

Creepy, kooky, mysterious and very gay

Out actor Douglas Sills takes on the iconic role of Gomez
'The Addams Family' settles into Fair Park Music Hall as the State Fair musical Tuesday

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Established 1984 | Volume 29 | Issue 20

FREE | Friday, September 28, 2012

The gays of the Midway

'Gay Day' at the State Fair of Texas may be all but forgotten, but you'll still find plenty of queer attractions at this year's event, which starts Friday

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A fair to remember

Rachael Bernstein had the perfect proposal idea.

Surrounded by twinkling lights and cheery fairgoers, she would ride the Texas Star ferris wheel to the top with her soon-to-be fiancée and pop the question.

She had her two best friends at hand ready to take pictures when she kneeled in the crowded wheel's cage, capturing the magical moment for her to reflect on forever (right).

"I just thought it was really romantic being all the way up there and being able to see as far as you can see," Bernstein said.

Bernstein and fiancée Kara Ragland adore the State Fair. After meeting online and hitting it off, they visited the fair and rode the ferris wheel shortly after their romance began.

"We hit it off just right away," Bernstein said. "I always wanted to do it somewhere that we could always go back to and remember and I wanted to do it some place special. I picked the State Fair because it's something we look forward to all year long."

Last year the couple and their friends had spent the whole day at the fair and were waiting in line at night to ride the ferris wheel. Ragland suddenly turned to Bernstein and abruptly asked if she was going to propose. Bernstein, of course, lied.

"We were standing in line and she was like, 'Are you going to propose?' And I was like, 'No,'" Bernstein recalls. "It was knowledge that it was going to happen soon. She had no idea when, she had no idea where. She just guessed it."

Halfway to the top of the ride, Bernstein couldn't wait any longer, kneeling and admitting that Ragland had guessed it be-



WHAT A RIDE | Rachael Bernstein, right, is shown proposing to Kara Ragland on the Texas Star during the State Fair of Texas.

fore opening the ring box to a somewhat surprised and delightful reaction.

But the magical moment wasn't ruined.

Bernstein said the evening was still perfect.

A few months later, Ragland proposed to Bernstein on St. Patrick's Day so both of them would have a "on-one-knee proposal."

Bernstein, too, found out before it happened.

"We're not very good at keeping secrets," Bernstein laughs.

Ragland is currently in India filming a movie, so she'll miss the fair's full run this year, but Bernstein said her memories from last year will hold her over until new fair memories can be made again.

The couple is planning a wedding in Dallas scheduled tentatively for next fall.

— Anna Waugh

Got an LGBT-related State Fair story? Email it to Editor@DallasVoice.com to be featured on Instant Tea during this year's fair.

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Photo: David Heald. Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas

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The gays of the Midway

'Gay Day' at the State Fair of Texas may be all but forgotten, but you'll still find plenty of queer attractions at this year's event, which starts Friday

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
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Longtime lesbian activist Susan Gore recalls trying to make the LGBT community visible at the State Fair of Texas when the thought of a gay-themed day was still scandalous.

While planning the first Gay Day at the State Fair in 1994, Gore said she had to jump through a lot of hoops before fair officials finally allowed it under multicultural events.

"They came around," Gore said. "It's [the fair] an event for the city and for the state, and we're citizens like everybody else."

Gay Day wasn't a sanctioned event like Czech Day. It was more along the lines of a company picnic, and the second outing in 1995 included a barbecue and celebrity speakers Candace Gingrich and Chastity Bono, now Chaz Bono. It was held on the Sunday before National Coming Out Day.

"We decided that as a large part of the Dallas population we wanted to be visible," Gore said.

In 1996, fair officials ended all ethnic days and multicultural days. Some in the LGBT community have suggested that the fair did away with ethnic days to get rid of Gay Day, but Gore said she feels it was a business decision because ethnic days were losing money.

"We were visible, we were celebrating, we were being a part of the community in Dallas, and I believe it was very successful for those two years," Gore said.

Gregory Pynes, co-coordinator of the Gay Day events, said he and Gore worked with the local Human Rights Campaign steering committee to bring about the first two Gay Days. But fair officials would not place Gay Day on the calendar, Pynes said, because they didn't consider it on the same scale as multicultural days. And even setting up at the Hall of State brought controversy, so the group moved venues throughout the fairgrounds.

Even after the days were cancelled, Pynes said organizers continued informal Gay Days until 1999. There would be speakers and city council members would read resolutions declaring it State Fair Gay Day. Eventually the planning and finding speakers became a lot of work, and the days stopped.

Haltom City resident Mike Weaver is trying to bring back the State Fair Gay Day this year. He's created a "Gay Day State Fair of Texas" event on Facebook for National Coming Out Day on Thursday, Oct. 11.



DIGITAL DRAW | Couple Jeremy Nelson-Cruz, left, and Brian Nelson-Cruz in one of the digital caricatures they'll be creating in the Friends of Fair Park booth.

Weaver created a State Fair Gay Day in 2010 and said he liked seeing same-sex parents bring children and wear T-shirts celebrating their identity. The day was on a Saturday, but this year he picked a weekday to avoid large crowds.

"I just wanted to do it and have the community have a great time together without being political," Weaver said.

Gore said the end of ethnic days coincided with the beginning of Gay Day at Six Flags Over Texas, causing the annual theme park event to grow in popularity. She said she's glad to see the informal Gay Day at the State Fair return and encouraged people to attend.

"We still are here and are still part of the community," she said. "There are different ways of

State Fair of Texas

The State Fair of Texas runs Sept. 28 through Oct. 21. Exhibit buildings are open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily and until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more, visit BigTex.com.

being visible."

But even without a formal Gay Day, there's still plenty that's queer about the State Fair of Texas.

In fact, some might argue that the LGBT community no longer needs a Gay Day because, well, every day is Gay Day at the fair — and we're everywhere!

Here are just five examples from this year's fair:

1. You don't know Jack?

Jack Bunning has served as executive director of the Dallas Historical Society for the last three years, overseeing special events and the exhibit that runs throughout the fair at the Hall of State at the fairgrounds.

Bunning worked as the director of marketing and development for the Sixth Floor Museum before moving to Austin to take the same position at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

While he lived in Austin for a time before returning to Dallas three years ago, Bunning said he's always called Dallas home. He said he loves his current position because he helps preserve a

■ MIDWAY, Page 15



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localbriefs

YFT hosts 'No Bull' fundraiser

Youth First Texas holds its first "All Dallas No Bull" fundraising event on Oct. 4 at Fashion Industry Gallery (FIG) in Downtown Dallas at 8:30 p.m.

The evening features light bites, signature cocktails, a silent auction, dance club DJ and a Western-themed fashion presentation by local designers Bill Peck and Cara Noggle.

All Dallas No Bull is open to the entire community affording everyone an opportunity to learn more about Youth First Texas.

General admission is \$25 at the door and \$20 in advance with two drink tickets. A \$50 donation includes unlimited cocktails.

FIG is at 1807 Ross Ave. in Dallas. For more information, go to YouthFirstTexas.org.

Death

Shawn Gregory Miller of Dallas, formerly of Clayton, Del., passed away on Friday, Sept. 21, 2012. He was 21.

Miller was born April 5, 1991, in Dover, Del., the son of Neil Ford of Felton, Del., and Melissa Ann Miller of Townsend, Del.

Miller worked as a male entertainer for several clubs in the Dallas area. He also enjoyed drawing, photography, modeling and fashion.

Miller loved Dallas and always dreamed of becoming a great photographer and stylist. He had just started his photography website.



In addition to his parents, Miller is survived by his stepmother, Christina Ford; four sisters, Ashley, Mackenzie, Gracie and Jazmine; two brothers, Cody and Brian; his maternal grandparents, Henry and Debra Miller; his paternal grandfather, John Ford; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family members.

Miller was loved by all who came in contact with him, including his many Dallas friends, such as Lynsey, Matt, Alex, Ricky and Juan.

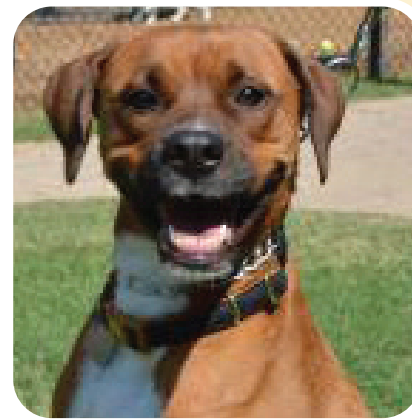
In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Trevor Project at www.thetrevorproject.org.

A memorial service for Miller will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at 657 Big Oak Road in Smyrna, Del.

Condolence letters may be sent by visiting www.fariesfuneralhome.com.

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Cinnamon 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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Lone Star Ride shifts gears, moves to Microsoft in Irving

11th annual HIV/AIDS fundraiser rolls out Saturday from new venue; pitstops include NorthPark Center, Round-Up Saloon, Flying Saucer

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For its 11th year, the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS has a new home base, new host hotel and new route. But the beneficiaries remain the same — AIDS Services of Dallas, Resource Center Dallas and the AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth.

LSRFA event manager Jerry Calumn said he expects about 100 riders for the two-day event that begins Saturday, Sept. 29.

"It's a hard year to raise money," Calumn said. "We're in the middle of the nonprofit recession that always hits three years after the regular recession."

Despite those challenges, the event has new sponsors and Calumn expects a "buttoned-down ride."

This year's routes begin at the Irving campus of new corporate sponsor Microsoft. From there, riders head out Saturday morning on a 100-mile route that will take them down the scenic Champion Trail in Las Colinas to Royal Lane and across into Dallas.

One of the morning pitstops will be at NorthPark Center. The stop is sponsored by Paul Cross and the family of his late partner, Jim McCoy. McCoy, a longtime Lone Star rider, died suddenly of pancreatic cancer earlier this year.

The stop will be at the northeast corner of the NorthPark Center parking lot near Park Lane and Central Expressway. People are invited to cheer on riders there.

For lunch, riders will head up Cedar Springs Road and stop in front of the Round-Up Saloon. Calumn said this is another great place to cheer on riders. He suggested arriving by 11 a.m. to catch the fastest riders.

The Cedar Springs Merchants Association is sponsoring the lunch stop.

"We'll have white tents with outdoor tables,"

■ LONE STAR RIDE, Page 13



CHARTING A NEW COURSE | For the last several years the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS has been based at the American Airlines Training Center in Fort Worth. This year it moves to Microsoft in Irving.



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District 1 hopefuls differ on DP benefits

Democrat Theresa Daniel supports offering benefits to partners of gay Dallas County workers; Republican Larry Miller strongly opposes idea

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Democratic District 1 candidate Theresa Daniel says she would support offering benefits to the partners of gay employees if elected to the Dallas County Commissioners Court.

If the current Commissioners Court doesn't approve DP benefits this year, Daniel could become the third vote in support of DP benefits along with County Judge Clay Jenkins and District 4 Commissioner Elba Garcia, both also Democrats.

"I believe families, no matter how they are configured, deserve benefits," Daniel said this week. "All families should be covered."

Daniel faces Republican Larry Miller in the race to replace Republican Maurine Dickey, who is retiring. Miller sent out a mailer in May attacking his primary opponent for supporting DP benefits.

