need for people to be able to love who they love.

“Barack knows the American Dream because he’s lived it and he wants everyone in this country to have that same opportunity, no matter who we are, or where we’re from, or what we look like, or who we love.”

The second mention was a gutsy juxtaposition that celebrated the courage of same-sex couples who marry with the likes of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. and other American heroes.

“If farmers and blacksmiths could win independence from an empire, if immigrants could leave behind everything they knew for a better life on our shores, if women could be dragged to jail for seeking the vote, if a generation could defeat a depression and define greatness for all time, if a young preacher could lift us to the mountaintop with his righteous dream, and if proud Americans can be who they are and boldly stand at the altar with who they love, then surely,” said the First Lady, “surely we can give everyone in this country a fair chance at that great American Dream.”

The speech came on the same night the Democratic Party approved what Democratic LGBT activists say is the most pro-gay platform in history.

Jamie Citron, national LGBT Vote Director for the Obama for America re-election campaign, said in May that the Obama campaign would try to win over gay Republicans. But there is no indication yet that gay Republicans are being won over. And following Frank’s “Uncle Tom” remark, they could well be settling into a defensive posture.

R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of the national Log Cabin Republican group, said, in response to Frank’s remark, that “Leaders committed to LGBT equality know that every victory our community has achieved has required bipartisan advocacy and bipartisan votes, and winning support from Republicans will only be more important in the days ahead.”

Longtime Democratic gay activist David Mixer predicted this week that 75 percent of the LGBT vote will go to Obama. The significance of that vote in the overall election depends largely on how close the election is, come Nov. 6. ■

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SOUPED UP | The 29th annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, will feature 100 entries, up from 80 last year. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

Parade to be larger; festival to run longer

Clerical error results in 20 additional entries in 29th annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade; Festival in Lee Park to remain open until 8

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Those attending Dallas Pride 2012 are in store for a bigger parade and a longer festival than in previous years — in addition to perhaps the best weather in recent memory.

Michael Doughman, executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, which puts on Pride, said for the last several years the parade has been capped at 80 entries to limit its length and save on security costs.

However, due to a clerical error involving application deadlines, the 29th annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade — which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Wycliff Avenue and travels down Cedar Springs Road to Lee Park — will include 100 entries.

"It'll be the biggest it's been in like three or four years," Doughman said of the parade. "We have enough musical entries and float entries to keep the parade pretty interesting from beginning to end."

Grand marshals for the parade — which typically draws 35,000 to 40,000 spectators — are the Rev. Jo Hudson, senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope, and Dr. Gene Voskuhl, medical director at AIDS Arms Inc.

Thirteen of the 15 Dallas city council members, including Mayor Mike Rawlings, are scheduled to appear in the parade.

Meanwhile, the Pride Festival in Lee Park — which previously ended at 6:30 p.m. — will run from noon to 8.

"We decided to extend it because a lot of people who watch the parade and then come to the park afterward won't come down there until 4:30," Doughman said. "With the festival shutting down at 6:30, we didn't feel like they had enough time with their \$5 admission to enjoy the park."

The \$5 admission for the Pride festival was added last year to increase the amount raised for beneficiaries of Dallas Pride, which had dropped below \$10,000 annually due to rising operations costs.

"It worked tremendously," Doughman said of the admission charge. "We more than doubled, almost tripled, what we normally give."

Doughman said the Tavern Guild chose not to bring in an international guest or celebrity this year, in part to maximize the amount raised for beneficiaries and in part to save money for next



■ PARADE, Page 29

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Racial divide fuels need for Black Pride, leader says

Kirk Myers: 'We want this separation within the LGBT community to end'

TIFFANY AUSTIN | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Southern Pride will be at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Dallas from Oct. 4-7, offering festivities and celebrating African-American members of the LGBT community.

Kirk Myers, business adviser for the event since 2008 and an advocate for health care and HIV testing and awareness within the LGBT African-American community, feels that racial division exists within the broader LGBT community, leading to the need for African-Americans to have an opportunity to express their unique Pride.

"Racial division persists within the gay community due to lack of genuine connections and stereotypes," Myers said. "These racial lines will not be dissolved by pretense of diversity or false inclusion; but, rather, the hard work of humanitarian agendas that focus on the well-being and best interests of all its members. Until that change is realized, black gays are compelled to offer events that highlight and underscore their unique heritage."

Myers said when he's attended mainstream Pride events or parades, he's seen a lack of diversity that he feels contradicted the aim of the LGBT community: to encourage the celebration of what makes each individual unique, including, but not exclusively, their sexuality.

"Pride events, and oftentimes LGBT publications, are not very diverse," Myers said. "We want this separation within the LGBT community to



FILLING A VOID | Dallas Southern Pride's Kirk Myers, shown far right at a previous year's event, said mainstream gay Pride events are 'not very diverse.'

end, but in the meantime we are going to create events that make African-Americans feel proud of who they are."

Myers said Dallas Southern Pride has secured sponsors this year including Bud Light, Tempted to Touch and Blaq Out "to make sure we had enough funding to address the void found in the African-American LGBT community."

Homosexuality is perhaps not as easily accepted or celebrated within the African-American community as it is in the Caucasian culture, according to Myers.

As a result, Myers said the event is especially rewarding for younger attendees who refuse to hide their sexuality and are living with more Pride than seen in previous generations.

"Dallas Southern Pride is an inclusive and affirming experience for all participants; but, perhaps the most engaged and impacted are the younger generations of sexual minorities," Myers said.

"Accustomed to diversity and openness in some regard, the Dallas Southern Pride meets their expectations, experiences and needs for a healthy community," he added.

The event will offer vendors, performances and parties, but the highlight, according to Myers, is the Lipstick Ball.

A mechanism of HIV prevention and outreach, the Lipstick Ball combines entertainment and social marketing to ensure that the message of HIV prevention reaches beyond the ordinary outreach

mechanisms and specifically targets African-American members of the LGBT community, Myers said.

In addition, Dallas Southern Pride will co-host the inaugural Southern Regional Ball/House and Pageant (B/HAP) Communities' Leadership and Health Disparities Conference. The conference theme is "Building Bridges and Forming Alliances."

The goal of the B/HAP conference is to reduce health disparities across the southern region of the U.S. by promoting health equity and improving leadership capacity among sexual minorities, Myers said.

"Our goal is to make that African-American members of the LGBT community feel celebrated and have healthy, happy futures," Myers said.

For more information about Dallas Southern Pride, visit www.DallasSouthernPride.com. ■

Dallas Southern Pride

Dallas Southern Pride's 'Ball Star Weekend Dallas!' runs Oct. 4 through 7. For more information, go to DallasSouthernPride.com.



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■ PARADE, From Page 27

year — Dallas Pride's 30th anniversary.

"We're going to have some significant changes and additions and enhancements to Pride next year," he said. "We wanted to put some aside for that, because next year will require a bigger budget."

Doughman said details of the changes for 2013 haven't been finalized and will depend in part on the budget at the beginning of next year.

The primary beneficiary for Dallas Pride 2012 will again be Youth First Texas. The secondary beneficiaries will be Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services of Dallas and Legacy.

The admission charge was controversial in its first year, resulting in reduced attendance at the festival, but Doughman said he expects it to bounce back in 2012.

"Last year we had between 6,000 and 7,000 in the park," Doughman said. "We expect in the neighborhood of 8,000 this year."

The park will again be fenced in this year, and people will be prohibited from bringing in coolers, glass containers and alcoholic beverages to the festival.

DISD Detective Sgt. Jeremy Liebke, co-security liaison for Dallas Pride, said fencing in the park helped result in zero arrests at the parade and festival last year.

"Any other time we get 30,000 to 40,000 people together, we wind up making a lot of arrests, and this event just isn't like that, which is a great tribute to the community," said Liebke, who's openly gay. "Let's absolutely keep that going where we can all have a fun and safe event."

Liebke, who'll help oversee 91 officers working the event, said one minor glitch last year involved long lines at the main gate to Lee Park immediately after the parade.

"Last year we ended up with a huge flood of people at the Circle Drive, and there was no line at all down by the Robert E. Lee statue," he said. "There's multiple gates to get in. You don't have to come in from Lee Parkway."

Doughman said advance festival tickets are available at Skivvies and Outlines through Saturday, and there will be an express line where people can exchange them for wristbands.

"If you want to do that, it's certainly going to make it quicker and easier to get into the park," he said.

Other changes this year include more portable toilets and garbage receptacles along the parade route, Liebke said. Also, parking will be prohibited on portions of Turtle Creek Boulevard, Hall Street and Lee Parkway adjacent to the park to ensure access for emergency vehicles.

As of press time, the forecast called for partly sunny skies with a high of only 84 — which would be the coolest Pride anyone can remember.

"It should be fantastic," Liebke said of the weather, "but we still want everybody to drink plenty of water. The biggest medical issue we have is people getting dehydrated and heat exhaustion. ... We're looking forward to a good year with good weather where 35,000 people can come together and just really enjoy it." ■

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DRIVING PRICE HI | Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price served as grand marshal of last year's Tarrant Pride parade, which was held downtown for the first time. (Dallas Voice file photo)

Tarrant Pride to honor Anable posthumously

Fairness Fort Worth leader who died in August among grand marshals of 31st annual parade, which travels through downtown again this year

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — The late Tom Anable and a lesbian couple from Arlington who recently were victims of a hate crime will be among the grand marshals for the Tarrant County gay Pride parade.

Anable, the former president of Fairness Fort Worth who died Aug. 18, will remain a grand marshal of the parade posthumously. Randy Moore and William Dotson will be the other grand marshals.

Moore, better known as "Candi Carroll," has raised a great deal of money for LGBT and AIDS organizations in Tarrant County from shows at bars over the years. And Dotson is "a longtime be-

hind-the-scenes volunteer," according to parade organizer Tony Coronado.

In addition to the three grand marshals, Fort Worth police Sgt. Kathi Jones, Arlington lesbian couple Kim and Mandy Loverling, and Tim Smith will serve as honorary grand marshals.

"I've been working with Fort Worth groups, doing all of their activities for the past three years," Jones said.

After the Rainbow Lounge raid, an LGBT liaison officer was named, but other officers jumped in to make sure relationships between the community and Police Department improved. Jones was among them.

31st Tarrant Pride

Parade begins at noon Oct. 6 and travels down Main Street from Weatherford Street to 7th Street. A festival will follow the parade until 6 p.m. in General Worth Square.

She was instrumental in helping with logistics when the parade and festival moved downtown last year for the 30th anniversary. Before then, the parade was held in the southeast neighborhood where the Rainbow Lounge and other gay bars are situated.

Jones said they dealt with a few protesters downtown last year but everything went smoothly.

"I've had a close relationship with them," she said. "Any activities where they needed officers, I've helped."

Smith, better known as "Tessy," lives in Garland but does much of her fundraising for Tarrant County's LGBT community.

The Loverlings are the lesbian mothers who found the words "queer" and "faggot" spray-painted on their car in June. The suspects did damage to about 10 cars in the neighborhood that night, and police investigated the incident involving the Loverlings as a hate crime.

The couple never expected the incident would turn into an honor by the Tarrant County parade committee.

"We were surprised," Kim Loverling said.

She said it's a great example of how the community rallies around and supports its members when things like that happen.

Three people have been nominated for the Raina Lea Award, for service to the community.

Lea, also known as Gary Taylor, founded the Fort Worth Pride Picnic in the 1970s, several years before the parade began. Coronado said the idea then was for the LGBT community to get together in a family-friendly environment once a year.

The nominees for the award are Todd Camp, Mari Taylor and Kelly O'Neil. Camp founded and runs Q Cinema. Taylor participates in TGRA and is recognized for her community service. O'Neil, also known as Kevin Springer, is a former Miss



WHO'S YOUR DADDY? | At 31, Tarrant's parade is two years older than Dallas'. (Dallas Voice file photo)

Charity America and is also a current Miss TGRA candidate.

The winner will be named at the Pride picnic.

The parade and picnic used to take place on separate weekends that bookended a week of events.

Now, events take place leading up to Pride weekend.

The parade, which is two years older than Dal-

las' Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, begins at noon on Saturday, Oct. 6 down Main Street from Weatherford Street south to 7th Street.

A street festival will follow the parade until 6 p.m. in General Worth Square, on Main Street between 8th Street and 9th Street.

On Sunday, Oct. 7, the Pride Picnic takes place in Trinity Park near the Museum District from noon to 6 p.m. ■

Austin Pride set for Sept. 22

Austin Pride takes place Sept. 22 with a run, festival and night parade.

It marks the second year for Austin Pride in September after it was moved from June.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with the 5K Rainbow Run through the 4th Street Warehouse District and across Lady Bird Lake.

The race begins at Riverside Drive at South 1st Street.

Proceeds benefit AIDS Services of Austin, OutYouth, Transgender Education Network of Texas and Equality Texas.

The Austin Pride Festival begins at 11 a.m. in Fiesta Gardens, a park along Lady Bird Lake just east of I-35.

Tickets are \$15 in advance on the Austin Gay & Lesbian Pride Foundation website, AustinPride.org.

Carnival games, carnival performers, main stage entertainment, a second stage of DJs, a pet parade, a children's area, food and more than 100 booths featuring local businesses and nonprofit organizations will be open until 6 p.m.

The Pride Parade down Congress Avenue begins at 8 p.m.

Lineup is at the Capitol and the parade ends in the 4th Street Warehouse District near a number of Austin's bars.

— David Taffet



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He's got Pride in his jeans

Pride Pants founder Matt Limpede also has entrepreneurship in his DNA and hopes to devote himself full time to the 3-year-old business

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

IRVING — In a hot, dusty warehouse that smells of lingering paint fumes, Matt Limpede transforms faded blue jeans to a vibrant rainbow pattern.

Limpede uses the warehouse his father owns as his creative space for the Pride Pants business he started in 2009.

The company's small launch was "moderately successful," as Limpede and a few friends attended Dallas and Austin Pride parades to sell the jeans, but working full time, he said he didn't have enough time to dedicate to the project.

"Given my full-time job, I just didn't feel I had

enough time to work on it as much as I needed to," he said. "I decided to start it again because I recently left my job and am working on creative projects including Pride Pants."

After leaving his job in April, he's brought new vigor to the business with help from an August fundraising campaign on Kickstarter.com, which grossed a little more than \$2,800 from 41 backers in three weeks. The money went to buying more pants and paint.

The original idea for the pants came when Limpede attended his first Dallas Pride in 2005.

He loved the atmosphere and wanted to show his Pride even more.

"I enjoyed it so much I just decided I want to do more than just wave a flag. I wanted to be the flag and just go all out," he recalls.

A few years later, he grabbed a pair of pants and some spray paint and created his first pair of Pride Pants.

The spray paint gave the pants a crunchy feel and the paint rubbed off on his hands over time. He researched paints that bonded well with fabric



Festival booth



FANCY PANTS | Pride Pants creator Matt Limpede used spray paint to create his first pair of pants several years ago before he found a latex paint that bonded with fabric without fading or giving the pants a crunchy texture. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

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and discovered a latex paint that sets with fabric. The colors don't fade, but he said the lighter the jeans, the brighter the colors will show up.

After finding a good paint, he started to hunt for jeans at thrift stores in various sizes to stock up for festivals.

And the reaction from people who bought the pants was encouraging because they liked how the pants stand out, he said.

"For a lot of people, they chalk them up to rainbow pants, but a lot of people really like having something like this to really show off their Pride in a way that hasn't really been done before," he said.

"People who really take Pride in identifying as gay aren't afraid to show it," he added. "So when they wear these pants, they feel like they're able to show people without having to tell people that they're gay and that they're proud of it."

Nicole Pettee, Limpede's sister, helped him work Dallas Pride in the past. She said their father is an entrepreneur, so Limpede inherited entrepreneur DNA, which shows in his renewed vigor to jumpstart the project again.

"He had the idea but not the funding or the time to get the project off the ground," she said. "And now he has the funds and time to make it a reality."

She said she sees her brother branching out to other states and other festivals because of the new funding and more attention he can now give the business.

"There's just a market for it at the (Pride) festivals," she said. "I really think it can be a hit."

Having only attended Dallas and Austin Pride to market the pants, Limpede said he'd like to

eventually take them to Los Angeles or Washington, D.C.'s Pride. He is even considering approaching some of the stores on the Cedar Springs strip to sell them.

"We really would love to go to more festivals," he said. "We kind of started small and we're focusing on Dallas and Austin again, and I want to have a bigger inventory of pants than I did last time to really make sure if we have all the sizes, people will buy them."

Right now, pants are available online for \$45 or at festivals for \$40. People can also mail in a pair of jeans they would like transformed.

But Pride Pants isn't just pants anymore. Limpede said he's started making jean shorts and has made a few T-shirts that he'll sell at festivals this year. People can also send in skirts and jackets to be painted.

"We can basically paint anything that's cotton-based," he said. "So, we're definitely open to expanding and including any kind of item people want to send us."

Now that Limpede has spent several months gearing up for Pride festivals in September, he's enjoyed the calming effect of working with the project again and would like to make the company his full-time job one day.

"If people are interested and purchasing them, I'd love to this full time," he said. "I really enjoy painting the pants. ..."

"Something about actually being in warehouse and painting the pants is really calming. When the paint guns are working right, it's really a good experience for me," he said. ■

Check out *Pride Pants* at Dallas Pride or visit www.PridePants.net for more information.



GUNNING FOR SUCCESS | Limpede, shown in his Irving warehouse, has marketed Pride Pants at Dallas and Austin Pride but wants to take them to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

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ROAD WARRIORS | The 27-year-old ManKind Project has more than 50 centers, including one in North

Controversial ManKind Project

Once accused of backing 'ex-gay' therapy, group now offers 'New Warrior Training Adventure' geared specifically toward LGBTQ men

DANIEL VILLARREAL | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Amid the papier-mâché floats, the bead-tossing drag queens and the scantily clad dancers in this year's Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, you'll again see members of The ManKind Project, or MKP, an international men's organization that has at times received negative media coverage and even harsh criticism from gay activists.

The MKP — which has more than 50 centers in North America, Europe, Africa and Australia — supports "men in leading meaningful lives of integrity, accountability, responsibility, and emotional intelligence."

Toward this end, it offers "New Warrior Training Adventure," or NWT, a weekend of tribal initiation rituals that challenges men to heal emotional wounds and overcome self-destructive behaviors.

Over the MKP's 27-year history, it has sent more than 48,000 men to the NWT. And in 2000, the

MKP began actively reaching out to gay, bisexual and transgender men to help foster the group's multicultural diversity and to combat heterosexism in its membership.

"Oftentimes gay men will have been seriously harassed or bullied by straight men for their entire lives," said Boysen Hodgson, the MKP's communications and marketing director. "Subtly or not subtly they've been experiencing the judgment that: 'You are a substandard human being. You don't count as a human being. And what's more, you don't count as a man. You are not a man because you are gay.'"

He continued: "Many LGBTQ men who come to MKP [say]: 'This is a community that affirms me as a gay man and that's the first time in my life that I've experienced that. I have never felt so loved by heterosexual men as I have in this organization.'"

With active centers in both North Texas and Houston, 2012 marks the third year that the MKP has marched in Dallas' gay Pride parade.

However, the organization has also had to battle against bad press from both a Texas newspaper and a prominent gay journalist over the last five years.

In October 2007, Chris Vogel of the Houston Press wrote an in-depth feature about Michael Scinto, a recovering drug addict who committed suicide several weeks after attending the NWT.



Parade entry



Texas. This year will be the group's third Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

reaches out to gay community

The article claimed that the MKP sought out "wounded, vulnerable men" in support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and then failed to properly evaluate their mental health before encouraging them to enter the NWT. The article also said that NWT's "potentially damaging" rituals depended on forced secrecy, brainwashing techniques and intimidation, and included nude group dancing, blindfolded walks in the woods and a ceremony where men passed around a wooden phallus while discussing their sexual histories.

According to Hodgson, legal counsel initially advised the MKP to remain silent about the article's accusations because Scinto's family had concurrently filed a wrongful death suit, making any public speech about the MKP's rituals potentially problematic. A year after the MKP settled with Scinto's family out of court, the group responded to Vogel's article.

In their response, the MKP said that support group leaders sometimes recommended the NWT to its members, that the organization had added additional questions to detect suicidal ideation in its applicants, and that their rituals never resorted to physical or emotional harm.

As for the nudity, the MKP's former Executive Director Carl Griesser said that on the last day of the NWT, men can get naked in an exercise modeled after Native American sweat lodges, but that the nudity is completely optional and intended to get the men to face their bodily and sexual insecurities.

Shortly after The Houston Press article, gay activist Wayne Besen also noticed that the MKP had been endorsed by groups like Jews Offering New Alternatives to Homosexuality (JONAH), a group which uses "reparative therapy" to try to turn gay people straight. As a result, Besen assumed that the MKP was an "ex-gay group" and called the organization a "cult-like ... paramilitary, pseudo-psychological outfit" that treats homosexuality like "a shameful sickness."

However, MKP immediately responded by stating that it neither uses nor supports "ex-gay" therapy and that it welcomes gay, bisexual and transgender men. Besen redacted his article and praised the MKP for taking an unequivocal stance against such harmful psychological practices.

"Our weekend's not a hazing," Hodgson said. "We don't try to humiliate or break men down. The initiatory process is about discovering what you're capable of, and that can be mentally, spiritually, emotionally."

While the MKP has tried to battle the misinformation resulting from Vogel and Besen's articles, Hodgson says what the ordeals lead to is a greater amount of transparency and self-reflection as an organization and that the group now offers NWT for LGBTQ men run almost entirely by LGBTQ male leaders within the MKP.

"We've got a handful of vocal people who have been opponents of what we do," Hodgson said. "We've got nearly 50,000 men who have now done it over almost three decades and who say, 'This helped me. This changed my life.'" ■



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Pride Parade Lineup

Entries are scheduled to appear in the following order during the 29th annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, which steps off at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, from Cedar Springs and Wycliff:

Pre-parade: Dallas Pride Cheer

Pre-parade: Lesbian & Gay Band Association

1. Spectrum Motorcycle Riding Club
2. DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
3. Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
4. Tyler Area Gays (Project TAG)
5. Whole Food Market - Highland Park
6. Caven Enterprises
7. Different Strokes Golf Association
8. J.C. Penney
9. EQUAL @ PepsiCo
10. Midway Hills Christian Church
11. Out & Equal - DFW
12. Youth First Texas
13. Black Tie Dinner
14. JPMorgan Chase PRIDE Resource Group
15. Round-Up Saloon
16. Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS
17. Twisted Sisters
18. American Airlines
19. Windy City Cowboys
20. New York Life Insurance Co.
21. AIDS Arms, Inc. - LifeWalk
22. Human Rights Campaign
23. PFLAG - Dallas
24. Metroplex Atheists
25. Texas Gay Rodeo Association
26. Church with a Vision
27. Dallas Bears & Leather Knights
28. United Court of the Lone Star Empire, Inc.

