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Established 1984 | Volume 29 | Issue 21

FREE | Friday, October 5, 2012



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■ COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 6

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## Gay TX couple gets death threat

A gay couple in the Texas panhandle found a death threat on their front porch on Monday, Oct. 1, according to ProneWS 7 in Amarillo.

"Leave or die fags" was painted in capital letters (above) just outside the front door of Joshua Harrison and Jeremy Jeffers in Clarendon, a city of 2,000 in Donley County.

The threatening graffiti — which the local sheriff acknowledges was a hate crime — comes in the wake of an anti-gay advertisement in the local newspaper by a Church of Christ pastor.

The ad in the Clarendon Enterprise was taken out by Pastor Chris Moore and listed seven bullet points warning of the dangers of "the homosexual movement."

"Folks, don't be fooled, the 'gay' agenda isn't about 'equal' rights for gay couples," the ad stated. "Their agenda would force everyone to compromise their values, make our children legal prey for pedophiles."

Harrison and Jeffers, who've been together for a year and a half, say they fear for their lives and are considering moving.

"I'm absolutely terrified because if there are people in this town that are willing to go to the lengths to vandalize our house and to scare us, they might be going the lengths to do physical harm on us," Harrison said.

Equality Texas issued a statement in response to the incident saying that Harrison and Jeffers "should not have to live in fear in their own home simply because of their sexual orientation."

"No Texan should ever have to live in fear of violence because of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression," Equality Texas said, adding that Moore's ad in the newspaper had erroneously equated homosexuality with pedophilia and polygamy.

"Clarendon Church of Christ Pastor Chris Moore is entitled to his own beliefs, and his freedom of speech is protected by the United States Constitution," Equality Texas said. "However, it is a fact that when people teach or preach homophobia and anti-gay rhetoric, it can inflame people to the point of violence."

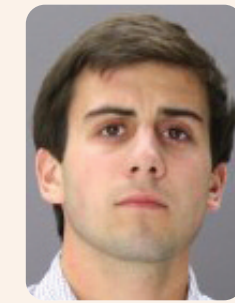
— John Wright

## SMU case highlights male rape

The arrest of a male SMU student last week for allegedly sexually assaulting a male acquaintance sheds light on the small percentage of male victims who actually report such assaults.

John David Mahaffey, 19, was arrested after the victim, also a student, told SMU police he was forced to perform oral sex on Mahaffey in a parking garage at 3050 SMU Blvd., which is the address of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity where Mahaffey was a member. Mahaffey has been banned from campus and suspended from the fraternity.

Jana Barker, executive director at Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, said statistics show that 3 percent of men will experience or commit rape in their lifetime. She said among male rape victims, only about 7 percent will report the sexual assault. Barker said gay men are often targets of sexual assault because of their sexual orientation.



John David Mahaffey

Many men never come forward to report the encounters because of the stigma of being raped and being a man and often because they feel they are targeted because they have gay tendencies, Barker said. Some male victims question their sexual orientation afterward.

She said male victims also believe only gay men commit rape, but that is untrue. "Rape is about power and control," she said. "It's not sex. It's violence."

SMU police later recorded a phone call between the victim and Mahaffey during which Mahaffey told the victim he should say the encounters were consensual.

Mahaffey is part of prominent SMU legacy. His great-great grandfather was a member of SMU's founding committee and one of its first professors. SMU spokesman Kent Best said the university isn't commenting beyond a written statement because the investigation is ongoing.

— Anna Waugh

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# Following in his father's footsteps

Gay father-son duo Robert and Johnson Swafford work together as fundraisers and volunteers for LifeWalk, which turns 22 Sunday

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

Robert Swafford hasn't walked the traditional 5K LifeWalk route from Lee Park, but he's certainly walked dozens of miles for the AIDS Arms Inc. event.

Swafford, a member of the LifeWalk steering committee, works on route logistics, stocking water stations and placing cones before the event — and picking them up at the end. He'll have the same job this year.

"I usually walk the route three or four times during the day because the route is my responsibility, so I'm on the route all day long. I'm just not in the park," he said. "We end up circling the route several times a day."

Swafford, who's gay, got involved with LifeWalk after attending an AIDS Arms video screening a few years ago. He said the experience moved him so much that he spoke to the executive director about volunteering for the organization. He was then introduced to LifeWalk organizers.

Swafford also got his son Johnson, who's also gay, to volunteer with the event, and the two now look forward to fundraising throughout the year.

"It was a way for us to have an activity to do together, and he wanted to become involved and help me out," Robert Swafford said. "We both get a lot out of it. It's a lot of hard work on the day of. It's a lot of time throughout the year of planning and getting ready but you walk away from that day exhausted but feeling great about what you've accomplished."

Johnson Swafford said he attended LifeWalk's Waterpalooza event two years ago as a spectator and was asked to stand in as a referee. He had so much fun he decided to join his father in the event planning, and he said working side-by-side with dad was a bonus.

"We've always made a great team," he said. "It's doubly fun to do it with someone who I work very well up against. We know each other's limits and we know each other's strengths and weaknesses and we tend to complement each other pretty well."

He said he enjoys walking the route with his dad throughout the day and will join him again this year, though there'll be a small change.

Marvin Green, co-chair of LifeWalk, said this year's event will have the same route but will start and end in Lee Park instead of on the street, so more people will be able to watch and cheer on



**KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY** | Johnson Swafford, left, said he attended LifeWalk's Waterpalooza fundraiser two years ago as a spectator and was asked to stand in as a referee. He had so much fun he decided to join his father, Robert, as a LifeWalk fundraiser and volunteer.



**A WALK IN THE PARK** | This year's LifeWalk will start and end in Lee Park instead of the street, so more people will be able to watch and cheer on participants who finish. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

participants who finish. A DJ will also play music throughout the event, and 45 vendors will set up in the park. He said about 400,000 walkers are expected this year, compared to last year's 300,000.

Green said fundraising had exceeded \$330,000 as of Wednesday, Oct. 3, adding that teams are on track to raise the fundraising goal of \$450,000.

"There shouldn't be a reason we don't make the goal," he said, adding that his personal goal was to help the event bring in \$500,000.

He said the total could still reach that because many donations come in during the final days before the walk and companies contribute after because they match donations for teams.

Robert Swafford said he and his son also fundraise for the walk, adding that he enjoys helping AIDS Arms and their partner agencies benefit with donations, as well as his volunteering.

"Those funds go to the agency and the agency is saving lives with everything that they do," he said. "It's a personal feel-good."

The pair's involvement in LifeWalk has

**22nd annual LifeWalk**  
 LifeWalk begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. People can register up until the time of the walk starting at 11 a.m. For more info, visit [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).

brought them closer to the community, which has come to rely on them as resources because of their connection with the event.

"I've been able to get help for people through the agency because they know I'm connected," Robert Swafford said. "They know I'm involved. They come to me as a resource. It's because people know I'm involved in LifeWalk."

Both Robert and Johnson Swafford plan to stay involved with LifeWalk for many years to come, remaining their own team until time or distance divides them. "As long as him and I are in the same city, state, then we'll definitely be giving our time over and having a lot of fun doing it in the meantime," Johnson said. ■

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# death

**Dr. Daniel Brent Whitworth** — beloved partner, son, friend, brother, cousin, nephew and grandson — passed away on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012, at the age of 43. Born in Canyon, Texas, Whitworth attended Amarillo schools and was valedictorian of his class at Caprock High School in Amarillo. In 1991, he graduated from Rice University and embarked on a career in the retail industry. After several years as a buyer for Foley's, Brent realized his true calling had been to become a physician, an aspiration he had drifted away from during college. Seeing many friends sick and suffering, he chose to be part of the solution.



Whitworth attended the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, from which he graduated in 2002. After completing his residency in internal medicine at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, he went into private practice and proudly built his own practice, Dallas Medical, with his friend Dr. Sue Royappa. Whitworth truly loved caring for his patients. Whitworth believed that by taking the time to listen and to treat his patients with the respect and dignity they deserve, he was offering the highest quality of care and concern a doctor should give.

In March 2011, Whitworth was diagnosed with stage IV cancer. He continued to work and see patients until it became clear that he needed to focus on his health. Selling his medical practice was the most difficult decision of his life, as being a physician and caring for his patients meant the world to him.

During his illness, Whitworth renewed his faith and became part of a precious church community. His love of Jesus and his unwavering commitment to studying and sharing God's word inspired untold numbers of people in the last 19 months. Whitworth rediscovered a love of gardening that began as a child in Amarillo, cultivating a backyard haven of plants and flowers that is truly amazing in its beauty and serenity.

Whitworth's great love was his partner of over 15 years, Bill Robertson. Whitworth and Robertson shared a loving circle of family, friends, travel, and a passion for art and design. Together, they lived a full and happy life, generously sharing with all of their families and friends, traveling and hosting gatherings. Some of Brent's favorite destinations were Italy, Mexico, California and the Caribbean.

Whitworth is survived by his true love and partner, Robertson; his devoted parents, Denver and Sandra Whitworth; his brother, Tony Whitworth; his sister, Shana Deering; his grandparents, Wallace and Dortha Whitworth; and his in-laws, including Bill and Mary Robertson, Becky and Jeff Battershell, and Kirk and Billie Robertson. Whitworth was adored by a loving extended family of many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He also left his three pets with whom he shared much joy over the years. Additionally, Whitworth was blessed with deep, rich friendships and his church family from Crossroads Community Church.

The memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012, at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Kidney Cancer Association, Community Hospice of Texas or Crossroads Community Church.

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# Cathedral lays off 10, cites drop in donations

Critics allege cuts unfairly targeted older employees, question whether capital campaign funds have been used to cover other expenses

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A downturn in donations and tithes were behind layoffs and pay cuts this week at the Cathedral of Hope, according to officials at the predominantly LGBT Dallas megachurch.

COH communications director Phoebe Sexton called the layoffs "very painful for everyone here."

The equivalent of six full-time positions were eliminated, although that included several part-time employees.

Sexton said before the layoffs, the 4,200-member church employed 44 people, including part-time and contract employees. The layoffs affected 10 people, leaving 34 employees at the church. Sexton said that number might change slightly because some contract employees are undergoing renegotiations.

Three top ministerial staff members took "significant, voluntary pay cuts," according to Sexton. They are the church's senior pastor, the Rev. Jo Hudson; executive minister, the Rev. Dawson Taylor; and executive director, the Rev. Rachael Sandifer.

Sandifer blamed the layoffs on a shortfall in donations and tithes.

"Not unlike all nonprofits, we are cutting our expenses to the bare bones, as faithful stewards of our resources," Sandifer said. "We cannot get to the point where we're in financial crisis."

She added that the reduction in staff was strictly related to finances.

"We had to look at everybody," Sandifer said. "Decisions were based solely on where we could absorb ministries and have strength of ministries we're involved in."

Hudson said that although attendance is up, "giving is the last thing to come on board."

Sandifer said the reduction in staff will not be temporary, because the church needs to put money in reserve to avoid a future crisis.

COH board President David White said board members were aware of the financial situation but don't get involved in personnel matters.

"We're consulted, and as a board we knew it was inevitable," White said.

Hudson said Monday — when the layoffs were announced — was "among the most difficult days of my ministry."

"None of the cuts was made hastily or without



**TRYING TIMES** | The Rev. Jo Hudson, senior pastor at the Cathedral of Hope, speaks at the opening of the Interfaith Peace Chapel in 2010. Hudson called Monday, when the church laid off 10 employees, "among the most difficult days of my ministry." (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

thought and prayer," Hudson said. "I am confident we did our best to honor those employees we had to lay off."