"Cecile Fernandez supports spending your

Cecile Fernandez Supports Spending Your County Tax Dollars to Pay for "Partnership" Benefits



dallasvoice
February 2, 2012

"She expressed support for LGBT issues. She backs partnership benefits for county employees . . ."

LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender

ATTACK AD | A mailer sent out by Dallas County Commissioners Court candidate Larry Miller in May attacking primary opponent Cecile Fernandez for supporting domestic partner benefits for gay employees.

county tax dollars to pay for partnership benefits," Miller's mailer stated. "Does Cecile Fernandez reflect YOUR values?"

Miller didn't respond to phone calls and emails seeking comment this week.

In a response to a post on Dallas Voice's blog calling his mailer "anti-gay," Miller said in an email in May: "There is nothing 'anti-gay' about our mailer. I do not believe taxpayer money should be used for partnership benefits and my opponent is on the record in favor of taxpayer support of those benefits. I have attended many Republican meetings and met many voters who agree with my position."

Daniel said that as commissioner her first priority would be the budget.

"That's the job," she said.

Coming under the budget, she said, the priorities are healthcare and public safety.

She said the new federal healthcare law has already had a positive effect on public health in the county with more people who have health insurance, including those under 26 who can now be covered under their parents' policies. As more of the healthcare law kicks in over the next few years, she expects it to have a positive effect on providing healthcare throughout the county.

She called Gov. Rick Perry's decision to reject additional Medicaid funding something that will cost Dallas County quite a bit of money as the county continues to provide a healthcare safety net.

She sees her role in public safety as "making sure the system is functioning," listing concerns including the health of prisoners, how constables fit into the system and whether to continue traffic patrols.

"We need to make sure the jail can go through its inspections," she said.

She said the county's computer system must be up-to-date and efficient so county staff can do the jobs they're hired to do.

"I'm reading a lot, talking a lot about issues that affect people's everyday lives," she said.

She called the position of county commissioner

a continuation of work she's been doing and training she had. She received her doctorate in public policy and public administration. She worked as a congressional aide to Congressman Martin Frost and is currently a manager in the Dallas Independent School District.

"We need a county commissioner who can work with residents," she said, calling her 35 years of work in Dallas what makes her more qualified than her opponent.

Miller does not list any issues on his website. He was a Hunt County District Attorney before moving to Dallas.

In District 3, Dallas County's longest-serving incumbent, John Wiley Price, faces Republican Charles Lingerfelt.

Price has been under investigation for about a year. Records were seized from his office and cash taken from a safe in his house. The day after he won the primary, an FBI agent revealed that Price was under investigation for a money laundering scheme, bankruptcy fraud or theft or bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Sidney Fitzwater denied motions to delay forfeiture of the money. Because Price did not file responses to the forfeiture case, Fitzwater ruled, he could not ask for the stay.

On the Commissioners Court, Price hasn't publicly signed on to offering DP benefits. Jenkins has said he plans to bring the matter up for a vote sometime before the end of the year, but it's unclear whether it has the three votes needed to pass.

Lingerfelt owns Lingy's Barbecue & Catering.

On his website, Lingerfelt claims the current healthcare law mandates "rationing and death panels." He calls the Affordable Care Act that was upheld by the Supreme Court "unconstitutional." He claims the healthcare law includes taxpayer-funded abortion, which he calls "against the principles of our Christian faith."

Under healthcare on his website, he doesn't address any of the challenges facing Parkland hospital.

■ DISTRICT 1, Page 13



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FASHIONISTA FULFILLED | Charity Link owner Tony Green was happy reselling couture items for his private business, but he's found more personal fulfillment working to help charities. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

The missing Link

After years reselling treasures found in thrift stores for profit, Tony Green goes to work for a good cause at new store benefitting local charities

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Tony Green knows how to bargain hunt.

He's spent more than a decade traveling to thrift stores in search of couture clothing and accessories that he can resell for a higher value.

His trips around the country to different thrift stores have led him to finds like a pair of designer shoes with a \$345 price tag still attached. Beneath the price tag is the thrift store price of \$14.99 scribbled in marker. He would resell items like that for \$125 and make a large profit because while thrift stores often receive designer donations, the staff rarely knows how to market the value.

"They have a market for people in need or people who are bargain hunters," he said. "The profits go to people who buy and resell."

But Green's success brought him only personal gain, and now he wants a more fulfilling career. After suffering through financial hard times in 2008, he said he realized charities were probably hit harder.

"I thought if I'm hurting, I know these charities are hurting," he said.

The idea to create a high-end resale shop was born, but the timing wasn't right just yet.

After moving to Dallas three years ago, he tested the waters for giving and charity events while delving into odd jobs. Finally a few months ago he partnered with four local charities and created Charity Link Foundation Consignment Boutique.

The 1,200-square-foot space on Atwell Street — near Lemmon Avenue and Inwood Road — is in a cozy strip center.

Items for sale range from a donated baby grand piano to small furniture, clothing and highly-sought-after purses and jewelry.

Partnered charities AIDS Services of Dallas, Genesis Women's Shelter, Minnie's Food Pantry of Plano and Paws in the City bring in the donated items that Green then prices and sells. He splits the profits 50-50 with the charities.

People can also sell their items on consignment but must donate 10

percent to a charity of their choice, and the remainder is split 45-45.

AIDS Services Executive Director Don Maison said the partnership is perfect for items like a baby grand piano that was too large for the agency to sell itself.

"It's a great concept," Maison said. "It's a perfect venue for us because we get donations that are interesting and valuable, but we can't really use them."

He said he hopes the partnership will help ASD

■ LINK, Page 13

Charity Link Consignment

Charity Link Foundation Consignment Boutique is at 3737 Atwell St. Suite 205. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and by appointment. For more information, visit CharityLinkFoundation.com.

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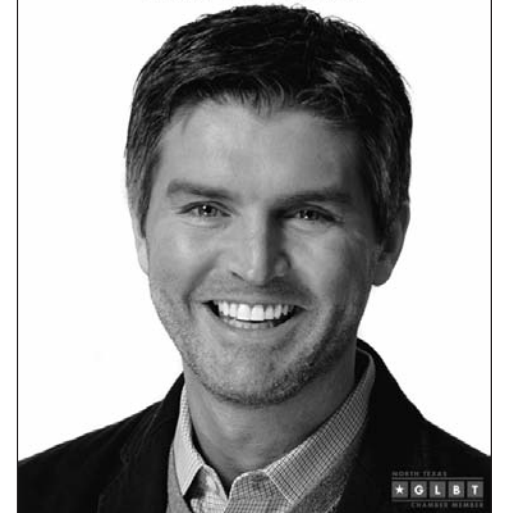
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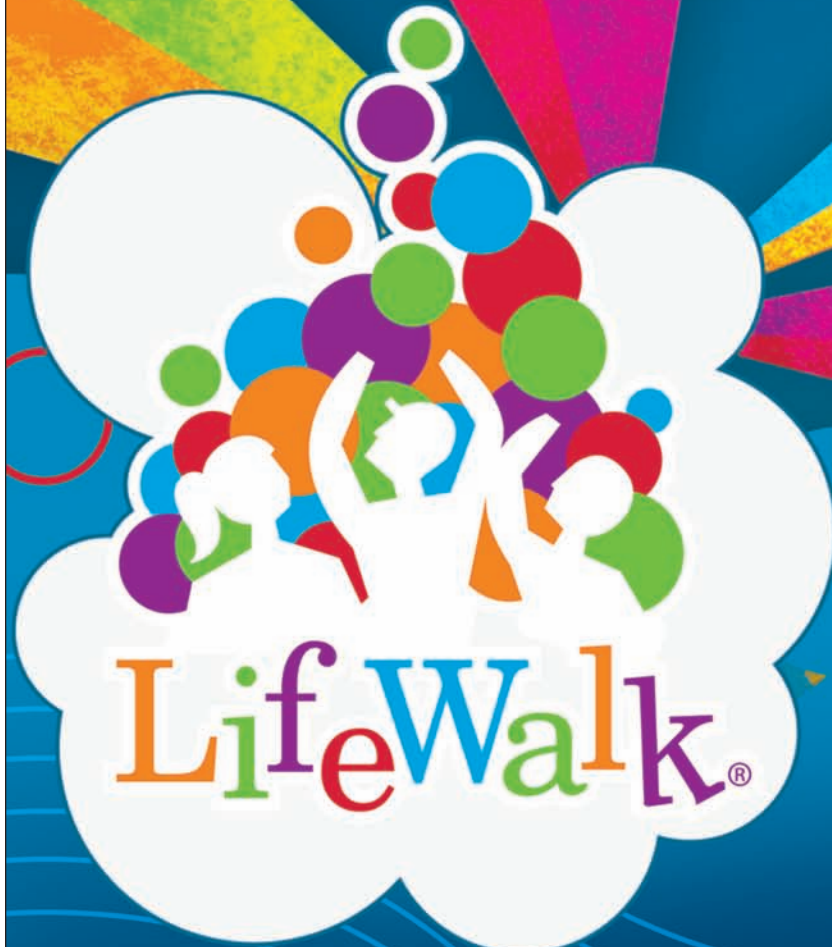
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■ **DISTRICT 1**, From Page 10

His position on families states that they are “under attack by the forces of political correctness.”

He supports small business and calls a flat tax the best solution for small business.

“I will pursue changing our current tax code to support small businesses and encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship,” he writes on his website but

■ **LONE STAR RIDE**, From Page 9

CSMA Executive Director Scott Whittall said.

Whittall said Hunky’s and JR.’s are providing most of the food. There will be music on the TMC patio, and several stores plan specials.

“We’re hoping to have [Dallas City Councilwomen] Angela [Hunt] and Pauline [Medrano] there,” Whittall said.

The second day, the route is shorter because everyone must be back at the Microsoft campus before 5 p.m. for the closing ceremony.

The Sunday ride again begins at Microsoft but heads toward Fort Worth. Last year, much of the Tarrant County portion of the ride was along the Trinity Trail, and managing that segment was difficult. Many riders made wrong turns, missed the river crossing and on one unpaved section got flats.

This year, only a small portion of the ride will be on the Trinity Trail. Bikers will cross the river on a new trail bridge near downtown that opened earlier this year.

Lunch will be at the Flying Saucer in Sundance Square, and gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns is expected to attend.

Ride co-chair Danny Simpson said he’s excited about this year’s new sponsors and host hotel. He said several Lone Star Ride meetings have been held at the NYLO Hotel in Irving.

“They’ve been hospitable and generous with their space,” he said.

In addition to getting an upgrade in facilities, LSRFA participants will mostly fill the hotel and won’t have to compete with other groups for space on the property.

Microsoft will host the morning ride-outs, Saturday evening entertainment and Sunday closing

■ **LINK**, From Page 11

financially cover things that grants can’t cover because of restrictions.

“Grants pay for a lot but not everything,” he said. “We need unrestricted funds to help us cover everything else.”

Green opened in August but planned a grand opening that runs through Saturday, Sept. 29. He said business has been steady and the excitement has built around the store, so he hopes to spend the rest of his career helping the store and charities thrive.

“This is a life-altering change,” he said. “It’s something that can be passed down to future generations.”