29. League at AT&T
30. Spectrum - Southern Methodist University
31. Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
32. Fidelity Pride
33. Rainbow Members Club
34. Central Congregational Church
35. Dallas Derby Devils
36. Center for Spiritual Living
37. G.L.A.A.D.
38. Willie and Coote Salon
39. Cathedral of Hope
40. Condoms To Go \ Sara's Secrets
41. N.T.A.U.U.S.
42. NLA - Dallas
43. UT Southwestern Research Unit
44. Bank of America
45. Northaven United Methodist Church
46. Assassination City Roller Derby
47. Amber Does Dallas
48. BJ's NXS
49. Resource Center Dallas
50. The Velvet Snout Canine Adventure Center
51. Wells Fargo Bank
52. First Community Church
53. GLAD — UNT's Queer Alliance
54. Kaliente
55. White Rock Community Church
56. GLSEN Greater Dallas
57. Sets in the City (Women's Tennis Club)
58. Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
59. Dallas Independent Volleyball Association
60. Loncar & Associates
61. Grace United Methodist Church
62. Tin Room/Drama Room
63. Turtle Creek Chorale
64. Kroger Store 528 (Cedar Springs Rd.)



65. LGBT Studies Program @ UNT
66. CVS Caremark
67. Mustache Envy
68. Dallas Harlequins Women's Rugby Football Club
69. Specialized Alternatives for Family & Youth
70. Kroger - Store 509 (Maple Ave.)
71. Mercy for Animals
72. Northrop Grumman
73. Club Los Rieles Inc.
74. Dallas Diablos Rugby Football Club
75. AT&T Performing Arts Center
76. Noches Latinas, Inc.
77. LULAC # 4871 - The Dallas Rainbow Council
78. Soka Gakkai International (SGI-USA)
79. Supercuts
80. TWU PRIDE and COSA
81. Parkland Foundation
82. Home for the Holidays Texas, Inc.
83. Humana - Lifesynch
84. OUT @ nbcdfw
85. Title Boxing Club Uptown
86. Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement
87. Herschel Weisfeld Campaign
88. Dallas Summer Musicals
89. Lolitas Mexican Cuisine
90. Strategic Entertainment
91. Libertarian Party of Dallas County
92. The ONE Church
93. Theatre Three
94. TONI & GUY Hairdressing Academy
95. Texas Toyota of Grapevine
96. Lonestar Mustangs
97. ADP Pride Southwest
98. Best Buy
99. LGBT & Friends Network at FedEx
100. The ManKind Project

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Pride Festival Booths

Organizations with booths at the Pride Festival in Lee Park, which runs from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday:

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- Dallas County Democratic Party
- Easy Tours of India
- Echelon Jewelry and Gemstones
- Equality Texas Foundation
- First Community Church
- Flavors Shave Ice
- Free the Love.org
- GLAAD
- GLSEN Greater Dallas
- Go Proud Metroplex Republicans
- Green Mountain Energy
- Hilton Worldwide - Anatole
- Hot Mess T-Shirts
- The Shaved Ice Hole
- Human Rights Campaign
- JNW Marketing Solutions
- Kimberly-Clark
- KLUV Radio
- Lambda Legal
- Libertarian Party of Dallas County
- Love is Love Photography
- LULAC # 4871 - Dallas Rainbow Council
- Mercy for Animals
- Midtowne Spa Dallas
- Mosaic Skull Designs
- N.T.A.U.U.S.
- Palm Beach Tan, Inc.
- Parkland Foundation
- Pet-Peeeps.com
- PFLAG - Dallas
- Planned Parenthood of North Texas
- Pride Pants
- Pride Socks
- Resource Center Dallas
- Rite Care Pharmacy
- Soka Gakkai International (SGI-USA)
- Specialized Alternatives for Family & Youth
- Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
- Strongest Link
- Susan G. Komen 3-Day
- Sweet Relief of Texas
- T & C Armorsmithing
- Tempus Vernum Farms
- Texas Brothers Moving
- Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- Texas Freedom Network Education Fund
- Texas Toyota of Grapevine
- The Mankind Project
- The Obama Store
- The Women's Chorus of Dallas
- Tomboy Teez
- TONI & GUY Hairdressing Academy
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viewpoints

Pride in a parade of progress

This weekend is a time to reflect on how far we've come, but also an opportunity to think about what we can do to move equality forward

This weekend marks a personal anniversary. Twenty years ago, I marched in my first Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. I remember being overwhelmed by the sights and sounds. Since then, I've either watched the parade or marched in it almost every year.

So much has changed in those ensuing two decades: "don't ask, don't tell" was established and subsequently repealed; dozens of cities and other governmental bodies have added workplace protections covering LGBT employees; and an increasing number of states have adopted marriage equality.

At Resource Center Dallas, we've focused on fully-inclusive employment nondiscrimination policies, particularly in the government sector. Since the summer of 2010, Resource Center Dallas' advocacy has helped lead to new or expanded employment nondiscrimination policies covering over 41,000 workers in the Dallas area. And, our work with DISD and the Dallas County Community College District has helped bring fully-inclusive nondiscrimination protections to around 250,000 students.

Two of the center's current advocacy issues involve another area: domestic partner benefits. Right now, Dallas County and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) are considering adding domestic partner benefits for their gay and lesbian employees. The county recently ran into a stumbling block to offer the benefits through a shared risk pool involving other local governments. So, officials are working on an alternate plan. They hope county commissioners will vote on that plan in a few weeks. Meanwhile, a DART committee will hear from agency officials next month on what it will take to offer domestic partner benefits there.

In both cases, RCD has been providing information on the benefits and discussing that information with key people. The information has been well received, and I think it will be helpful in both cases as both governmental bodies move toward a decision.

It's not a case of "can we offer domestic partner benefits?" so much as it is "how much will it cost us to offer these benefits?" That line of thinking, in and of itself, is a sea change. Both entities understand it's an issue of fairness and equity in the workplace for LGBT employees.

It's not an issue of money; domestic partner benefits don't cost much. For example, it cost



MARCHING TOWARD EQUALITY | Since 2010, local government entities have added LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policies covering 41,000 employees. Dallas County and Dallas Area Rapid Transit are currently considering adding domestic partner benefits. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

Parkland Hospital around \$21,000 to provide the benefits this year. Only 21 of Parkland's more than 9,400 employees are taking part in the benefits. It costs the city of El Paso \$34,000 to provide domestic partner benefits for 19 of its 6,200 employees, and estimates say it will cost El Paso County about \$24,000 to offer the benefits to some of its roughly 7,000 employees.

The Human Rights Campaign estimates the cost of adding domestic partner benefits to a business or governmental agency as being between 1 and 3 percent of the total benefits cost. In this case, business is leading the way, rather than the public sector. According to the 2012 HRC Corporate Equality Index, nearly nine in 10 Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partner benefits, and nearly six in 10 offer "soft benefits" such as family and bereavement leave.

RCD is hopeful that both Dallas County and DART will adopt domestic partner benefits. But in order to ensure that potential for success, each of us needs to do our part.

Contact the Dallas County Commissioners Court and tell them it's important to add domestic partner benefits. Write a letter to the DART Board of Directors and say the same thing. Both governmental bodies need to know that these issues are important to the LGBT community, and

that as both taxpayers and voters we have a stake in our equality.

There's one more way you can advocate for your rights and the rights of the greater LGBT community — commit yourself to vote this November. You have about three weeks to register to vote, if you haven't done so. Once you're registered, vote absentee or turn up at the polls on Election Day, Nov. 6.

We're going into a few weeks where LGBT rights will come into increased focus. We will soon know if and/or when the U.S. Supreme Court will take up the appeal on California's Proposition 8, as well as the status of several cases challenging the Defense of Marriage Act. We'll also be hearing more and more about the states with marriage equality on the ballots in November. Polling in several of those states, including Maine and Washington, indicate equality is winning.

Twenty years ago, our North Texas LGBT community was still illegal in the eyes of the law. No one would have dared dream gay and lesbian couples could get married. Yet these and other positive changes are blossoming all around us. This weekend, take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished as a community, and how bright the future can be as we move forward. Happy Dallas Pride!

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



Rafael McDonnell
Contributing Columnist

With Mayor Rawlings, are we celebrating Pride or prejudice?

During her time as Dallas mayor, Laura Miller made a huge statement by becoming the first mayor to ride in the city's annual LGBT Pride parade.

To many of us in the LGBT community, this was wonderful, a real sign that progress was being made and we were finally becoming a recognized part of the fabric of this city. Miller's Pride appearances gave us Pride.

Her bold statement and the positive response must have made quite an impression, too, as our next mayor, Tom Leppert, also opted to acknowledge the North Texas LGBT crowd by marching in the parade. I remember him tossing beads, smiling and having a gay old time. Our love of Leppert would be short-lived, however, with him deciding to run as a conservative Republican for Senate, completely tossing our community "under the Pride float," if you will.

In 2012, riding in Pride parades has really become "Mayor Chic." It is no surprise that this year, Mayor Mike Rawlings will be joining us for his second appearance. However, Rawlings' appearance this year has left many LGBT Dallasites scratching their heads.

I am sure many of you will remember all of the

drama earlier this year between the Dallas LGBT community and Mayor Mike. After running a campaign for mayor that promised inclusion of the LGBT community and campaigning hard for our votes and money, Rawlings would surprise and, quite frankly, "piss off" many of us when he would refuse to sign a pledge with mayors from across the country calling for the legalization of same-sex marriage. The pledge, "Mayors for the Freedom to Marry," would have been a statement from our mayor that he believes all families deserve dignity and respect under the law. Many of us felt betrayed.

Over the next weeks Mayor Rawlings would dig in his heels over the issue, sparking a national media frenzy, protests, petitions, letter writing campaigns — his position was clearly about as popular as a hot beer — and causing him to cancel meetings and appearances, tap dance around his support for our community and make promises of possibly, maybe working on "other," unspecified issues for us.

Since then, things have cooled down between

the mayor and the LGBT community. He has made several attempts to win our favor again, using lots of pretty words in a pre-recorded address at a Pride Reception at City Hall, and meeting with leadership from various groups and such. Riding in the Pride parade is really the logical next step in saying "please like me" to our community. But, seeing Rawlings' smiling face will not fill many of us with Pride this year.

The truth is, we simply do not know where we stand with Mike Rawlings. This is a man who "believes" the protection of all Dallasites is a priority, yet when given the opportunity to affirm that support of our community, refuses to do so. This is a man who has smiles and waves at Pride receptions, yet when pressed about specific items he is willing to champion for our community, remains elusive and non-committal. Yes, this is a man who maintains that he is a proponent of equality, yet his only recent campaign contributions have been to Tom Leppert (\$1,000) and Mitt Romney (\$2,500). You heard that right: Mike Rawlings, "believer" in



Daniel Cates
Contributing Columnist

equal rights, wants Mitt Romney, a man who would roll back almost every civil rights gain the LGBT community has made, to be president of the United States.

Weren't we just upset with Chick-Fil-A for making donations to bigots? Where is their Pride float?

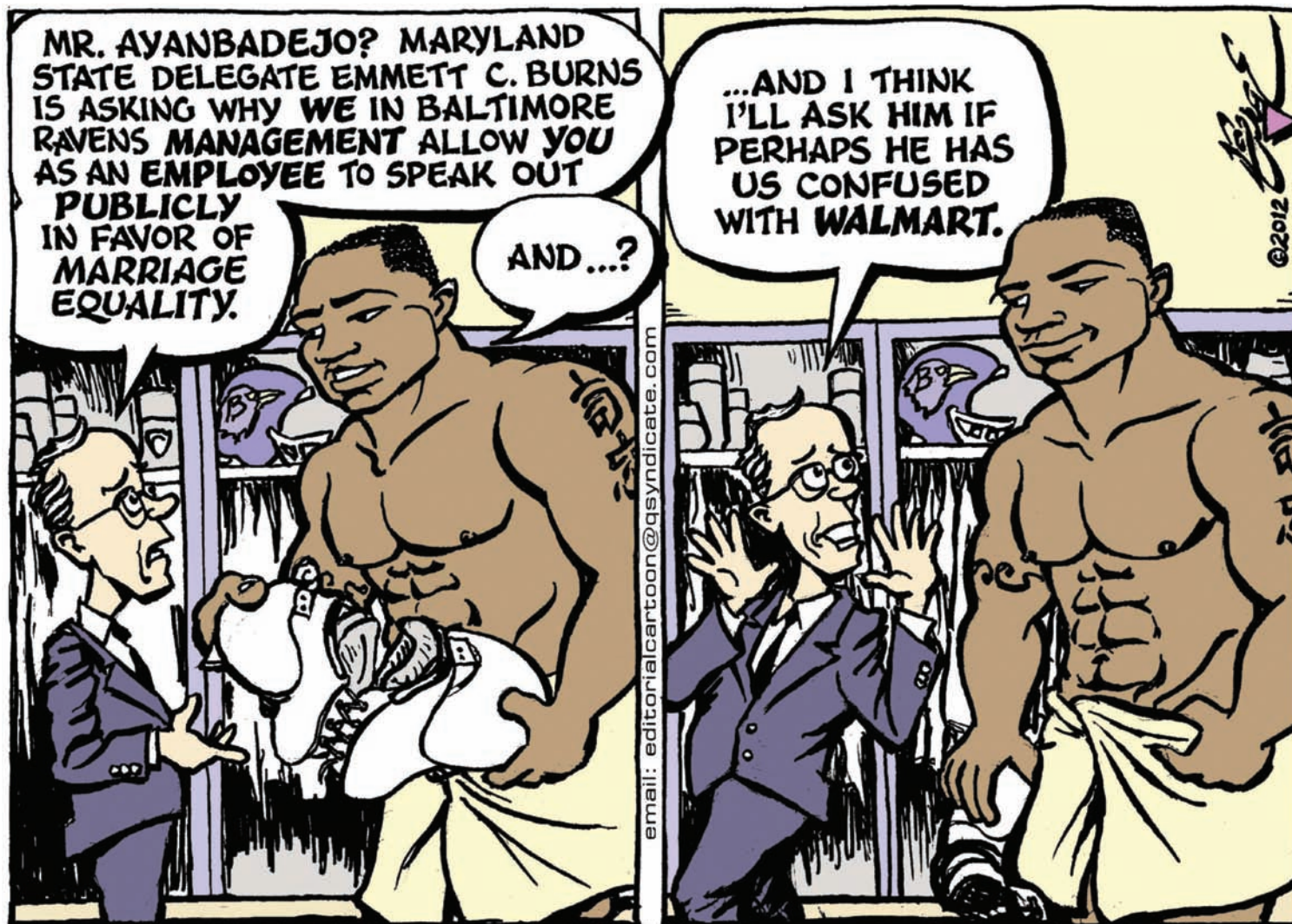
With so much inconsistency, many of us who work for social justice have to ask, "Is Mayor Rawlings a friend or foe?"

What message is his Pride appearance really sending? Pretty words at Pride receptions are one thing and are nice to hear, but donations to anti-LGBT candidates are quite another. Mike Rawlings is looking less and less like a proponent of equality and more like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Personally I believe that Pride celebrations should be inclusive and so I welcome Mayor Rawlings, but I take his symbolic show of support with the tiniest grain of salt. Mike's tossing beads and shaking his money maker may look like progress to many who remember when no city official would be caught dead riding in a "gay" parade. In some ways, this is true, but under his shiny, LGBT-friendly exterior his actions tell us we may have the ilk of another Tom Leppert on our hands.

Mayor Rawlings and politicians across this country who have realized the importance of LGBT support in their political careers would do well to also note that they are not courting the LGBT community of even four years ago. Today's LGBT community is paying attention and elected officials will no longer be able to coast by on a few smiles and handshakes while ignoring or sidestepping the issues important to us. Mike Rawlings' claims of love and support for our community backed up by actual support for candidates who wish to dial back the clock on civil rights has many of us raising an eyebrow. This year, as the mayor's float meanders down Cedar Springs, will we be celebrating Pride or prejudice?

Daniel Cates is North Texas regional coordinator for the direct action group GetEQUAL. He can be reached at daniel@getequaltx.org.



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Was it appropriate for Barney Frank to call gay Republicans "Uncle Toms'?"

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 - Parade and festival: 34 percent
 - Neither: 37 percent
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viewpoints

Rainbow families in TV and film still lack color

NBC's sitcom *The New Normal* breaks new ground this week as the first mainstream show starring same-sex parents — two gay dads. ABC's *Modern Family*, which features two gay dads in its ensemble cast, won an Emmy for Outstanding Comedy Series last year. Yet these shows, for all the tremendous good they are doing to raise the visibility of lesbian and gay parents and our children, follow a tradition of mainstream depictions of LGBT parents as upper middle class and white. When will we see LGBT parents of color, or LGBT families in lower income brackets?

Most of the best-known regular or semi-regular gay and lesbian parents on TV are white and at least reasonably well off. They include: Melanie and Lindsay of Showtime's *Queer as Folk*, Michael and Ben of the same, Carol and Susan of *Friends*, Leslie and Maureen of Showtime's *Nurse Jackie*, Abby and Kathy of ABC's *NYPD Blue*, Laurie of *Ellen* (the '90s ABC sitcom), Fran and Kal of the HBO movie *If These Walls Could Talk II*, Janine and Sandy of the Lifetime movie *What Makes a Family*, and Nora and Anne of ABC Family's *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, as well as Cam and Mitchell of *Modern Family* and Bryan and David of *The New Normal*.

The new lesbian mom on TV this fall, Anne of NBC's *Go On*, is dealing with the death of her partner — a fresh and worthy plotline. But she, too, adds no color to our palette.

We have seen just a few lesbian and gay parents who are people of color or multiracial. They, too, are always solidly middle class — and always one half of a couple with a white person: Sandy and Kerry of *ER* (Sandy is Latina; Kerry is white), Callie and Arizona of *Grey's Anatomy* (Callie is Latina; Arizona is white), Keith and David of HBO's *Six Feet Under* (Keith is black; David is white), Bette and Tina of *The L Word* (Bette has a white mother and a black father; Tina is white), and Hiram and LeRoy (Rachel's dads) of *Glee* (Hiram is white; LeRoy's race is never specified, but actor Brian Stokes Mitchell, who plays him, is African-American, German, Scottish and Native American).

Gay and lesbian parents in mainstream movies are also a white bunch. They include Nic and Jules of the Academy Award-nominated *The Kids Are All Right* (2010), Robert of *The Next Best Thing* (2000), Armand of *The Birdcage* (1996), Renato of *La Cage aux Folles* (1978), and Tick of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1994). A rare exception is Wai-Tung of *The Wedding Banquet* (1993), who is Taiwanese (but whose partner, Simon, is white).

The only fictional same-sex parents on TV who are both people of color are Kima and Cheryl of HBO's *The Wire* and Eddie and Chance of *Noah's*

Arc. *Noah's Arc* did not run on a general-interest network, however. It was broadcast first on LGBT-focused network Logo and rebroadcast one summer on BET J, a spinoff of the Black Entertainment Network.

The truth is far different. Researchers at UCLA's Williams Institute have found that black and Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are roughly twice as likely to be raising children as white ones. (There is little data on transgender parents or single gay and lesbian parents.)

And children being raised by same-sex couples are twice as likely to live in poverty as children being raised by married, opposite-sex parents. We rarely see those aspects of our community on TV or film, however.

On a possibly promising note, though, singer and actor Jennifer Lopez is producing *The Fosters*, a pilot for ABC Family that features a lesbian couple with a "multi-ethnic mix" of four foster, adoptive and biological kids. It is unknown what race or ethnicity the parents are. Lopez, who is Latina, will not be one of them, but perhaps her influence will mean they show some variety. Deadline.com has also reported that one of the mothers is a cop, and the other is a private school teacher — moderate-paying jobs that could mean it is hard for them to support their large family.

The problem, of course, is not just with depictions of LGBT parents, but of LGBT people in general. But gay and lesbian parents are a hot item right now, as witnessed by the success of *The Kids Are All Right* and *Modern Family*, and the buzz about *The New Normal* and *The Fosters*. I hope their success leads to more new shows — shows that highlight even more facets of real LGBT families.

I welcome *The New Normal* and know it will help people continue to see lesbian and gay parents as part of the tapestry of American life. Such representation is vitally important. But until mainstream America can see LGBT people in all our diversity — and not simply as LGBT reflections of the White, upper-middle-class American ideal — we will not have made progress toward true equality for our whole community.

In fact, insofar as media images of LGBT parents continue to reinforce being white and upper-middle-class as the ideal, they may be hindering progress towards the broader goal of inclusion for all people.

The problem is not with any one show or film — but collectively, they create an image that is not that of our multiracial, multiethnic, economically varied America.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of *Mombian* (www.mombian.com), an award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBT parents.



Dana Rudolph
Mombian

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LIFTING THE BAN | President Barack Obama gives a thumbs up after signing DADT repeal in December 2010. The repeal took effect in September 2011. (Associated Press)

As DADT repeal turns 1, a tale not asked or told

I had an aunt, or a great-aunt, who served in the Women's Army Corp during World War II. After she returned from the war, she and her best friend from the service lived together for the rest of their lives.

Now, if you're LGBT or have been around the LGBT community for any length of time, that short story sent a flag up. And if I told you that these two women even shared a bed, you would nod knowingly and assume they were lesbians. But I didn't come to that realization until they were both long gone.

I will never have proof that my great-aunt was a lesbian, but I can make the assumption that if she was, she kept the fact hidden in the closet during World War II. And that would not be surprising since the military never looked fondly at same-sex relationships back then.

Today, one year after the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" took effect, it is a whole different story. First, LGBT service members don't have to hide their sexual orientation or relationships. Moreover, the Armed Forces are celebrating their relationships — as this year the Pentagon formally recognized June as Pride Month.

More importantly, though, a study was released almost a year to the day that DADT was repealed, and it showed that contrary to the predictions of the right wing, the repeal had no negative impact on military readiness, morale or unit cohesion. None!

This is a study by the Palm Center and its co-authors include professors at the U.S. Marine Corps War College, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Air Force Academy. So this is not some biased think-tank piece.

The study found the following:

- The openness and honesty post-repeal may have increased understanding, respect and accept-

ance.

- Contrary to predictions, recruitment has remained robust.

- Retention was unaffected by repeal.

- There's been no increase in violence within units.

- Unit morale was not impacted, except on the individual level depending on a servicemember's personal position on the issue of DADT.

- LGBT servicemembers did not come out en masse.

Essentially, things in the military have gone on as usual — if not a little bit better.