Sandifer said although church employees are not eligible for unemployment benefits, each person laid off was offered a severance package.

"The people we met with yesterday have been unbelievably gracious," Hudson said Tuesday, adding that the congregation wouldn't be surprised by the layoffs.

"Two weeks ago, my sermon laid out the situation," she said.

She said that a couple of the people laid off said they sensed it was coming.

Attempts to contact employees affected by the layoffs were unsuccessful.


Despite Hudson's Sept. 23 sermon, rumors and allegations related to the layoffs swirled this week, prompting numerous phone calls and emails to Dallas Voice.

However, no one was willing to be identified and go on record with their allegations.

Allegations related to mismanagement of

■ CATHEDRAL, Next Page

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■ CATHEDRAL, From Previous Page

funds are nothing new at the Cathedral, which was racked by a controversy nearly a decade ago that led to the church's departure from its previous denomination. The Cathedral is now affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

This time, those who spoke to Dallas Voice accused church leaders of improperly raiding designated funds, such as a capital campaign account, to pay other expenses, and said the layoffs unfairly targeted older employees.

Others noted that the Cathedral recently completed repairs and construction despite its shrinking income.

Sandifer said the repairs and construction had no effect on the budget.

Last November, repairs were made to the John Thomas Bell Wall after hail damaged the structure and it began to leak. Hail also damaged the building's 20-year-old roof that was replaced this spring. Both were covered by insurance.

Flooding and an electrical fire in the Interfaith Peace Chapel also were covered by insurance. The building's original electrical contractor paid deductibles.

Sandifer said that an energy audit led to an upgrade of the air conditioning system. But that upgrade was part of a capital improvement and funded through a \$60,000 grant from Oncor. The result has been a monthly saving of about \$2,000 in energy costs.

Recent upgrades to HD format have begun to be made to the church's television studio. Sandifer said that the original \$800,000 cost estimate was reduced to \$200,000 through an in-kind gift, but purchases of cameras and other equipment have been postponed.

Sandifer said money from the capital campaign account — which was started to build a new cathedral designed by the architect Philip Johnson — was spent on design plans for the Great Cathedral and its surroundings, and on construction of the Interfaith Peace Chapel, the first portion of the project. She said the Cathedral currently has no capital campaign or associated account.

According to Sandifer, the church's annual budget is \$2.735 million. In addition to income from tithes and offerings, Cathedral of Hope leases parking to the neighboring Ford dealership on Inwood Road and has income from retail rental property adjoining the church. A grant-writing committee is working to supplement funds.

"We're charged with being responsible stewards of resources," Sexton said. "The cuts were made to ensure the financial longevity of the church."

Cathedral of Hope has helped start churches that bear its name in Oklahoma City, Houston and Bedford. The Oklahoma City church is independent. Houston and Mid-Cities remain parishes of the cathedral in Dallas but are financially independent.

The layoffs at the Dallas church will not affect those churches, officials said.

Susan Gore, executive director of Hope for Peace & Justice, said the cuts do not affect her organization, which is housed at the church but financially independent. ■

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**SEEKING JUSTICE** | Kim Lovering, a lesbian whose vehicle was spray-painted with 'faggot' and 'queers,' said she hopes the suspects are sentenced to community service in the LGBT community.

# Anti-gay graffiti won't be prosecuted as hate crime

Citing problems with statute, Tarrant DA's office combines incidents for higher charge instead of prosecuting bias-motivated case separately

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

ARLINGTON — Four teens indicted for Arlington graffiti incidents that included anti-gay slurs spray-painted on a lesbian couple's SUV won't face a hate crime enhancement if convicted.

Arlington police arrested the teens in the June 10 graffiti spree that left vehicles, garages and public signs with racial and anti-gay slurs and inappropriate pictures.

Daniel Sibley, 18, John Austin Cartwright, 17, Seth Stephen Hatcher, 18, and Morgen Rae Aubuchon, 18, were indicted Sept. 25 on a state jail felony charge of graffiti causing \$1,500 to \$20,000 in damage.

The fifth suspect is a 16-year-old girl who will undergo a process for juveniles.

Among the property damaged by the teens was an SUV belonging to Kim Lovering and her partner, which was spray-painted with the words "faggot" and "queers" in capital letters, next to a decal on the rear windshield showing two moms, a child and a pet.

Tarrant County Assistant District Attorney Betty Arvin, who is the prosecutor for the four adult cases, said the incident of anti-gay graffiti could have been prosecuted separately as a misdemeanor. But the DA's office instead chose to combine the cases — which include 13 individual incidents involving public signs, garage doors and vehicles — to obtain a state jail felony charge.

"We felt like we would have more flexibility and more options if we aggregated the cases so that's what we did," Ardin said. "But for a hate crime you've got to prove that the people involved specifically targeted a person or their property due to their sexual orientation or their race, and we suspect it but we can't prove that."

Well, we certainly can't prove it on all 13. ... We can't prove it on all of them and keep it a felony."

Ardin said trying to prove that the lesbian's vehicle was targeted because of their sexual orientation became more difficult because anti-gay slurs were also spray-painted on another couple's property, even though they were straight.

"We can't prove that the people who did this targeted those people specifically for that reason because they made some similar remarks on non-same-sex couple's vehicle," she said.

Texas' hate crimes statute also complicates things. Ardin said the way the statute is written makes it hard to obtain a hate crime enhancement.

"You can't say, 'Oh, yes, this was a blanket anti-racial or anti-gay deal.' The way the statute is in Texas, you have to prove that specific person, that specific property was targeted by the person who did it for that specific reason," she said. "It's one of those things where it's a good idea, but the way the statute is actually written makes it hard to apply."

The punishment for a state jail felony is 180 days to two years in jail and a maximum \$10,000 fine. Ardin said if bias could have been proven in all the cases, the hate crime enhancement would have made the cases a third-degree felony and, if convicted, the teens could've faced two to 10 years behind bars in addition to the fine.

Chuck Smith, interim executive director for Equality Texas, said the problem with the hate crimes statute is that it is a penalty enhancement instead of a separate charge, which many states have.

He said that the Texas Legislature should fix the hate crimes statute, but many currently serving would not support a stricter law.

"The important part is having law enforcement and prosecutors in the community at least acknowledge that what we're talking about is a bias crime," he said. "So at the end of the day, it ought to matter less as to whether or not the hate crimes law was used to prosecute it as much as we acknowledge up front that we investigated this as a hate crime, and we're going to talk about it as a

■ **GRAFFITI**, Page 17

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# Tarrant Pride will have larger police presence

FWPD plans Zero Tolerance teams, undercover officers after protesters from Kingdom Baptist Church were cited for disorderly conduct last year

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Fort Worth police plan zero tolerance of foul language or other disruptions at the Tarrant County Pride parade and festival on Oct. 6.

Last year several protesters affiliated with Kingdom Baptist Church in the Johnson County town of Venus were cited for disorderly conduct for harassing Pride attendees.

FWPD Sgt. Kathi Jones, an honorary grand marshal of this year's parade, said she's arranged for two police Zero Tolerance teams and undercover intelligence to assist traffic officers hired by the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association.

Jones said Chief Jeffrey Halstead agreed to provide the extra officers because of what happened last year.

"I have never seen so much hate in my life from someone who claims to be Christian," Jones said.

She said this year, protesters will receive only one warning before being arrested.

Contacted this week, Kingdom Baptist Church Pastor Joey Faust seemed to be looking forward to the parade as much as members of the LGBT community. Asked by Dallas Voice whether he would attend, Faust said: "Of course. We wouldn't miss that."

Parade director Tina Harvey said this week, "Protesters last year made me more resolute that this year's parade will be bigger, better and more respectful of our community."

Harvey said she wanted openly gay service members to lead the parade, but was unable to find any who were willing to participate.

While active-duty gay and lesbian service



HATERS GONNA HATE | Several members of Kingdom Baptist Church in Johnson County were cited for disorderly conduct for harassing attendees at Tarrant Pride last year. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

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**IT GETS BETTER** | Gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns, walking alongside husband J.D. Angle, greets a youth along the parade route during last year's event. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

members have attended Pride celebrations around the country, many are still fearful, Harvey said.

"They felt higher-ups would still try to get rid of them," she said, despite the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

Instead, Cowtown Leathermen will lead the parade with a color guard, followed by two of three grand marshals and four honorary grand marshals.

Thomas Anable, who was named grand marshal before his death in August, will be honored with a riderless car followed by members of Fairness Fort Worth, the group he helped form in 2009 after the Rainbow Lounge raid.

Fairness Fort Worth's David Mack Henderson said so many of his group's members are active in other groups that he expects only a few to walk behind the car.

"It's important to honor Tom's contributions and just as important to look ahead," he said.

Candi Carroll aka Randy Moore and William Dotson are the two other Grand Marshals. Both have raised money for Tarrant County nonprofits for years.

Honorary Grand Marshals are performer Tim Smith, hate crime victims Kim and Mandy Loving, and Jones.

Although Fort Worth Mayor Becky Price will not be in the parade this year because of a scheduled appearance at a broadcast TCU football game, Harvey said Pride organizers have developed an excellent relationship with the city.

"The city of Fort Worth has given us such great support," Harvey said.

Jessica Dowdy of the Fort Worth Visitors and Convention Bureau said her organization is promoting the parade and picnic via social media.

"We did a push Monday and we're planning another on Friday," Dowdy said midweek.

Among the new entries in the Fort Worth parade is Pride San Antonio Inc. James Poindexter, the group's secretary, said he expects three to five people to come to Fort Worth for the weekend to

### Pride parade, festival, picnic

The Tarrant Pride parade begins at noon Saturday, Oct. 5, and runs along Main Street from Weatherford Street to 7th Street. The parade is followed by a festival in General Worth Square, between 8th and 9th streets. The picnic is from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday in Trinity Park. Parking for the picnic will be at Farrington Field.

represent the Alamo City.

The group already participates in the Houston and Austin parades and this year adds Fort Worth and next year Dallas.

"We need to strengthen and support each other statewide," he said and invited Dallas and Fort Worth parade participants to come to San Antonio's Pride festival in June.

Another new entry in the Fort Worth parade is Trinity River Equality in Education, the gay-straight alliance at the new downtown campus of Tarrant County College.

Club President Gail Lockwood said TREE has grown from five members last year to 45 this semester.

"This year, we're trying to make our presence known," Lockwood said. "We're networking with other GSAs and hope to be a resource for high school GSAs."

Last year, the parade moved downtown and this year adds a larger festival in General Worth Square at the end of the parade route, running until 6 p.m.

On Sunday, the Pride picnic in Trinity Park includes entertainment by Valerie & Kickback and 3 Drunk Monkeys. The afternoon features events including a tug of war and sack races. More than 25 food and beverage vendors will be at the park.

Dianne Dunivan, who chairs the picnic, called it the perfect family event.

"I showed my niece 10 years ago that this is what gay looks like," Dunivan said. "Every year, she brings another friend." ■

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# Club Elm & Pearl a fixture in queer black community

While other bars have launched African-American-themed nights, nightclub in Deep Ellum remains city's only black-owned gay venue

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

Glenn Hunter and Ricky Baker said they're old enough to recall the discrimination black patrons once faced at gay bars in Dallas.

During one visit from their native Oklahoma in the 1980s, Hunter and Baker said they were accompanied by an American Indian friend who could pass for white.

Although everyone in their party had Oklahoma driver's licenses, the American Indian friend was allowed into a gay bar on Cedar Springs, while the others were told they needed Texas IDs.