Green said one his favorite shows is Secret Millionaire, a show where millionaires get to know people in need and later give them money. Although he was generous in his giving before start-

doesn’t explain how a county commissioner will change federal income tax laws.

His education policy is equally irrelevant.

“I will fight for school choice, vouchers, and charter schools in order to provide educational alternatives for parents,” he wrote.

Dallas County Community Colleges and the independent school districts are independent taxing authorities that do not come under the county commission. ■

ceremony. Microsoft also fielded a team of riders and offered a free copy of Microsoft Office to riders who raised more than \$1,000.

Sponsor GLM Waste Management, which Simpson called “an all-green waste management company,” will provide recycling containers and recyclable goods such as plates and plasticware for the event, as well as “port-o-potty support.”

Irving Convention Bureau spokeswoman Diana Pfaff said LSRFA approached the city last year about moving to the city.

“We helped with hotel selection, promotional efforts and the opening night dinner,” she said. “We’ll welcome riders to Irving for the weekend.”

The city’s promotional efforts included publicizing the ride with inserts in water bills.

She said riders will be surprised by the Champion Trail — which she described as a 22-mile greenbelt along the Trinity River crossed by horse trails and surrounded by beautiful flora and fauna.

“We’re thrilled to have you guys here,” she said.

The closing ceremony will include the riderless bike remembering friends who died of AIDS. That tradition has been part of all 10 previous Lone Star Rides and was carried over from the longer Houston-to-Dallas Tanqueray Texas AIDS Rides that preceded LSRFA.

Don Maison, president and CEO of AIDS Services of Dallas, said his agency is “very grateful” for the support from Lone Star Ride over the years. Maison said the money is especially important to his agency because it provides unrestricted funds that cover things that grants don’t.

“It pays for amenities that make a home a home,” he said. “Especially for us as a housing provider, the money helps us make a pleasant living environment.” ■

ing Charity Link and doesn’t have the funds to give as much of the people on the show give, he said he’s still making a difference in his community.

“Here I am being able to do my own little version [of the show] is so cool,” Green said. “This is my profession, but I’m using my expertise to help I don’t know how many people. It’s intoxicating.”

Green said he’s looking to partner with more charities to keep the store full.

He said his favorite part about the store is working with the charities and helping the people who work so hard for other people, even if he’s taken a cut in pay to go into business to help the organizations.

“It’s incredibly satisfying to be able to be associated with these people who have given so much of their time and help them expand their outreach is way more important than a paycheck,” Green said. ■

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■ MIDWAY, From Page 6

large portion of Dallas' history — one of the three large collections in Dallas along with items at the Dallas Public Library and Southern Methodist University.

But the DHS is the only collection that exhibits the history of its collection, he said. Bunning, who's gay, helps select the exhibit that runs throughout the fair. This year's exhibit is commemorating 100 years of the Girl Scouts, entitled "The 100th Girl Scout Experience."

He said the exhibit was scheduled to run in the Women's Museum, but after the building closed, it was submitted as an idea for the State Fair exhibit. He said he keeps "the big list" of exhibit ideas for State Fair ideas because eventually the timing, funding and theme work out.

Last year, he said the featured fair exhibit showcased the 175-year history of Texas. The previous year displayed personal items of Tom Landry.

Items from a life-size cookie box to memorabilia from the Girl Scouts' founder will be displayed, and those who attend can even join a virtual troop for the duration of their visit. For more info, visit StateFairGirlScouts.com.

2. The momma of the Main Stage

Lesbian blues singer Ruthie Foster grew up in Gause, Texas, but hasn't attended the State Fair since college. This year she'll return to headline a performance on Oct. 6, bringing her powerhouse vocals and mixture of blues, jazz and gospel to the fair's Main Stage.

The Grammy-nominated singer released her eighth album, *Let It Burn*, in January. Foster wrote several of the songs herself and also lends her vocals to a few songs by other artists like The Black Keys and Adele.

"It's really just a compilation of tunes that I have admired and a couple tunes I had been sitting on," Foster told Dallas Voice.

Foster plays the guitar and piano, but she didn't play any instruments on her newest album, deciding instead to focus on singing, a change she welcomed.



EXHIBITING INGENUITY | As executive director of the Dallas Historical Society, Jack Bunning oversees the annual exhibit in the Hall of State, which this year commemorates 100 years of the Girl Scouts. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

"It gave me a chance to showcase my ability to be just a singer. I had a chance to just sing and that was a nice plus and something different," she said. "It really opened me up to be able to interpret these songs vocally the way they probably never would have been interpreted had I been playing."

Foster lives in South Austin with her partner of six years and their 16-month-old daughter. Although Foster is in her late 40s and had given up on the idea of a family, she said her partner wanted kids, so the timing was perfect.

"She wanted to have a family," Foster said, adding that the experience over the last year has been one of growth. "You get to that point where your capacity to love is expanded like tenfold when you have a child. It's just so beautiful."

Foster's last album, *The Truth According to Ruthie Foster*, explored her life's journey from the start of her music career — singing in church at 14 — to her time in the U.S. Navy and coming out. Her next album will likely explore motherhood.

■ MIDWAY, Next Page



SOUL SISTER | Lesbian blues singer Ruthie Foster performs on the Main Stage on Oct. 6.

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coverstory

■ MIDWAY, From Previous Page

She doesn't expect another album out before at least a year and a half, but even without the time or the sleep to write while being on tour and raising a family, Foster said being a mother has already inspired her creatively.

"It's definitely starting to inspire my drive to create more," she said.

Foster takes the Main Stage Oct. 6 at the State Fair and she'll be back in Dallas to perform at The Kessler Theater Dec. 21.

3. Rockin' the float

By day Brad Pritchett does marketing for the Dallas Theater Center.

By night the gay 32-year-old singer, dancer and actor does a little of everything — from hosting Halloween and Christmas shows at Six Flags to providing between-innings entertainment for the Frisco RoughRiders baseball team.

Last year at this time Pritchett had just wrapped up the RoughRiders season — an outdoor gig that spanned the hottest summer on record in North Texas.

So he was a little reluctant when his longtime associates at gay-owned Eclipse Entertainment — which has a contract with the State Fair of Texas — asked him to emcee a float in the nightly parade.

But who could turn down the State Fair, right? "I didn't even know there *was* a parade," Pritchett recalls. "It was super-successful, and they called me again this year to come back. It's a super-easy gig. I'm in and out of there in an hour."

Armed with a headset microphone and a live video camera, Pritchett straps himself in to the float at 7 p.m. all 24 days of the fair.

He fires up the crowd while panning the camera back and forth along the route — from the bandshell, past Big Tex and around the Cotton Bowl, to Gateway Plaza.

"They think they're on TV when they're actually just on the jumbotron that's attached to my float, so they go crazy," Pritchett says.

While he enjoys the camaraderie among performers in the parade — including several others who are gay — Pritchett admits that by the end of the State Fair, the routine starts to get a little old.

But, he adds, there's nothing that a beer and a corny dog before the parade won't cure.

4. A couple of caricatures

Brian Nelson-Cruz and his husband Jeremy give the common fairgoer trend of caricatures a digital twist. Instead of a hand-drawn sketch, the couple takes a photo of their subjects and uses Photoshop to digitally distort the image.

They use different filters on the software to give the caricatures a "cartoon feeling," Brian Nelson-Cruz said, and "nudge and push things around" on screen until the final picture is created. He says the process "works like magic."

The idea came to them a few years ago, but Nelson-Cruz said he can't draw, something that bothered him because he's a graphic designer. He was envious of people who could draw, so he took his computer skills and made an image that



IN THE STARLIGHT | Brad Pritchett emcees a float in the nightly Starlight Parade, which runs all 24 days of the fair. (Terry Thompson/Dallas Voice)

looked like it was drawn. He and his husband began creating the pictures for friends and family.

They teamed up this year with Friends of Fair Park to offer the caricatures to fairgoers and help raise money for the nonprofit. Gay former Dallas City Councilman Craig Holcomb is the executive director of Friends of Fair Park. The digital caricatures will each have a Fair Pair logo and the fairgrounds in the background.

Nelson-Cruz said he hopes fairgoers will look forward to getting their digital caricatures made over time and will remind them of the good times they had at the State Fair. "It's more of a keepsake memory," he said.

The picture from photo to Photoshop to print takes about 10 minutes and costs \$20 for up to two people. The cost includes a digital emailed copy and a color print. Each additional person in the photo or extra print is \$5.

5. 'The Addams Family' is family

A tradition as respected as the Fletcher's Corny Dog, the Texas-OU game or Big Tex himself is the State Fair Musical.

For more than 65 years, the Dallas Summer Musicals has been a staple at Fair Park, and October is when they usually settle in with a long-running show for the family. Only this year, the family is on the strange side.

In addition to starring openly gay actor Douglas Sills (see story on Page 22), *The Addams Family: A Musical* boasts one of the queerer offerings for the State Fair musical — and that says a lot. First, there's the macabre source material (lots of jokes about death and ghoulishness). The original Broadway version was a vehicle for gay actor Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth. And the author and composer is Andrew Lipka — also gay.

His previous credits include an adaptation of the Jazz Age poem "The Wild Party," which involves orgies and murder. That's a far cry from previous State Fair musicals like *The Lion King*, *Wicked* and *Mary Poppins*. Oh, wait ... evil jungle cats ... mystical nannies ... green-skinned witches who are Friends of Dorothy. Maybe *The Addams Family* isn't so out-of-place after all. ■

Senior editor John Wright and Life+Style editor Arnold Wayne Jones contributed to this report.

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viewpoints

'Good luck with that'

The 4 words of this common refrain reflect an attitude that's even more to blame than our enemies for the too-slow pace of LGBT equality

There's a refrain, one you hear quite often if you work to make things better, that I'm trying really hard not to grow accustomed to. I heard it again at the Equality Texas booth at Dallas Pride. I was talking about our effort to encourage Dallas County to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees:

"Good luck with that! This city will never treat gay people right."

Never mind that the city of Dallas has offered domestic partner benefits for years and we were talking about Dallas County, not the city.

Never mind that two of the five members of the Dallas County Commissioners Court (which has to approve DP benefits) have been very public in their support.

Never mind that this same court voted last year to add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the county's nondiscrimination policy.

"Good luck with that!" and a dismissive bounce to the next booth over.

I'm worried I'm getting used to "good luck with that." I hear it often enough.

When we were working last year to pass anti-bullying legislation in Texas: "Good luck with that."

(It passed.)

When we were trying to defeat a bill that could have prevented people with a history of gender transition from getting married (to anyone): "Good luck with that."

(It didn't pass.)

Gay Democrat's letter was offensive

When I hear a gay person is a Democrat and will vote that way, their sexuality having been their sole motivation, I am aghast. Gene Covington's recent letter to this paper (Viewpoints, 8/31/12) was as confusing in some places as it was offensive in others and painfully incoherent throughout. The most troubling thing is that in his supposed quest for a more inclusive and tolerant America, he is creating a more exclusive and less tolerant gay community. There is no gay Republican who calls the GOP home because they adore the party's position on gay marriage. We support the party for reasons beyond our sexuality because our sexuality is not what defines us, a mantra also espoused by gay Democrats right up until they meet a gay Republican.