And for the LGBT servicemembers? Well, things have improved a lot. They now can live and serve without having to walk the delicate line of deception. Returning LGBT troops can be openly embraced by their loved ones in public just like their straight counterparts. Partners visiting wounded servicemembers can freely admit their relationship to



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

the service member and be treated with the respect they deserve.

Most interesting is that there have not been mass resignations of straight servicemembers, as many pundits on the right predicted.

If only this kind of openness had been around years ago, I might have had the role models of my great-aunt and her "friend" as a loving open couple. Though I will never know the truth, I can hope they would both be smiling today, arm in arm in their uniforms.

My great-aunt was part of The Greatest Generation.

Wouldn't it have been even greater if the real story could be known?

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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'Kooza'-kool

LIFE+STYLE

stage

The gay creative team for Cirque du Soleil's 'Kooza' take an absurdist romp through the imagination of The Trickster

With most productions from the Canadian group Cirque du Soleil — big top spectacles that combine circus acts, comedy and abstract music wrapped around a fantasy dramatic presentation — you can't quite tell what it will be going on just by reading about them. Or talking about them. Really, you have to see them for yourself.

And *Kooza*, the latest, is no exception.

The press release talks of a Trickster who creates a world in which he can toy with The Innocent by constantly changing the rules and then gleefully punishing the resulting and inevitable transgressions. It sounds a little bit like Zeus, or an old episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* ... except that the Trickster looks more like The Joker than an august all-powerful Greek god or the stiff alien Q. But godlike he is. *Kooza*, as it turns out, is the name of the alternate reality, the *Kooza* world, which is The Trickster's construct.

"It is such a great character — you can't help but identify with him," says Jason Berrent, the gay man who gets to play The Trickster. "He is the master of his own world that he creates as he goes along. He is confident, commanding, imaginative, sexy, and is completely in charge. He has even invented himself and can re-invent himself

on a whim."

Berrent actually created the character in *Kooza*'s original incarnation, although he took a sabbatical to perform other theater before returning to the current tour. And because of his background — Berrent is a 2002 U.S. National Championship gymnast, as well as a dancer — he incorporates a great deal of physicality and gymnastic training into the role. He worked out many of the moves he uses in the role by long hours of experimentation alone in the dance studio.

"I am a tumbler," he says. "That is what is called the floor exercises in the Olympics. But I am also a dancer, so I tied the tumbling moves together with a dance narrative. It also helped a lot when I got to see the costume I was going to wear."

And what he gets to wear is a part of the aesthetic for *Kooza*, which includes Cirque's famed sense of exaggerated sexuality. The acts of derring-do are

eye-popping and tripped-out. The balancing act becomes a gloriously muscular man using eight chairs to create a 23-foot tower on which to perform one-armed handstands. There is also a group of acrobats leaping in bewildering patterns, a unicycle on a tightrope, and something called "The Wheel of Death," which is so dangerous it is not done at some performances.

Deciding what each show will look like falls to Michael G. Smith, a Brit who joined the tour mid-run as its artistic director. Although the show was already basically complete when he joined it, Smith still fiddles with a show that is of necessity constantly changing. Adding Berrent back into the tour is a good example.

"The changes are subtle and you wouldn't really notice much different if you have seen it before. Of course, that is my job," jokes Smith, who lives with his partner in Paris when he's not on tour.

"Jason created The Trickster, so that helped [to integrate him seamlessly]. But more importantly, The Trickster represents a concept more than a

real flesh-and-blood character."

Berrent says he took some inspiration from Jim Carrey's film *The Mask* in developing The Trickster. "But mostly he came from the deep down. These are the fantasies of every one who has ever felt helpless when confronted with a difficult situation and thinks, 'Boy, if only I could just snap my fingers and change this.'"

Still, with his mischievous ways, the character sounds more villain than hero. So who wins in the end? The manipulative Trickster or the guile-

less Innocent?

Ultimately, it's the audience that can decide how they feel, after the tent has folded up and the imaginary world of *Kooza* has become just a memory. "Between strength and fragility, laughter and smiles, turmoil and harmony, *Kooza* explores themes of fear, identity, recognition and power," read the press materials for the show.

Maybe existential or absurdist are the best adjectives for *Kooza* after all.

—Gregory Sullivan Isaacs



CIRCUS ANIMALS | Jason Berrent, left, plays the mischievous Trickster in 'Kooza,' with artistic director Michael G. Smith, inset, tweaking the show.





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Laughter through tears

2 heartfelt musicals, 1 gut-busting comedy show start fall's theater season

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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Rent is the most problematic of musicals: A great score, a great story and I've never seen a staging of it that really did it justice. The book is weak — transitions are awkward (though you can tell what its composer-author, Jonathan Larson, was trying to do); the nearly 90-minute first act takes place over an unlikely three hours, while the second covers a full year; etc. And even with Bob Lavallee's spectacularly detailed set in Theatre Arlington's current production, these issues linger.

But they also don't matter much. Sure, it's not a perfect show, but it is a compelling one, and this version — one of the most daring TA has ever attempted — has a cast that wants to overcome them. Although set in the early 1990s, director Andy Baldwin has updated it slightly, with a more hipster version of the HIV-positive songwriter Roger (the appealing and impassioned Shane Allen) and a less nerdy filmmaker Mark (Tim McCarthy, who has a great voice). His "Tango Maureen" with a towering Melissa McMillan is one of Act 1's unexpected comic highlights.

Angel Velasco also succeeds as the open-hearted drag queen Angel. Velasco is unrecognizable in drag, and you believe the sadness of

the other characters at his loss. In fact, that's one reason *Rent* always seems to work, even if sometimes in spite of itself: Just try not getting chills during Act 2's opener "Seasons of Love," or tearing up at the reprise of "I'll Cover You" or feeling emboldened to live your life as you please in "La Vie Boheme." (The story is stolen straight from Puccini's *La Boheme*, with the requisite modernizations.) *Rent* is as much manifesto as theater — its capacity to transform you remains undiminished.

The po-mo infidelities in *Rent* almost can compare to the outright sense of betrayal that permeates Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, a rarely-revived musical from the 1950s about a schlubby middle aged Italian immigrant who tricks a beautiful young waitress into becoming his bride. One reason you don't see it much: It's not really a musical — this is full-blown opera, with soaring arias, a baritone leading man and a dark side undergirding its misleading title. (Tony, he not so-a happy by da end.) It has the scope of grand tragedy — even the delivery of a mere letter is presented with all the formality of a knight arriving by swan to fight for a maiden's honor.

THE BEST MEDICINE | Martin Garcia and Liz Mikel tap into the essence of Dallas with both good-natured and withering humor in DTC's 'The Second City Does Dallas.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

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Any show as complex and challenging as this must be the product of Irving's Lyric Stage, and of course this one is also. Lyric has spend five years re-staging original classics of Broadway, from *Oklahoma* to *Gypsy* to *My Fair Lady* (which, by the way, trounced *Fella* at the 1957 Tony Awards) to the show this one most closely resembles, *Carousel* ... almost without exception with spectacular result.

This is no exception. Director Cheryl Denson and conductor Jay Dias have teamed again to produce a massive production so finely detailed and compelling that, even at more than three hours, it breezes by. Most opera companies should aspire to this kind of stage-craft.

It helps that they are working with tremendous material. Loesser's score is a masterpiece of eclectic styles: The barbershop close harmonies of "Standing on the Corner" sit effortlessly alongside the energetic romping hoe-down of "Big D" and the searing torch song "Rosabella." And the music is non-stop, as evocative even in spoken scenes as the underscore of a Douglas Sirk film.

Also par for the course at Lyric is a gifted cast — not just the *bel canto* voice of Amber Nicole Guest as Rosabella and Bill Nolte's sympathetic sap Tony, but Alex Organ's wide-eyed Herman teamed perfectly with Catherine Carpenter Cox, whose goofy charms and pitch-perfect singing have gone hand-in-glove in many Lyric shows. (Even the ensemble shines, with Tyler Donahue, Max Swarner and Martin Antonio Guerra as a trio of chefs who deliver comic gems like characters in an animated Disney film. I kept waiting for them to break into a chorus of "Be Our Guest," or serve a cocker spaniel pasta in an alley.)

The biggest problem with Lyric's shows? They only play two weekends. That's what lightning in a bottle is like, I guess — magical, memorable, but all too fleeting.

I'm always suspicious when outsiders think they "get" Texas — Dallas especially — and are entitled to make fun of it. (When the editors of *The Onion* did a show at the Winspear last year, they humiliated themselves thinking they knew their audience better than they did.) It's like insulting your mom — you can do it, but if someone else does? Them's fightin' words.

So just the thought of **The Second City Does Dallas**, which opens Dallas Theater Center's fourth season at the Wyly, set my teeth on edge.



ANGEL OF THE MOURNING | A drag queen (Angel Velasco) transforms a group of bohemian hipsters in Theatre Arlington's daring and ultimately satisfying production of the rock opera 'Rent.'

Would these guys *really* understand what we think is mockable about our town? And more particularly, even if they did, would it make us chuckle?

The answer is a resounding (and somewhat surprising) "yes," as their comedy show — part improv, part sketches tailored for Dallas, part tried-and-true routines from the company's storied history — transforms the Wyly into a coffee-house, with mismatched sofas and armchairs alongside café tables (and some theater seating) for a hoot-and-half two hours of laughs.

While Liz Mikel is the only local actor in the cast of six, two others have Texas ties (one even grew up in Lake Highlands), and director Matt Hovde has done his homework: Rhett Miller plays during intermission, and the references to local landmarks like Pappadeaux don't come across as forced.

None of this would matter much if the laughs came off as spotty, and while the troupe takes some bold risks — there are more-than-expected jokes about issues like marriage equality ("No more Mr. Nice Gay!" they declare) and a long sequence making fun (!) of the Kennedy

assassination that is so wrong, it's right — most of the material hits. Sure, the Act 2 opener is a re-tread of a sketch done 20 years ago on *Saturday Night Live*, but it holds up pretty well, thanks to the enthusiastic cast. (The men are all dressed like refugees from a road show of *The Book of Mormon*, which is itself kinda funny.) And working same-sex couples into sketches as if we *weren't* in the Bible Belt warms the heart. Gags about the Museum Tower, Clint Eastwood talking to a chair and the Allen High School Stadium? They nailed us. No hard feelings. ■

ON THE BOARDS

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA at Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving Through Sept. 15. LyricStage.org.

RENT at Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington Through Sept. 30. TheatreArlington.org.

THE SECOND CITY DOES DALLAS at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Sept. 30. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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Below *the* surface

It's what's underneath that matters, as some sexy underwear proves

Let's face it: Gay men like their underwear. (Sure, they like taking it off, too, but that's another story.) And Dallas is awash with many options, from stores in the gayborhood that offer the best and sexiest, to several retailers and designers based in the area who sell their briefs, trunks and tanks online. We surveyed some of the best to come up with these Prideful recommendations.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones. Models by Bar10 Events.

CANDID COLORED | We know Dallas-based Candid Underwear's name doesn't exactly rhyme with 'candied,' but it's hard to look at their collection of confectionary-colored briefs — from the sugar houndstooth style, right, to a lush grape to electric blue — and not feel like a kid in a candy store. Actually, it's not hard to look at them at all. Sweet.

> Available exclusively online at CandidUnderwear.com.

(X)ISTENCE ISN'T FUTILE | So much of 2(x)ist's brand is so readily identifiable, they almost don't need to show their logo so boldly across the band. There's the super-hot Gold line, below left, with its stand-out golden waistband making it easy to forget how supple and form-fitting the briefs are; there's the sturdier, rugged look of the Athletic line, below, as manly and supporting on your workout as it is likely to get you noticed in the locker room; there's the Touch line, as brightly colored as a spring flower garden. But we also love the tops 2(x)ist makes, from the uber-sexy square-cut tank to the club-wear-quality henley, pictured left.

> Available at Skivvies, Macy's and online at Shop.2xist.com.



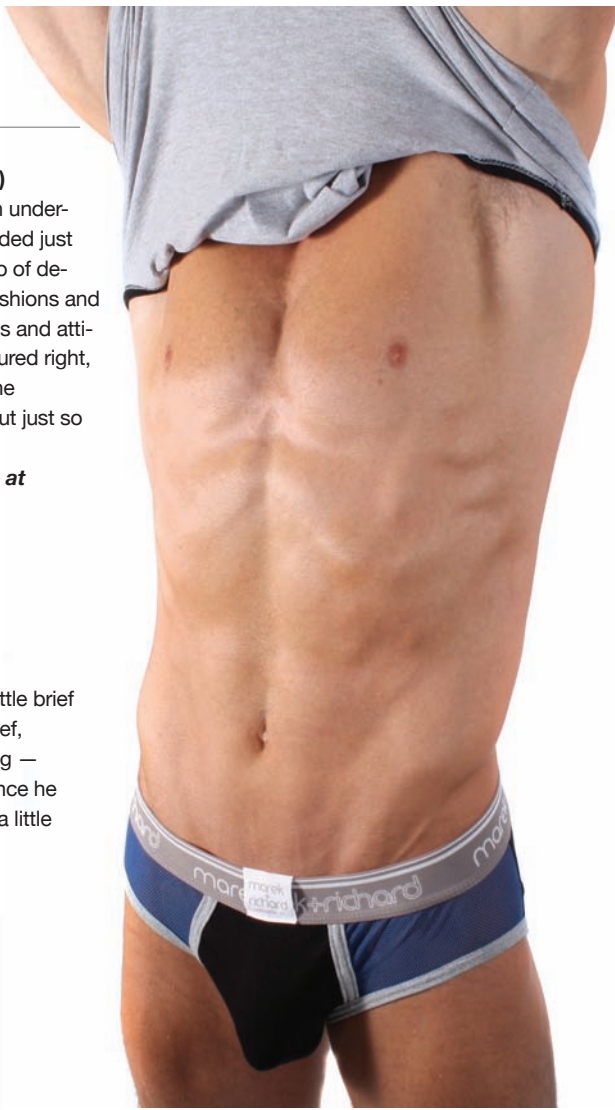
KEEPIN' IT REAL | Of course Skivvies sells underwear, but they also design their own line, and retailing has taught them a thing or two about what looks good on a man, as anyone even glancing at the Commando Pouch brief, pictured left, could see. Doesn't "commando" mean going without? Trust us: That's what these feel like.

> Available exclusively at Skivvies.

MAKING YOUR MAREK (+RICHARD)

Dallas seems to be a hotbed of fashion underwear for the discerning gay men. Founded just last year in Big D, Marek+Richard's duo of designers take inspiration from vintage fashions and pop culture in designing a line with sass and attitude, like the backless mesh brief, pictured right, which is both naughty and stylish, to the XXXtreme tank that's lightweight and cut just so that your best assets are accentuated.

> Available at Union Jack and online at MarekRichard.com.



CRY FREEDOM | If you like a snug little brief in patriotic colors, Freedom Reigns' brief, below, will certainly get your flag waving — and, for that matter, your boyfriend's once he sees you in this Speedo-like brief with a little rubber hood ornament-like front.

> Available at Skivvies.



PAKIN IT IN | We have to hand it to the MyPackage designers, who have come up with a sports brief that is both warm in cool weather and cool in the heat, with a supporting pouch in front that accents your jewels while also offering support in a variety of stunning color combinations for this remarkable, lightweight fabric. Sexy, sporty and supportive? They're like the best boyfriend ever. without the drama.

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Dynamic duo

'Hetero life partners' David Raposa & Sam McDonald prove how even straight guys can bond at the gym

For a year now, Dallas Voice has highlighted many same-sex couples who make living a healthier lifestyle an active part of their relationship. In honor of Pride, we decided to shift focus to a love that dare not speak its name: The bromance.

For our first-ever "hetero life partners' edition" of Dynamic Duo, we tracked down a pair who make J.D. and "Chocolate Bear" from TV's *Scrubs* look like Chuck Norris and Ann Coulter on a seal hunt. While they may have an interest in the ladies, David Raposa and Sam McDonald's workout routine and budding friendship bares a striking resemblance to true coupledness (and a charming banter that may make them Dallas' favorite fag stags).

—Jef Tingley

Names and ages: David Raposa, 26; Sam McDonald, 24

Occupations: Raposa: Trainer at ClaireVista Vitality Club; McDonald: Claims adjuster

Years "hetero life partnership:" 5

Years working out together: 3

Sports & activities: Soccer, running, triathlons, disc golf and surfing

First memory of meeting the other one: "How did you know your bromance was in the stars?" Raposa: At a party while at SMU, we were drawn together by the allure of an open beer pong table, and happened to dominate any duo mercilessly placed across from us. Fate.

McDonald: Little did I know that in that game I was getting a partner, motivator, coach, cheerleader and noisemaker. I had never met a guy quite like David. At one point, he asked for the attention of all the women in the room to watch him take a shot, he then asked me to cover his eyes. I looked at him in confusion and asked what he wanted, thinking to myself "surely I didn't hear him right." But no, Dave once again demanded that I cover his eyes while he took the final shot. I complied and in true Dave fashion he made it. He asked me quietly, "Did I make it?" I replied, "Yeah, you made it." And he erupted.

What are your inside jokes or nicknames for each other? Raposa: He says my No. 1 strength is "loud." I'm not sure I appreciate that — I call it "enthusiasm." He doesn't understand sometimes his words hurt. I just call him "SamMac."

McDonald: We reference David's tattoo a lot. He has a clock on his back, which symbolizes time always looking over his shoulder. When either of us is lacking for motivation we like to say, "I don't know if you know this but I have a tattoo of a clock on my back. Let's go!" I think my favorite Dave "mind vitamin" was during one workout when he told me, "Everyone else is at home right now trying to keep up with the Kardashians! They're not out here trying to keep up with Big Sam!" I had to stop because I was laughing too hard.

How do you introduce one another to friends and family? Raposa: "Y'all know my hetero life partner SamMac."

McDonald: Dave hasn't met my parents yet, but for friends it's a pretty normal introduction.

Do you ever get mistaken for a gay couple? Raposa: I'm sure it's happened, but hey, when it comes to a fake boyfriend, you could do much worse than Sam. I mean c'mon — look at this guy, he's so adorable. He's like Minka Kelly with a beard.

McDonald: We've played the *Chuck and Larry* roles before, but that was on one of the more wild nights when some friends took us to the gayborhood.

What sporting events have you participated in together? Raposa: We've done some road races and a triathlon



BROMANCE | One night of beer pong led to years of hetero man-love for Raposa and McDonald. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

together; we did surfing in Laguna this summer — that was humbling. But he's been a little preoccupied planning a wedding, so working out has truly become our main avenue to keep the bromance burning.

McDonald: We also snuck into one of the buildings downtown and ran the stairs to the top floor. I think we ended up running something like 50 flights that day.

Exercise regimen? Raposa: Generally we go with full body workouts with weights. Split routines are kind of boring

■ DUO, Page 67

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'Q' the parade!

Rod and Ricky, stars of T3's 'Avenue Q', get their Pride on with a gay wedding

On Sept. 16, a 51-year-old will walk down the route of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade for the first time ever. And it's name is Theatre 3.

The Uptown theater company just launched its 51st season with, of all things, a foul-mouthed puppet show in its downstairs space, Theatre Too. The show, *Avenue Q*, has been a huge hit for the company, nearly selling out every performance and getting two big extensions (the latest until Oct. 28).

So why did it take until 2012 to enter the parade? Well because two of the cast members are getting married. Gay Republican Rod popped the question to Ricky, his Oscar Madison-esque boyfriend, after the last curtain, and the grooms will happily be enjoying their wedding processional along Cedar Springs.

We sat down with the lovebirds — as well as Rod's hetero roommate and best friend Nicky and neighbors Christmas Eve and Trekkie Monster — to see what this entire experience means to them, and the other folks along *Avenue Q*.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: Ricky, Rod: How did you know "this was the one?"

Ricky: After seeing the cute little glasses and sexy ginger hair, I was hooked.

Rod: Pleeeeeease, Arnold!!! Look at him!!!!

Have you had pre-marital counseling? Rod: Yes, we had several productive sessions with [neighborhood therapist] Christmas Eve and [her husband] Brian ... though we don't think *he* really offered much. ...

Ricky: No, Roddy, he did offer those little cocktail wieners and the frosty Ruby Red beer.

Where will the ceremony take place? And does it bother you that your union will not be legally recognized in Texas? Rod: We will be getting married here on Avenue Q, of course, with Gary [Coleman] officiating. It is unfortunate Texas won't recognize us ... but I still love Rick Perry's hair!

Ricky: Whatever Roddy wants ... Wait a minute ... we are single again in Texas???

Have either of you ever attended or marched in a gay Pride parade before? Are you nervous? What are you expecting? Rod: No, never! I am a bit nervous, but Christmas Eve has taught me some breathing techniques in case I start to hyperventilate. I think it will be a dream day with my handsome beau!

Ricky: Yes, lots, all over the nation, while I was reigning Mr. Foam and Leather. Any chance to party with Roddy and the gang is my idea of a good time!

Do you have a float? Who designed it? Rod: Yes, it's going to be a surprise for us from the *Avenue Q* designers.

Ricky: David Walsh, the totally cool artist, is designing it. I am sure it will be rockin'!

Rod, as a Republican, will you be marching both for same-sex equality and Romney-Ryan? Or have your politics changed? Rod: I choose not to speak about my Republican beliefs ... except to say I do think Romney is cute.

Ricky: Wha'...???

Rod: Cute, baby — not a sexy hunk of man like you!

Ricky, how are your politics different from Rod's? Ricky: Politics????

Will your parents be attending? (Did you invite them? Do they know?) Ricky: My parents, Foam and Fleece, will be coming from the Sonoma Ashram in Cali. I am stoked to see them again!

Rod: They are *so sweet* to come all this way!

Did I detect a wince there, Rod? Rod: Ummm ...

Never mind. Are your neighbors from Avenue Q invited? Are any of them throwing you a bachelor party? Rod: They will all be there!

THE GROOMS | The happy couple — Rod, left, and Ricky — will proudly march down Cedar Springs Road ... even though they live on Avenue Q. (Photo courtesy Sara Means)



Christmas Eve is acting as my matron of honor, and Nicky will be our best man. Gary will officiate, of course. Nicky is taking care of the bachelor parties: one for each of us. Word has it even Trekkie will tear himself away from the Internet for the event!

Ricky: Trekkie ... Love that guy ... er, monster!

Nicky: For Rod's party, he's asked to go to see the New York Stock Exchange and then have a good dinner and be in bed by 9. I will probably invite Princeton and Brian to join us, if they want to go. I would also invite them to Ricky's bachelor party afterwards at some place called Splash. He said that he would take care of the guest list for that one. Guess we will just have to wait and see.