Other times, black patrons were required to

have multiple forms of ID or were subject to cover charges that didn't apply to whites.

"That was pretty much customary in Dallas — you had to have three IDs," Baker said. "Based on all those things, we felt like we did not have a voice, so we started our own gay club."

After Hunter and Baker, who'll celebrate 30 years as a couple in December, moved to Dallas from Oklahoma City in 1987, Hunter would become one of the original employees of the Metro, a gay black nightclub on Elm Street nestled between downtown and Deep Ellum.

Hunter managed the Metro until eight years ago, when he and Baker bought the club, which is now called Club Elm & Pearl (after the corner it occupies).

While other gay bars in Dallas, including Havana and The Brick, offer African-American themed nights, the Elm & Pearl remains the city's only black-owned gay club.

Kirk Myers, one of the organizers of this weekend's Dallas Black Pride events, said it's an important distinction.



**PARTNERS IN BUSINESS, LIFE** | Co-owners Ricky Baker, left, and Glenn Hunter, stand behind the bar at the Elm & Pearl. They will celebrate 30 years as a couple in December. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

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"It's the first club that's for us by us," Myers said. "That was the birth of the Dallas Black Pride movement, and it's been a staple for visitors during Pride and outside of Pride.

"I'm 45, so people were raised on the Metro, i.e. the Elm & Pearl," Myers said. "Anybody doing a night, it definitely is different than having a club that is minority owned and minority specific as far as patrons."

Hunter said it was after a trip to Splash, Houston's Black Pride event, about 15 years ago that he and others at the Metro decided to launch what was originally called Dallas Black Gay and Lesbian Pride.

"I thought oh my God, they have 5,000 people, and their club is half the size of ours," Hunter said of Splash.

They decided to schedule Dallas' Black Pride celebration the same weekend as the Grambling State-Prairie View football game at the Cotton Bowl, because it was already the biggest African-American weekend in Dallas.

The Elm & Pearl remained the primary organizer of Black Pride up until about five years ago, before Hunter said it became too much work and other organizations took over. But the club still plays a major role in the festivities, hosting events like Saturday night's block party.

And while times have changed, people like Clinton Blade — aka DJ 008 — said they believe there will always be a need for a "show bar" like

### Dallas Black Pride weekend

Two separate organizations put on Black Pride events this weekend, Dallas Southern Pride and the DFW Pride Movement. For a full schedule of events, visit their respective websites at DallasSouthernPride.com and DfwPrideMovement.org.

the Elm & Pearl.


"So many entertainers have started on that very stage right there," Blade said from the DJ booth on a recent Saturday night, listing Racquell Lord, Sophia McIntosh and Kennedy Davenport among them.


"This is the drag capital," Blade said. "We have our own style. ... Everybody needs a starting point."

In the last few years, due to the economy, the Elm & Pearl has scaled back to only weekend hours. Friday is men's night, and Saturday is women's night.

On Sunday afternoons, the club hosts the weekly Old School Dominoes, Spades and Biz Wiz Tournament.

And on Sunday nights for the last few months, the Elm & Pearl has been blazing yet another trail, as the only gay bar to host a straight night. Hunter said on one recent Sunday, the club drew 300 people for a rap competition. ■

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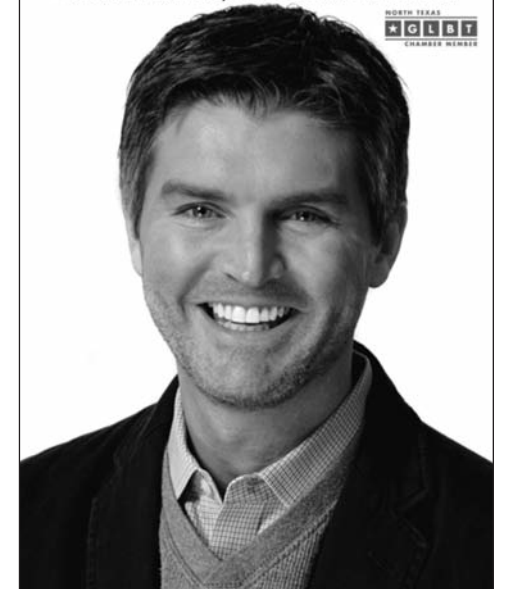
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Luis Veloz

## SMU student named GLSEN's Student Advocate of the Year

SMU freshman and Woodrow Wilson High School graduate Luis Veloz has been named the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network's 2012 Student Advocate of the Year. Veloz will receive the honor on Friday, Oct. 5, at a gala at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles.

Veloz said he knew he was in the running for the award but was surprised after being chosen out of 500 people nominated.

"Many, many thank yous to those that have impacted my life!" he wrote on Facebook. "There are too many to count, but you know who you are! Thank you from the bottom of my heart and let us continue the mission of love together!"

In high school, Veloz helped create Gay Straight Alliances in his own school and others, served on two boards at Resource Center Dallas and worked as an intern at Lambda Legal. When the GLSEN Greater Dallas chapter formed a year ago, Veloz became its youngest board member, focusing on supporting efforts to establish Gay-Straight Alliances at schools throughout the Dallas area.

"He did phenomenal work," Lambda Legal community educator Omar Narvaez said. "He brought us the idea of creating the Youth Empow-

erment Summit."

The summit brought together students from across North Texas in April for a day of workshops on issues, including education and civil rights. The youth left with tools to make a difference in their schools and communities.

At RCD, Veloz worked on a committee that helped DISD change and implement its new anti-bullying policies. At SMU, he's already working with the LGBT group SPECTRUM to create programs for LGBT youth of color.

"We are incredibly proud of Luis and his tireless commitment to create opportunities for LGBT youth to become leaders in their schools and communities," GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard said in a release. "This young man's potential knows no bounds and I look forward to watching his career take off as he continues to serve others."

Veloz and his family arrived in Dallas from Mexico four years ago. He is attending SMU on a full academic scholarship. He has been given a Carole and Jim Youngfellow Fellowship, usually awarded to graduate students to mentor other students.

— David Taffet



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■ GRAFFITI, From Page 11

hate crime, and we're going to prosecute it and hopefully we'll get the same sentence without using the penalty enhancement."

The four teens indicted have court dates scheduled for Oct. 24, but Ardin said their cases are still being processed so she is unsure when a trial date will be set or if a plea bargain will be offered.

Kim Lovering said she and her partner are pleased with the decision but disappointed in the lack of hate crime label, adding that she understands it can't be added to just her incident because the offenses were grouped together. She said the DA's office offered to prosecute her case separately as a hate crime, but she declined because of the higher charge and neighborhood solidarity.

"I think as a group as a whole for us it was more important to be grouped together for the severity of the crime," she said. "Because it wasn't just us."

Lovering said the teens probably won't serve any time in jail but she expects they will be required to complete community service. She said she would like the community service to require them to work with people from all walks of life instead of just picking up trash on the side of the road.

"Hopefully they have to work in the LGBT community and learn a lesson they need to learn," she said. "I hope it's able to make a positive impact. They're young so I hope they can actually learn something from what they're forced to do."

Jon Nelson, president of Fairness Fort Worth, said he also hopes the judge will require community service with an LGBT emphasis.

Nelson has had discussions with Ardin before, so he said he knows she is sensitive to LGBT and hate crimes issues. He said the district's attorney's office will most likely offer a plea bargain, which he would like to see include a mandate of diversity and sensitivity training for the teens.

The graffiti case was the second indictment in as many weeks in Tarrant County in a case involving apparent anti-gay bias.

Wanda Derby, a 72-year-old Richland Hills woman, was indicted Sept. 14 for the beating and choking her gay neighbor with a cane while yelling "faggot." The case was presented as a felony, but the grand jury returned the case as a class-A misdemeanor.

Christopher McGregor, the Tarrant County assistant district attorney assigned to Derby's case, said he is planning on trying to prove the assault was motivated by bias to convince a jury that it was a hate crime, which could increase Derby's sentence to a minimum of 180 days in jail.

Nelson said the attempt to prove bias and seek the minimum sentence in the Richland Hills case signified a shift in opinion in Texas, even if the hate crime statute prevented the Arlington case from proving a hate crime occurred.

"I think that's a giant step in Texas," Nelson said. "We have a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, and I think you're seeing citizens of this state instead of politicians being sensitive to the fact that those in the LGBT community are often more likely to be harmed than other people." ■

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# viewpoints

# Black Pride, then and now

Annual event in Dallas this weekend continues legacy of giving a voice to groups who've often been excluded from mainstream Pride celebrations

**A** bystander shouted, "Gay power!," someone began singing "We Shall Overcome," and the crowd reacted with amusement and general good humor mixed with growing and intensive hostility.

This personal account, recorded by David Carter in his book *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution* — offers a glimpse of the key role that the African-American civil rights movement played in igniting the events that led to gay Pride and the Gay Liberation Movement.

The first gay Pride, known then as Christopher Street Liberation Day, was held in New York City and officially celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. And as the years passed, and Pride celebrations began to spread to other cities, they also began to look more and more white gay male identified — limiting and almost totally eliminating the participations of people of color and transgender individuals who along with others began the Gay Liberation Movement of the late '60s.

It was that climate of exclusivity and other marginalizing experiences that prompted a group of black gay Los Angeles youth in the summer of 1988 to host a secret social gathering miles away from their homes to celebrate their lives among others who identified as they did: young, black and gay.

Although they were far removed from the Stonewall experience by age and location, they still were affected by the racial divide between white gays and gay people of color.

In many ways the treatment they received from the larger heterosexual black community was not much more inclusive, and public expressions of gay life could bring about violence from the black straight individuals, so hosting an event far from the public eye was very important. This gathering, now 34 years old and known as "At the Beach," started the social movement that we refer to today as Black Pride.

Black Pride was born out of a yearning to connect with other black gay people and has grown into an event that allows people to reconnect with the legacy and contributions of artists and poor queer people of color, while examining current issues and accomplishments by our community.

Looking at the lineup of events planned for this year's Dallas Black Pride celebration, I have feelings of joy and hope. Our Black Pride weekend is filled with the inclusion of youth, poor/working class people and trans-identified



**BALLS ARE BIG** | The House, Ball and Pageant communities serve as an entry point for many young African-Americans who have either been put out of their homes or are looking for access to the gay community.

individuals, as well as black queer legacy.

The Southern Regional Ball/House and Pageant (B/HAP) Communities' Leadership and Health Disparities Conference hosted by Abounding Prosperity gives critical focus on the history, accomplishments and current issues facing the House, Ball and Pageant communities.

These communities are made up of mostly working-class gay, lesbian and transgender individuals — and a small contingent of straight people. They also serve as an entry point for many young people who have either been put out of their homes or are looking for access to the gay community.

Understanding how these communities have reconstructed the family structure and created their own ways of dealing with HIV/AIDS is critical to development of HIV interventions geared toward black gay men and trans women. So this important conference legitimizes the lives and work of sub-communities that have been left out of the discourse of public health until recent years.

DFW Pride Movement and HerPride offer a variety of empowerment sessions to help individuals further understand themselves and their right to be proud, while Fahari Arts Institute joins forces with Dallas Southern Pride to offer an evening of black queer artistry.

All the entities have included the most marginalized amongst the gay community: the poor, people of color, youth, artists and the trans community. And Black Pride is not shy on social gatherings. Party promoters have planned a weekend full of opportunities for black queer individuals to gather together, party and socialize. Whether

at a happy hour, pool party, pageant, ball or house party, more than 10,000 black queer people will connect, touch, laugh and celebrate with one another over the weekend.