When Covington talks about all of those who came before us, ushering in "Sunday Funnies" and braving the society at large by "enter(ing) the bars through the back,

Tell Dallas County to offer domestic partner benefits

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia are working to ensure that Dallas County offers domestic partner benefits to its employees, but they need your help. The decision to offer benefits is made by the Commissioners Court, made up of Jenkins, Garcia and three other commissioners: John Wiley Price, Maurine Dickey and Mike Cantrell. Three "yea" votes are needed for the county to offer benefits, so we're almost there!

Call or email the members of the Commissioners Court and tell them to treat all of their employees fairly by offering domestic partner benefits:

- County Judge Clay Jenkins: 214-653-7949, Clay.Jenkins@DallasCounty.org
- District 1 Maurine Dickey: 214-653-7552, Maurine.Dickey@DallasCounty.org
- District 2 Commissioner Mike Cantrell: 214-653-6100, MCantrell@DallasCounty.org
- District 3 Commissioner John Wiley Price: 214-653-6671, John.Price@DallasCounty.org
- District 4 Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia: 214-653-6670, Elba.GarciaDDS@DallasCounty.org

— Equality Texas

When we were trying to make sure that Texas universities were allowed to keep their LGBT campus resource centers: "Good luck with that." (Students still have those resources.)

Granted there are defeats in this work, sometimes more defeats than victories. The victories don't make the defeats sting any less, but vice-versa, the defeats don't necessarily spoil the victories — or make them unimportant.

"Good luck with that" is just too easy to not be upsetting. It places the speaker in the comfortable position of either being right, or enjoying the benefits of other people's work if they're wrong.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "appalling silence and inaction of the good people" has been re-



Daniel Williams
Contributing Columnist

off dark alleys," he tragically forgets that many of those people were conservative-minded gay people who would shudder today to hear the president berate success and demonize business. As a small business owner myself, this is particularly troubling.

Other political facts make Covington's piece even more confusing. Never mind that when it came time to fight "don't ask, don't tell," the only organization to bring a suit against the government wasn't the Stonewall Democrats but the Log Cabin Republicans. It was Barack Obama's Justice Department who was directed, for political purposes, to defend the law. And the Human Rights Campaign still endorsed him.

The irony of his lecture on freedom is that Mr. Covington can never be truly free because his sense of freedom extends no further than his sexuality. What a pity.

Russ Hargraves
Oak Cliff

placed with the cynic's national anthem, the mantra of the disaffected: "Good luck with that." And this refrain, far more than the "vitriolic words and evil actions of the bad people," is responsible for the too, too slow pace of equality.

So here's a promise and a challenge: I promise that when Equality Texas sends you an email alert, or asks you to sign on to a campaign at a Pride festival, or takes to social media with a call to action, it's because we know that your action has the potential to make a difference. The challenge to you is to cast off the easy comfort of "good luck with that" and actually follow through with an action to change the world.

It's not easy. It's the hardest thing. It doesn't count if it's easy, but that's how we bring equality to our state.

Well, that and a little luck!

Daniel Williams, field organizer for Equality Texas, can be reached at DanielWilliams@EqualityTexas.org.

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 - Never stopped: 12 percent
 - Never have/never will: 20 percent
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Dances with fire

Dallas Firedancers celebrate a quarter-century of hot traditions

Among the gay nightclub scene in 1987, a bar called the Sundance was the leather spot in Dallas. Housed on Maple Avenue where The Brick used to be, it was also where an idea was formed. A group of friends knew the AIDS food pantry needed money. Banding together, they held a fundraiser.

And thus were the Firedancers born from relatively humble beginnings.

"That garden party was held on June 14 and we raised \$350 for the pantry," founding member Robert Cantrell recalls. "And so that really was the inception of the group."

Like many fundraisers, it could have been a one-time event. Indeed, it wasn't until the following November that the Firedancers officially began to take shape. First, they adopted their Native American identity, creating a significant logo representing founders John Fellrath, Kim Olsen, Manse Bridwell, Lucas Keith and Cantrell. As the only member still around since its inception, Cantrell has seen the group grow from his small circle of friends into something bigger than he could have imagined. A look that hints of both pride and pain flashes across Cantrell's face when he thinks about it.

"The years have gone by fast, but gosh ... the number of people we've lost," Cantrell says, his voice trailing. "The group has become a lot more social and the purpose of it really is to have a good time among like-minded individuals. I'd say it's not as structured as it was and the new guard coming in is sort of relaxing the rules."

The new guard could be seen as the next generation of leather, one that includes gear such as rubber and latex, and also that doesn't mind white tennis shoes so much. That is — or was, rather — a big thing in the old-school leather communities.

"It signified that you're a boy and those just weren't worn in leather clubs," Cantrell says.

But he has faith in current Firedancers president Gabe Sims. He describes Sims as the guy who straddles both the new and traditional ways



LEATHER WITH A PURPOSE | Firedancers co-founder Robert Cantrell (seated right of the "25") and current president Gabe Sims (standing rear far right) join with their brothers at the Hidden Door for a commemorative portrait marking 25 years of service to the community. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

— a notion that Sims himself chuckles at. The current Mr. Hidden Door (also the home bar for Firedancers) and a contestant at this year's IML, Sims takes a diplomatic stance on the differences — but clearly they aren't something to be ignored.

"I'm aware of a lot of the old guard tradition, and now some of the newer guards, while they are aware of it, don't heed to it all," Sims explains. "When I came on board as the president, I wanted the best of both worlds for everyone. I guess maybe I am a new guard person, although it makes me laugh that Robert would say that about me. I guess he saw it more than I did."

With all the pomp and circumstance in its structure and pledging, both men confirm that Firedancers is really a social group designed for having fun, while simultaneously helping out local charities. Over 25 years, with their annual Ruby Slipper Run and Souper Bowl chili cook-off, they have helped agencies such as Legacy Counseling Center/Founders Cottage, AIDS Interfaith Network, the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic and Bryan's House.

For budding leatherettes wishing to join, there aren't any embarrassing hazing rituals one might expect from a group of leathermen. Becoming a member is considerably easy, but tenacity and some good glutes are helpful.

"Usually, people come to us so we don't solicit much," Cantrell says. "But they have to come to

two meetings and then take part in a special event we're hosting. They fill out the form and tell us about themselves. We hope they hang out at the Hidden Door and we also hope they can hold their liquor! It takes about three months to become a full member from their first meeting to when they are voted in to the club."

The cherry on top is the "bare butt" pledge tradition. Sims explains while laughing at perhaps the most mischievous acts the group partakes in.

"Well, we have this mascot bear that they have to carry around and they have to collect friendship pins from other groups," he says. "But once they've completed all of that, at the end of the term, he must moon the club. Then they'll earn their back patch with the logo."

In keeping with the Native American aspects, the Firedancers incorporated a seven-sided Cherokee symbol into their logo, surrounded by colored flames that symbolize the founding members. They first hung their flag in the old Trestle club before moving to the Hidden Door.

Identity is crucial to leather groups (although some today might call it branding) and the Firedancers official colors of yellow, black and red are incorporated into their bylaws. The influence doesn't end there. Even the hierarchal positions take on far more interesting titles than just president and secretary.

"We decided back then to name the officers

the way a tribe might," Cantrell says, "so from the top down we have the Supreme Chief of the Fire (president), the Keeper of the Lance (vice president), the Shaman (secretary), the Medicine Man (treasurer); my first job was Pathfinder, or road captain."

In a sign of the times, the board added Dream Catcher to the roster. He handles the web administration.

Sims brings a notable devoutness to his position. He holds Cantrell in high esteem and even looks to him for added perspective at times before taking action where he needs. In short, the new and old guards are in harmony as Firedancers turns 25.

"Before I do any major decisions for direction of the club regarding bylaws or altering traditions, I always seek his advice," Sims says. "For tradition, we have to stay true to that and I have hope for the new guard on learning them. I don't want to lose what Robert helped create and so I always look to what he thinks and what he would do. And before I move forward, I want to be sure that Robert blesses it."

"Whether it's the new or the old or both, I know Gabe can strongly lead this group. At the end of it all, we're men who appreciate the leather culture and we help out our community," Cantrell says.

Clearly, respect is a big part of Firedancers. ■

— Rich Lopez

L+S dance

Leap forward

Gay modern dance master Doug Varone swoops into the Winspear

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

DANCE LIKE EVERYONE'S WATCHING | This concert will include pieces old and new, including at least one sure to resonate with gay audiences.



For award-winning choreographer Doug Varone, dance has always been his calling.

"I feel as if I was always choreographing, even as a young kid," he says. "I always had a visual sense of seeing things in space and moving them around. The most creative were with my mom's lipstick canisters. I would lock myself in the bathroom for hours when I was young and build all of these extraordinarily moving tableaux of group disasters. When I decided dance was the outlet that I loved most, naturally the art of making dances took over my imagination. [Now I'm] using bodies instead of objects. Creating movement is just a way to make them speak."

At Saturday's concert at the Winspear Opera House, *Doug Varone and Dancers*, he'll bring the language of dance to the world (no lipstick canisters will be used, though). The show will bring together brand-new pieces and several from his company's 25-year history. ("It seems to have gone very quickly, and then I look in the mirror and don't recognize the bald person reflected back at me," Varone laughs.) *Rise*, created in 1993, will be performed Saturday, and resonates especially.

"This dance more than any other was responsible for putting the company on the map," he says. "The dance is a pure movement work set to John Adams' incredibly cinematic score, *Fearful Symmetries*. It explores the huge physical dancery side of my work: explosive, energetic."

That dance is offset by a brand new piece entitled *Able to Leap Tall Buildings*. The direct reference to Superman is no coincidence: Using superhero action figures and bending them in

particular shapes, a very interesting dialogue developed. "The dancers morphed those shapes to their own bodies and we set this beautifully awkward duet to a new score by American composer Julia Wolfe."

It's outside-the-box interpretations like this that captivate audiences, and Varone believes even those who think they don't like modern dance will enjoy it.

"Modern dance has a reputation for being incredibly insular," he admits. "But I think there are a lot of smart artists today who are trying to figure out ways to incorporate and include the audience in a new dialogue. When you think of it, dance is what each of us does every day: The way we each walk uniquely, the gestures that we

use when we talk, the patterns that we unknowingly use when we are weaving in and out of sidewalk traffic. The dances on this program are not difficult to

enter into and the fact that my dancers are *real* people brings a human quality to the work that I think is rare. They look and seem to not be dancers, but people on the street who move in extraordinary ways. Just like you and me."

Ultimately, gay patrons may get even *more* out of the show.

"All of the work that I create is filtered through the eyes of a gay man, and as a result has a beautiful and accepting feel to how people interact. I present relationships in very clear ways," Varone says. One dance in particular, *The Mozart*, features a male duet that he says is very emblematic of this.