Are you going on a honeymoon? Where to? Who planned it? Ricky: Roddy has a secret guilty pleasure!

Rod: Ricky!!! You wouldn't!

Ricky: My baby has seen *Mamma Mia* 50 times on the big screen so we are going to take an Atlantis Cruise to Greece to see the fountain of Aphrodite so Roddy can run up those steps like his idol Meryl Streep!

Nicky, have you ever been a best man before? Nicky: This will actually be my first time. For Brian and Christmas Eve's wedding I was the "best man's assistant." Oh, and I was the coat check guy at my cousin's wedding a couple years ago. I am a little nervous, I guess, but I would as-

sume that's normal. I am just so happy that Rod is happy, so I will do the best job I can do.

Have you ever attended or participated in a gay wedding? Nicky: Nope, this will be my first one on that, too.

Christmas Eve: I have friends who are a gay. They very handsome. After they married, I catch bouquet, make me very excited! But then I meet my fiancé, and he not handsome, only fat. And lazy.

Trekkie: Me no attended a gay wedding before — or any wedding — me too busy. But me have seen Pamela Anderson's wedding night video. Me give it two furry thumbs up!

Do you think any of you will cry when Rod and Ricky walk down the aisle together? Christmas Eve: No, I not cry unless there are bride with beautiful wedding gown with many lights.

Trekkie: Me no think so. Maybe yawn a bit, but no cry. Katie Monster will cry enough for all of us.

Nicky: I don't think I will be crying exactly, but I may have to hold back a bit. I'm only fabric, after all.

Does this break up the old Avenue Q gang? Nicky, where will you be living once they are married? Nicky: Well, I would assume with them... why, what have you heard?

Christmas Eve: We move from Avenue Q to much nicer neighborhood in Flushing.

AVENUE Q

Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 28. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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Tony the tiger

The legendary club DJ brings his patented energy to TMC for Parade Day BearDance

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
rlopez5428@yahoo.com

Gay culture has always been ahead of mainstream society when it comes to fashion, sex and music. But the straight folks eventually catch up. Take the DJ — an exalted occupation in the gay arena. But it's only recently that mixers like David Guetta and Skrillex have rivaled Justin Bieber or Lady Gaga for mainstream familiarity.

Tony Moran has held that kind of fame for decades, spinning for gay Pride events around the world. But despite all he's accomplished, his goal at every gig is the same: To offer one hell of an experience.

"I think people see me wanting them to be satisfied and maybe that translates onto the floor," he says. "I want to appease the most people I can. I think the greatest discovery I've had as a DJ is that positive energy is contagious."

Even after working with megastars (Michael Jackson, Celine Dion) and scoring two Grammy nominations, Moran has held onto his passion as a club DJ. He gets that he's famous, but at an early age, he learned he had to constantly strive beyond what he'd already accomplished. A musician gets noticed for growth in their music, be it stronger lyrics or a shift in musical style, but DJs have to balance the line be-

tween their identifying sound and sound growth if they want to ascend the ranks. For that, Moran has learned to rely on his crowds.

"I had started spinning when I was 19 and made a lot of records in a short time, but by the time I was 24, I was already being called a has-been," he recounts. "That has always stuck with me. So I make efforts to create something new all the time. Basically, people just wanna hear some fucking good songs. When the music stimulates their senses, it stimulates me."

That philosophy isn't limited to his club work. When he headlines the BearDance Pride T-dance at TMC on Sunday, he'll share the bill with porn-star-cum-singer Colton Ford. Ford and Moran met only recently, but instantly struck up a friendship. Moran suggested they work together, sensing a similar vibe from Ford that he had felt from far more established singers.

"When it comes to artists, I am sensitive to figuring out their motivation," Moran says. "When someone like Whitney Houston sang, it was through her heart. When I look and hear Colton, I see that same thing."

The two are collaborating on Ford's next single, "Let Me

BEARDANCE

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HE'S GRRRR-EAT! | Tony Moran teams up with Colton Ford to entertain the bears on Sunday at TMC.

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Live Again" ... and Moran is working under the gun to have it ready for BearDance.

"I'll have it mixed [before I come to Dallas] if it breaks me. But Colton's got a great head on his shoulders, and when I hear this song, I think we can reach beyond the audience who just wants to see him."

Moran feels confident the show will be a success, in part from working with the BearDance team. He felt comfortable saying yes to the gig because of how organized they were.

"They rallied together to make something happen and get decisions made," he says. "A lot of other events don't have it as together as they did. They are such incredible team players; it felt like we were creating something. Getting Colton to be a part of it is even better!"

Moran hasn't felt he needs to tweak his style just because his audience is more bear than traditional club kid — he only wants to be a part of the celebration and bring a positive attitude.

"By the time I'm done there, I will have stamped it with my identity. I love how the bears have found a way to be comfortable in their skin and have a party," Moran says. "I have my own personal history with bears, so it'll be great — they're so cuddly and loveable. It'll be fun to be around a bunch of happy faces. I don't care what size they are!"

DJs Sean Mac and CBass will spin starting at noon prior to Moran's T-dance as a parade watching party. Proceeds from the day will benefit AIDS Arms.

Gaynadians

Toronto, where same-sex marriage is legal, really knows how to do Pride up

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevenlindsey@me.com

THEY DO RIGHT | Mounties proudly march in Toronto's Pride parade. (TorontoWide.com)

It's been said that love is the universal language. But gay Pride comes in a close second. Rainbow-colored everything. Shirtless men holding hands. Lesbians on motorcycles. No matter where in the world you may find yourself, there are certain aspects of Pride events that transcend verbal communication and simply convey the coming together of a diverse group of people with one unifying sense of purpose and celebration.

■ GAYNADIANS, Next Page

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GAYNADIANS

From Previous Page

While we're deep in the heart of Dixie for Dallas Pride, Toronto is deep in the planning stages for World Pride 2014, a massive international event that promises to be the biggest gay party on the planet. And what better host than a Canadian city that proudly rejoices in equality for everyone, 365 days a year.

Toronto Pride, which took place earlier this summer, features 10 full days of events every June, with parties, marches, parades and performances that celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, two-spirit and queer (LGBTQQ) communities. (Yes, they have an even longer abbreviation than we do in the U.S., just another example of their commitment to all-inclusion.)

The festivities — and the broader acknowledgment of equality — extend far beyond the parade route and the borders of the gay village. At the airport, banners authoritatively welcome visitors to Toronto Pride. Taxicabs are adorned with Pride colors and event logos. And in all parts of the city, rainbow flags pop up in storefronts and restaurants as a warm gesture of “welcome.”

It's a sight you normally expect to find only in the Castro, or Key West, or P-town ... to see it citywide in a major city comes with a real sense of Pride for a visitor.

But you don't have to wait until Pride Week to experience the vibrant energy of one of the gayest cities in the world, and home to Canada's largest LGBT community. Toronto's Gay Village (or simply “The Village”) is the area immediately surrounding the crossroads of Church and Wellesley streets, filled with restaurants, bars, nightclubs, bathhouses and gay-oriented businesses. Many may recognize a few building exteriors from the U.S. version of *Queer As Folk*, which frequently filmed on location in this neighborhood.

Bar-hopping here isn't an option; it's a necessity. Nearly a dozen bars and clubs fall within a few blocks, so it's easy to pop into each of them the first night and figure out which you want to frequent the rest of your trip. Woody's (WoodysToronto.com) is a large space with multiple bars, frequent shows, and QAF fame for good measure. A couple doors down, the Black Eagle (BlackEagleToronto.com) is home to the leather, denim and uniform fans and occasional leave-your-clothes-at-the-door parties.

Flash offers up something rare in the U.S.:



OOT AND ABOUT | Toronto's already enormous Gay Pride celebration will grow even bigger in 2014, when World Pride arrives for what promises to be the biggest gay party in the history of the planet. (Photos by Rod Orta)

completely nude male dancers, sometimes performing “love acts.” Expect to pay a minimum \$5-ish membership fee to this private club. Across the street, get your drag fix at Crews and Tangos (CrewsAndTangos.com), featuring nightly shows from talented performers.

Just make sure not to spend the entire trip in the dark, dance-music-filled meccas. There's much more to explore. One of the best ways to experience the neighborhood is with a Toronto Queer Walking Tour (TorontoQueerWalking-Tours.com), an informative excursion through

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the streets with amazing tales of the city's gay past, including the harrowing circumstances of the 1981 bathhouse raids and subsequent riots. This cataclysmic event united the community and serves as Toronto's own version of Stonewall.

The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives has a permanent home in the Village and is well worth a visit for history buffs or anyone who loves digging through boxes and boxes of publications and other memorabilia. Its collection makes up the largest archives of LGBT history in the world. (It's best to make arrangements in advance to visit rather than just showing up at the door, CLGA.ca.)

To stay close to all the action of the Village, Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville (MarriottBloor.com) is a gay-friendly property just a quick walk down the street.

Most of the restaurants in the gayborhood aren't anything remarkable, with the exception of the unique Fabarnak (Fabarnak.com). It's a social enterprise of The 519 Church Street Community Centre, housed right on the first floor of the building. Here, members of the community learn restaurant skills, both in-front and back-of-the-

house operations. But most importantly, they put out an innovative spread of seasonal cuisine that rivals any big restaurant in the city.

But anyone looking for a different type of gay community may want to stay in the rapidly growing district, West Queen West (aka "Queer West"), filled with art galleries, boutiques and tiny cafés.

Here, there are two fantastic boutique hotels with an emphasis on art. Lesbian-owned Gladstone (GladstoneHotel.com) features 37 unique artist-designed rooms and an ever-rotating exhibit of artwork on each floor, as well as a curated gallery space. Just a couple blocks away, the Drake (TheDrakeHotel.com) offers just a handful of sleekly designed rooms (and one suite), also exhibiting multiple rotating art installations, an underground performance space and one of the coolest rooftop bars anywhere in the city. People gay and straight travel from all over Toronto and beyond just to party here.

Hit The Beaver (BeaverToronto.com) for an electric, alternative crowd that welcomes all and defies categorization. Gay restaurant Nyood (Nyood.ca), on the other hand, serves up plenty of ingredient-driven small and shared plates in a chic setting. But if you really want to get a taste of Canada, it's all about the poutine (French fries topped with cheese curds and gravy). At Poutini's (Poutini.com) on Queen Street West, order up a traditional version, or sample vegan, pulled pork or bacon varieties. These are cheese fries on crack.



IN THE WIND | The gay rainbow flag unfurls proudly alongside the national flag of Canada in the only North American country where complete marriage equality is legal. (Photo courtesy Rod Orta)

A city of distinct neighborhoods, Toronto is vast and where you stay will greatly affect the amount of money you spend on cabs, or how much time you'll spend in a rental car or public transportation. So don't leave your vacation to chance. Instead, contact one of the city's most knowledgeable travel agents (and a delightful lesbian, as well). Liz Divine at Rainbow Travel (Rainbow.Travel.com) can book everything you

need and help you create an itinerary to maximize your daily experiences. Splitting your time between West Queen West and The Village is a great way to immerse yourself in the community, so be willing to change hotels halfway through and truly discover Toronto.

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For more photos of Toronto's Pride Week celebration, visit the Photos section of DallasVoice.com.

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Cocina confidential

Monica Greene's one-two punch of Oak Lawn's Nueva Cocina and Mi Lounge is a knockout

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

Consider the humble tortilla chip: A simple patty of corn masa, sliced and deep fried — a food not so much in itself, but as a medium for delivering other foods: cheese, sour cream, salsa, guacamole.

There's not much to a tortilla chip, and yet it can be such a tremendously vital (or enervating) accompaniment to a Tex-Mex meal. Too thin or thick, too greasy or dry, too big or small ... We all have our complaints. Like pizza crust, there isn't a right or wrong, merely a *like it or don't*.

I can't imagine many restaurants put much time into designing their chips — certainly the majority are serviceable, like sporks are to silver flatware. But on several visits to Monica Greene's new two-venue destination in the ilume — the casual **Mi Lounge** and the slightly more formal **Monica's Nueva Cocina** — the kitchen seems to have elevated it. The chips are brilliant paradoxes:

crunchy and chewy, as if I'd ever thought that possible. They're big, sturdy chips that manage to be elegant as well. (At least they were on two visits; two other times, they were good, though not as special.)

Better yet, though, is how they pair with the salsa. The salsa here is neither spicy nor mild, but some magical middle ground of richness. The ingredients — tomatoes, onions, a few more familiar additions — taste as fresh as a sailor on leave, hand crushed and not heated to maintain their intense vegetal character. Fluid but also chunky, it scoops heartily without withering the chip.

If it sounds a bit romanticized, well, that's to be expected. This is Monica back in the gayborhood, which she moved out of five years ago when she shuttered Ciudad. The menu here — part Monica, part her exec chef, Hector Hernandez — combines new ideas (she's enthusiastic about vegetarian dishes!) with some old friends (Greene pasta and Mexican lasagna have been transplanted from her now-also-closed Deep Ellum eatery, Aca y Alla). But there's no denying the skill goes beyond wishful thinking.

The set-up takes some getting used to: One entrance for both restos, but separate menus (though apparently the same menu at lunch): One buzzy and social, with Mexican wrestling masks providing décor and a working sushi bar serving up quick bites; the other floridly colored in reds, oranges and browns — also abuzz at every seating we've attended, though not noisy. You can go between both comfortably, though: Both boast Monica's trademark playfulness. (Use the men's room urinal, and a photo of Monica standing above, looking down and laughing, makes relieving yourself a unique experience.)

Much of the food is accessible Tex-Mex: A platter of three tacos (\$12; \$3 per at

lunch) is available in four proteins; ask nice, and they might mix and match for ya. The style is street-simple but sophisticated, stuffed full but not laden with fuss. There's a sprightly, fresh flavor on the pastor; it's clean and uncomplicated, moist without being soupy. The brisket suadero juicy and rich, sweetened with grilled onion. For non-meat eaters looking for a dish both packed with complexity and outside the ordinary, the vegetarian taco here will surely become a favorite. At lunch, try a torta like the albondigas (Latin-style meatballs, served as a sandwich \$10) with house-made chips.

But much of the menu bends toward more formal Mexican fine-dining style. The enchiladas (\$12 at dinner) are stacked, with greens and even pickled cauliflower atop to separate it from the standard Tex-Mex style. Although the flavors are balanced, the toppings overwhelm the enchiladas below. That's not the case with the poc chuc (\$19) — Monica's name for a pork chop. Cut thick with a deep border of fat adding flavor, the seasoning is smoky and peppered — not spicy, but spiced.

The pato en Amarillo demonstrates the (perhaps unexpected) sophistication of true Mexican cuisine: Medium duck breast, sliced on the bias with rich ribbons of fat crowning each medallion, are doused in what looks like a bloody *au jus*. But no — it's a pink mole, colored with red beets. The beets don't impart more than a sweetness to the mole that accents the dance of chocolate and beautiful duck. Al dente haricot verts and a sweet potato mash lend further polish.

The ceviches have been a standout on each visit, from the bright flavors of mango adding a summery lightness to the el playero (\$10) to the shrimp cocktail-like heartiness of the vuelve de la vida (\$12), which is spicy hot.

The Mexican fried ice cream is a clever conception, with a caramel drizzle atop a corn-flavored vanilla gelato, itself perched



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GREENE PARTY | The more formal dining area of Monica Greene's new divided restaurant, opposite, serves sophisticated Mexican dishes, but also Tex-Mex favorites like exquisitely prepared tacos, above. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

on a sugar sopaipilla wafer. My dining companion sniffed at the very idea of dessert at first, but he was unable to resist eating half of it.

Service is still working itself out, as the kitchen seems overwhelmed by the reception. Still, the staff is friendly and agreeable and move like jackrabbits through the dining room, dashing from table to table. Even Monica might clear your plate and come say hi. It's that kind of place — a neighborhood bistro with a Latin flare where everyone will eventually wind up. ■

OVERALL RATING ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Weir, so there!

Flamboyant Olympian Johnny Weir embarks on the second season of his reality show

When we last saw Johnny Weir in his reality series, *Be Good Johnny Weir*, the openly gay figure skater prepared to compete in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. In the two years that followed, Weir took a break from competition: He flexed his creative muscles, wrote a memoir, came out publicly, got married to lawyer Victor Voronov on New Year's Eve, and ... well, you'll have to tune into *Be Good Johnny Weir's* 10-episode second season, starting Monday, to see what else transpired.

Here, Weir dishes on the show, making an unusual request of Lady Gaga and, of course, Dallas. ■

— Lawrence Ferber

Dallas Voice: In the first episode, we see you sing and record a single, "Dirty Love." What else can we expect from you this season?

Johnny Weir: The second season is very different from the first. The first was all about skating and the Olympics, while the second is about everything I tried *after* the Olympics, when I took two years away from competition. I tried writing books, singing songs, walking runways, designing — I did pretty much anything one could possibly do. Through all that you get to see me go on a blind date, and one of the first dates I went on with my now-husband, Victor.

It's kind of a season of growth and learning, because as a figure skater, I popped up on everyone's TV and I knew who I was. Now, you see me in uncomfortable situations, like going on a bus tour with my book in the middle of the country and being afraid someone was going to shank me.

We also see you come out publicly and experience how the media responded. Are you surprised that your coming out was considered a big revelation to mainstream America? People are in a very weird position when it comes to acknowledging the pink elephants in the room. When I came out officially, I didn't hear any shock — it was, "... and the sky is blue." Maybe my great-great grandmother had an issue.

I'm glad you did it. Only when someone actually says it out loud, it finally sinks in with the public. I've had a very lucky lifestyle: A sport that accepts gay people, parents who accept me. So when I came out, I wanted it to be for the people who had trouble, to show them no matter who you are and what you do, you are a part of society and matter.

Your marriage to Victor happened pretty fast — you could even consider it a shotgun wedding, yes? It was very fast. We first met years ago at a Russian party. I thought he was straight, and at the time, he was. It ended there and he didn't know who I was and what I did. We reconnected a year-and-a-half ago, talking on the phone and by email and I

said, "OK, come up and we'll have a date." I knew he was gay at that point because that's why he was contacting me again. Then I heard the whole story of how he was in the closet and dated a woman for six years. He was very afraid of his family's reaction and I hope I helped make him comfortable. But we only officially started dating at the end of last July and were married on New Year's Eve.

Have you ever been to Dallas? I have. I've been to Dallas many times. We had a national championship out there but I had to withdraw because I was injured — I hurt myself on TV, I was still young, 18 years old. I don't know that everything *is* actually bigger in Texas.

A few things — burgers. But in general I love seeing my country and knowing what's out there. The place I've been called "faggot" most often is Las Vegas, of all places. I am comfortable kicking it almost anywhere except Las Vegas.

You've met Lady Gaga a couple of times. Have you seen her lately? I saw her randomly. I was just

shopping one day, and I went to her parents' restaurant in New York. Her mom is a big skating fan and supporter of me, and Gaga herself is a big supporter. As soon as I heard about the restaurant I called and said I wanted to come. So they had me, Victor, his parents and my manager come by. It was right when I was deciding to return to competition and I asked if she had the original instrumental version of "Poker Face," because we can't use the version with lyrics in competition. Who calls Lady Gaga and asks to use Lady Gaga's music with her not singing on it? But by the end of that night I had "Poker Face" with no lyrics. Gaga herself gave it, OK'd it and is waiting for me to do something great on the ice with it.



ICE CAPADER | Out figure skater Johnny Weir returns to his reality show on Logo, starting Monday.

Gaga does a lot for us gays, doesn't she? She's done so much — not just for us, but anyone who's different. She's a good girl and completely down to earth, normal and nice.

When I meet all these famous people I always have a big wall up. I don't want them to disappoint me. Who am I? I'm an athlete. I don't want them to be assholes. Christina Aguilera is a huge idol of mine and everyone said, "You've got to be careful, she's a diva." But she was the nicest thing, watched me at the Olympics, so supportive. The sweetest person. She's the only one I was really afraid of. Elton John, Gaga ... these people I love and cherish have been amazing to me. That gives me a lot of power when I go into the competition and know all these amazing artists are behind and pushing for me.

BE GOOD JOHNNY WEIR

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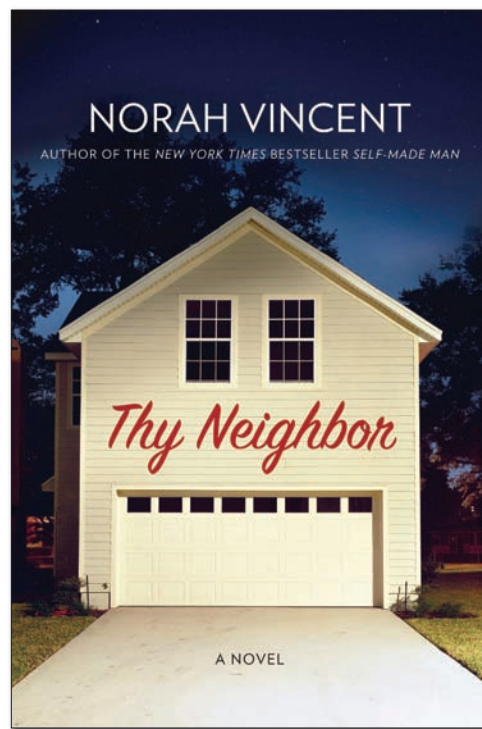
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Love 'Thy Neighbor'?

Despite a slow start, Norah Vincent's voyeuristic thriller eventually pays off



Keeping an eye on your neighbor's house is a courtesy as old as civilization. But in *Thy Neighbor* by Norah Vincent, one man takes "neighborhood watch" a bit too far.

There was something particularly loathsome about Dave. Nick Walsh could barely bring himself to call Dave a friend. Dave was more like a parasite, acting like he cared after Nick's parents' murder-suicide when he only cared about himself.

That's why Dave was the first of Nick's spying projects.

After all, what else did Nick have to do but watch his neighbors? Avoid ghosts that skulked around the house, out-of-sight but not out-of-smell? Yeah, Nick was sure he could smell his parents, 13 years after their deaths.

It was easy to spy on Dave: Nick bought a kit from the Yellow Pages, installed cameras in a DVD player, and made it a present. Spying allowed him to verify that Dave was a fat jerk.

The next victim was Dorris, the divorcee across the road. She and her ex had some explosive fights. It was no wonder he left her. Then there was the Gruber family. Nick felt sorry for the wife and boys, especially the youngest one. His dad was some piece of work.

The only person Nick didn't watch was Mrs. Bloom, who'd lost her daughter and granddaughter. She was harmless. He felt a strange kinship with her.

Between monitoring the neighbors, drinking down at the Swan and spending time with Monica, a woman he'd met there, Nick's pathetic little life was full. And then the pink notepaper started appearing in his mailbox. Someone was sending him poetry, written in his handwriting, but it wasn't anything he'd ever penned.