But even with all that we have accomplished, I am also mindful of the work that is still to be done and our need to revisit those initial problems and concerns surrounding the events of 1969. There is still a pressing need to expand our social justice agenda and community organizing skills.

After the Stonewall Rebellion, many organizations were formed and much work was done to fight for the rights of gay people. It is our charge in keeping with this legacy to work hard to continue to fight for our rights once Dallas Black Pride weekend is over.

Harold Steward is artistic director of Fahari Arts Institute and editor-in-chief of BlaqOut Dallas. He can be contacted at [info@blaqoutdallas.com](mailto:info@blaqoutdallas.com).



**Harold Steward**  
Contributing Columnist

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# Dual identities

For rising musician **Nehemiah Akbar**, being black and gay in the R&B music world isn't the contradiction it once was

LIFE+STYLE

pride

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

For a lot of young gay men — especially, it seems, those reared in the African-American community — coming out is a process fraught with risk and tension. Add to that an interest in making a name for yourself in the R&B music scene and, well, you have to stretch to think of a famous name.

Or at least you did until this summer, when up-and-coming hip-hop sensation Frank Ocean came out ... and his fans barely seemed to care.

Now, Nehemiah Akbar wants to be part of that trend.

"You know, I have a very diverse family and [they are] very accepting of the lifestyle I have," he says. "And I know it's a taboo when you talk about a 'lifestyle,' but there you have it."

Akbar — who lived in Chicago while working on his music, but who grew up in Oklahoma, where he's currently attending college — has long felt comfortable with his feet in two worlds. Case in point: He's currently working with multiple record producers (including Frank Yoder, who produced three of R. Kelly's albums) on singles for a planned 2013 album, while working on his degree in public policy at the University of Oklahoma. (If that doesn't strike you as cognitive dissonance, you might be working on the Romney campaign.)

## NEHEMIAH AKBAR

The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave.  
Oct. 5 and 6 at 10:30 p.m.  
DallasSouthernPride.com.

But to Akbar, it's all one great tapestry — one he

hopes to bring from the down-low to the up-front.

"When it comes to down-low brothers in the black community, people want to associate being gay with being feminine, and that's wrong," he says. "I think Frank Ocean will have a huge impact on music, especially music in the black community and our overall acceptance, by breaking the glass ceiling about what a homosexual male is. He can be a masculine guy, an alpha male. He's on a spectrum. [Like Ocean], I want to open up a door. Who really cares? We're all humans at the end of the day. What does it matter? Though in the black community we definitely have an issue with HIV being on the rise with African-American women. [Coming out is] going to do more positive for our community."

Akbar will be in town as one of the featured entertainers at Dallas Southern Pride, Dallas' black gay Pride weekend. He'll perform two sets at The Brick — one on Friday and one on Saturday, "... and maybe another impromptu if we can arrange it," he teases.

His performances will be something of a homecoming for Akbar: "I used to live in Dallas about five years ago — actually in Allen — but I haven't been back since this, so I'm really excited. The new Brick looks very modern," he says.

Akbar started writing music when he was about 9 years old after his mother took him to a Janet Jackson concert in Las Vegas. "I didn't know what she was actually talking about but seeing her perform I thought I totally wanted to do this," he says.

If you already are familiar with Akbar's music, it gets in your head. Two of his singles — "Make My Move" and "First Class Boy," both of which he wrote or co-wrote



**FIRST CLASS BOY** | Oklahoma native and one-time Metroplex resident Nehemiah Akbar returns to Dallas to perform his new singles for Dallas Southern Pride in two shows at The Brick this weekend.

■ DUAL, Page 23

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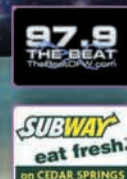
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■ DUAL,  
From Page 20

(to add to the duality, one of his co-authors is a sportswriter for the Chicago newspaper) — are available online, and have a poppy, dance-y edge like Lady Gaga (especially “Make My Move”), but with sharp turns into more soul/R&B beats about halfway through. He says he can see why.

“I think it has everything to do with how we grow up,” he reflects. “My mom played Earth Wind & Fire when I was growing up, and I heard that all the time. That kind of R&B style rubbed off on me. I’m also a big fan of Michael and Janet Jackson — everyone has borrowed Michael’s military style of dance, including me,” he says.

The major influence Gaga has had on him, however, is somewhat different. “She’s so brave about her sexuality which has encouraged me,” he says. “I think after Lady Gaga came on the scene with her songs of diversity, and Frank Ocean coming out in hip-hop, this is the time for an artist to come out. I think the American public will embrace it. Everyone thought Ellen [DeGeneres] would be marginalized when she came out, but look at the impact this woman has made!”

The process, however, has been arduous. Akbar hopes to have all the songs finished



**TRAILBLAZER** | Frank Ocean’s coming out was the tip of the iceberg — Akbar thinks America is ready to embrace gay musicians of all genres. And he wants to be one of the people to prove it.

recording by December, with a CD drop date in the first quarter of 2013. But he also wants to redo his music video for “Make My Move” which he thinks has changed “after discovering who I am as an artist — I want to share the truth about myself,” like having a boyfriend in the video.

“That’s been my drive, to make that dream a reality. It seems like it’s speeding up. Last semester, just before I finished school in Chicago, we were doing the promo video and rehearsing and I was taking 19 credit hours and it was hell. But I loved it so much it felt like something I had to do before I entered the next phase of my life. I can’t stop this journey until people know about me and my mission to promote diversity.”

Which is, of course, what Pride is all about. ■

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# The color of 'Steel'

Lifetime's updating of 'Steel Magnolias' with a black cast hits the highlights

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

It's been 23 years since *Steel Magnolias* became every gay boy's fempowering camp tearjerker classic, and in that time all that's changed is cell phones and references to Beyonce and Spanx. Oh, and everyone's black. OK, so maybe that's a big change.

Lifetime's updated TV movie version of *Steel Magnolias* with an African-American cast (led by Queen Latifah) says it is "based on the play by Robert Harling," but for most of its running time, it's really based on the 1989 chick flick. The play was something of a chamber piece, set entirely in Truvy's backyard beauty parlor, with six women sharing their lives with snarky Southern charm. Like its predecessor, this version opens that up, keeping the men who were only spoken of, never seen, as actual characters and moving us out of the salon. (What would have been really daring would be to put it

in a barbershop with all gay black men — *that* would be something.) That means we see Shelby's adorable little boy (the one she should never have given birth to), we meet Truvy's layabout husband, we attend the pink-explosion wedding and a doleful funeral. Only at the end, when adaptation writer Sally Robinson moves the climax from the cemetery back to Truvy's does it fully return to its roots (and a lady always looks after her roots).



And yet, with full 40 minutes trimmed from the runtime, this *Steel Magnolias* trots along — no longer do we see Clairee (Phylicia Rashad) calling a ballgame over the radio, or spend time with Annelle (Adepero Oduye) on a date with her boyfriend. We also lose some of the classic lines. (Unless I missed 'em, I didn't hear "he has the penmanship of a cereal killer" or "what sets us apart from the animals is our ability to accessorize"). Still, the edits work by streamlining the extraneous — doing a remake could be considered a boondoggle anyway, so why cleave to every detail? (Well, the answer to



**BLUSH AND BASHFUL** | Pink is the signature color at the wedding of Shelby, witnessed by Clairee (Phylicia Rashad), Quiser (Alfre Woodard) and mom M'Lynn (Queen Latifah).

that is, because it's part of what people have come to love about the original. But if the only change was the race of the cast, why do it at all? Still, what it does stick to is important: Although mawkish to the extreme, it's a sure-fire way to get yourself to cry on command. It's almost Pavlovian.

The performances, while generally not as memorable as that notorious cast, more than stand on their own. Queen Latifah is an unexpected choice to play M'Lynn, the long-suffering mother of diabetic newlywed Shelby (Condola

Rashad), but she more than acquits herself. Mom Phylicia lacks Olympia Dukakis' devilishness but captures the character's droll humor. (Oduye is actually an improvement over Darryl Hannah, and while that's not saying much — Hannah was terrible — the part suits her well.)

But the scene-stealer is Alfre Woodard as the curmudgeonly Quiser. Woodard is already one of our best film actresses, something she proves time and again even in lesser films. Here, she makes you forget about Shirley MacLaine. That's saying something. ■

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# Bad ass ery

Gay icons Pink & Babs flex their muscle in disparate ways



#### THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Pink  
RCA



In a world ruled by artificial pop princesses, Pink has always approached her music with real-woman candor, whether she's slamming horny dudes at the bar or singing a true-life tale about her parents' divorce. But this hell-raiser act, which extends through her catchy-but-safe seventh album, turns cocky into caricature.

*The Truth About Love* wants so hard to convince the world that Pink (who became a mommy not long ago) is still the biggest badass on the block that it spends too much time proving a point when it should be using Pink's mighty ways as a singer and songwriter to crush the competition. (We know she can do it.) The potty mouth, the man put-downs (she tells him, cheekily, to blow her) and a duet with another often-misunderstood musician, Eminem — we get it; she's still a punk ... though Pink at her most "punk" was on the fierce commercial-dud *Try This*, released nearly 10 years ago.

Still, it's clear record execs won't let this one suffer the same fate: Second single "Try" fetches a generic credo of perseverance but has a cool grunge sound, while "Walk of Shame," about a one-night stand, is goofy super-pop that's a lot of fun. But Pink, who has made catchier songs about jerking off, is better than "Slut Like You." Her deftness is demonstrated on "Beam Me Up," where she lets down her guard for a needy moment of vulnerable release. It's just too bad how hard *The Truth About Love* tries to be another *Funhouse*, turning Pink into a brand instead of the artist she always seemed destined to be.

There's a predictability to Babs that's like comfort food: Her rainy-day music tends to require a box of tissues, and she sings with the same passion, precision and power that made the Brooklyn girl a star more than 40 years ago. Simply put, there's no one else like her in this smoke-and-mirrors music industry. Not even Adele possesses the same purity as Barbra.

*Release Me*, spanning decades as it reaches back into her song catalog for 11 previously unreleased tracks, is a testament to her reign as a vocal luminary who's not just stood the test of time, but stands taller as the years go by. But even in 1971, during her "Stoney End" ear, Streisand's capabilities were so absolute that her cover of Randy Newman's "I Think It's Going to Rain Today" was cut in one take, with a simple reading over Newman's piano that preserves the melancholic sorrow of the song without overdoing it.

Better than Bette's version from *Beaches*? Not when it comes to heart. "Being Good Isn't Good Enough," from the 1967 Broadway musical *Hallelujah, Baby!* about equality, goes all diva with an escalating orchestra that finally crescendos as Babs sings her butt off.

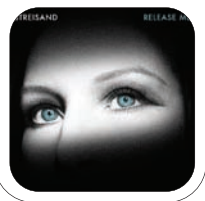
It's also refreshing to hear Streisand, who's gone the contemporary love-song route, take on a song as theatrically thrilling as her up-tempo version of "Home" from *The Wiz*. The song never made *The Broadway Album* as planned, but it's here, and it's glorious.

—Chris Azzopardi



#### RELEASE ME

Barbra Streisand  
Columbia



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# The Addams Family

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Photo by: Matt Hoyle

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## Portrait of a movement

'How to Survive a Plague' documents heroes (and villains) of the AIDS crisis

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

Ask someone in the gay community what activism looks like these days, and you'll likely get an answer related to marriage equality, or the right to serve openly in the military, or police brutality and sensitivity to gay issues, or even recognition of trans rights. But 30 years ago, activism in the gay community looked very, very different.