"This is how I see the world around me — with a remarkable sense of equality." ■

DOUG VARONE & DANCERS

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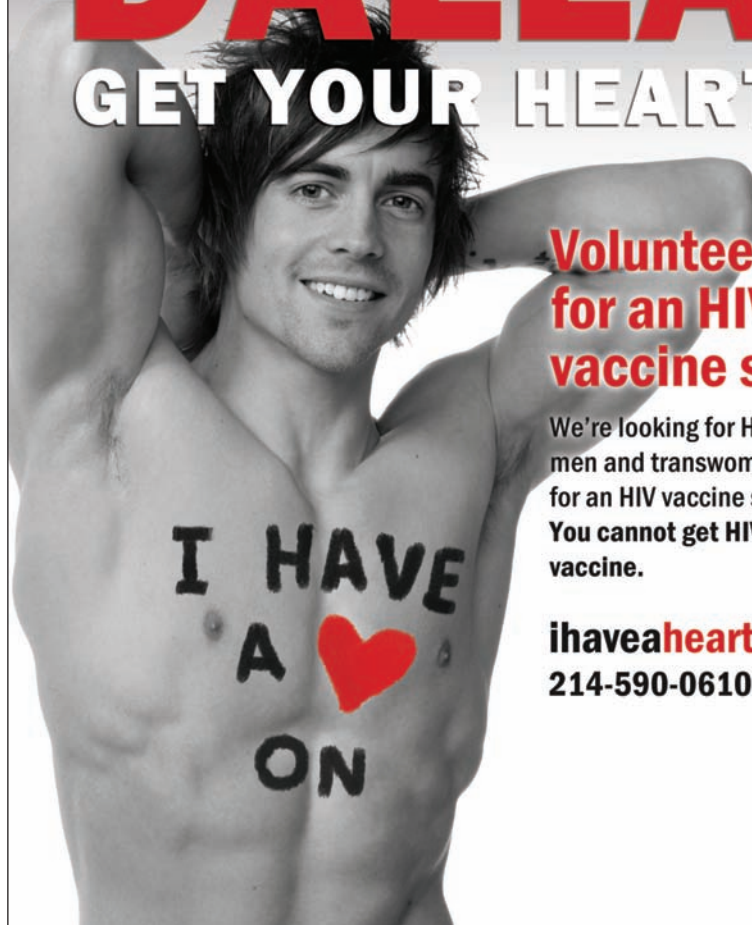
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Creepy kooky MYSTERIOUS spooky

Gay Broadway veteran Douglas Sills is the apple of 'Addams'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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LIFE+STYLE
stage

CARA MIA | Tony nominee Douglas Sills and fellow Broadway babe Sara Gettelfinger play the iconic weirdos in 'The Addams Family.'

Douglas Sills owes a lot to touring in musicals — mostly, a 20-year relationship. Sills was playing the villain in the national tour of *The Secret Garden* — the production that came through Dallas — when he met Todd, a member of the ensemble. What started as a show-mance blossomed into something more; they celebrated their 19th anniversary over Labor Day.

"We were just listening to the music for the first time in many years the other day," says Sills wistfully.

A lot has happened since then. Todd stopped acting, and Sills has since debuted on Broadway, snagging a Tony Award nomination as lead actor in a musical as the fop-turned-hero in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. And for nearly 20 years, Sills hasn't toured.

Until now. For almost a year, he's headlined the national tour of *The Addams Family*, which settles into Dallas as the State Fair musical for several weeks, starting Tuesday. So what brought him back to the road?

"It sort of depends where you are in your life — it's a constellation of factors. It's been many, many years but I did know what the experience would be like. One thing I was not prepared for is how every night, you come out and get the laughter and pleasure from

the audience. It's so huge, you feel like you're doing something good. To be in a comedy that's working is a rarity and to be in a musical comedy that's working is like riding a beautiful wave."

Sills enjoyed it so much, he recently signed on again to continue with the show through at least the end of the year.

He probably had some reason to be nervous. While *Addams Family* had a respectable run on Broadway (it ran 722 performances), it received mixed reviews. The original production also starred Nathan Lane, portraying a character John Astin made iconic on television (and Raul Julia later in film). That's a lot of baggage.

But Sills was undeterred.

"I was not really daunted by the iconic character of the show. Maybe I should have been more," he says. "I watched it as a little boy, but I didn't understand how deeply John Astin had inculcated himself into the psyche of the American populace [until I started touring]. He had a wonderful, wonderful way about him. When I was in Baltimore I asked to meet him — he teaches there — and it was a real pleasure. We really connected because we were both classically trained. We both approached it like you approach Strindberg: 'What does my character want, what am I willing to do to get it.' Once I made the decision, it became all-consuming so I didn't give myself a lot of room

to worry."

He also asked the producers why they wanted to take a show that got a mixed critical response on the road; one thing they did was retool the script and some songs to make it funnier. "I had great guidance with Jerry Zaks," the legendary theater veteran who took over directing the show late in the process. (It's also an Equity production; "they didn't spare any expense," Sills insists.)

So, if Sills approaches a character like Gomez Addams with the same intensity of Hamlet, is there part of him that's creepy or kooky? Or mysterious and spooky? Or perhaps he's altogether ooky?

"I don't think I have anything in me that *doesn't* fall into one of those categories," he says with a straight face. "My entire *raison d'être* is encompassed in those adjectives — and that would be generous. 'Ooky' is probably the closest. We were watching a movie about Edgar Allan Poe the other day and I said, 'What's so weird about Poe? To me he's not dark at all.'"

Having now played both the effeminate dandy of *Pimpernel* and the passionate Bohemian Gomez, one must be closer to Sills' actual persona, yes?

"I'd have to say Gomez," he laughs. "The genital chakra is a big center of energy for me."

Ooky indeed. ■

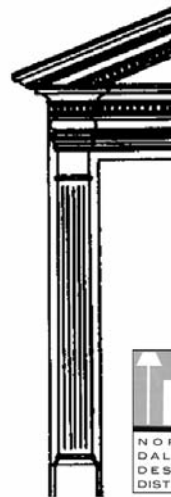
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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Here's the difference between a hotel and a resort: A hotel offers conveniences to make your travel experience more enjoyable; a resort offers the experiences in-house. It's a perfect explanation for why, when we think of resort properties, we think of dusty sweltering deserts like Las Vegas (which offers air-conditioned casinos, cave-like stage spectacles and watery spas and pools) and Palm Springs (with its clothing-optional guesthouses so the floor show is right outside your patio door). If you want a resort, you go there.

So if you're going to, say, NYC, who needs a resort? The city is the attraction.

Only that's not how The Out NYC sees it.

It's kind of a stupid idea, until you see it for yourself. The Out, a recently opened "straight friendly urban resort" in the heart of Midtown Manhattan, markets itself as something different than a hotel where gays can congregate among their own; you could go to the Chelsea Pines Inn for that. Nope, it realizes what calling itself a "resort" means, and it's serious about it.

And seriously *good* at it.

First is the design. The building that houses it was most recently a parking garage (I know, *right?*) but began its life as a mid-century travel lodge, the kind of serviceable, courtyard-centric motel that, starting in the 1940s and '50s, dotted every byway along Route 66 and I-95. You can still detect its bones if you look closely, but if you weren't told, you might not notice. You'd be too caught up in the funky personality of this engaging space.

Enter from 42nd Street — it's sandwiched between 10th and 11th avenues on the periphery of Broadway and Times Square, at the edge of Hell's Kitchen — and it looks less like boutique accommodations than the entrance to an underground club. You're drawn up the oddly sloping, enamel-black painted concrete floor up to the reception desk, a small cubby populated by pretty, well-dressed and perpetually smiling staffers. (This is a gay hotel after all; we expect our fabulousness up front.)

Continue down the winding hall, which recalls the swooping art of Richard Serra, and you'll discover the guest rooms — just a few on the first floor, including several hostel-style beds-

VOWELS NEED NOT APPLY | The nightclub and cabaret XL, above, is one of Manhattan's hottest new gay clubs; across the lobby, KTCHN's sexy staff serves inventive New American cuisine, left. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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for-rent in a shared common space — before heading up to the oasis of floors two and three. There, the rooms wrap around several courts, each serving up a slightly different experience. In one, two hot tubs and curtained cabanas abut an open-air tanning area suitable for one thing no one gets to do while vacationing in NYC: sunbathe. Down the hall, another cleverly designed space provides more sunning opportunities, plus a wall of AstroTurf that permits occasional movie screenings.

Around the corner, a bamboo garden is designed for private functions like wedding receptions (they've hosted several in the six months since The Out opened, including straight ones). You could be entertained just walking from one common area to the next, mingling with the other guests.

But you wouldn't mind staying put in your room. In keeping with the retro-modern styling, rooms are funky and hip, with Danish-style super-comfy beds and a roomy tub with moveable shower heads and exquisite custom bath

products with heady but no fou-fou scents, plus flat-screen TVs, complimentary wifi throughout and a mini-bar stacked for gay travelers. In a city where space is at a premium, you couldn't wish for more luxurious accommodations.

No need to carry a rape whistle to go for a jog to the health club down the street; there's a full service exercise room, and spa with sauna and steam, as well as massage treatments. The latter deserves special note, as Savas, the burly but soft-handed masseur, spent an hour of deep tissue work, pulverizing nearly every muscle in my body for the best, most invigorating rub I've ever received. If this sounds at all like The Island House of other all-male guesthouses, think again. Savas is a therapist with a broad understanding of kinesiology and thorough professional approach toward wellness. It's also not clothing optional here in the common areas, but breeds a respectful, sophisticated elegance with a boutique sensibility.

That's not to say you can't tell it caters to the gay community. Samovars of lemon water provide complimentary refreshment, and there's a central computer area for printing boarding passes. There are also mirrors everywhere — in the bath, behind the bed, along the halls — but it exudes "modern" not "swinger." Let's face it: Gays like to look at themselves.



CITY OASIS | One of the courtyards at The Out NYC provides sunbathing, lounging ... and occasionally, evening movie screenings against the far wall. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

You barely need to step off property to enjoy a gay time in the Big Apple. The resort's on-site restaurant, KTCHN, provides room service (the same menu in the dining room), serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner with delicious items at surprisingly reasonable prices. (The name, sans vowels, makes it easy to text and tweet your friends where you are with no wasted letters.) Across the hall, XL has — according to locals — fast become one of the hottest gay bars in the city. In front, it's a dance club with pulsing DJ music and hot bartenders; in back, it converts on some nights to a full-on cabaret, with such acts as *Drag Race* Season 1 winner Bebe Zahara Benet doing full-out shows with dancing boys and world beats. It rivals Vegas.

Of course, you don't need to feel constrained by The Out — this isn't the Hotel California. You're a six-minute walk from the theaters (movie and legit) of Broadway and off-Broadway; go the other way toward West Side Highway, and you can take a Circle Line boat tour of Manhattan, soaking in the new facility at Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty and passing under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Or stay on land and a five-minute cab ride has you down 20 blocks to Chelsea, where you can wander around or settle in for a top meal at the still-excellent Spice Market in the Meatpacking District, the Jean-Georges pan-Asian eatery where the girls from *Sex and the City* toasted.

It's hard to feel gayer than pretending you're Carrie Bradshaw (well, Samantha Jones). But staying at The Out NYC is a good start. ■



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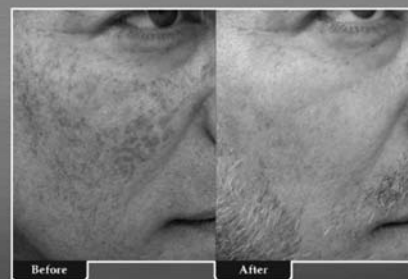


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L+S screen

Late bloomer

Gay author Stephen Chbosky finally adapts queer teen novel for the screen



NOVEL TO SCREENPLAY TO DIRECTION | Chbosky, left, directs his teen stars — including 'Harry Potter' alum Emma Watson — in the film version of his young adult novel 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower.'