Somebody was playing games. Suddenly, Nick knew he had to watch himself.

Not quite a thriller, not exactly a mystery, *Thy Neighbor* turns out to be a little of both, and with a twist.

With his sardonic words and deep self-loathing, it's obvious that Norah Vincent's main protagonist, Nick, is damaged. I got that, but I didn't get much else from this book for several pages in. There are a lot of drink-hazy scenes, dialogue that goes in circles, and confusion that made it hard to stay focused.

But then Vincent lets us see what Nick is seeing. When that happens, it's hard to look away and it's hard to feel sorry for Nick anymore. That he's a voyeur becomes as reprehensible as what he sees, and what happens is a big surprise.

Ultimately, I liked this book enough, even if it was hard to get into. If you can deal with that and some harsh language, then missing *Thy Neighbor* could be a crime.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

★★★★★
THY NEIGHBOR
 by Norah Vincent
 (Viking, 2012). \$26; 307 pp.



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Oh, Mandy

B'way veteran (and LuPone bestie) Patinkin teams up with his favorite diva for a homecoming to Texas, where they first launched their famed concert

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

Mandy Patinkin is used to keeping each foot in different worlds. He's a Broadway star (and Tony winner) and popular singer on the concert stage, but his film and TV work has been entirely non-musical. (Heck, he appeared in *Yentl*, but only Barbra got to sing!) He's a straight man who's passionate for gay rights ... perhaps because he's besties with gay-icon diva Patti LuPone.

But perhaps there's no better metaphor for his duality than what happened earlier this month: Patinkin was filming his Showtime series, *Homeland*, in Charlotte, N.C., but production went on hiatus when the Democratic National Convention came to town. So what did he do? A series of concerts and workshops ... in Provo, Utah. But going from Ground Zero for Dems to the union's most conservative (and pro-Romney!) state was just par for the course for Patinkin.

"It was a fascinating place to be," he says via phone from his home in Upstate New York. "The community and the audiences were some of the most beautiful people. I had a wonderful experience. Their strict Mormon rules are not that different from an ultra orthodox Jewish community, which I am familiar with."

As charming as the experience was, however, Patinkin still can't wrap his brain around the anti-gay mindset of most fundamentalist religions.

"It is impossible for me to believe that, whatever the strict tenets [of your religion] are, that there are gay people [in it]. How do you control raging hormones in 13- to 30-year-olds? It's a

fact: People have all kinds of desires and needs different from yours."

Patinkin is a man after a gay heart.

"I think all of us need to stand up for human rights everywhere for those who don't have a voice," he says. "My single proudest professional moment — ironically — is a prayer for peace between Israel and the Palestinians I performed [at a Broadway concert on the evening of Sept. 10, 2011 — just hours before the 9/11 attacks]. Look at the New York Times archives: The review of that [prayer] was documented on the same day as one of history's greatest tragedies. [Some people] criticized me, but I say, I stand up for human rights for all humanity."

Maybe he should have stayed in Charlotte: He could have given a speech, and maybe sung a song or two.

LUPONE & PATINKIN

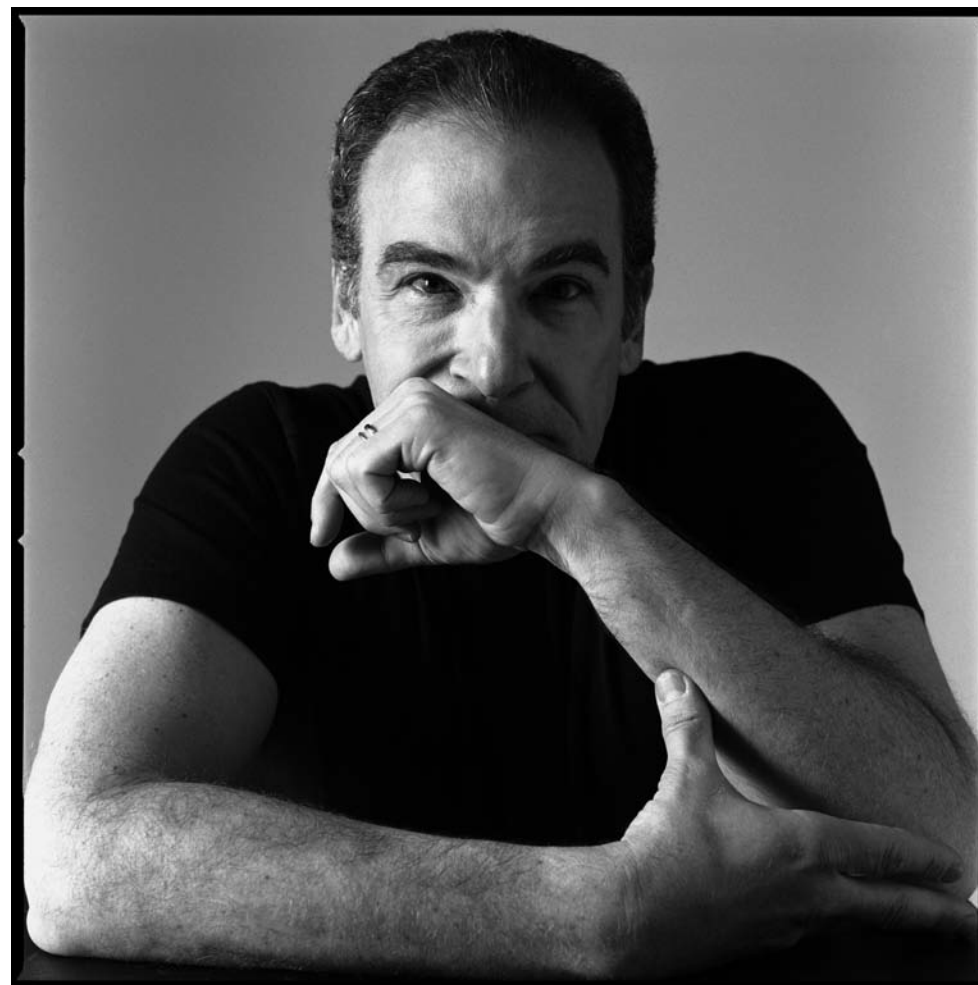
Eisemann Center, 2351
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EisemannCenter.com.

We're not sure about the speeches, but the songs will definitely be available to North Texans this week, when Patinkin and LuPone return to Richardson for the gala 10th anniversary celebration of the Eisemann Center for

Performing Arts. On Saturday, they'll be performing the latest incarnation of their Broadway show *An Evening with Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin*. But it's really a homecoming.

"It's basically the same show we did on Broadway [earlier this year], though it's not the same one we did when we birthed it 10 years ago," Patinkin says. "It all happened because of Eisemann."

Patinkin remembers when his booker called him more than 10 years ago, asking if he wanted to do "an evening with" at the soon-to-open



PATTI? CAKE | Mandy Patinkin's concert partnership with longtime friend Patti LuPone got started at the Eisemann Center 10 years ago. They return to the scene of the crime on Saturday.

venue. LuPone, the booker suggested, had already agreed.

"I hate those evenings so I was gonna blow it off," Patinkin admits. "But I saw her backstage at *Noises Off* and I said, 'What if we could create an evening telling familiar songs but also about the journey of two souls? We could change it up and perform it for the rest of our lives.'" LuPone agreed, and since then, the two have toured extensively with their act.

The Mandy-Patti relationship goes back decades — even further than most people would assume, when the two co-starred in the original 1979 production of *Evita* on Broadway.

"It began when I was her usher the first year of the Acting Company," Patinkin recalls. "Bill Hurt and I were in Group 5 and she was in

Group 1 with David Ogden Stiers and others. I first saw her when I was an usher for her show. Then we did *Evita* together. But it wasn't until this request for Richardson [10 years ago] came up that we have a way for us to work together again. She really is my partner onstage. It's like having another wife. She is heaven — thrilling, exciting and dangerous at the same time. I think we're gonna have it, 'til we die."

With some tweaks, perhaps: This may be the last version of this concert people will get to see. Patinkin and his collaborator Paul Ford are "creating a new show for Patti and I to do," which, like this one, Patinkin will direct — though he downplays that part of it.

"By 'directing,' I just say, 'What do you wanna do, Patti?' It's that old cliché: If you cast it right,

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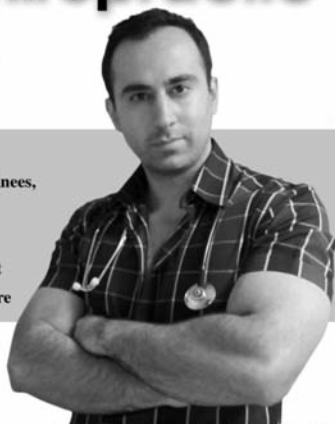
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you don't have to do anything," he laughs.

Even though he doesn't sing in *Homeland*, Patinkin keeps a place for music in his heart at all times.

"Music is my broccoli, my drug — though really, I'm lyric-driven more than music-driven. But I'm not the genius — I'm the mailman. Tom Waits, Yip Harburg, Irving Berlin, and who I consider the Shakespeare of our day, Stephen Sondheim — they turn darkness into light. I'm amazed I get to live in this world."

Floyd inaugurates new cabaret series

Mandy Patinkin isn't the only singer who idolizes Great American Songbook writers like Sondheim and Harburg — Dallas' own Gary Lynn Floyd has a personal favorite.

So who is it? Gershwin? Porter? Kern? Nope. The man Floyd thinks deserves his due is Harry Warren.

A master of the Hollywood musical ear-worm, Warren composed the music and/or lyrics for such iconic songs as "Lullaby of Broadway," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "Jeepers, Creepers" and "That's Amore" (winning three Oscars along the way). But he also wrote the classic Etta James torch song "At Last" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo."

"He was one of the most prolific songwriters in modern American history and was the first major American song composer to write primarily for film," Floyd says.

So it was a no-brainer for Floyd to choose Warren's songs for his new show. *When Gary Met Harry* is Floyd's tribute to Warren, and inaugurates the brand-new Cabaret Series at the Sammons Center for the Arts.

On Thursday, Floyd's litting tenor will take audiences through a musical journey featuring his interpreting of songs that include "Million Dollar Baby," "There Will Never Be Another You" and "Lulu's Back in Town." Warren also wrote the song "An Affair to Remember" — which would probably be an apt description of this kickoff to the new cabaret series.

— A.W.J.

Sammons Center for the Arts, 3930 Harry Hines Blvd. Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. Diana Sheehan will perform in October and Denise Lee will



perform in November for more of the Cabaret Series. For tickets and more information, visit SammonsArtCenter.org.



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LIFE+STYLE music



Feelin' it

Melissa Etheridge, rock's stalkerish power diva, walks a softer side of the 'Street'



Let's face it: As iconic as Melissa Etheridge is to both music and the gay community, her songs ring with creepy codependence. Big hits like "I'm the Only One" and "Come To My Window" are unforgettable, but she also sounds a little like the stalkerish ex who just won't go away.

But in her 10th album, *4th Street Feeling*, she erases those notions with emotional subtlety and strong compositions. Etheridge sounds more confident and in control than ever.

If there is ever an upside to family discord, it's a collection of strong tunes. Etheridge rises above her recent divorce and mama-drama and channels that into her best CD ever. She has the talent to deliver some emotional impact with driving rock that is heartfelt, but there's a shift in her voice. Previous Etheridge albums rarely simmer, but she's mastered that here and the images she paints are far more picturesque.

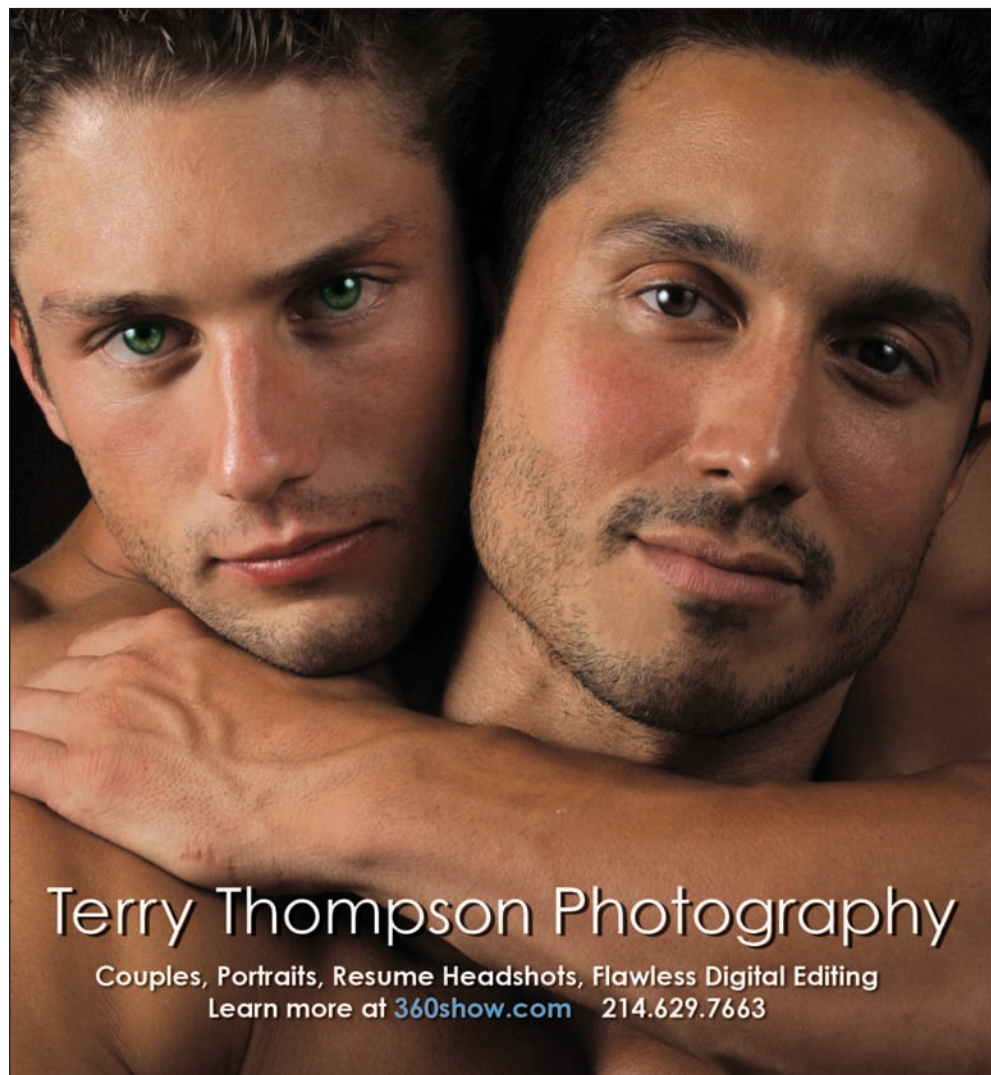
Feeling plays mostly like a road movie, appropriately starting with "Kansas City." The song is dreary and grey like a rainy night, but has patience and opens the album on a steady note. That steadiness continues to lay its foundation

with the title track. She's more soulful here, and the depths she reaches indicate her songwriting is improving even this far into her career. When she sings *I get the feeling everything I'm doing now, I'm doing wrong*, it's personal, confessional. She's taken a page from Lucinda Williams by letting the words form their existence as opposed to her belting them out. When they take shape here, it's stunning.

When she gets some pep in her step, she doesn't falter. Her lead single "Falling Up" is usual Etheridge territory, but the added tint of country makes it fresh, even if she does sing *shake it like a Polaroid*. But there's joy here that echoes on her bluesy "Shout Now." Her rousing delivery is no surprise, but she does up the ante with smart music layering.

Ironically, what makes *Feeling* so great are the underlying imperfections. On the hard rocking "Sympathy," she's uneven and forced. The words are thrown against the tune as if to see what sticks and it just feels like filler. "Sacred Heart" exudes confidence, but suffers from a similar lack of smoothness. It holds back, it explodes... then repeat. The songs feel more like experimentations than misfires.

She realizes her old codependent tones in "A Disaster," a key track for the history books. She shuns her old self with *say goodbye to the rest of me and call it a disaster / call it a catastrophe*. Lyrics



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IN THE ETHERIDGE | Her latest mama-drama aside, Melissa's latest CD shows intense maturity in her music for her best collection ever.

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
rlopez5428@yahoo.com

paint strong pictures with *nuclear fingertips*, *annihilating stare* and *parasitical fascination*. A little much perhaps, but beautifully effective.

Her gritty "The Shadow of a Black Crow" almost suffers from clichés, but it's the ideal song that marries her usual spirit with her new maturity. She goes for broke with moody imagery and despite some momentary goofiness, the song itself is epic and a big stop on her road trip.

When the album comes to a close, I expect "Rock and Roll Me" to be this arena-rock finale, but she turns the tables. Instead, it's a quiet bluesy trip that makes you put your beer down and forget to reach for another drink because you need to hear what she's saying next. Her adoration for a mysterious woman doesn't sound desperate, its sounds sexy. There's whiskey to be had amid a cigarette-drenched dive in the backskirts of some small town gay bar here. That's where this belongs, but drifting in your ears from headphones is the next best thing. She bookends the album with subdued notes originated from grace and a final stop to her trek.

Etheridge knows her voice, but on *4th Street Feeling*, she's found a new one that's kinda sexy, kinda rebellious but mature and smart. Fans have probably thought Etheridge has peaked many times in her career, but this may be the highest one of all.



A good musical soundtrack reminds the listener of a grander experience: That of an evening spent in the thrall of a performance, transfixed by live singing. A great soundtrack stands on its own, a mix of stellar songwriting, thoughtful production and transcendent vocals. Think *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Wiz*. By that standard, **Sparkle** (RCA Records) is neither great nor good.

Inspired by the Motown sound of the '60s (especially the Supremes), the original film version of *Sparkle* premiered in 1976, with songs composed by Curtis Mayfield and sung by Aretha Franklin. The Mayfield/Franklin teaming, as you might expect, hovers around the "great" category, and it's easy to question whether the current cast of Jordin Sparks, Carmen Ejogo, Tika Sumpter and Cee Lo Green, tackling new songs by R. Kelly (!) plus some of the Mayfield compositions, can come close to the crackling electricity of the original.

Still, it's unfair to compare the two — pitting a young *Idol* against the Queen of Soul is just plain cruel, right? — so let's concentrated on the big difference: Kelly's songs. "One Wing" proves the best of the bunch, a rolling mixture of old-school soul and gospel. The song traverses traditional ground with a smidge of swagger before bursting into a chorus-buoyed climax. Kelly's predilection for odd imagery teeters between genius and whacko; here, the "flying with one wing" metaphor hits the mark, conjuring a yearning that could be either romantic or spiritual. Or both. Sparks' vocals are spot on technically here, but she suffers the same malady of many modern singers: She scores a 10 for ability and a 2 for vocal personality. Hers is not a voice that will move mountains, despite the soaring *capella* interlude Kelly affords her toward the end of the song.

"Love Will" starts out promisingly, with an "Ain't No Mountain High Enough"-esque riff, but sashays into a disappointing mid-tempo number. It's fine. but does it honor Motown's past?

The Sparks-Houston duet "Celebrate" provides a beacon of hope, holding as it does the sad honor of being Whitney's last recorded song. Meant as an inspirational, up-tempo hand-clapper, it sputters as Sparks and Houston awkwardly trade off vocals. "Celebrate" could have stood as a final, fireworks-laden swan song for a legend. Instead, its tepid stabs at enthusiasm reflect the waning energy of a woman on the brink of letting go.

The remainder of the album suffers a similar malaise. Even the Mayfield tracks drag under the weight of lackadaisical vocals and indifferent production. Lovers of musical soundtracks searching for brightness from *Sparkle* be warned: Your eyes won't be blinded by any dazzle, but they might droop from boredom.

— Jonanna Widner

Two-and-a-half stars.

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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

I'm 19. My mom died two years ago and I've been living with friends on their sofas and such for most of this past year after Dad kicked me out. I didn't plan on telling Dad I'm gay, but he found some gay stuff in my room — some magazines and DVDs — and we had a big fight. I left that night after he told me to get my "fag self out." I haven't called him since, but I got a job waiting tables, so I'm doing OK. Also, my older brother told my dad where I work, so I guess he could drop by and see me if he wanted to, but he hasn't. I don't hate my father, and I don't want him to hate me, either. Should I break the ice and call him or something, or should I assume we're permanently now not related anymore? I'm confused. — Josh

Dear Josh,

Don't call your father off-guard. Your mom's

untimely death no doubt placed a heavy burden of grief on him; thus, his excessive reaction toward simply discovering some "gay stuff" in your room. Josh, there has not been a teenage male yet born who does not possess a hidden porn stash.

Why don't you send your father a hand-written letter — nothing emailed, twittered or texted, just old-fashioned pen to paper? Explain yourself straightforwardly, honestly and sincerely. You'll know what to say. Then, close your handwritten letter with an address and a number where he can reach you. Place the ball gently in your dad's court. He'll come around. Howard, having been there, knows.

Dear Howard,

My career is going well, but sometimes I get stressed out because of all the extra volunteer work I do on the side; meanwhile, my love life hardly even exists. I don't think I give private-life opportunities the time that I give others. I realize this probably has to change, but still, I don't seem to do much about it. I just never know what to constructively do with my limited free time. I keep seeing light at the end of the tunnel regarding my having a satisfying private-life one day, eventually, but I just never seem to get there. Any advice for me, Howard? — Oliver

Dear Oliver,

First, you must look up the term *oblomovism*. (Not every dictionary carries it, but it applies to

you.) Oliver, all the extra volunteer work in the world you do is *not* going to make you a more likely candidate for true love at a later date. Granted, volunteerism is a most wonderfully unselfish act of kindness; however, it's not a love life IRA: You're not going to build up any vested "future, private-life partnership" interest. Act now, Oliver, if you truly want a boyfriend, long-term. After all, relationships put off for the future work *exactly* opposite of martyrdom benefits in the present: You must spend now in order to save. Think about it.