Back then, gay protestors were less concerned with the right to live their lives openly than the right to live, period. The AIDS epidemic — the "plague" in the emotional and fascinating documentary *How to Survive a Plague* — dragged a lot of gay folks not only out of the closet, but into the harsh lights of the public square. Where once they kept their sexual orientations secret, now not only were they front-and-center as gay men and women, they were also labeled as infected with a dreaded disease; while they were trying to seek the comfort and understanding on their families about being gay in the first place, they were simultaneously seeking funding for AIDS research, treatment with dignity even in charity hospitals and a cure.

Many, if not most, didn't live long enough to see a movie like this. It was a desperate time. (While there is still no outright cure, time and research and the now-famous protease inhibitor drugs have given hope to millions of HIV-positive people who had previously considered the diagnosis a death sentence.)

Director David France lived through a lot of this personally. As a young reporter for the New York Times, he attended countless meetings and rallies. And while he was there, he saw other people — friends and subjects and sources, a wide swathe of people — pull out old-style camcorders or news cameras and record what was going on. And so he knew a lot of footage existed documenting this contentious time. That's the lion's share of what makes up this documentary, much of it never before seen.

France has given us a rangy, rich festival of rare archival footage of a host of people who committed to stirring the pot for change. Largely, that means those involved in one of the most radical groups fighting for the rights and treatment of AIDS victims, ACT UP. And while the group co-founder, Larry Kramer (a light-

ning rod for the AIDS movement), might seem to be the obvious choice around whom to center his story, France doesn't go that route. In fact, he doesn't focus on just one "survivor" of the AIDS plague, but rather on the movement itself.

Although there's no one hero here, Peter Staley — who fearlessly faced down the likes of Pat Buchanan and Dr. Anthony Fauci (prodding him and the National Institutes for Health into more decisive action) — comes close. The righteous anger of Staley, Kramer and the countless others who marched and protested because their lives were, quite literally, at stake, resonates even

★★★★★  
**HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE**  
Directed by David France.  
Not rated. 110 mins.  
Now playing at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station.

**UP IN ARMS** | David France's documentary, which played earlier this year at the USA Film Festival, uses rare archival footage to tell the grassroots story of the fight for AIDS rights in the 1980s.

today with a deep, abiding respect.

For those who remember the craziness of the era, *How to Survive a Plague* is an arresting reminder of how far we've come. (It's infuriating to re-watch that disgusting homophobic Jesse Helms bloviating from the Senate floor with the callous hatred and lack of compassion a hunter might evince for a fox killing his hens.) For those too young to know of AIDS as anything more than a "man-

ageable disease," it's a wake-up call honoring those who made that possible.

Tom Brokaw may insist that the men who lived through the Depression and fought in World War II were the Greatest Generation, but many in the gay community know differently: Those at the forefront of the AIDS crisis were at once the Greatest Generation and the Lost Gen-



eration, an entire decade of young men cut down in their prime who, literally spoke their dying breaths in the name of justice and dignity not just for themselves, but those who followed them. *How to Survive a Plague* is their elegy, and forces you to pay homage to countless heroes — male and female, gay and straight — whose names you probably never even knew. ■

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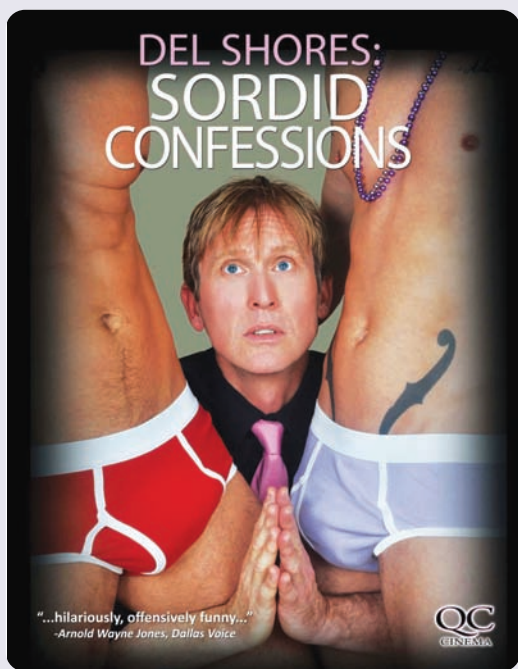
### Del Shores gets 'Sordid' again

Nobody has made more hay out of the word "sordid" — and its application in Texas — than Del Shores. The Winters, Texas, native has a play, film and TV series called *Sordid Lives*; released a DVD of his standup earlier this year called *My Sordid Life*; and now, follows it up with his latest act, **Sordid Confessions** — filmed, it bears noting, at The Rose Room right here in Dallas in front of a receptive local crowd.

It's difficult separating Shores-the-writer from Shores-the-performer and Shores-the-man ... probably because he so willingly conflates them all. The pain and anger and dark humor all come from the same place, and Shores has never been afraid to put it all out there on the line.

And, like many of the best humorists, Shores has no filter — he makes John Waters look prudish when he talks of the strangest penis he's ever encountered (and demonstrates the yoga-like fellatio he was forced to perform on it), the hateful letters he has received and replied to, covering everything from fans of Randy Harrison (whom Shores trashes routinely in his act), midgets he has insulted and even right wing pundit Victoria Jackson. And if there's one thing clear from these letters it's this: You don't want to be on Shores' bad side.

I have a feeling, though, he'd agree with that. He doesn't shy from controversy, as his foul-mouthed (but frequently hilarious) rants prove. Those easily offended (including devout Christians and Republicans, for whom he saves his choicest barbs) best steer clear.



The DVD itself has no special features, though Dallas audiences many enjoy not just of seeing cut-aways of the audience in the Rose Room, but also a bit in the parking lot behind the club where Shores and his entourage are accosted by Christian protesters. But 90 minutes of uber-gay preaching should be enough.

Can I get an amen, brother?

— A.W.J.

**Del Shores: Sordid Confessions**, available now on DVD from QC Cinema.

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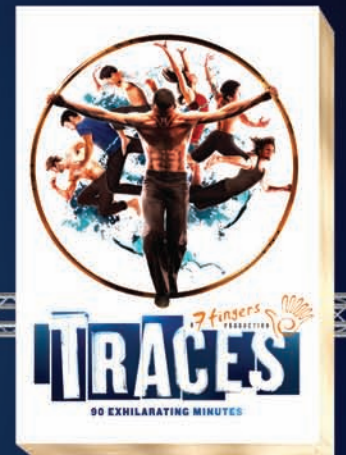
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# Theater *in* La Ronde

John de los Santos tackles gay composer Michael John LaChiusa's dark musical about bed-hopping

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

A show with a title like *Hello Again* sounds like it might be an '80s rom-com about a ghost haunting his dad, or an NBC sitcom about divorced couples comically forced to live with each other; antics ensue.

But after the raucous comedy of *The Producers*, if you go into Uptown Players' new show expecting something like that ... well, let's just say you could not be further from the truth. You won't see this show in primetime, or heavy rotation on the dinner theater circuit. You're lucky to see it at all.

"I've already heard a bellyful of Shelley Long references," jokes John de los Santos, who was tasked with directing this production.

It's an assignment de los Santos fought to get. Already a respected actor, dancer and choreographer in theater and opera, this year has marked an expansion for de los Santos to direct theater in Dallas; he's directed operas, but few plays in North Texas. *Hello Again* posed the opportunity to reach a new audience.

"It's such a challenge in every way. It's mostly sung-through; there's no intermission; it tells 10 seemingly unrelated stories woven together by the daisy chain of partners. When we rehearsed it, it was like doing 10 different shows," he says.

The plot is a series of two-person scenes: A nurse sleeps with a college student; then in the next scene, the college student has an affair with a young wife, and so on. There are some bisexuals in there too, just to keep it pretty darned gay.

If it sounds vaguely familiar, it should. *Hello Again* is based on both the Max Ophuls 1950 film classic *La Ronde* and the 1897 German play by playwright Arthur Schnitzler. A century ago, the story was so controversial that the play wasn't publicly performed for nearly 25 years. So how much have things changed? Not all that much, it turns out.

"I'm not a prude, but this show *does* have a bit of a moral slant. It's not anti-sex, but [much of] the sex is unfulfilling. You don't see a connection 'til the end," he says. "It's about how we deal with sex and how we feel about it. It's definitely a musical about ideas, but also very relatable — especially in this community. I am sure people will be able to see these characters in their lives." (Freud said about Schnitzler, "I have gained the impression that you have learned through intuition — though actually as a result of sensitive introspection — everything that I have had to unearth by laborious work on other persons.")

The story jumps around more than it sounds. Each scene is set in a different decade of the 20th century, although it is not chronological; a character in one scene may be a survivor of the Titanic; the next minute, he's a club-kid dancing disco at Studio 54.

As roller coaster-y as the plot sounds, that's nothing compared



LIFE+STYLE  
stage

**MORE SEX PLEASE. WE'RE AMERICAN** | Uptown Players stages one of its raciest productions ever with 'Hello Again,' a musical adaptation of 'La Ronde' that shows, in frank ways, sexual dynamics across a century. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

to the music. Michael John LaChiusa is one of theater's most acclaimed but complex composers; he was represented earlier this year in Dallas with the premiere of *Giant*, his adaptation of the Edna Ferber novel. "One of the biggest factors in casting it was, we needed people who could sing this material — it makes Sondheim sound like Jerry Herman," de los Santos jokes. "It's a musician's musical."

For that, Uptown hired Adam Wright to serve as musical director for the show. He and de los Santos have a history of working well together, since they met on Uptown's *Altar Boyz* more than five years ago. Last year, they even co-wrote a musical together that premiered at the first Dallas Pride Festival of Performing

Arts.

"Adam has given it a luscious coloring to the music," de los Santos says. "It doesn't sound like a graduate student's thesis. We have a really easy flow of ideas between us — he speaks 'choreographer' really well. He's also an amazing musician — he's Betty Buckley's preferred accompanist when she's in town."

If it sounds heady and complex ... well, it's also a brisk 90 minutes and full of unique takes on sex.

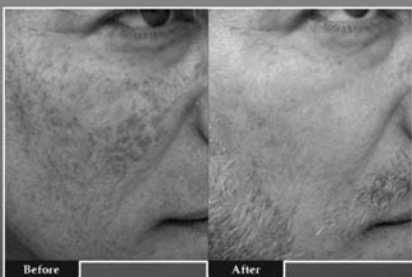
"Each scene has its own sexual style, with the orgasm of each the centerpiece," says de los Santos. "It's about how we are all looking for love and use sex to achieve that."

Yeah. Definitely not something you'll see during the family hour on TV. Which is just how Uptown Players likes it. ■

## HELLO AGAIN

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# Old haunts

Spooky houses aim more for farce than frights in 'Irma Vep' and 'Addams'

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

The program for **The Mystery of Irma Vep**, now at WaterTower Theatre, explains how all the roles will be performed by just two actors doing break-neck costume changes. If only that were so. *Vep* — a satiric pastiche of silent films, Universal horror movies and cheesy Vaudeville melodramas by the great playwright Charles Ludlam — is a farce marked by overacting, Looney Tune plot devices, Hitchcock movies and outrageous effects filled with artifice (when one character kills “a wolf,” the carcass dumped onstage looks like a stool with hair; it’s supposed to). In WaterTower’s production, the actors get that, and serve the camp up with a thick slice of ham.