Stephen Chbosky's 1999 young adult novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* touched many queer readers' hearts with its positive, honest depiction of Patrick, a charismatic gay teenager. The book's profound messages — of acceptance, the benefits of being different and overcoming emotional trauma — actually saved some of those LGBT readers' lives (more on that below). Due to *Wallflower's* accurate reflection of teen life and language, many conservatives deemed it obscene, fighting to (and sometimes succeeding) in banning it from schools and libraries. From 2006 to 2009, it was on the American Library Association's annual list "Top 10 Most Frequently Challenged Books."

A whole new generation is soon to experience *Wallflower* through its cinematic adaptation, which Chbosky wrote and directed. Logan Lerman stars as Charlie, an emotionally damaged Pittsburgh high school freshman, who falls in with a clique of seniors including Sam (played by Emma Watson) and her gay stepbrother, Patrick (Ezra Miller). Patrick, who performs as Frank-N-Furter at local *Rocky Horror Picture Show* screenings, is also having a clandestine relationship with closeted jock Brad (Johnny Simmons), which Charlie learns of and grows even closer to Patrick. These friendships and experiences ultimately help Charlie come to grips with a buried secret and end a crippling silence.

Co-creator of the TV series phenomenon, *Jericho* (which may yet be revived again as a Netflix series), Chbosky also penned the screenplay for *Rent*. Here he discusses bringing *Wallflower* to screen, Miller's recent coming out and saving LGBT lives through his work.

— Lawrence Ferber

Dallas Voice: Was the character of Patrick based on someone you knew? Chbosky: There was a person I knew in college who inspired a good deal of Patrick and the experiences I wrote about. Patrick was a combination of that friend and the older brother I always wished I had. It was important to me in the book, and especially the movie, that Patrick be the coolest character in the school. I remember growing up I loved Ferris Bueller and thought that type of person — who was so confident, self-assured, and free and generous to his friends — I wanted that in Patrick.

...BEING A WALLFLOWER

Ezra Miller, Logan Lerman.
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about his same-sex experiences. More recently, he just went ahead and actually said, "I'm queer." I love Ezra as a person and actor. Ezra brings more life, heart and freedom to Patrick than I could have

hoped for. He's the type of person to always tell and live the truth, whatever it is. The more people that speak the truth about themselves, the less silence there is and more people will live better lives. Ezra's a role model on that level.

What about Johnny Simmons as closeted Brad, who is loathsome and allows his jock friends to abuse Patrick, but for whom you also feel compassion. Johnny's a great actor. Listen, that charac-

I interviewed Ezra a year ago and he was very open

ter could have been played so arch or villainous, I could have cast some jock in it. Your heart broke for the boy and Johnny brought that. I love what he did. I feel like a father who loves all his kids. I want to talk up every actor!

Although this is a spoiler for those who didn't read the book, there's a scene in which Patrick kisses Charlie. Were you worried that would stir up gay panic amongst homophobes? Not for a second. I had no concerns about that scene. That scene, to me, is one of the most beautiful expressions of friendship. What was important is that Patrick is never perceived as a victim. Even when he's being beat up in the cafeteria [by jocks], there's fight in him. He reaches a point when he finally runs out of steam and has nothing left, and he kisses his straight friend, and the only thing Charlie can do is accept it, hold him, and judge nothing. I'm very proud of that scene and love what the boys brought.

Are there still a lot of efforts to ban the book? I read about a 2011 attempt in Rockland County, N.Y. It still happens, but not as frequently. It has become more and more accepted in schools.

Do you anticipate a similar response to the film? It could happen with the film, but I hope it doesn't. When you make a movie to end a silence, the last thing you want is for people trying to discourage people from talking to each other. But I would not be surprised if it did.

What is the biggest change made in the translation from book to film? The P.O.V. In the book it's 100 percent subjective [constructed as a letter written by Charlie] and a movie by nature is objective. It was challenging to find a way to breathe life into Sam and these other characters we only knew through Charlie's eyes. I wanted the audience to love Sam and Patrick as he did, so it was putting that P.O.V. inside the viewer's mind.

Over the years what has been the most profound response to *Wallflower*? My friends and I went to a

 online exclusive

To read an interview with recently out co-star Ezra Miller, visit DallasVoice.com and click Screen.



A LIFE SAVER | Chbosky says young people have told him his book saved their lives.

restaurant and at the end of the meal, the maitre d' of the restaurant, this kid, came up and asked if I was Steve Chbosky. Someone mentioned *Rent* during dinner, and he knew I did the screenplay. I said yes, and he said, "You saved my life." He was a freshman at NYU, gay and very confused and troubled and going to kill himself. He read *Perks* and didn't do it. I cannot tell you what it's like to be in that situation. Such a great kid, too. He's alive and well and acting and doing great work. And that moment, and a lot of letters with the same message, have meant everything to me. That's a life-changer.

Are there any deleted scenes we will see on the *Wallflower* Blu-ray? For the fans I had to film Charlie reading the poem to Patrick at Secret Santa, and there are other scenes with the family I loved but found a more streamlined way of telling the story. There is some good stuff there.

The film is certainly a nostalgic one, and romances the alternative music of the late '80s and early '90s, like Cocteau Twins, Sonic Youth and The Smiths. What do you most miss from that era, or want to see brought back into the public's mind? I hope a lot of that great music is celebrated all over again. Past that, I don't think the film will encourage people to talk more and text less, but it was fun making a movie that takes place before the Internet and to remind people that in the end it's about the friends who get you through it, and not the gadgets.

**They're coming to Dallas.
(There goes the neighborhood.)**

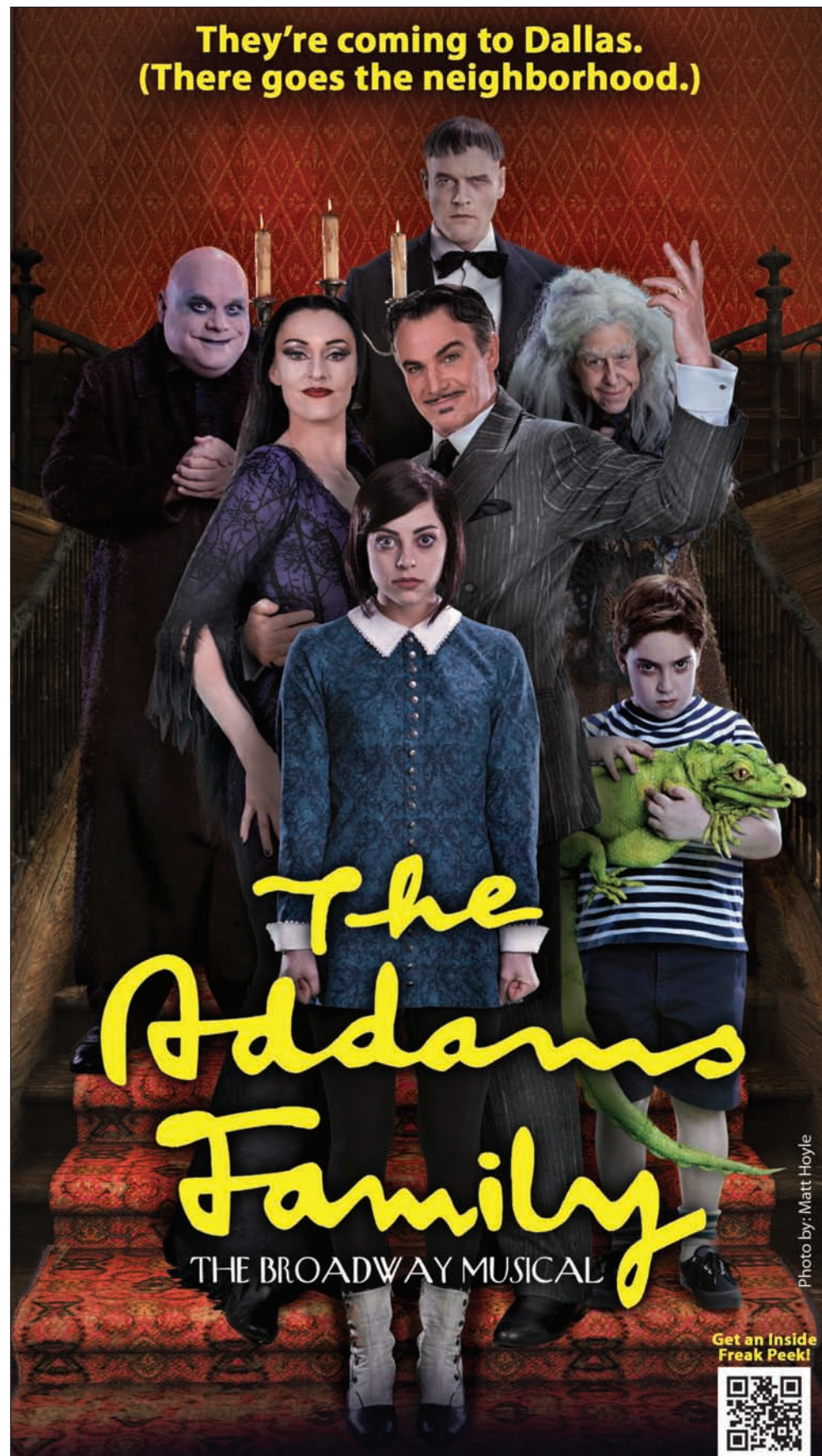


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L+S sports

Scouts' honor?

BSA could learn something from
Major League Soccer

Earlier this summer, after a supposed two-year, super-secret study by a group of unnamed people, the Boy Scouts of America announced that their next hike would take them all the way back to the 1950s. The Scouts vowed to deny their own law mandating values like courtesy and kindness by continuing to ban gays at every level of scouting, from the youngest Tenderfoot through the oldest administrator.

That portion of America not stuck in the 1950s reacted with outrage. Editorial writers tsk-tsked. Eagle Scouts returned their badges.

And Major League Soccer acted. Within days, president Mark Abbott announced that the league's seven-month-old strategic partnership — including cross-promotions, “Scout Nights” at stadiums with discount tickets and player visits to local BSA troops — would not be renewed.

MLS cited “a variety of business reasons” for the alliance's abrupt end. But the connection was clear. Since when does an organization go out of its way, seven months after its start, to announce that five months later a partnership will end?

This was not the first time the soccer league acted so decisively. In March, officials fined and suspended Dynamo's Colin Clark for three games after the midfielder screamed “faggot” at a ball boy who was slow to toss him a ball during a game. Weeks earlier, the Vancouver Whitecaps gave Lee Nguyen a “formal warning” for tweeting the word “fag” to describe a teammate.

Soccer seems to be a sports world leader in many LGBT-related ways. The MLS team Chicago Fire has hooked up with Equality Illinois in a very visible way. Team reps marched with the organization's float — and its “I Do” support marriage equality banner — during June's Chicago Pride Parade. Players Gonzalo Segares and Jay Nolly showed up at an Equality networking cocktail party. Last month, the Fire donated a portion of ticket sales at their Pride Night to Equality Illinois' Education Project.