Dear Howard,

This is kind of a sheepish question, but would you mind telling me what "Tina" is? I see people talking about Tina all the time on the chat boards, but either I'm a total idiot, or, totally out of the fabulousity loop. Is Tina a person? Is she a place, a thing? I can't figure out what Tina is, and I'm too embarrassed to ask anyone. — A College Graduate

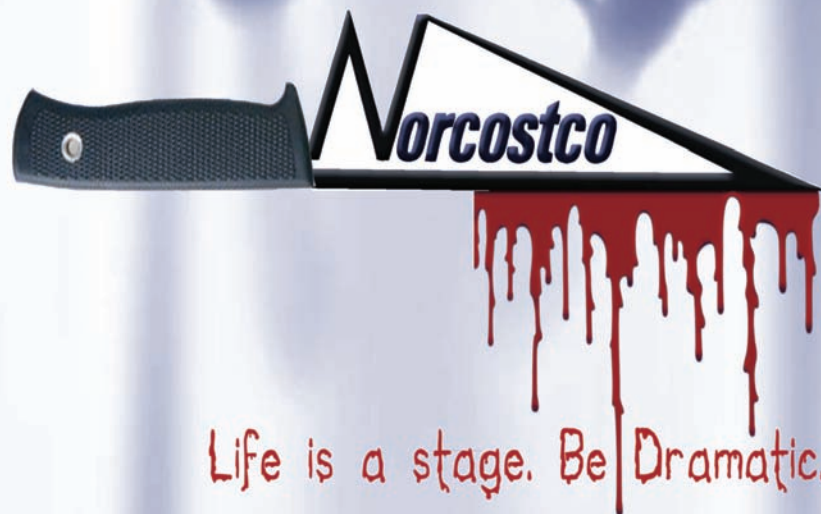
Dear Einstein,

You're in the "fabulousity loop" enough to be slumming the chat boards "all the time," yet haven't a clue what any of those *par-taaaay* boys are referencing when mentioning "Tina?" Seriously? Listen, precious, let's just say that you do not ever, *ever* want to be in-



roduced to Tina, and leave it at that. Tina — aka her evil twin, Crystal — is a wicked, addictively unforgiving girl, and will land you in nothing but a heap of regrets and trouble. ■

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DUO

From Page 50

and we get restless just doing a couple muscle groups. So with that, maybe three days of lifting and mix in running a lot of sprints the other days.

Favorite spot in North Texas to exercise outdoors? McDonald: Anywhere that has enough room. One thing I've learned from Dave is that any place can be your gym. We've done workouts in garages, parks, fields and parking lots.

Raposa: ClaireVista Vitality Club backyard — where I work.

Favorite spot in North Texas to exercise indoors? Raposa: Dance floor of Knox Street Pub.

McDonald: I'd have to say the stairs at Cityplace. The first time we went, I couldn't even make it up halfway. I went back over the next few weeks and kept working to make it all the way to the top. One of Dave's best/worst ideas was to run up the escalator over there. Hardest thing I have ever done!

Favorite healthy/low-cal snack or meal? Raposa: A good Bison Burger, with gluten-free bread, lettuce, chopped onions and pickles, and lots of organic ketchup using Agave Nectar. (This answer brought to you by

Whole Foods.)

Words of advice for people trying to work fitness into their life? McDonald: My parents always told me everyone has the same 24 hours in the day, what you do with them is up to you.

Raposa: Get a dog or trainer; whichever you could see yourself being more committed to. Either way, find one who can get you to exercise outdoors — it's far more enjoyable.

How do you reward yourself for a great workout? McDonald: I am addicted to fro-yo from Yumlicious! It's also one of our favorite man-date spots.

Favorite song or playlist to work out to? Raposa: I love all music, but if I'm weightlifting, something like Rage Against The Machine's "Bulls On Parade"; if I'm running, some mashup, like "Girl Talk."

Which celebrity or athlete's physique would you like to have and why? McDonald: Gerard Butler from 300. He was the definition of badass.

Raposa: Easy. Dallas' gay icon Sam McDonald. Kid fills out a V-neck pretty good.

GIMME 5 | McDonald and Raposa demonstrate that straightest of straight-guy moves: The flying high five. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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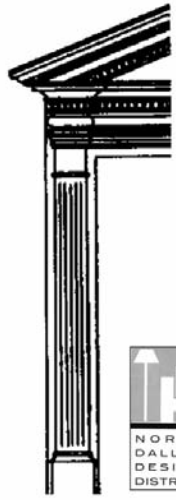
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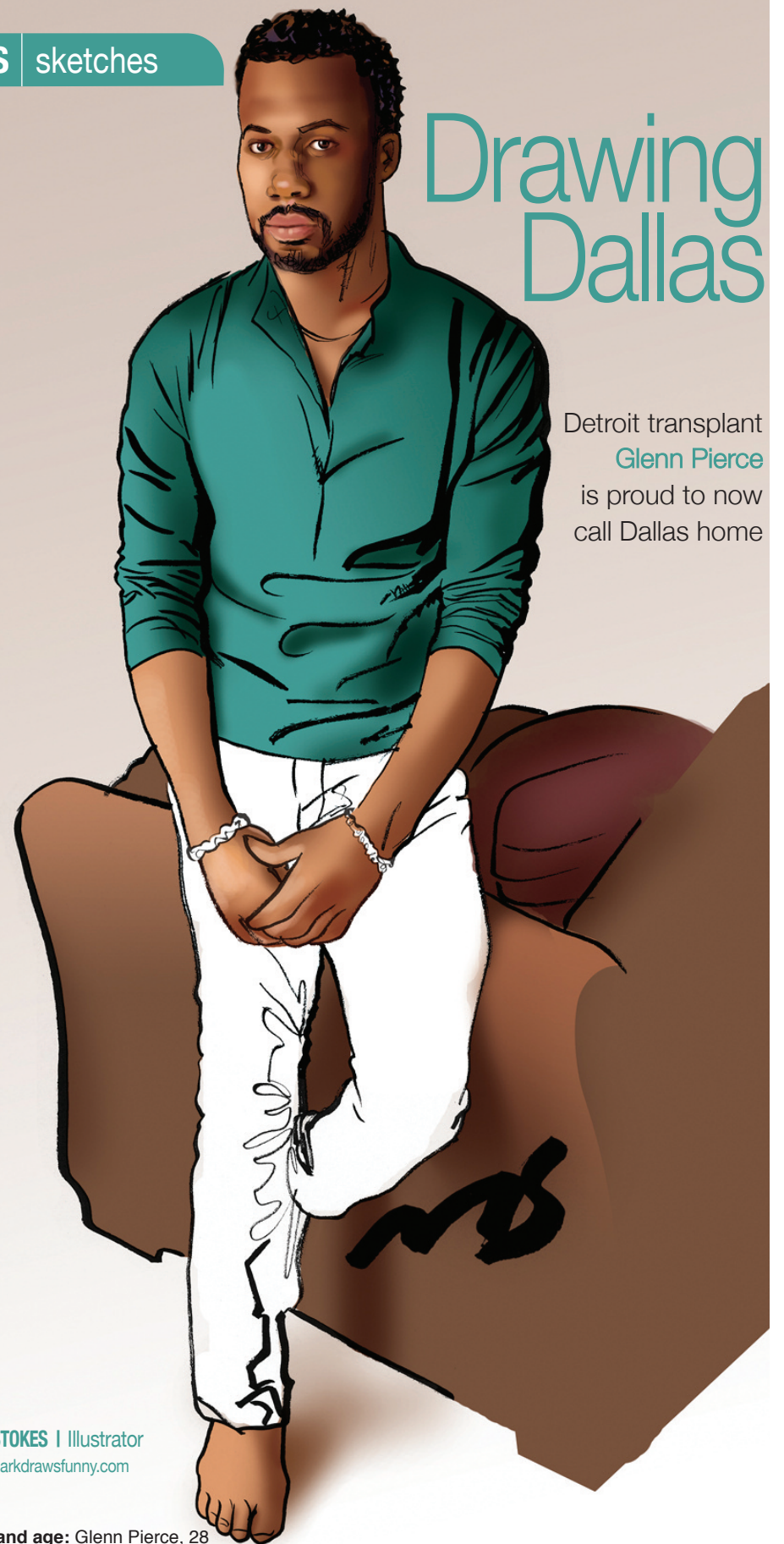
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Name and age: Glenn Pierce, 28

Occupation: Hospitality

Spotted at: Cityplace

Love brought this dashing Detroit native to Dallas, when Pierce accompanied a former boyfriend here five years ago. Now he makes the Big D his home, and he is studying interior design with a goal to become a residential designer.

Expressions of Pride: Pierce expresses his creativity in numerous ways, with abstract painting, and culinary arts, healthy meals are his specialty. He also has a love affair with Volvos. He's owned four, including the one he is now driving, and next year he travels to Sweden to purchase a new one with the overseas buying program.

This year will be his fifth Pride celebration. He feels blessed to have such an understanding family and support system.

Pierce's philosophy: "Easy, breezy." Everything's gonna work out.

Voices heard

ilume Gallerie marks Dallas Pride with showcase of gay art



Ever since the ilume Gallerie opened, it's featured works from artists gay and straight who embrace equality, Pride and diversity. And to commemorate that tradition, it hosts a two-day exhibition from 14 of those artists for a show called Hope Is Never Silent on Friday and Saturday.

Timed to coincide with the opening of Pride Weekend, Hope Is Never Silent includes photography from the photobook *Gay in America* (pictured left), images from Adam Bouska's iconic NOH8 series (pictured right), Dallas-based photog Jorge Rivas' Faces of AIDS campaign (pictured center), as well as the work of Alex Remington, Katy Ballard, Feren Stennet, Frank Tierney, Future Akins, Ed Check, Ellen Durant, Wes Harvey, Lahib Jaddo, Jerome Larez, Jason Villegas, Micayla Vera, Lauren Scully, Ryder Richards and Kat.

Proceeds from the juried showcase (which has been shown elsewhere across Texas and has its final stop here) will benefit Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Arms and the AIDS Interfaith Network. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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VS

Femme



Ford Flex versus Mini Cooper:
 Sure, size doesn't matter, but still — who's the femmest one of all?

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
 crwauto@aol.com

From a distance, the brick house Ford Flex and adorable little Mini Cooper look like remotely related siblings — love children from the Chevy Nomad and BMW Isetta. Both have elegant floating roofs in contrasting colors and two-box designs, but that's where the

Ancestors:

Flex: Your grandmother's Country Squire, with some junk in the trunk.

Mini: A tiny little Brit with a tiny little hood.

Room for number of friends on-board:

Flex: 6 — Pack all you want, queens — there's plenty of space for that road trip to your favorite White Party.

Mini: 3 — And don't even think about taking your cosmetics case. Oh yeah, we know.

Cojones:

Flex: 365hp EcoBoost 3.5-liter V6 pumping like eight.

Mini: 121hp 1.6-liter, down on just fours.

Shoe size:

Flex: 20-in. — probably covering for something else.

Mini: 16-in. — little feet don't mean little

Need to change the radio?

Flex: Press button, tell SYNC what you want. Please

speak clearly because she's a little hard of hearing.

Mini: Do it yourself, bitch!

Painting dark shades:

Flex: *Kodiak Brown* sounds like the name of a bear in drag.

Mini: *Hot Chocolate* is not just a delicious desert, but age-appropriate for the twink who drinks it.

Alter ego:

Flex: Neil Patrick Harris — fam and all.

Mini: Perez Hilton, who just keeps shrinking.

Last facelift:

Flex: 2013, including a smoother face, less bling and Ford MyTouch infotainment.

Mini: 2007. She still looks like the same old gal with flashy eyes, only prettier.

Tugging strength:

Flex: 4,500 lbs. — enough for a couple of watercraft,



MASCULIN, FEMININ | Ford's Flex, left, packs a lot in a little frame; Britain's Mini Cooper, below, is a sweet ride especially if you like showing off your sensitive side.

LIFE+STYLE

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Butch

VS.



man genes and feminine tendencies diverge. The Flex is great for families and high-adrenaline lifestyles, while the Mini fits a boy and his man plus enough luggage for a weekend at Fire Island. More than that makes them butch and femme, though. Let's compare their manhoods. ■

a shiny little Airstream or that fast and greasy muscle car you covet.

Mini: Just put the plastic kayak on the roof.

Safety:

Flex: Debuts first production rear inflatable belts, "sees" obstacles with rear cross path detection and blind spot warnings.

Mini: Built like an under-desk jewel vault.

Cruising:

Flex: Dynamic, can automatically slow and accelerate depending on traffic.

Mini: Like, whatever. Wake up and put your foot on the brake!

Gas mileage:

Flex: Up to 18/25-MPG; 16/23 with the steamy motor.

Mini: 29/37-MPG manual. Hand back a point if you're lazy. You can have a lot of fun with 13.2 gallons aboard.

Greatest talent:

Flex: Keeping your drinks cool in the middle row refrigerator.

Mini: Using rear sonar (what?) to back into spaces that would pinch a heel. Air-conditioned glove box for candy and Kool-Aid seems to fit its size.

Hails from:

Flex: Canada, where men are men and boys marry boys.

Mini: Britain, where men are princes and they all bow to an old queen.

Base price:

Flex: \$30,885. That gym membership can cost, especially when you power up with a turbo and all-wheel-drive.

Mini: \$20,400. I may seem cheap, but see what happens when John Cooper works me over.

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Juice is loose

'Revenge,' 'Funkytown,' 'Weekend;' Soap, sex, gay intrigue are 'in' this fall

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

Whether it's discovering a delicious TV show long after everyone else or two foreign films with sexy takes on life, there's a home viewing experience out there waiting for you this month.

Perhaps the best reason *not* to watch broadcast TV is this: If a show makes it, it'll come out soon enough on DVD, and you can devour all 22 episodes without distraction, instead of waiting an entire season for it to unfold. That's what I did with **Revenge: The Complete First Season**, the juicy ABC hit that was a freshman star this past year.

As with many new drama series, it sets up a seemingly impossible premise: That a young woman (Emily VanCamp) whose father was framed by an evil one-percenter family (the Graysons returns) returns incognito to pick them off one by one without being discovered for who she is. She's assisted in her revenge by her billionaire gay frenemy Nolan (Gabriel Mann) and even falls in love with (or does she?) the scion of the Graysons (the impossibly beautiful Josh Bowman).

If it sounds like a typical nighttime soap ... well, it is and it isn't. Sure, there are some outrageous leaps of logic (how does no one

recognize her?), but it has the insightful omniscient narrative of *Desperate Housewives*, the how-does-she-get-out-of-that? cliffhangers of *Alias* and tons of sexy scenes.

VanCamp has always struck me as inauthentic in her soapy shows (*Brothers & Sisters*, *Everwood*), but here, her sincerity is matched by a newfound maturity. And with lots of gay content, it's pretty daring, too.

There are a few extras on the DVD — mostly some commentaries for episodes — but don't listen to those until you've enjoyed the entire season. The only downside on checking this show out now? Season 2 starts on Sept. 30. So, do I tune in then or wait till the DVD comes out next summer?

Sadly, I think I know. I'm hooked. Can't wait.

In the 2011 indie hit *Weekend*, you get a sobering look at the

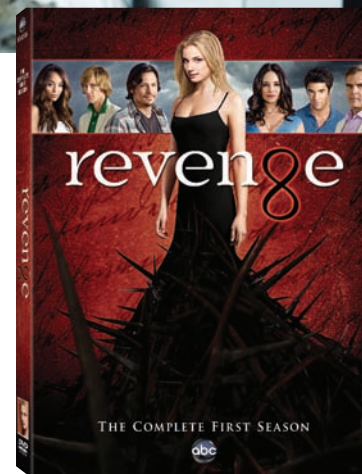


'REVENGE' IS SWEET | The Season 1 set of the soap mystery 'Revenge' will get you hooked just in time for its season premiere.

gay experience in Britain with an edgy, frank style that crackles with sex appeal; but as a look at gay men in modern life simply trying to connect, it shines with insight.

Working-class Russell (Tom Cullen) meets bearish

■ JUICE, Page 74



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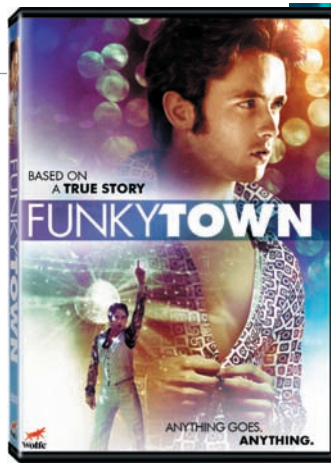
JUICE

From Page 72

Glen (Chris New) for a one-night stand, but Glen wants to record his experience with Russell for an art project which sets them off on a journey neither expects.

Writer-director Andrew Haigh authentic, off-handed tone conjures moments of early Gus Van Sant, like *My Own Private Idaho* and *Drugstore Cowboy*: It's full of textures and naturalistic mo-

ments that feel unforced. Cullen and New have great chemistry and an easy way with the rambling dialogue; their body language points to hormones racing, but they are determined not to make this relationship *only* about



WILL YOU TAKE ME? | Justin Chatwin, above left, plays a disco-era dancefloor god with a secret craving for the company of men in the period drama 'Funktown,' which mixes 'Goodfellas' and 'Boogie Nights' with a French accent.



'WEEKEND' WARRIORS | Two gay Brits (Chris New, Tom Cullen) turn a hook-up into something more in the indie hit 'Weekend,' one of last year's Top 10 films.

sex, even though the sexual energy is undeniable. But this is Haigh's movie. It's raw (there's lots of casual frontal nudity), but it doesn't seem like those "gay-ghetto movies," aimed solely at gay audiences to pat themselves on the back for being portrayed on screen. It was one of last year's best films, ringing truth out of every frame.

Funktown may be a flawed movie, but it's also an irresistible one. Set in Montreal in 1976, it hustles through the disco era with a parade of music, drugs, bad threads and more drugs, all pre-AIDS. Its style conjures the best American movies of the era as well, from *Goodfellas* to *Blow* to *Boogie Nights* (It is in French partly — call

it *Boogie Nuits?*).

It's also head-and-shoulders above that lame stab at the same territory, *54*. Plus it has Justin Chatwin doing John Travolta moves on the dancefloor as he explores his repressed gay urges in the seedy streets and back rooms of the age. It's voyeuristic fun. ■

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Friday 09.14

Red Party dazzles for 4th annual benefit event

There are Black, Purple, Pink and plenty of White parties, but if you expect to see Red, that means the annual benefit for Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage. The gala kicks off with a VIP reception at 8, following by entertainment provided by Alexis Jordan and former Dallasite, DJ Corey Craig. It's a spectacular way to start off your Pride weekend festivities for a good cause.

DEETS: Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. 8 p.m. VIP reception, 9 p.m. general admission. \$40–\$100. RedPartyDallas.org.



Friday 09.14

Westenhofer shows her Pride in the Vixen Lounge

Gay men have their Kathys and Margarets and Lesbies, but probably les-bidom's leading humorist is Suzanne Westenhofer. A fan of calling her comedy "inappropriate," Westenhofer gets to show just how far she'll go in time for Pride with a late-night kick-off show inside the Vixen Lounge at Sue Ellen's.

DEETS: Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10 p.m. Caven.com.



Saturday 09.15

Joel Ferrell returns to Casa Manana with a cheeky take on 'Grease'

Director-choreographer Joel Ferrell swore he'd never do another production of *Grease*, nor work again at Fort Worth's Casa Manana (where he did 40 shows in five years). Well he violates both those rules this weekend, revisiting the long-running hit ... but, we hear, with a saucy, funny bent. We can't wait — whatever Ferrell does is worth a look.

DEETS: Casa Manana Theatre, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Sept. 15–23. CasaMana.org.

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calendar

PRIDE WEEKEND EDITION

FRIDAY 09.14

PRIDE EVENTS

Miss Coco Perus Is Present. The drag diva performs the second night of her show in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; show at 7:30 p.m. CocoPeruTour.com. (Use coupon code VOICE for discount tickets.)

The Red Party. Music, food, drink, spectacle... and more music for the 4th annual party to benefit Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage. The Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. \$40-\$100. RedPartyDallas.org.

Pride Performing Arts Festival. Uptown Players wraps up its play festival with performances Friday evening and Saturday during the day and evening. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Sept. 14-15. Visit UptownPlayers.org for schedule.

Dick's Night Out: Let's Have a Kiki. Launch of a new gay men's party features drinks by Belvedere Vodka and Grand Marnier. Ku De Ta, 3121 Ross Ave. Sept. 14, 5-9 p.m. Free. DicksNightOut.com.

SATURDAY 09.15

PRIDE EVENTS

Gay Day at Six Flags. The annual outing to the Arlington amusement park, with special discount tickets (\$30 instead of \$59) available for those wishing to enjoy the rides while showing their Pride. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Six Flags Over Texas, 779 Six Flags Drive, Arlington. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Tickets at <http://AltURL.com.8u7h2>.

Gay Bingo. The monthly fundraiser for Resource Center Dallas celebrates Pride with its Wiggling Out theme. And there are VIP passes available. Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 6 p.m. RCDallas.org.

Mitch West: No, But Seriously. The comedian performs three sets about coming out from a Baptist background. Proceeds benefit the DREAM Fund. Dallas Comedy House, 2645 Commerce St. Sept. 15 at 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. \$15. Tickets at BrownPaperTickets.com/event/266618.

Lesbian and Gay Band Association Concert. The conference of gay bands closes its 30th annual meeting with a concert Downtown, including Dallas'

Oak Lawn Band. Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. OakLawnBand.org.

Kaya Jones. Former Pussycat Doll Jones gives a live performance with music from DJ Tim Pflueger of NOLA's Oz and a personal appearance by adult film actor Tony Newport. BJ's NXS!, 3215 Fitzhugh Ave. Sept. 15. 9 p.m. \$5 cover. BJsNXS.com.

SUNDAY 09.16

PRIDE EVENTS

Dallas Pride Run. Dallas Frontrunners host their new Dallas Pride Run before all the activities of the day begin, starting at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Sept. 16 at 8:30-11 a.m. \$30 day-of registration. DallasPrideRun.org.

Festival in Lee Park. Starting at noon, Lee Park becomes a center of booths for information, games, food, drink and more. Sept 16, noon-8 p.m. Entrance at Turtle Creek Boulevard and Hall Street. \$5 general admission.

Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. Dallas' gay Pride parade has its 29th annual incarnation down the length of Cedar Springs Road from Douglas to Oak Lawn, ending at the Festival at Lee Park. Lineup starts at noon, with step-off at 2 p.m. Free.

BearDance. Celebrity DJ Tony Moran joins singer Colton Ford and Dallas' DJ BLaine Soileau for the Dallas Bears' T-dance, beginning right after the pa-

this week's solution

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MUSIC MAKERS | Celebrity DJs Michael Tank, left, and Chi Chi LaRue, right, spin at two different post-Pride parties on Sunday.

Trade ends. TMC: The Mining Company, 2903 Cedar Springs Road. Sept. 16 at 4:30 p.m. (doors open at noon). \$5 cover benefits AIDS Arms.

Spectrum Dance Party. Dallas' Purple Party Foundation puts on this post-Pride benefit party for AIDS Services of Dallas, featuring DJs Michael Tank and Ronnie Bruno. The Brick/Joe's, 2929 Wycliff Ave. Sept. 16 at 5 p.m. \$15-\$20. PurpleFoundation.org.