But director Terry Martin has paced the show sluggishly, which can be death for a farce that feeds on peerless timing. If you promise a quick change, a slightly-faster-than-normal change misses the mark.

Of course, it’s easy to go adrift in Ludlam’s plays. They piece together so many diverse elements, you almost need a scorecard. *Vep* begins with an obvious nod to both Hitchcock’s *Rebecca* and Otto Preminger’s *Laura*: A dark, brooding

manse on the English moors houses frivolous and amateur Egyptologist Edgar Hillcrest (Regan Adair), as well as a host of secrets. Edgar is recently married to Enid (Bryan T. Donovan), a nervous former stage actress intimidated by the hatchet-faced housekeeper Jane (Adair again) and the crude, peg-legged groundskeeper Nicodemus (also Donovan). But mostly, she is cowed by the memory of Edgar’s late wife, Irma

*Vep*, whose portrait dominates the great hall. Does Jane want Enid dead? Does Nicodemus want to ravage her? And why won’t Edgar touch her?

Before you can say Daphne du Maurier, however, Jane spies a feral wolf on the heath — a creature that may have killed Edgar’s son Victor and may in fact be a

werewolf — and suddenly we’re on Carl Laemmle’s backlot at Universal Pictures, with vampires, ghosts and mummies. Just as quickly, the style pivots, and we’re in a soap opera with spikes of organ music, knee-deep in a recitation of Poe’s *The Raven* and a scene from *Wuthering Heights* before being bombarded with tongue-in-cheek jokes about cross-dressing that mock the show itself. It’s all the height of silliness, and

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**SPOOFY, NOT SPOOKY** | Actors Bryan T. Donovan and Regan Adair ham it up energetically in ‘The Mystery of Irma Vep,’ though this production lacks pacing. (Photo courtesy Mark Oristano)

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both the audience and the actors should leave breathless.

But that never happens here. Many of the elements are in place — stick horses standing in for camels, a dress that harkens to Carol Burnett's spoof of *Gone with the Wind*, a bleeding painting so fake you can't help but blurt out a laugh — but Martin fails to keep us off-guard. (To be fair, opening night was marred by a medical emergency during Act 1 that paused the show for 20 minutes, but even before that, you could tell it wasn't running at full speed.)

The actors, though, almost save it. Adair has his best in his version of Mrs. Danvers, marked by a high-pitched accent and severe makeup that gives him a corpse-like appearance, though he's almost as good as the milquetoast bon vivant. Donovan plays Frasier to Adair's Niles: His burly, unfeminine frame makes Enid's beauty even more comic, and his physical humor — especially as he hops around the stage on one leg — are peerless.

The set serves the story well, but the lighting needs more stark contrasts to emphasize the Gothic grandeur. *Irma Vep* needs to be big and fast; this version trudges along like it's actually stuck in the moors.

For all its cult status, **The Addams Family** as they became most famously known in American pop culture was — like the similarly campy spoofs on 1960s television, *The Munsters* and *Batman* — a short-lived phenomenon. (None of the three series lasted longer than three seasons.) They were funny, these shows about the disconnect between reality and the seemingly oblivious families (or superheroes) who live in an alternate universe where weird is normal. They were the TV equivalent of the schoolyard game "Opposite Day:" Everything you expect is the reverse of what you see.

*The Munsters* differed from *The Addams Family* in one key way: On the former, niece Marilyn was actually "normal;" no member of the Addams clan (save the occasional visitor to their moldering mansion) saw anything odd about a world where blooming flowers were considered hideous, torture was an expression of love and Halloween was the one day when the rest of the world finally caught on.

In the new version, settled in for a spell at the Fair Park Music Hall as this year's State Fair musical, the adapters, Marshall Brickman and Rick Elise (*Jersey Boys*), try to have it both ways: They want Wednesday to be the cold-blooded terror of the series (and '90s movies) but also crave the middle-brow values of her boyfriend's parents, buttoned-down Ohioans called the Beinekes. ("Aggh! A swing state!" spews Gomez.) It's an odd fit — Wednesday's boyfriend Lucas comes off as more twisted than she — and the plot mirrors far too closely that of *La Cage aux Folles*, only the secret isn't that everyone's gay but that everyone's ghoul.

But if you just get hung up in the plot of this fluffily macabre musical mélange, you'll deprive yourself of its joyous dark humor. Brickman, who collaborated writing several of Woody Allen's early films (he won an Oscar for *Annie Hall*), had a gift for the smart one-liner. But the

gift to the show is Douglas Sills as Gomez. Stepping into the iconic role, Sills makes it his own with excellent comic timing and a larger-than-life presence that dominates the scenes he's in. You can't say a musical based on a sitcom which itself thrives on character development, but Sills makes you care about Gomez while making him both sexy and goofy.

Sills carries the scenes he's in, though Sara Gattelfinger and her gravity-defying boobs, Blake Hammond as the mischievous and asexual Uncle Fester and Zachary James impressively deadpan as the hulking manservant Lurch have exceptional moments.

Director Jerry Zaks' staging can be strange (the show uses curtains to frame scenes oddly), but he has a few inspired bits, such as a love song called "The Moon and Me" and even the curtain call. And it's too bad that Cousin It and

Thing make only fleeting appearances. Andrew Lipka's score contains a few catchy tunes, though some — like the Act 1 closer "Full Disclosure" — prattle on too long and sap a lot of the show's momentum.

One reason why the old TV series didn't last

long is that the "Opposite Day" gimmick, just like it did on the playground, grows stale quickly. The saving grace of this *Addams Family* is that the jokes are varied enough that it doesn't overstay its welcome. How many visits with your own family can you say that about? ■



**WEDNESDAY, CHILD** | The Addamses try to act 'normal' for Wednesday's dinner party with her prospective in-laws — but the definition of normal is debatable in this enjoyable, fluffy musical.

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L+S dining

# Mico, suave

Tex-Mex favorites take an elegant turn (with a kick) at Uptown's Mr. Mesero

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

You know the rule about trying to fit a round peg in a square hole? Well, the principle also applies to tortilla chips.

When you first arrive at Mr. Mesero, the so-called "American-Mexican" (but really Tex-Mex) bistro in a tony but challenging upper-Uptown stretch of McKinney Avenue, you wonder if you've been dropped into a college psych experiment: The waiter rushes out to you a narrow tray on which are layered big, round tortilla chips; at one end, a pewter bowl of ruby salsa. Only the bowl is square. And smaller than the diameter of chips.

Go.

I've never taken the time to observe how other diners deal with this conundrum, but I imagine we all would look like lab rats navigating a maze — breaking chips in half, or (gracious!) double-dipping or just spooning the salsa on top like we were dining with the queen.

This is all you need to know, though: It's worth the effort.

The chips are thick, and the red salsa tasty and sweetish; you can also order off-menu a spicy green version, just Serranos and cilantro, which I recommend. Both are good,



**THIS TACO RINGS A BELL** | The crispy whitefish in the pescado tacos conjure pub-style fish and chips; the brisket tacos give Mia's a run for the money. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

though the latter goes especially well with the queso Mesero (\$8) — white cheddar and Chihuahua cheeses and poblanos with onion and spinach added for a verdant, hearty appearance. It's an exquisite rendition of the usually Velveeta-colored goo with red chunks of tomato bobbing in it. This is queso for connoisseurs. (The at-table service of it is an elegant flourish as well.)

Mr. Mesero is, itself, something of a round chip in a square bowl. It occupies a space which has been a challenge from before it was La Cubanita, and since its last incarnation as Burger Girl, a campy breasaurant with dull burgers and straight-guy attitude. It's smallish but in a charming way, with complimentary valet-only parking in a neighborhood that boasts everything from Abacus to Chipotle. Finding your voice takes work.

But it has done so, and quite well. The Mr. of the name is Mico Mesero, one of the founders of M Group restaurants, which opened Mi Cocina

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The creator of Mi Cocina and Taco Diner, Mico Mesero, sticks to the basics: kicky margaritas, flavorful salsa, verdant white-cheese queso (pictured), elegantly simple tacos and authentic hand-rolled enchiladas.



Food: ★★★★★

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Service: ★★★★★

Price: Inexpensive to moderate



and Taco Diner, and his new eponymous version has both the slickness of those popular hangs *and* a more personal touch (refer back to table-side queso). The enchiladas are hand rolled and garnished with a sweet tomatillo salsa, not drowned, flat discs of cheesy masa. Mind you, I love that style too, but these are more like Mexican manicotti: sweet, bright and fresh. The chicken, well seasoned, was slightly dry on one visit, but the tomatillo masked that shortcoming, as did the chewy cilantro rice.

Just as persuasive: The margaritas. The specialty micorita (\$9) is a burro kick to the brain — get it on the rocks, thick crystals of salt on the rim the way El Dio intended; it's clear and refreshing, at least until you try to stand. Their el santo (also \$9) — served frozen meltdown style with a splash of sangria on top — deserves a taste, but the micorita is the star here.

Something special was absent from the pescado tacos (\$7) — a missing *it* factor that made them sing like a mariachi on caffeine. Still, the crunch on the deep-fried white fish reminded me of a good pub-style fish and chips, but without the vinegar. On the other hand, the barbacoa brisket tacos (\$8) give Mia's a run for the money: rich, fatty and beautifully smoked ... but, alas, not finished with cheese or an avocado slice, which would have made them damn near perfect.

Desserts (\$6) are worth saving room for. The cinco leches cake is impossibly fluffy, with a rich caramel flavor the farther down you go, as the



**LET THEM EAT CAKE** | The flan at Mr. Mesero comes layered atop a moist chocolate cake, while the cinco leches is light enough to fly off the plate.

edges of the cake absorb cream like Oprah at a dairy. The chocolate flan is unusual: A rich but airy cake topped with a medallion of caramel-and-nut-covered flan. Honestly, it's almost too much. But only almost.

There are some "American" dishes on the menu (burgers, a shrimp salad), but frankly, I've never even thought about ordering them. Mr. Mesero is where a friend from Monterrey asks to go when we get a bite out. If a Mexican and a Texan can easily agree on a restaurant, you don't mess with it. ■

## TASTING NOTES

With each new menu — and he does a full overhaul at least three times a year — **Andre Natera**, exec chef at **Pyramid** inside the Fairmont Hotel, shows more polish. He's in the season of his default skills with fall, serving up the kind of warm, autumnal dishes that breed feelings of hominess and comfort, which is not a bad thing if you're staying at a hotel. The new menu, launched less than two weeks ago, has no weak spots — not in the delicious duck two ways (pictured below), where fatty medallions of breast and a confit ravioli dance atop a bed of lentils, nor in miso-glazed foie gras, punctuated by sweet dabs of apple gelee. Natera's style is simple but not simplistic — it is approachable while still being inventive. (He's ably aided by a dessert menu that's worth a visit on its own.)

Restaurants inside hotels often have trouble generating traffic among locals; Pyramid is one that warrants a visit, even if you return home to your own bed at night.

While **Five Sixty** is technically attached to the Hyatt, its position at the top of **Reunion Tower** — and its provenance as a creation of **Wolfgang Puck** — imbue it with an added cache. That didn't help, though, when the Asian-theme resto attempted an American-style brunch a while back.



Consider, then, the dim sum offering, which starts this Sunday, Brunch 2.0. Here; bacon and eggs (pictured above) take the form of a thick slab of pork marinated in a duck-fat confit, crowned with sunny-side-up quail eggs. There are other, familiar items on the menu, such as the fried "purses" of lobster-shrimp spring rolls, but with 23 items to choose from, don't feel you have to limit yourself. There are enough options here for a typical gay brunch with a very atypical profile.