Meanwhile Chivas USA sponsored Equality Night with a pre-game reception with the NOH8 campaign. The Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus sang the national anthem. The It Gets Better Project staffed a booth at Home Depot Center's main concourse. Cheerleaders performed a halftime routine to “Born This Way.”

Soccer fans have started private efforts to get professional soccer players to publicly affirm their support for gay rights with a drive at Gay4Soccer.com. (The tagline: “Because soccer isn't gay, but once in awhile it kinda is.”) The online petition, signed by scores of players (including national team members Carlos Bocanegra and Jay DeMerit, broadcaster Kyle Martino, Sports Illustrated senior writer Grant Wahl, and whole team fan clubs), says “sports are about fairness and equality, respect and dignity. Sports



MLS player David Testo came out last year.

teach individuals how to strive and succeed, how to cope with success and disappointment, and to bring people together to achieve a common goal.” Take that, BSA!

Petition signers promise to reach out to LGBT people and make soccer “a welcome, inviting and inclusive place for everyone.”

It already seems to be. Late last year, David Testo quietly came out. He'd been in the closet as a player with the MLS Columbus Crew — and before that, when he helped the University of North Carolina win the NCAA Division I championship — but after moving to the Montreal Impact in the second division, most teammates knew. Testo said he felt comfortable with teammates and coaches, and they with him. That's the kind of low-key coming-out tale the sports world is ready for, but scouting can't understand.

It's actually easy to understand why the North American soccer world supports LGBT issues so fervently. Soccer is a game that celebrates independent thinking. Unlike most other sports, where coaches call timeouts and diagram plays — particularly football, where every block and pass pattern must be executed to perfection — soccer players constantly figure out problems on their own. They don't need to be told what to do; they know the right thing to do, and they do it.

Soccer is also an international game. Players are used to teammates with different nationalities and accents who do little differently. Sexuality is just one more difference to appreciate.

The Scouts' oath includes the words “physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.” But it's Major League Soccer — and millions of fans — that truly walks that talk. ■

— Dan Woog

Drawing Dallas



With Black Pride about to start, Jay Aalixander has something to dance about

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Jay Aalixander, 22

Occupation: Dancer, model

Spotted at: Fitzhugh and 75

Born in Long Beach, Calif., this mixture of Trinidad, Dominican Republic and Native American ancestry spent seven years living in Allen before moving down to Dallas.

I got the music in me: Naturally gifted in music and dance, this charming Capricorn enjoys singing R&B, hip-hop, soul ... and hard metal. He also writes and orchestrates his own music. Jay's musical influences include Beyonce, Michael Jackson, Aaliyah and Marvin Gaye. His love of dance includes modern, contemporary and hip-hop. Jay began dancing at BJ's NXS! on a whim, which has become a full-time job since February. Aside from his music and dancing, Jay is also a model with the Neil Hamil Modeling Agency.

Quotable line: "Life's too short to be mean and upset or alone and lonely. I'm doing some great things nowadays. Pursuing my life's dream and nothing else gets better than that."

Avenue Q

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214-871-3300 & www.theatre3dallas.com

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FRIDAY 09.28

ArtNite benefits Oak Lawn Library's gay collection

Cedar Springs' Oak Lawn branch is the only locale in the Dallas library system with an LGBT collection — and it deserves some acknowledgment. So, on Friday, in conjunction with the third anniversary of the opening of the ilume, the library and ilume Gallerie will host ArtNite, an reception and benefit featuring the art of gallery director Ronald Radwanski, pictured, and others who have showed over the years. Proceeds will benefit the Oak Lawn branch's gay collection.

DEETS: ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Cocktail reception, 6–10 p.m. ilumegallerie.com.



MONDAY 10.01

Opening night of 'The Mystery of Irma Vep' at WaterTower

Charles Ludlam was probably the most influential playwright never to achieve pop-culture name recognition, but his edgy, underground plays made the likes of Charles Busch, Del Shores and countless others possible. Probably his *piece-de-resistance* is *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, a satiric melodrama with returning local favorite Regan Adair in drag. That alone should be worth a look-see.

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. In previews Sept. 28–30, opening night Oct. 1. Through Oct. 19. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

THURSDAY 10.04

Black Pride kicks off with conference, pageant

Dallas Southern Pride, the gay Pride celebration for North Texas' African-American community, gets into full swing next weekend, but it launches officially on Thursday with three events. First, there's the B/HAP Conference from 6–8 p.m.m followed by the Ms. Dallas Southern Pride contest (also at the Crowne Plaza host hotel, with guest judge Raquell Lord, pictured), followed by the after-party at Havana.

DEETS: Crowne Plaza, 1015 Elm St. Events start at 6 p.m. For a complete schedule and additional details, visit DallasSouthernPride.com.



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TIFFANY TWISTED | North Texas native Tiffany Shea returns to Dallas for reunion concert at Sue Ellen's Sunday.

FRIDAY 09.28

THEATER

Avenue Q. Presented by Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2900 Routh St. It's an adult musical with puppets. Gay puppets. Having sex. Leave the kids at home. Through Oct. 28. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Becky Shaw. A smart comedy presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through Oct. 6. Kitchen-DogTheater.org.

Kooza. The latest Cirque du Soleil show, under the big top at Reunion Tower, 500 Memorial Drive. Through Oct. 7. CirqueTicketsOnline.com/Kooza.

Les Miserables. The hit sweeping musical, which set records last winter at the Winspear, arrives at Bass Performance Hall, 435 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

The Mystery of Irma Vep, a Penny Dreadful, a satire by Charles Ludlam. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. In previews Sept. 28-30, opening night Oct. 1. Through Oct. 19. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Second City Does Dallas. The Chicago-based comedy troupe teams with the Dallas Theater Center for a scripted-with-improv skewering of all things Big D. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Extended through Oct. 6. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

FINE ART

Beyond the Lens: The Photography of Resistance and Liberation. A new exhibit featuring the photos of Faye Schulman opens at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through Nov. 25. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

On the Silk Road and the High Seas: Chinese Ceramics, Culture and Commerce. New exhibit of centuries-old pottery and sculpture, at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 27, 2013. CrowCollection.org.

ArtNite, an exhibit and fundraiser for the Oak Lawn Library branch. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Cocktail reception, Sept. 28, 6-10 p.m. ilumegallerie.com.

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., # 108.

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

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

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays-Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays-Saturdays and Tuesdays-Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org.

SATURDAY 09.29

COMMUNITY

Dallas Bears poker tourney. The bears hold a poker tourney, with more than \$300 in prizes available, as a benefit for AIN. The Brick/Jo's, 2525 Wylciff Ave. Sept. 29 at 3 p.m.

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., 5353 Maple Ave. #130 (entrance at rear of building).

Fuse: Core Group for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m. 214-540-4435. Getyourfuseon.com.

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 5-10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

PETS

Greyhound Adoption League of Texas. The dog rescue organization holds its fundraiser, featuring The Mercury chef Chris Ward offering a cooking demo, a book signing with author Suzanne Burke (*Logan's Secret*) and drinks, silent auction items and more. The Mercury, 11909 Preston Road. Sept. 29, 2-5 p.m. \$60. Galtx.org.

SUNDAY 09.30

COMMUNITY

Mr. Texas Leather. Gabe Sims, the reigning Mr. Texas Leather, will host a fundraiser with performances for the Mr. Texas Leather Travel Fund, to assist the next local leatherman perform his functions and travel to IML. Messy Panoche of the UCLSE will server as M.C. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Sept. 30 at 8 p.m.

30/40Something social group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

WORSHIP

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

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

CONCERTS

Tiffany Shea Band reunion show. The acclaimed North Texas native returns to Dallas for a concert, with Ann E. DeChant opening. Sue Ellen's, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Sept. 30, 7-10 p.m. No cover. TiffanyShea.com, SueEllensDallas.com.

MONDAY 10.01

COMMUNITY

Log Cabin Republicans. Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

PFLAG Denton. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY 10.02

COMMUNITY

Gaymsters bridge club. Congregational Life Center, Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2

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p.m.

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

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

Cathedral Ringers handbell rehearsal. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:45 p.m. Contact Jeremy.crosswhite@gmail.com for more information.

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

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

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

THEATER

The Addams Family. A musical adaptation of the cartoon and campy '60s sitcom is the State Fair musical. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Oct. 2-21. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

BROADCAST

The New Normal. The hottest new series of the year is Ryan Murphy's (*Glee*, *American Horror Story*) sitcom about a gay couple who hire a surrogate. Ch. 5 at 8:30 p.m.

Loving Large, a documentary from Logo's new WHAT!? series, explores the underground world of chubby chasers. Airs Oct. 2 at 9 p.m. on Logo.

WEDNESDAY 10.03

ONLINE

The Variants. The locally produced web series *The Variants*, set at gay-owned Zeus Comics, launches a new episode every Wednesday for its new third season. TheVariants.com.

FASHION

FGI Announcement Party. Fashion Group Intentional holds a mixer announcing the 2012 honorees for its Night of Stars awards. Gossip Bar inside the Hilton Anatole, 2001 N. Stemmons Freeway. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., 5353 Maple Ave. #130 (entrance at rear of building).

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

Outstanding Beautiful Brothers (O.B.B.) is support group to enhance the quality of life for young black MSMs (men who have sex with men) living with HIV, by providing a safe and confidential space to offer support, empowerment and education. Meetings held every first and third Wednesday. Call 214-702-6511 for information and location. 7 p.m.

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



HAVE CHAPS WILL TRAVEL | Current Mr. Texas Leather Game Sims holds a fundraiser for the the Mr. Texas Leather Fund at the Dallas Eagle Sunday.

THURSDAY 10.04

COMMUNITY

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

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

Choir and Orchestra rehearsals at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cath-

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Annie Leibovitz turns 63 on Friday. The celebrity photographer famed for iconic shots of John Lennon and Yoko Ono and Meryl Streep. She revealed after the death of Susan Sontag that the two had engaged in a secret decades-long romance relationship.



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Life will get a little easier, but finances continue to be a problem. Helping others who have it worse will help you keep perspective. Take time alone to prioritize your goals and vent frustrations.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

The real world is dragging you out of yourself, but doesn't look real. To stay oriented, keep your priorities in mind and your wallet in your pocket. Bring creative and empathetic insights into use.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Friends will disappoint you — they're only human and you're not perfect! Sort through your negativity to lift yourself out of it. Your positive energy will return soon.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Your ruler, Saturn, entering Scorpio will take you past a career peak into 60 months of winnowing your friends to those you really value and trust. The future looks bleaker than it is, but you're enduring and resourceful. Time is always on your side.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your ruler, Saturn, entering the top of your chart signals a 60-month career peak. Work hard and shine! Don't let promises of success tempt you to extravagances.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Home is an uncertain respite from the world's troubles if your problems won't leave your head. As worries come into focus, so can solutions. Accept encouragements from others even if they seem fuzzy and meaningless.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Think carefully about your goals. Your ruler Mars entering Sagittarius makes you more open and impulsive, but reality and disappointment will slap back at you. You can handle it.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

To clarify questions about the future, grasp creative challenges. Hard work brings focus. Don't do it alone. Ask your partner or a friend to help improve a relationship — or end a bad one.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Get to work! While energy is high, clear the decks, set goals and build momentum. When you hit a wall, ask an authority in your field for help. The answer need not make logical sense.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Living up to your promises is largely a matter of managing your moods. Friends want to help if you only give them a chance. Take time to be alone so you can charge and be ready to dig in.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Focusing your energy into the community makes you a force to be reckoned with. Don't reckon wrong. Your challenge is to listen and really hear what others need. Be helpful, not meddlesome.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Nice or nasty? Venus brings charm and grace to your sign. You'll need it with other planets giving you a hard critical edge that could easily misfire. As always, focus your critical brilliance.