Chi Chi LaRue. The adult film director-cum-celebrity DJ Chi Chi LaRue spins with a personal

appearance by adult film actor Tony Newport. BJ's NXS!, 3215 Fitzhugh Ave. Sept. 16. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$5 cover. BJsNXS.com.

Kandy Kane's Links to Good Drag Contest. Randy's Club Cherries, 2506 Knight St. Sept. 16 at 11 p.m.

Pride Sunday Show. The girls of the Rose Room put on their Sunday Pride show with performances. Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Shows at 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. PartyontheBlock.com.

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Michael and Marco at the Round-Up Saloon.



Show Me The Money and Henry at the Dallas Eagle.

We love a parade. **Dr. Gene Voskuhl** and **the Rev. Jo Hudson** lead **The Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**, which steps off at 2 p.m. on Sept. 16. The celebration continues with the **Pride Festival** in **Lee Park** and parties all evening around Oak Lawn. ... **Danee Phann Productions** presents **Freedom Dance** at the **Brick** on Sept. 15 with DJs **Peter Morales** and **Bryan Konrad** in the **Outdoor Pavilion** and **Mickey Briggs** and **Roland Belmares** in the **Main Room** with **G Licious** on the **Main Stage**. Then on Sunday, DJs **Michael Tank** and **Ronnie Bruno** appear for **Spectrum**, a Pride T-dance benefiting **AIDS Services of Dallas**. ... **The Red Party**, downtown at **f.i.g.**, benefits **Legacy Counseling**. **The Red Party After Party** takes place at **BJ's NXS** on Sept. 14. ... Comedian **Suzanne Westenhoef**er appears in the **Vixin Lounge** at **Sue Ellen's** on Sept. 14. ... **Gay Bingo** returns to the **Rose Room** on Sept. 15. ... On Sept 18, **JR.'s Bar & Grill** hosts a **Nelly Furtado** release party celebrating the singer's fifth CD. ... **Buddy Shanahan** accompanies **Jason Huff** at **Alexandre's** on Sept. 20 at 10 p.m. ... **Mojo Dolls** appear on **Woody's Backpatio** on Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. **DJ Kit Kat** provides the music at the **After Parade Backlot Party** hosted by **Chanel Champagne**. ... **Dallas Eagle** celebrates **Pride Weekend** with the **Boys to Bearish Underwear Auction and Calendar Party** on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. followed by the **Glow Party and Dance** at 10 p.m. ... Happy Pride. ■

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



Mara and Handia at Sue Ellen's.



Eric and friend at Drama Room.



Guys night out at Station 4.



Burce and Bob at TMC: The Mining Company.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Tom Hardy turns 35 on Saturday. The British actor has been around more than a decade, but hit the mainstream with his sexually ambivalent arms expert in 2010's *Inception*, then became a superstar this summer as the villain Bane in *The Dark Knight Rises*.



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Worrying about money can undermine your relationship. Discussing them frankly and not dramatically with your partner can strengthen it. Wild crazy sex helps, too.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Dreams can come true, but not just by dreaming. Balance that fairy-dusted right side of your brain with some good solid left brain logic, real world planning and a budget you can stick to.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Stay calm through the upsets of work, commuting and the annoying fidgets of people nearby. The real problem is within you; so is the solution. Meditation and exercise can lift your mind.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

It's not your job to correct the idiocy of others. Knowing you're right is enough. Or are you? Listen to new ideas that could open your way of thinking. Still, don't argue.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Getting due credit may take some self-promotion. Don't push too hard, but don't be shy. For LGBT folks, lines between friends and family can be vague. Arguing with a friend may clarify questions.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Efforts at diplomatic outreach are likely to stumble over your now-more-than-usual impulsive frankness. With careful, rapid thought your efforts at wit can prove charming. Think ahead! If you can't avoid disputes with authority, at least avoid a full-frontal attack.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Loyalties to your group may clash with your ideals. An open mind and closed mouth make a powerful combination. The best way not to blurt secrets is to keep the conversation on other topics.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Do not take conflicts with authority personally. Rash outbursts will only make things worse. It's hard not to react and dig your heels in, but you really need to be empathetic and strategic.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Domesticity suits you well. Find ways to economize and you'll be amazed at how much you can save. That does *not* mean taking an advantage of a big sale unless it's something you really need.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Whatever you invest time, money or energy into will explode. That would be bad for finances but great for creativity. You're sure to outrage someone. Stay clear on your values and priorities.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Push your mind in new directions. It will take both instinct and logic to get through intellectual barriers. What traditions are holding you back? Don't sell yourself short. Take the challenge.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

A slap up against your limitations could lead to doom and gloom. Better to use that as a key to empathy with the limits and frailties of others. That in turn could help you to transcend limitations.

THIS WEEK

Mercury in Libra makes people agreeable, but opposing Uranus and squaring Pluto triggers a lot of arguments. Good! Raise the hard issues and resolve them.

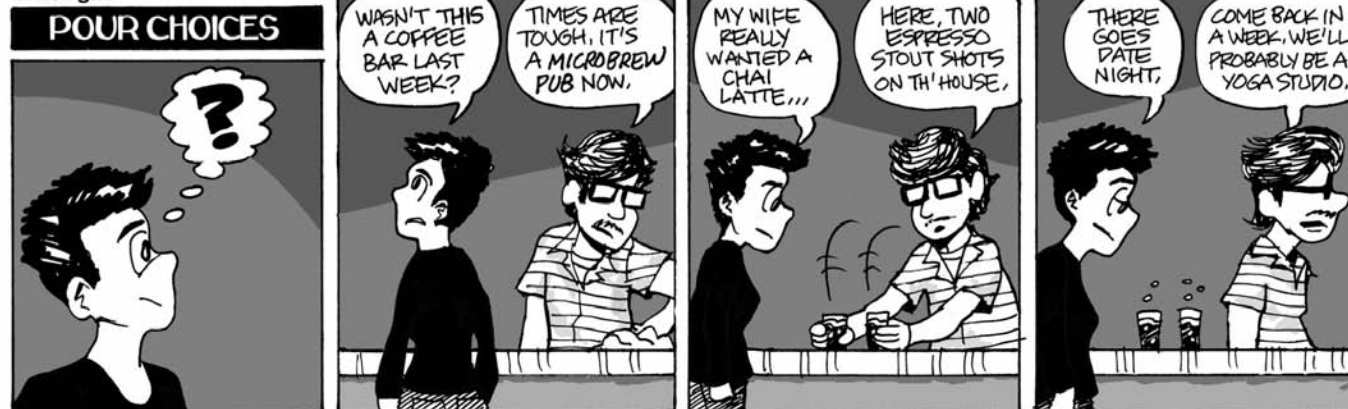
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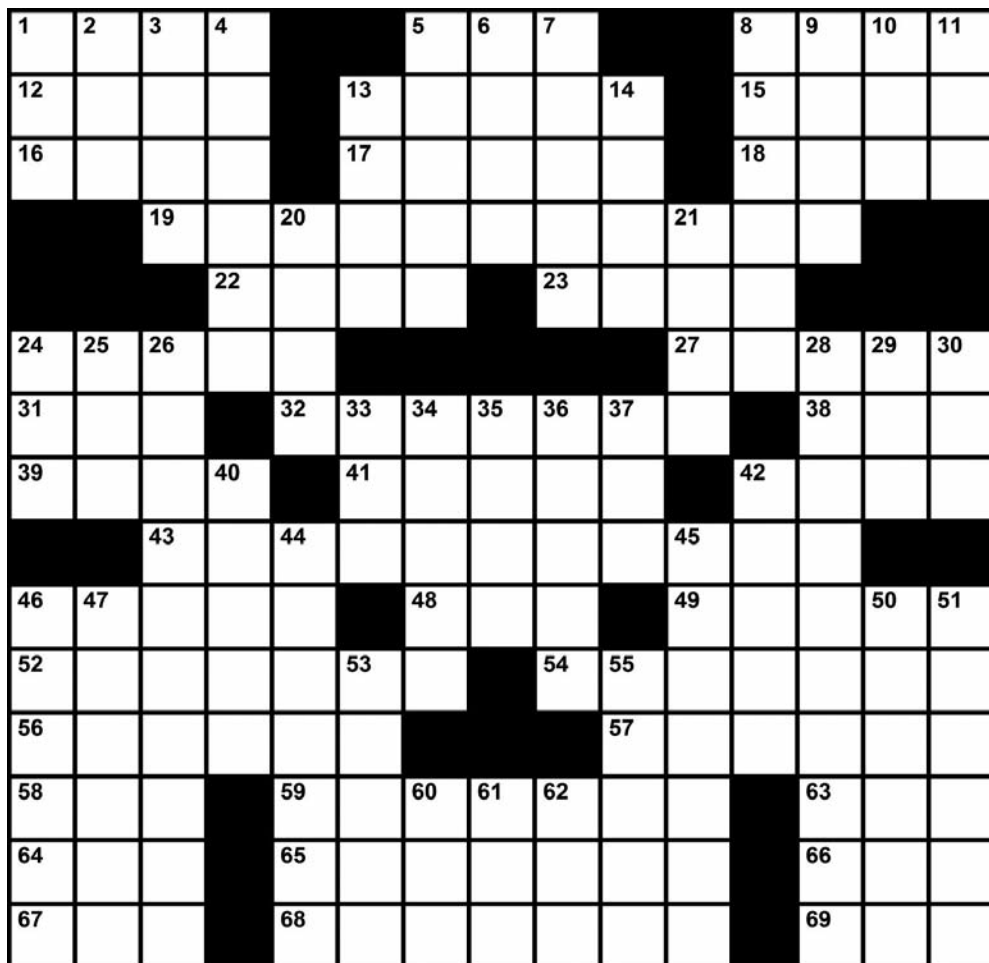
bitter girl



email: joan@joanhilty.net

www.joanhilty.net

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Goodbye, Mr. Phipps

Solution on page 78

Across

- 1 Pirate drink
- 5 ___ Virgin (character in 19-/43-Across)
- 8 Spencer-Devlin's sport
- 12 Like Obama's office
- 13 Takes out of the text
- 15 Blown away
- 16 Queens tennis stadium
- 17 Tatum of The Bad News Bears
- 18 Sentence unit
- 19 With The start of a film title of 32-Across
- 22 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 23 Quo Vadis emperor
- 24 Charlize Theron's Monster award
- 27 Flaming queen's crime?
- 31 Cheerleader's shout
- 32 With 56- and 57-Across, Mr. Phipps portrayer in D.E.B.S.
- 38 Pod beginning
- 39 "Get yer ass in gear!"
- 41 Get smart
- 42 Bipedal dino
- 43 End of the film title
- 46 Became erect
- 48 That to Juan
- 49 Orally pleased with gusto

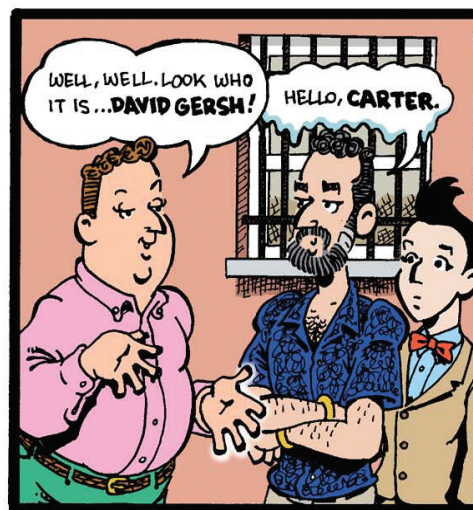
- 52 Cameo carvings
- 54 Sailing race
- 56 See 32-Across
- 57 See 32-Across
- 58 Boater or bowler
- 59 Dame Edna
- 63 Palindromist's cry
- 64 Nice beach season?
- 65 A fistful
- 66 Play bumper cars
- 67 Lawyers' thing
- 68 Gothic-window lacework
- 69 Some of Barrie's precipitation

Down

- 1 "Don't ___ step further!"
- 2 Mobile digs
- 3 Island of Diamond Head Beach
- 4 Ed Wood role
- 5 Country or folk
- 6 What you shake when you come quickly
- 7 Have a craving
- 8 "I Will Survive" singer Gloria
- 9 Got a little behind
- 10 Gamboling area
- 11 Eleanor's beard?
- 13 Lesbian couples in Bambi?
- 14 Fruit flavor for gin
- 20 Sleeping quarters
- 21 Caspian Sea feeder
- 24 Tolkien cannibal
- 25 America's Uncle
- 26 Willy Wonka factory output
- 28 Tennessee Williams's desire and more?
- 29 Rough stuff for miners
- 30 Put the kibosh on
- 33 Notre Dame is on one
- 34 Hands over
- 35 Harry and others
- 36 Maid Marian's cross-dressing suit?
- 37 Rocker Brian
- 40 Emphatic turndown
- 42 Tennessee tight end, e.g.
- 44 Most like a milquetoast
- 45 Without detail
- 46 He handles shafts and quivers
- 47 Give an account of
- 50 Affirmation member, for one
- 51 ColÛn locale
- 53 Kind of pitch
- 55 Second name in cross-dressing
- 60 Madonna's Peron role
- 61 YMCA activity
- 62 "We ___ Family"



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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■ attorneys

COVELL, REBECCA — 3710 Rawlins, Ste 950; 214-443-0300; doorlaw.com.

CUNNINGHAM, BENNETT — 902 W. Commerce, 214-444-3331, bcunninghamlaw.com.

DONALD E. HOOD — 6440 N. Central Exp #204; 214-234-0524; dehlaw.com.

DUFFEE & EITZEN — 4311 OakLawn #600; 214-416-9010; duffee-eitzen.com.

DUFFER, LAUREN — 817-548-5643; bfamilylawatty.com.

HALL, STEPHANIE — 4514 Cole, Ste 600; 214-522-3343.

HENLEY & HENLEY, PC — 3300 Oak Lawn #700; 214-821-0222; www.henleylawpc.com.

GRESHAM, DEAN — 214-420-9995; greshampc.com.

GUCLICH, HOLLEY — 3300 Oak Lawn; 214-522-3669

McCALL JR., JOHN — 115 S. Tyler #200; 214-942-1100; attorneymccall.com.

McColl AND McColloch, PLLC — 1601 Elm St., Ste. 2000; 75201; 214-979-0999.

PARKER, JULIANNE M. — Bankruptcy; 3303 Lee Pkwy.; 214-855-7888.

PETTIT, JACK N. — 3626 N. Hall, #519; 214-521-4567; jackpettit.com.

SCHULTE, PETER A. — 4131 N. Central Exp, Ste 680; 214-521-2200; peteschulte.com.

THOMAS, TIMOTHY T. — 2501 Oak Lawn., Ste 295; 214-324-9298; ttllaw.net.

WEST, CHAD — 614 N. Bishop, #2; 214-509-7555; chadwestlaw.com.

WRIGHT, KIMBERLY — 6301 Gaston, Ste 826; 469-916-7868; wrightfamilyattorney.com.

WOMACK, JENNY — 15455 N. Dallas Pkwy, Ste 440; 214.744.4440; wilsonkalelaw.com.

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JOHN EAGLE HONDA — 5311 Lemmon Ave.; 800-539-1844; eaglehonda.com.

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Q FIAT IRVING — 1000 E. Airport Fwy.; 877-203-4107; qfiat.com.

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***BEST FRIENDS** — 2620 E. Lancaster, Ft. Worth; 817-534-2280.

***BJ'S NXS** — 3215 N. Fitzhugh; 214-526-9510; bjssnxs.com.

***THE BRICK/JOES** — 2525 Wycliff Ave.; Ste. 120; 214-521-3154; brickdallas.com.

CHANGES — 2637 E. Lancaster; 817-413-2332.

CHERRIES — 2506 Knight St.; 214-520-8251.

***CLUB KALIENTE** — 4350 Maple Ave; 214-520-6676; kaliente.cc.

***CLUB REFLECTIONS** — 604 S. Jennings; Ft. Worth; 817-870-8867.

***CROSSROADS LOUNGE** — 515 S. Jennings, Ft. Worth; 817-332-0071.

***DALLAS EAGLE** — 5740 Maple Ave.; 214-357-4375; dallaseagle.com.

***EKLUSIVE** — 4207 Maple Ave.; 214-432-2826.

***HAVANA** — 4006 Cedar Springs; 214-526-9494.

***HIDDEN DOOR** — 5025 Bowser; 214-526-0620.

***ITLL DO CLUB** — 4322 Elm; 214-827-7236.

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***ZIPPERS** — 3333 N. Fitzhugh; 214-526-9519.

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***MOCKINGBIRD VIDEO** — 708 W. Mockingbird Ln.; 214-631-3003.

***NEW FINE ARTS WEST** — 1966 W. Northwest Hwy.; 972-869-1097.

***ODYSSEY ADULT VIDEO** — 2600 Forest at Denton Dr., 972-484-4999; 950 W. Mockingbird Ln., 214-634-3077.

■ entertainment, adult

***PARIS ADULT BOOKS & VIDEO WAREHOUSE** — 1118 Harry Hines; 972-263-0774.

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***ZONE D'EROTICA** — 2600 Forest, Dallas. 972-241-7055, zonederotica.com.

■ entertainment, general

***ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART** — 201 W. Main St., Arlington; 817-275-4600; arlingtonmuseum.org.

ARTES DE LA ROSS — 1440 N. Main St; Ft. Worth; 76164; 817-624-8333.

BASS HALL — 330 E. 4th St.; Ft. Worth; 817-212-4280.

CASA MANANA — 3101 W. Lancaster Ave.; Fort Worth; 817-321-5030; casamanana.org.

CITY PERFORMANCE HALL — 2700 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformaingarts.org.

DALLAS ARBORETUM — 8525 Garland Rd.; 214-515-6500; dallasarboretum.org.

***DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART** — 1717 N. Harwood; 214-922-1204.

DALLAS SUMMER MUSICALS — 909 1st. Ave.; 214-421-5678; dallassummermusicals.org.

DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — 2301 Flora St.; 75201; 214-871-4038; dallasymphony.com.

DALLAS OPERA — 214-443-1000; dallasopera.org.

DALLAS THEATER CENTER — 2400 Flora St.; 214-252-3927; dallastheatercenter.org.

DIAMOND JACKS CASINO RESORT — 711 Diamond Jacks Blvd., Bossier City, LA.; 866-5JAXMAX, diamondjacks.com.

FT. WORTH OPERA — 31-877-FWOPERA; fwopera.org.

FT. WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — 330 E. 4th St. Ft. Worth; 817-665-6500; fwsymphony.org

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***LAKEWOOD THEATRE** — 825 Abrams Rd.; 214-827-LAKE.

***MAGNOLIA THEATER** — 3699 McKinney Ave.; 214-520-0025.

MBS PRODUCTIONS — 214-951-9550; mbsproductions.com.

MCKINNEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER — 111 N Tennessee; McKinney; 75069; 972-547-2650.

MODERN ART MUSEUM — 3200 Darnell, Ft. Worth; 817-738-9215.

NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER — 2001 Flora St.; 214-242-1500; nashersculpturecenter.org.

SAMMONS PARK — (Annette Strauss Artist Square); 2100 Ross Ave.; 75201; dallasperformingarts.org.

TEXAS BALLET THEATER — 1540 Mail Circle, Ft. Worth; 817-763-0207; texasballettheater.org.

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TITAS — 2403 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; titas.org.

UPTOWN PLAYERS — P.O. Box 192264; 214-219-2718; uptownplayers.org.

WATERTOWER THEATRE — 15650 Addison Rd.; 972-450-6232; watertowerttheatre.org.

WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE — (Margaret McDermott Performance Hall & Nancy Hanon Recital Hall); 2403 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformingarts.org.

WYLY THEATRE — (Potter Rose Performance Hall); 2400 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformingarts.org.

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J.R.'S — 3923 Cedar Springs; 214-528-1004, caven.com.

***PEKERS** — 2615 Oak Lawn; 214-528-3333.

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ADVANCED FOOT CARE — Dr. Michael Saginaw, DPM; Dr. Richard Swails, DPM; 3131 Turtle Creek Blvd., Ste. 850; 214-366-4600.

ADVANCED SKIN FITNESS — 2928 Oak Lawn Ave.; 214-521-5277; advancedskinfitness.com.

ALLEN, DR. BRADY — 2929 Carlisle, Ste. 260; 214-303-1033; uptownphysiciansgroup.com.

AUERBACH, DR. LYNNE — (Uptown Chiropractic); 2909 Cole Ave., #205; 214-979-9013.

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BECKMAN, DEBORAH, M.S., L.P.C., N.C.C. — 214-824-2009; uptownpsychotherapy.com.

BOYD, CAROLE ANN, D.D.S. — 4514 Cole, #905; 214-521-6261; drboyd.net.

CITY DOC — 5301 W. Lovers Ln., 214-352-7800 2909 McKinney Ave., 214-871-7000, citydoc.net.

DALLAS ANTI-AGING INSTITUTE — 8251 Westchester Dr.; 214-265-8300; hormonetherapydallas.com.

***DAILY, PATRICK, M.D.** — 3629 Fairmount St., 214-526-3566.

DERM AESTHETICS & LASER CENTER — Dr. Anthony Caglia; 670 W. Campbell Rd., #150; 972-690-7070.

DIAMOND, SUSAN, M.D. — 8210 Walnut Hill Ln., #911; 214-378-5515.

DISHMAN, KEITH; OPTOMETRIST — 4311 Oak Lawn, #125; 214-521-0929; idridshman.com.

DUNN, PAUL, D.D.S. — 8989 Garland Rd., 214-324-2444

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■ healthcare

GRAGERT, AMY (PSYCHOTHERAPY) — 2610 State St.; 6015 Berkshire; 214-740-1600.

GRANETO, DONALD, MD — (General Practice/HIV Medicine); 2929 Carlisle St., # 260; 214-303-1033; uptownphysiciansgroup.com.

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KINDLEY, DR. GARY, D. MIN. — (Pastoral Counselor) 3906 Lemmon Ave., #400; 817-312-9919; drkg.org.

LEE, DAVID M., M.D. — (Internal Medicine/HIV Medicine); 2929 Carlisle; #260; 214-303-1033, uptownphysiciansgroup.com.

LOVELL, CYNTHIA, M.E.D, L.P.C. — Counselor; 5217 McKinney Ave., #210; 214-497-6268; lpcynthiahell.vpweb.com

***MARCUM, CANDY, MED.** — (Psychotherapy); 3626 N. Hall, #723; 214-521-1278.

MARTIN, DAVID, MD; — (Plastic Surgeon); 7777 Forest Ln., Ste. C-625; 972-566-6988.

MARTIN, RANDY, L.P.C. — (Psychotherapy); 214-520-7575.