— A.W.J.

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## Saturday 10.06

### 'Green' jewelry gets one-of-a-kind treatment at Union Jack

Christian Colbert got interested in found art when he got rid of his car and started walking — he discovered many items on the ground that looked impressive. With his artist's eye, Colbert started Vagabond Jewels, a collection of pieces he has transformed into necklaces, rings, bracelets and other wearable art, usually decorated with crystals and Dia de los Muertos skulls. Colbert will be signing and talking about his pieces at Union Jack Saturday, and one lucky customer can even win a \$300 piece!

**DEETS:** Union Jack, 3920 Cedar Springs Road. 1–4 p.m. UnionJackDallas.com.

## Saturday 10.06

### Big Bad Gina celebrates Fort Worth Pride with concert

Fort Worth Pride is this weekend, and in addition to the parade and picnic, you can show your Pride with music. The lesbian group Big Bad Gina closes out Saturday's festivities with a concert that's sure to be full of attitude.

**DEETS:** Orchestra Hall, 4401 Trail Lake Drive. 8 p.m.



## Thursday 10.11

### Lesbian duo Tegan and Sara at Annette Strauss Square

Canadian-born Tegan and Sara Quin have been cult favorites ever since they first grabbed attention as 15-year-olds, eventually becoming favorites of Neil Young and appearing on Letterman. It's no reason they have gotten headlines: They are sisters, they are twins, they are both lesbian ... oh and they make really good music. The duo returns to Dallas for an outdoor concert on Thursday, with Speak opening.

**DEETS:** Annette Strauss Square at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. \$35. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.



Our purpose is to provide mature gay and bisexual men, and their admirers, with opportunities to come together in a supportive atmosphere to enjoy social, educational, and recreational activities.

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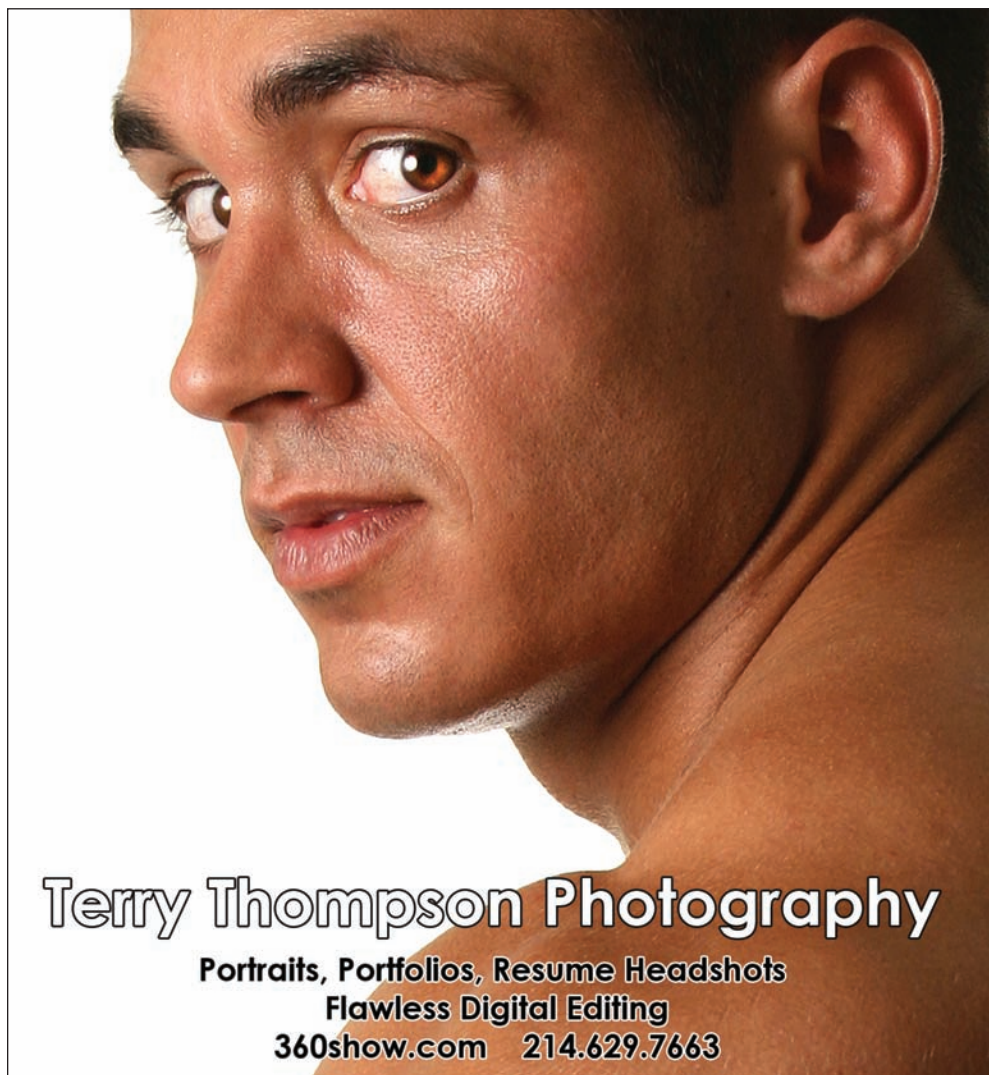
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## calendar



**KIDS THESE DAYS** | WingSpan Theatre, which specializes in theater form by and about women, kicks off its 15th season with 'Children' by A.R. Gurney at the Bath House. (Photo courtesy Lowell Sargeant)

### FRIDAY 10.05

#### 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.

**Children.** WinSpan Theatre Co. opens its 15th season with this play written by A.R. Gurney, set off the coast of New England over July 4, 1970. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 Lawther Drive. Oct. 5-20. WingSpanTheatre.com. 213-675-6573.

**Becky Shaw.** A comedy presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Final weekend (through Saturday). KitchenDogTheater.org.

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

**The Addams Family.** A musical adaptation of the campy '60s sitcom is the State Fair musical. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Reviewed in this issue. Through Oct. 21. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**The Mystery of Irma Vep, a Penny Dreadful,** a satire by Charles Ludlam. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Reviewed in this issue. 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. Final weekend (through Saturday). 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.

#### COMMUNITY

**Mr. Hidden Door.** The first night of the event crowning a new leatherman for 2013 — a position that is a direct preliminary to Mr. Texas Leather. Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. Oct. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.

**Unwired Dallas.** Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) for those wishing to quit using crystal meth meets

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

**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.

**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 10.06

#### FINE ART

##### Cottonwood Art Festival.

The annual expo of painting, sculpture and more from local artists opens for a weekend of art, food and entertainment. 1321 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson. Oct. 6-7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m (6 p.m. Sunday). CottonwoodArtFestival.com.



#### PRIDE

**Dallas Her Pride.** Part of the DFW Pride Movement, this lesbian-specific event for women of color will address empowerment issues in the community. Dallas Marriott City Center, 600 N. Pearl St. Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, write info@DallasHerPride.com.

#### COMMUNITY

**Mr. Hidden Door.** Gabe Sims steps down and crowns the new Mr. Hidden Door. Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

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

**Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club.** Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games from sci-fi to fantasy. Half Price Books Community Room,

5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3-6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

**BROADCAST**

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. Judge Tina Yoo is the guest as the show moves to its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

**SUNDAY 10.07**

**COMMUNITY**

**Expressions,** a free gender support group for men and women led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

**Cowtown Leathermen** cookout. Best Friends Club, 2620 East Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

**MONDAY 10.08**

**COMMUNITY**

**Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County.** Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 5228 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

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

**BROADCAST**

**Partners,** the new gay-straight sitcom from the creators of *Will & Grace*, starring North Texas' Michael Urie. Ch. 11 at 8:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY 10.09**

**THEATER**

**Oral Fixation: The Best of Season 1.** The storytelling series returns for a second season with an edition that highlights some of the best personal confessions from last year. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**COMMUNITY**

**Late Bloomers,** social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

**BROADCAST**

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

**WEDNESDAY 10.10**

**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.

**COMMUNITY**

**Cathedral Business Network** second Wednesday meeting. Location to be determined. 11:30 a.m. Contact Anity Haddy at Cathedral of Hope for more information. 214-351-1901. CathedralOfHope.com.

**American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter.** Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m.

**American Veterans for Equal Rights Lone Star Veterans Chapter.** BLGT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCPres@aol.com.

**THURSDAY 10.11**

**COMMUNITY**

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**PFLAG Dallas.** Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-777PFLAG.

**CONCERTS**

**Tegan and Sara** perform, with Speak opening. Annette Strauss Square at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

**this week's solution**

S	A	R	C	A	S	M		C	O	M	P	A	R	E
E	L	E	A	N	O	R		A	R	A	L	S	E	A
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**



**Stephen Moyer** turns 43 on Thursday. The British-born actor plays a 200-year-old bisexual vampire on the sexy HBO series *True Blood*. In 2010, he married his co-star, Anna Paquin, who has herself admitted to being bisexual.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

The solution to your relationship problems is not in the bedroom. There are other kinds of creative play that can help you understand each other better. What? That's the creative part.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Your mouth is liable to get you into trouble, especially at work. Keep your mind away from low amusements and gossip. If you can't say anything nice, learn to say it in a different language.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

You may chafe at authority, but take the long view and see how you can use to your advantage. Fun-loving friends who urge you to do crazy things are more than fun-loving and less than friends.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Don't beat yourself up for trouble with friends. You can work on solutions, find better friends or prefer quality to quantity. Perspectives. Be willing to give in order to get.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Don't let new responsibilities tempt you to spending sprees, or into taking yourself too seriously! Someone who sees you naked on a regular basis will help you keep things in proportion.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

The strength of your roots and history shouldn't protect you from challenges, but help you adapt to them. When you're juggling too much take time out to meditate. Reach out to friends.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

If you get it into your head to try something new at work, consult with someone first. It will help you look like a better team player and could save you trouble. They might even improve your idea.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Looking creatively at ideas can wake up some inner demons. Your partner will help you dispel those old monsters, but it may take a lot of discussion. Discuss your fears, but also your hopes.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Check into your family health history. Some community work can help you find new purpose in your life and make connections. If you're already there, work on better connections.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Worrying about your position in your family can make you sick. Don't worry — if feeling neglected, remember the phone works both ways. Focus on work, pace yourself, breathe, relax.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Your playful impulses can be too enthusiastic and misunderstood. Think before speaking. The planets are conspiring to make a great fool of you. You can handle that, but stay alert.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Your partner needs a good listener now — not just conversationally, but on other levels. That could lead to novel fun in the bedroom, but be very aware of safety issues that might come up.

**THIS WEEK**

Venus in Virgo and Mercury in Scorpio are in a long sextile now aspecting Pluto and Uranus, bringing shrewd insight to social and political problems. Pay close attention to the details of how things work if you really want to change them.