THIS WEEK

Saturn entering Scorpio alleviates some social conservatism and spells trouble for plutocrats. Mars, Venus and Mercury all changing signs at the same time will help people develop strategies to make sure of that.

JANE'S WORLD



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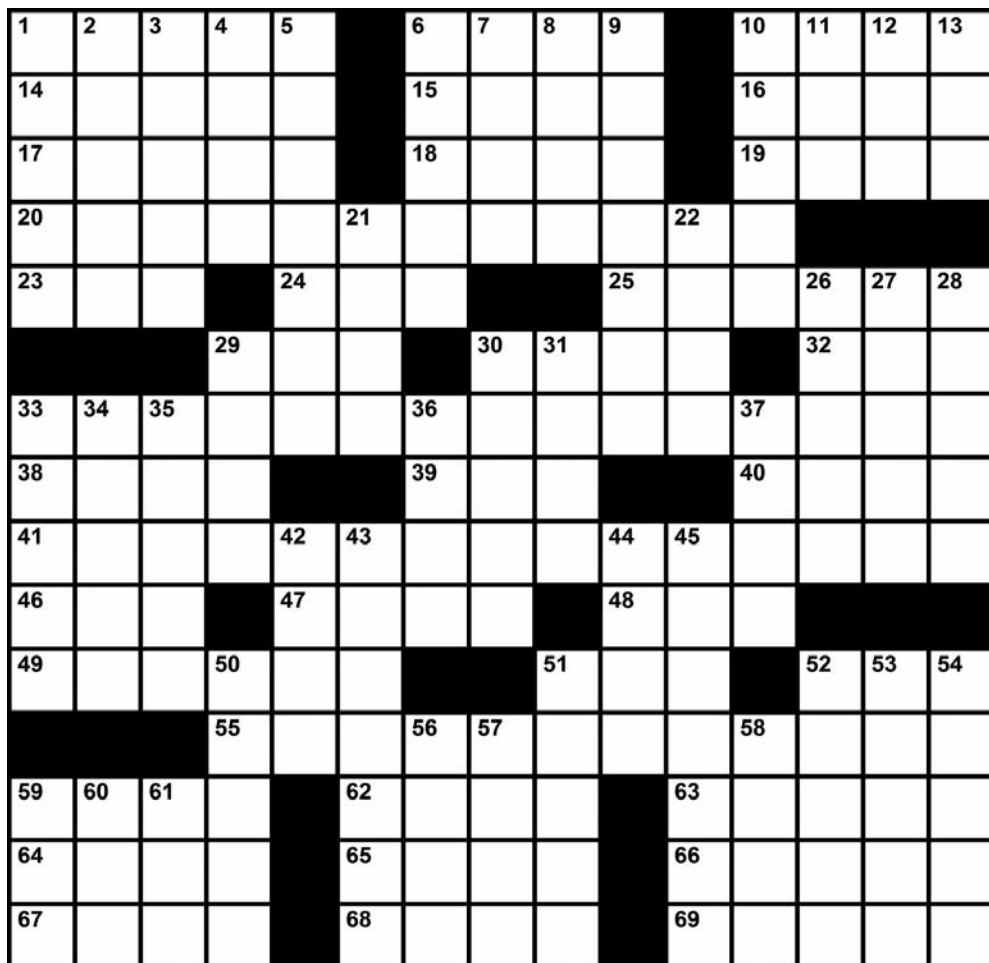
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Tops and Bottoms Down Under

Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 Elton John wears them
- 6 Bringing up the rear
- 10 Suck (in)
- 14 Deck opening
- 15 Northern capital
- 16 Cocksure Aesop character
- 17 Colette's *The ___ One*
- 18 Minimal tide
- 19 Club for Sheehan
- 20 Start of a riddle
- 23 Big initials in fashion
- 24 Caesar's way
- 25 Frank acknowledgment
- 29 Dry, as wine
- 30 A volatile guy has a short one
- 32 Not in the pink
- 33 End of the riddle
- 38 Drag queen's leg scraper
- 39 Hip-hop's Dr.
- 40 Bridge triumph
- 41 Start of the answer
- 46 John of Barrie's land
- 47 TV trophy
- 48 Stooge with a bowl cut
- 49 Bewitched mother

- 51 Canning container
- 52 Barnyard male
- 55 End of the answer
- 59 It may come before 69
- 62 Early AIDS play
- 63 Tend with tenderness
- 64 Minor in astronomy
- 65 Russian singing duo
- 66 Home run, or home fries source
- 67 Muff diving area
- 68 Barely gets, with "out"
- 69 Gives a pink slip to

Down

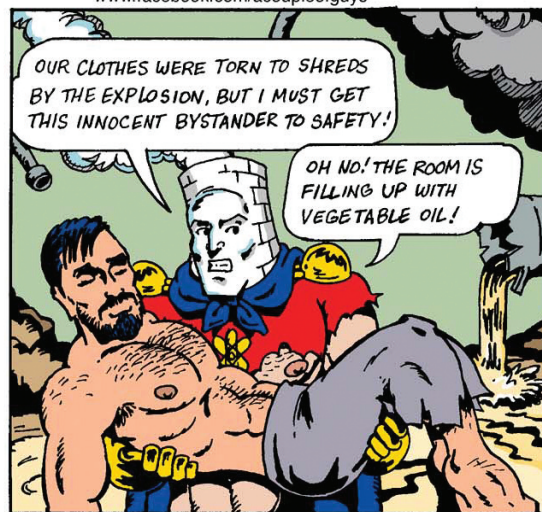
- 1 Like a peacock
- 2 Wooded ways
- 3 Kind of alcohol
- 4 Reproduced without sex, for short
- 5 Respond to the cold
- 6 Ars ___, vita brevis
- 7 In midvoyage, maybe
- 8 More than tickle
- 9 Active seaman's pole?
- 10 Sometime label of Dusty Springfield
- 11 Galley slave's tool
- 12 Solidly behind
- 13 Shakespeare's dusk
- 21 Rolled cubes
- 22 "If ___ I Would Leave You"
- 26 Author Cather
- 27 Box to Vidal
- 28 Andean pack animal
- 29 Order to Rex
- 30 Like a bear
- 31 Like hand-me-downs
- 33 French composer Erik
- 34 Hawke of Hamlet
- 35 Current fashion
- 36 Second fruit eater
- 37 R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World ___ Know It"
- 42 Gay cable network
- 43 Come out
- 44 Colorful computer
- 45 City of Xtra
- 50 Winfrey of *The Color Purple*
- 51 Superstar title character
- 52 Wrongful acts, in law
- 53 First appearance
- 54 Austin Powers portrayer Mike
- 56 Writer Dinesen
- 57 "Marriage ___" (civil union, derogatorily)
- 58 Party after a Hawaiian wedding, perhaps
- 59 Long sandwich, for short
- 60 Broadway bio
- 61 Sex, crudely



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Friends' night out at Station 4.



David at the Dallas Eagle.



K.C. and Zachary at Randy's Club Cherries.

Beyond Vanilla runs Sept. 28-30 at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** in Downtown Dallas. **Buck Angel** is the keynote speaker. ... **Mr. Texas 2012 — Final Tour** takes place at **Dallas Eagle** on Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. **Mr. Texas Leather 2012** **Gabe Sims** hosts a fundraiser for the **Mr. Texas Leather** travel fund with an all-star cast review. ... A full weekend of music at **Sue Ellen's** begins with **Anton Shaw and the Reason** on Sept. 28. **Chix** perform on Sept. 29 and the **Tiffany Shea Band** on Sept. 30. ... On Oct. 2, **JR.'s Bar and Grill** holds a **Cher Lloyd** album release party at 11 p.m. The U.S. album includes never-before-heard songs that release that day. Then on Oct. 4, is the Season 8 **Desperate Housewives** DVD release party and giveaway at 11 p.m. ... **Dallas Drillers** are at **Woody's Sports and Video Bar** on Sept. 30 for **Extra Innings**. **Denise Lee** performs at 7 p.m. ... **Jazsmyne Kelli** and **Ida Mae Watergate** host karaoke at **The Brick** on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. ... The **Cedar Springs Merchants Association** quarterly **Wine Walk** takes place on Oct. 3 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. **The Round-Up Saloon** is a host. Glass sales benefit the **CSMA Street Fund**, providing security, beautification, and improvements to The Strip. ... Come cheer on **Lone Star riders** on the strip beginning at 11 a.m. on Sept. 29 as they stop for lunch outside the **Round-Up Saloon** with entertainment on the patio at **TMC: The Mining Company**. ■

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



Girls' night out at Havana.



Rockt and Joe at Reflections.



Mario, W. and Holly at BJ's NXS!



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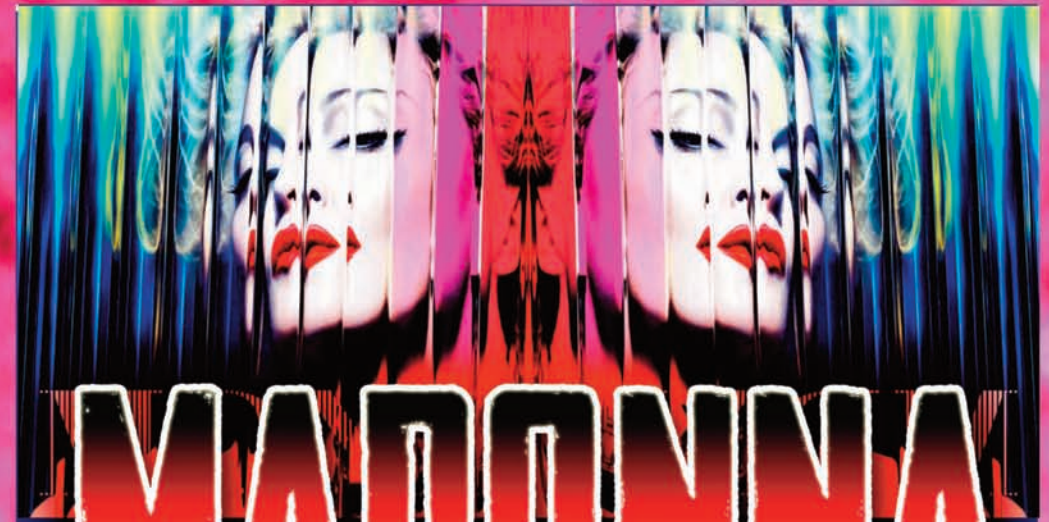
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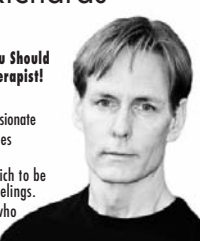
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