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PALETTI, ALFRED J., DDS — 5510 Abrams Rd., #102; 214-691-2969.

***POUNDERS, STEVEN M., M.D.** — 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., #600; 214-520-8833.

PHILLIPS, KAY, M.D., M.S. — (Baylor); 9101 N. Central, #300; 214-363-2305.

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TOTAL MED SOLUTIONS — 5445 La Sierra Dr., Ste 420; 214-987-9200; 6101 Windom Ct., Ste 300; 214-987-9203.

TRIBBLE, DR. MARC A. — 2929 Carlisle St., #260; 214.303.1033; uptownphysiciansgroup.com.

TSENG, EUGENE, D.D.S. — 3300 Douglas, Ste. A; 214-855-0789.

TURTLE CREEK WELLNESS & CHIROPRACTIC — 3102 Oak Lawn #205; 214-521-6868; turtlecreekwellness.com

***UPTOWN PHYSICIANS GROUP** — 2929 Carlisle St., #260; 214-303-1033; uptownphysiciansgroup.com.

UPTOWN PSYCHOTHERAPY — 4144 N. Central Expwy., #520; 214-824-2009; uptownpsychotherapy.com.

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HEWITT & HADBODG — (Dave Perry Miller); 2828 Routh, #100; 214-752-7070; hewittthahbodg.com.

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NALL, STEVEN — (Virginia Cook); 972-248-5429; teashomeguy.com.

NESSEL DEVELOPMENT — 6603 E. Lovers Ln.; 888-836-8234; nesselinc.com.

ORAM, MARK — (Keller Williams); 214-850-1674; gayrealestateagent.com

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PARKSIDE CONDOS — 4777 Cedar Springs; 214-377-2233; parksidecedarsprings.com.

ROGERS HEALY & ASSOCIATES — (Daymond Lavine and Stanley Coleman); 817-301-4926; agentsdfw.com

SALADIN, MARTY — 1227 Fern Ridge Pkwy #200; St. Louis, MO 877.763.8111; midwestmortgagecapitol.com.

UPDIKE, JEFF — (ReMax Urban); 214-943-9400; jeffupdiike.com.

VIEWPOINT MORTGAGE — (Armando Ramirez); 214-263-5507.

VIRGINIA COOK REALTORS — 2626 Cole; 214-292-0000; virginiacook.com.

WATERMARK — wartermarkreg.com.; (Joe DePree); 214-559-5690; (George Durstine); 214-559-6090; (Danny Allen Scott); 972-588-8304

WYNN REALTY — (Craig Patton); 18636 Vista Del Sol Dr.; 469-449-9917; wynnrealty.com.

■ restaurants

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***ALL GOOD CAFE** — 2934 Main St.; 214-742-5362.

***ANGELA'S CAFE** — 7929 Inwood, #121; 214-904-8122.

***BIC'S RESTAURANT** — 2245 Midway Rd., Carrollton; 972-233-5819.

***BLACK-EYED PEA** — 3857 Cedar Springs; 214-521-4580.

BLIMPIE AMERICA'S SUB SHOP — 4103 Lemmon Ave.; 214-599-8890; blimpie.com.

***BULI CAFE** — 3908 Cedar Springs Rd.; 214-528-5410; buli.cafe.com.

***BURGER ISLAND** — 4422-B Lemmon Ave.; 214-443-0015.

***BUZZBREWS KITCHEN** — 4334 Lemmon Ave.; 214-521-4334; 4154 Fitzhugh; 214-826-7100; buzzbrews.com.

***CAFE BRAZIL** — 3847 Cedar Springs; 214-461-8762.

***COSMIC CUP** — 2912 Oak Lawn Ave.; 214-521-6157.

CREMONA KITCHEN — 2704 Worthington.; 214-871-1115. www.cremonabistro.com.

***DEEP SUSHI** — 2624 Elm St.; 214-651-1177.

***DICKEY'S BARBECUE** — 2525 Wycliff Ave.; 214-780-0999; dickleys.com.

DUNKIN DONUTS — 13535 Preston Rd.; 972-239-1700; dunkindonuts.com.

***EINSTEIN BROTHERS BAGELS** — 3827 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, 214-526-5221; 3050 University, Ft. Worth, 817-923-3444.

EL TIZONICO TAQUERIA — 5150 Lemmon Ave.; 214-521-0201; eltizonicous.com.

***GOOD LUCK DRIVE IN** — 900 W. Rosedale, Ft. Worth; 817-332-5507.

***GOODCENTS DELI FRESH SUBS** — 2817 Howell St., #220; 214-758-0870; mrgoodcents.com.

***THE GREAT AMERICAN HERO** — 4001 Lemmon Ave.; 214-521-2070.

HOWARD WANG'S UPTOWN — 3223 Lemmon Ave.; 214-954-9558; hwrestaurants.com.

***HUNKY'S** — 4000 Cedar Springs and 321 N. Bishop St.; 214-522-1212; hunksys.com.

***IT'S A GRIND** — 2901 Indiana, 75226; 214-954-7109.

JOHNATHAN'S OAK CLIFF — 1111 N. beckley Ave.; 214-946-2221; johnathansoakcliff.com.

***LA CABANA** — 1417 W. Davis; 214-941-9292.

***LONE STAR BBQ** — 6320 Beach St, Halton City; 817-428-7887.

***LOVER'S EGGROLL** — 3510 McKinney, #D; 214-443-1888.

***LUCKY'S CAFÉ** — 3531 Oak Lawn; 214-522-3500.

***MAMA'S DAUGHTERS' DINER** — 2014 Irving Blvd.; 214-742-8646; mamasdaughtersdiner.com.

■ restaurants

***MAIN STREET CAFÉ** — 2023 S. Cooper, Arlington; 817-801-9099.

***MCDONALD'S** — 4439 Lemmon Ave.; 214-522-0697.

***O'JEDA'S** — 4617 Maple; 214-528-8383.

***PIZZA INN** — 5460 Lemmon Ave.; 214-526-2560.

***POLLO FIESTA** — 4535 Maple Ave., 214-443-9078; 903 S. Hampton, 214-942-6645.

***SAL'S PIZZA** — 2525 Wycliff; 214-522-1828.

***SPIRAL DINER AND BAKERY** — 1101 N. Beckley, 214-948-4747.

***STARBUCK COFFEE** — 3330 Oak Lawn, 214-219-0369; 4101 Lemmon Ave, 214-522-3531.

***STRATOS GREEK TAVERNA** — 2907 W. Northwest Hwy.; 214-352-3321; dubstratos.com.

TEXAS LAND AND CATTLE — 3130 Lemmon Ave.; 214-526-4664; www.tlbc.com.

***THAIRIFFIC** — 4000 Cedar Springs; 972-241-2412; thairiffic.com.

TILLMAN'S ROADHOUSE — 324 W. 7th St.; 214-942-0988; tillmansroadhouse.com.

***TOMMY'S HAMBURGERS** — 5228 Camp Bowie, Ft. Worth; 817-569-1111.

TWO CORKS AND A BOTTLE — 2800 Routh St. # 140 (the quadrangle); 214-871-9463; twocorksandabottle.com

VERACRUZ CAFE — 408 N. Bishop St. #107; 214-948-4746; veracruzafedallas.com.

WENDY KRISPIN -CATERER — 214-748-5559; wendykrispincaterer.com

***WINGSTOP** — 4411 Lemmon Ave.; 214-219-9464.

Z

organizationdirectory

■ hotline

AIDS HOTLINE — 214-559-AIDS; Sponsored by Resource Center of Dallas.

■ aids services

***AIDS ARMS INC.** — 219 Sunset, #116-A, Dallas 75208, 214-521-5191; 1907 Peabody Ave., Dallas 75215, 214-421-7848; aidsarms.org

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK — 501 N. Stemmons, #200, Dallas 75207; 214-943-4444 (Programs), 214-941-7696 (Administration); aidsinterfaithnetwork.org

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER — 400 North Beach Street; Fort Worth, 76111; www.aoc.org; 817-335-1994.

AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT — 400 S. Zang, Dallas 75208; 214-645-7300, 214-645-7301.

***AIDS RESOURCE CENTER** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5124; resourcecenter-dallas.org

***AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS** — P.O. Box 4338, Dallas 75208; 214-941-0523; aidsdallas.org

AIDS SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS — 4210 Mesa, Denton 76207, 940-381-1501; 2540 Ave. K, Ste 500, Plano 75074, 972-424-1480; 3506 Texas, Greenville 75401, 903-450-4018; 102 S. First, Rockwall 75087, 800-974-2437; aidsntx.org

EXHALE SERVICES — 417 S. Locust, #101, Denton 76201; 940-484-2516.

GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND, INC. — P.O. Box 29091, Dallas 75229; 972-423-9093; gdmf.org

***LEGACY COUNSELING CENTER & LEGACY FOUNDERS COTTAGE** — 4054 McKinney, #102, Dallas 75204; 214-520-6308; legacycounseling.com

***LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS** — 3626 N. Hall, #200, Dallas 75219; 214-521-6622; dlh.org

***NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER** — 4012 Cedar Springs, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-528-2336; rcdallas.org/nthrc.html

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS HIV PLANNING COUNCIL — 1101 S. Main, #2500; Fort Worth 76104; 817-321-4743 (Office), 817-321-4741 (Fax); notexasaids.com

POSITIVE VOICES COALITION — 8099 Pennsylvania Ave., Ft. Worth; 817-321-4742; notexasaids.com

PROJECT ESPERANZA — 5415 Maple, #422, Dallas 75235; 214-630-0114.

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE AIDS FUND — P.O. Box 190409, Dallas 75219; 214-394-9064; tccdaidsfund.org

WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY — 9353 Garland Rd., Dallas 75218; 214-324-1193; whiterockchurch.org

■ education

ALLIES — 3116 Fondren Dr., Dallas 75205; 214-768-4796; smu.edu/womenscenter/allies.

***DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY** — 1515 Young, Dallas 75201; 214-670-1400; dallaslibrary.org

GAY AND LESBIAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTON — 940-565-2456; andrew.wexler@gmail.com; orgs.unt.edu/glad.

GLSEN - DALLAS — 2505 Wedgela Dr. #235, Dallas, 817-999-0199; glsen.org/dallas, dallas@chapters.glsen.org

HOMAGE — P.O. Box 830688, #12, Richardson 75083; 214-415-9495; mail@homageutd.org

HOMAGE AT UTA — 817-272-3986; tmarsh@uta.edu

OUT @ COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE — 214-991-7851; out.cccd.edu

SPECTRUM — 3140 Dyer, Dallas 75275; 214-768-4792; people.smu.edu/spectrum.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS ALLY PROGRAM — 940-565-2000; ally@unt.edu; unt.edu/ally/index.htm.

■ media

***DALLAS VOICE** — 4145 Travis, 3rd Floor, Dallas 75204; 214-754-8710; dallasvoice.com

DALLAS VOICE YELLOW PAGES — 4145 Travis, 3rd Floor, Dallas 75204; 214-754-8710; gayyellow.com

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION — 800-GAY-MEDIA; glad@glaad.org; GLAAD.org

LAMBDA WEEKLY — GLBT talk-radio show. KNON 89.3FM; Lambda Weekly, KNON FM, P.O. Box 71909, Dallas 75371; lambdaweekly@aol.com; geocities.com/lambdaweekly

PRIDE RADIO — 14001 N. Dallas Parkway, #300, Dallas 75240; 214-866-8000; prideradiofwd.com/main.html

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DALLAS SUMMER MUSICALS — 909 Ist. Avenue., Dallas 75210; 214-565-1116; livethemusichall.com

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OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND — P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-621-8998; oaklawnband.org

NEW TEXAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — P.O. Box 190137, Dallas 75219; 214-526-3214 (x101); ntso.org

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE — P.O. Box 190137, 75219, Dallas 75219; 214-526-3214 (x101); turtlecreek.org

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS — 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., #210, Dallas 75219; 214-520-7828; twdoffice@twd.org; twd.org

■ political

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF DALLAS COUNTY — P.O. Box 541712; DALLAS 75354-1719; lpdallas.org

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS — P.O. Box 191033, Dallas 75219; 214-346-2115; robschlein@aol.com; dallas.logcabin.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS — P.O. Box 192305, Dallas 75219; 214-887-4990; stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON COUNTY — P.O. Box 703392, Dallas 75370; 972-890-3834; info@stonewalldemocratsofdentoncounty.org; stonewalldemocratsofdentoncounty.org

TARRANT COUNTY STONEWALL DEMOCRATS — P.O. Box 185363, Fort Worth 76181; 817-913-8743; info@tarrantcountystonewalldemocrats.org; tarrantcountystonewalldemocrats.org

■ professional

ALLIANCE OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS — 214-526-2085.

BUSINESS NETWORK OF COLLIN COUNTY — 972-702-0058; businessnetworkcc.org

CATHEDRAL BUSINESS NETWORK — 214-351-1901 (x304); cbn.info@cathedralofhope.com; cathedralofhope.com/cbn

DALLAS PRIDE RESOURCE GROUP — bruce.shelton@bankofamerica.com

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN BAR ASSN. — 214-540-4460; adamseidel@aol.com; dgliba.org

DALLAS LAMBDA MEDICAL NETWORK — Contact Paul Jentz; 214-820-6930; paul.jentz@baylorhosp.org

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GLEE — 972-605-1212; edsu.eds.com/glee/index.html

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IBM EAGLE — haywardm@us.ibm.com

LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS — 214-957-2011; lambdapride@freetoasthost.us; lambdapride.freetoasthost.us

LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS — info@eadershiplambdafreetoasthost.com; leadershiplambdafreetoasthost.com

LGBT LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS — www.lgbtlawtx.com, 800-204-2222 x1420

NORTH TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — 3818 Cedar Springs Rd., Suite 101-429, Dallas, 75219, 214-821-GLBT

OUT & EQUAL DFW — www.outandequal.org/dallas-fort-worth, dfw@outandequal.org

PRIDE DFW METROPLEX — roger.brownlow@jpmorgan.com

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WOMEN'S BUSINESS NETWORK — P.O. Box 190692, Dallas 75219; 972-949-4355; info@womensbusinessnetwork.org; womensbusinessnetwork.org

■ services

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BOYS4TOYS — 4327 Vandelia, Dallas 75219; 214-522-5200; b4t@swbell.net; boys4toys.org

COLLIN COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE — P.O. Box 860030 Plano, TX 75086-0030; 214-521-5342 (x1715); info@ccgla.org; ccgla.org

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE — 3100 Main, #208, Dallas 75226; 214-734-8007; dallassouthernpride.com

DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB — P.O. Box 191153, Dallas 75219; 214-428-3332; dfwfederalclub.org

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE — P.O. Box 190712, Dallas 75219, 214-528-4233; info@dgla.com; dgla.com

DALLAS GENDER SOCIETY — 214-540-4475.

DALLAS TAVERN GUILD — 214-571-1073; michaeldoughman@sbccglobal.net; dallastavernguild.org

ERNIE GIACO, CPA — 817-731-7450; erniecpa@aol.com

***JOHN THOMAS GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-528-9254; Phil Johnson Historical Archives and Library; 214-540-4451

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS — 3818 Cedar Springs Rd. 101, #371, Dallas 75219; 214-421-8177; volunteers@gfld.org

GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD — 214-528-0022; rcdallas.org/glcc.html

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF NORTH TEXAS — 214-855-0520; info@hrionline.org; hrionline.org

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LEGACY OF SUCCESS FOUNDATION, INC. — P.O. Box 700072, Dallas 75370; heritagecelebrationdfw.org

NAMES PROJECT DALLAS — P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-520-SEWS (Phone), 214-553-8129 (Fax); dallasnamesproject@hotmail.com; aidsquiltDallas.org

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS — 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., #210, Dallas 75219; 214-520-7828; twdoffice@twd.org; twd.org

■ services

NATIONAL COMING OUT PROJECT-DALLAS — P.O. Box 190276, Dallas 75219, 214-261-5610; comeout.org

TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK ASSOCIATION — P.O. Box 3459, Fort Worth 76113; info@tcgpwa.org; tcgpwa.org

TALK OF THE TOWN TOASTMASTERS CLUB — 214-404-2118; dgershner@aol.com

TRIANGLE FOUNDATION — P.O. Box 306, Frisco 75034; 972-200-9411 (Phone), 501-643-0327 (Fax); collinequality.org

■ social

BATTALION MOTORCYCLE CORPS — P.O. Box 190603, Dallas 75219; info@battalionmc.com; battalionmc.com

BITCHNBRUNCH — bitchnbrunch.org; bitchnbrunch@yahoogroups.org

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB — P.O. Box 225463, Dallas 75222; 214-446-0606; information@classicchassis.com; classicchassis.com

COUPLES METRO DALLAS — P.O. Box 192116, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1764); couplesmetroDallas.com

DAMN — DAMNmen.org; P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1739); oaklwnvguy@hotmail.com

DALLAS BEARS — P.O. Box 191223, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x2943); dallasbears.org

DFW BIG MEN'S CLUB — P.O. Box 227262, Dallas 75222; 972-AM-I-BIG9; dfwbmc@hotmail.com; chubnet.net/dfwbmc

DISCIPLINE CORPS — P.O. Box 190838, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1731); webmaster@disciplinecorps.com; disciplinecorps.com

FIREDANCERS — mikeykeith@cs.com; firedancers.org

FLYING "W" OF DALLAS — P.O. Box 815485, Dallas 75381; 972-514-0511

FOR MEN ONLY DALLAS (FMO) — http://socialnetwork.meetup.com/1102/

FRISCOPEIDE — P.O. Box 1533, Frisco 75034; 469-324-4123; friscopeide.com

FUSE — 214-540-4435; adam@getyourfuseon.com; getyourfuseon.com

GAY AND LESBIAN RESIDENTS OF OAK CLIFF — galrc.org

GAY & LESBIAN SINGLES — 214-328-6749

GAY MEN'S BOOK CLUB — 214-418-3354; gaymensbookclub@sbccglobal.net

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB — 469-387-2530; mrailey@gmail.com; gayoutdoorclub.org

GAYMSTERS BRIDGE CLUB — P.O. Box 190856, Dallas 75219; 214-946-6464; gaymsters@yahoo.com; gaymsters.org

GROUP SOCIAL LATINO — 2701 Reagan; 214-540-4446

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH/ARLINGTON — P.O. Box 365, Fort Worth 76101; 817-897-8612; webmaster@ic-fwa.org; ic-fwa.org

JEWEL — 214-540-GIRL; jewel@rcdallas.org; rcdallas.org

KHUSH TEXAS — http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khushTEXAS

LATE BLOOMERS — La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon; 903-887-7371

LEATHER KNIGHTS — P.O. Box 190111, Dallas 75219; 214-559-3625; leatherknights.org

LONG YANG CLUB — 214-521-5342 (x428); lyc_dfw_tx@hotmail.com; longyangclub.org/dallas

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT — Rick; campout@lvpwaa.com; lvpwaa.com

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER — P.O. Box 190611, Dallas 75219; 972-504-8866; information@primetimers-dfw.org; primetimers-dfw.org

NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION-DALLAS — P.O. Box 190432, Dallas 75219; info@nla-dallas.org; nla-dallas.org

NORTH TEXAS RADICAL FAERIES — groups.yahoo.com/group/ntraidfae

OAK LAWN COUPLES — oaklawn couples.com

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ORANGE CLUB — groups.yahoo.com/group/orange-club

OUT TAKES DALLAS — 3818 Cedar Springs #101-405 Dallas 75219; 972-988-6333 (Phone), 866-753-9431 (Fax); outtakesdallas.org

POZ DALLAS — pozdallas@gmail.com; pozdallas.org

PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH — PO Box 191101, Dallas 75219; 972-504-8866; information@primetimers-dfw.org; primetimers-dfw.org

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB — P.O. Box 226811, Dallas 75222; 214-941-8114; info@rainbowgardenclub.com; rainbowgardenclub.com

SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW — http://singles.meetup.com/2049/

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DALLAS/FORT WORTH — groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasfortworth; dalmsul@yahoo.com

TEXAS TWISTERS — P.O. Box 192315, Dallas 75219; info@textwisters.org; textwisters.org

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE — PO Box 190865, Dallas 75219; dallascourt.org

WOMEN'S THEATER GROUP — 972-907-8804; bridalblooms@comcast.net; thewomens theatergroup.com

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION — dallasfamily.org

■ spirituality

PROJECT TAG (TYLER AREA GAYS) — 5701 Old Bullard Rd. #96; Tyler 75703; 903-372-7753; tylerareagays.com

AGAPE MCC — 4615 E. California Pkwy., (SE Loop 820), Fort Worth 76119; 817-535-5002; agapemcc.org

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH — 4230 Buckingham Rd., Garland 75042; 972-276-0023; ak1@a1mail.net; ascensiontexas.org

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — 4523 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-528-4084; bethanypresby@sbccglobal.net; bethany.presbychurch.org

***CATHEDRAL OF HOPE** — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-351-1901 (Local); 800-501-HOPE (Toll free); cathedralofhope.com

CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT — 2040 N. Denton Dr., Carrollton 75006; 972-245-6520; info@colight.org; colight.org

***CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH** — 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth 76104; 817-335-3222; celebration@celebrationtexas.com; celebration-community-church.com

CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE — Hwy. 198; Maybank TX, 75147; 903-451-2302; cotclchurch.org

CHURCH IN THE CLIFF — Kessler Theatre 1230 W. Davis St., Dallas, 75208; 214-233-4605; www.churchinthecliff.org

***COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH** — 2875 E. Parker Rd., Plano 75074; 972-424-8989; uuplano.org

CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 191188, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1784); diane@bethelbinah.org; bethelbinah.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH — 2800 Routh at Howell, Dallas 75201; 214-520-9090; info@crossroadscommunity-church.us; crossroadscommunitychurch.us

DIGNITY DALLAS — P.O. Box 1901333, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1732); dignitydallas.org

EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH — P.O. Box 710329, Dallas 75371 (Mailing); 629 North Peak, Dallas 75246 (Physical); 214-824-8185; info@edccc.org; edccc.org

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE — 6525 Inwood Blvd., Dallas 75209; 214-352-0410 (Phone), 214-352-3103 (Fax); doubertom@aol.com; thedoubter.org

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FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS — 5427 Phillips Ave, Dallas, TX 75223; 214-828-1314; faithcommunitydallas.org

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Noon - Parade Watching Party
4pm - Pride "T" Dance

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DOES DALLAS

TOP L to R:
 Scott Morehead
 Liz Mikel
 Martin Garcia
 Amanda Blake Davis
 John Sabine
 Frank Caeti
 LEFT: Liz Mikel
 Photos by
 Karen Almond.

Contains adult themes and language.

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