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

**OUR TABLE AIN'T GONNA BE READY FOR A HALF HOUR.**

**WHY DON'T WE TAKE A WALK AROUND THE PARK?**

**SOUNDS GOOD. Y'ALL DO GET SOME PRETTY FALL COLORS UP HERE.**

**I HAVE TO SAY...**

**...I'M SURPRISED YOU CHOSE A FRENCH RESTAURANT.**

**WHY? YA' THOUGHT I WAS GONNA TAKE YA' TO A RIB JOINT? OR KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN?**

**SOMETHING LIKE THAT.**

**WELL, I WOULDN'T WANNA LIVE UP TO ALL THE STEREOTYPES OF SOUTHERN GUYS YA' GOT SWIRLIN' AROUND IN THAT NEW YORK BRAIN OF YOURS.**

**ALL RIGHT, FIRST OF ALL... I'M NOT A NATIVE NEW YORKER.**

**I'M FROM CHICAGO, ORIGINALLY.**

**I BEEN THROUGH THERE A FEW TIMES.**

**AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO LONG ISLAND?**

**THOUGHT IT'D BE INTERESTING TO TRY LIVIN' IN THE NORTHEAST FOR A WHILE.**

**I'M A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER, SO...**

**...THERE'S JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ME PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.**

**REALLY, ANDREW? EVEN IN THIS POOR ECONOMY?**

**FOLKS FIND IT KINDA HARD NOT TO HIRE A GUY LIKE ME.**

**AND I THOUGHT I WAS SELF-ASSURED.**

**BY THE WAY, MY NAME AIN'T "ANDREW". IT'S JUST DREW. READS THAT WAY ON MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE.**

**OH, YEAH? IS HE AS SEXY AS ME?**

**HE CERTAINLY ISN'T AS FULL OF HIMSELF.**

**IT'S JUST PART OF MY CHARM.**

**THAT'S HIGHLY DEBATABLE...**

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**bitter girl**

**HER NEW GIRL-FRIEND HAS A PROFILE ON SNATCH.COM??**

**YES! GO LOOK AT IT RIGHT NOW!**

**NO WAY! IF I VIEW IT, SHE'LL SEE WHO'S VIEWED IT, AND VIEW MY PROFILE!**

**OH, WELL, I GUESS I'LL VIEW IT AND TELL YOU THE...**

**NO, NO, NO!! IF YOU VIEW IT, SHE'LL VIEW YOUR PAGE AND VIEW YOUR LINK TO ME!**

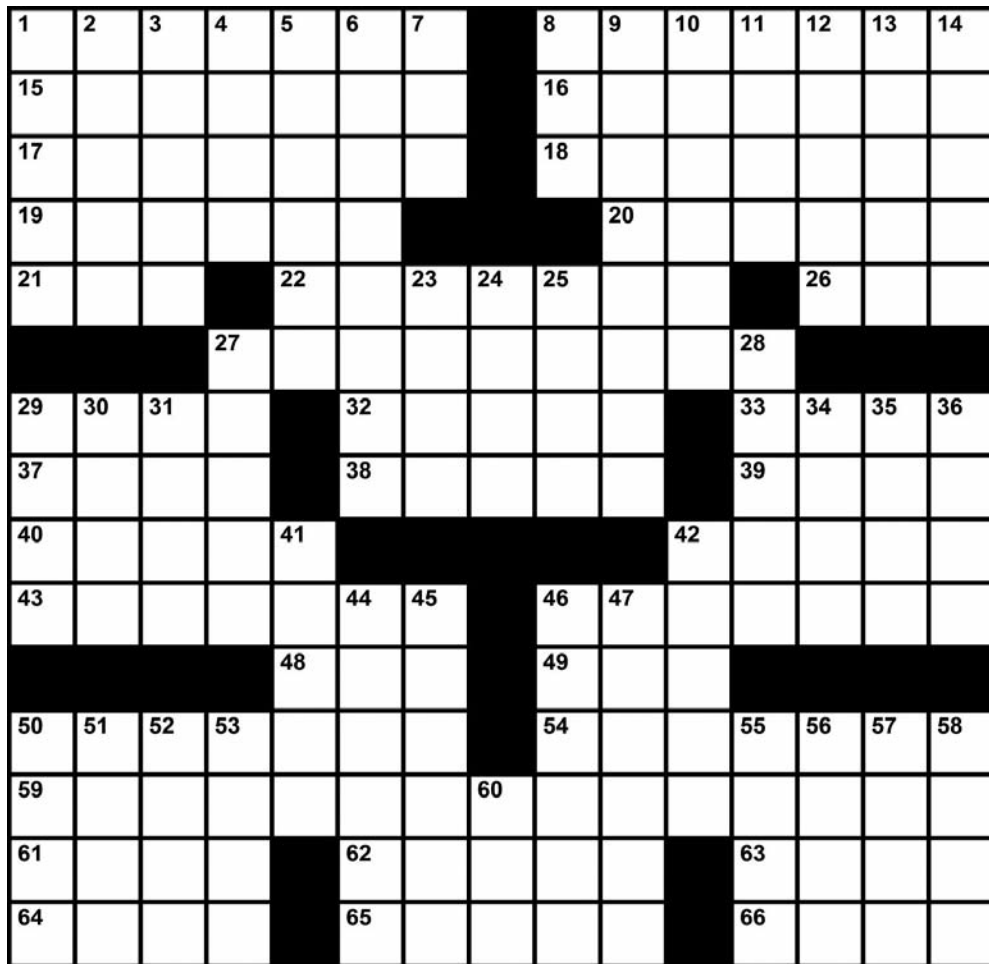
**PATSY!!!**

**SO SOMEHOW IT'S LESS RISKY TO RUN INTO THEM AT PRIDE?**

**THAT'S MY VIEW.**

*email: joan@joanhilty.net www.joanhilty.net*





# Easy as ABC

Solution on page 39

**Across**

- 1 Margaret Cho's comedy, often
- 8 Match penile lengths, e.g.
- 15 Blanche Wiesen Cook subject
- 16 It could leave a salty taste in your mouth
- 17 Lists of tasks
- 18 Record of a meeting
- 19 With 20-Across, ABC's Best Comedy Emmy winner
- 20 See 19-Across
- 21 Cunning
- 22 Added just under the wire
- 26 Top-secret org.
- 27 St. Peter's et al.
- 29 Go lickety-split
- 32 Like Mary's little follower
- 33 Per person
- 37 Genesis brother
- 38 Capitol Hill prizes
- 39 Bamako's country
- 40 With 42-Across, Emmy winner for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy
- 42 See 40-Across
- 43 Bears witness
- 46 Queer, literally
- 48 Wee one

49 Shoe spec

- 50 Greg of As Good As It Gets
- 54 Symbols of Marilyn and Diana in the wind
- 59 Emmy winner for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy
- 61 Fey of 30 Rock
- 62 Give the slip to
- 63 Look up and down
- 64 Peter I, for one
- 65 Recipient of Bugs' kisses
- 66 Message at LesbianNation.com

**Down**

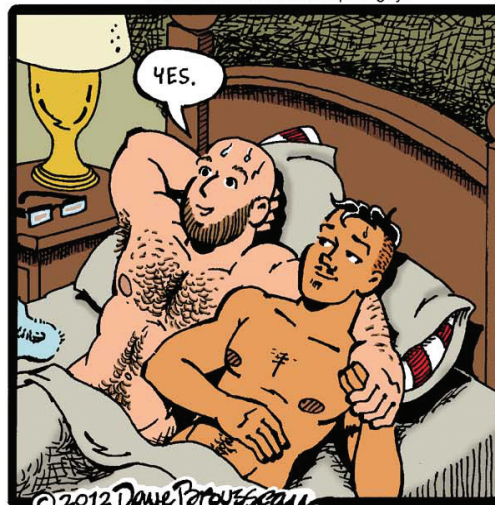
- 1 Petticoat junctions?
- 2 Star in Perseus
- 3 How saxes sound
- 4 Peppermint stick you can lick
- 5 Mitchell of NBC News
- 6 Assholes
- 7 Doubtfire's title
- 8 Rotating engine part
- 9 Openings of porno flicks
- 10 "Later!"
- 11 Juicy job for a fruit?
- 12 Husband of a Duke
- 13 Rods' partners
- 14 Cushy school course
- 23 Collapse
- 24 East of Eden director Kazan
- 25 By \_\_\_ of (owing to)
- 27 Refute
- 28 Island of Mead's research
- 29 Indian head
- 30 Go up against
- 31 Boston cager, for short
- 34 Man who can become a queen
- 35 He did Jackie's clothes
- 36 Six Feet Under box material
- 41 Rob on the screen
- 42 Sportscaster Musburger
- 44 Where Patty Sheehan takes her driver?
- 45 Boardwalk diversion
- 46 Withdraw in a "stately" way
- 47 Prick stimulator
- 50 "Etta \_\_\_" (old comic strip)
- 51 The Unicorn author Murdoch
- 52 Lesbian porn star Hartley
- 53 Tenn. neighbor
- 55 Go down
- 56 Blocks off the toy aisle
- 57 Phallic swimmers
- 58 Keep in
- 60 \_\_\_ Lock



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Guys' night out at Club Reflection.

Lots of events going on around Dallas and Fort Worth all weekend, and cooler weather should bring crowds out through Sunday. **Dallas Black Pride**, which includes parties and workshops, and **LifeWalk** take place in Dallas. **The Tarrant Pride parade and festival** take place in Fort Worth on Oct. 6 and the **Pride picnic** takes place on Oct. 7 from noon to 6 p.m. ... On Oct. 5, **The Elm & Pearl** and **The Brick** are the official clubs of Black Pride's **Him4Him**. On Oct. 6, **The Block Party — Southern Hospitality** takes place at **The Elm & Pearl** from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The **Official After Party** begins at 2 a.m. and continues until 5 a.m. at **Club Babylon**. The close out parties on Oct. 7 are at **Havana** and **The Brick**. ... Fort Worth Pride has been taking place all week at **The Rainbow Lounge** and continues through the weekend. ... **Best Friends Club** held the official kick-off party. ... **Wanda** returns to the **Rose Room** for her annual **Southern Pride Show** at 11 p.m. on Oct. 7. ... Starting this month, **Sue Ellen's** shows are on the main floor. **Lilith Grey** and **Mustache Envy** open on Oct. 5 for some wicked tricks and treats. ... Win **Madonna** tickets at **JR's Bar & Grill** on Oct. 10 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. ... The **Dallas Chapter** of the **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** holds its meeting at the **Round-Up Saloon** on Oct. 7 at 1:30 p.m. ... **Randy's Club Cherries** in Dallas has Tarrant Pride T-shirts available. ... **Anton Shaw** and **Buddy Shanahan** perform at **Alexandre's** on Oct. 10 from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. ... Gay hypnotists come together at **Dallas Eagle** on Oct. 5 at 9 p.m. for **Hypnocon**, a group of gay hypnotists and subjects that come together once a year in different cities to discuss and practice hypnosis for fun and erotic purposes. ... Happy Tarrant and Dallas Black Pride!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Brad and Craig at 1851 Club.



Dancers at the Rainbow Lounge.



Steve and John at Station 4.



Ross and Rob at Best Friends Club.



Jason, Tony and Arthur at BJ's NXS!



Clint and Darren at the Round-Up Saloon.

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"The Real L Word"



**Saturday Nov. 10**

with Queen Caveat



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[sueellensdallas.com](http://sueellensdallas.com)

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Cohabitation of same-sex couples has yet to be recognized by America's court system except in a few states that have legalized gay marriage. Therefore, guidelines for the dissolution of property between same sex couples is critical, and must be determined before the sickness or death of either person.

There are a few options to ensure your partner is allowed to inherit the home you have shared.

### Joint tenancy.

One way to ensure that your home stays with your partner would be to take title to the property as "joint tenants". This would ensure upon either person's death, the property legally would belong, 100 percent to the remaining partner.

### Tenants in common.

A second option would be to take title together as "tenants in common," which allows the legal will of the deceased to determine how his/her share of the assets including the house are distributed. Either of these options is relatively simple and can be accomplished quite reasonably with your attorney, or gay real estate professional.

### Testamentary documents.

Another excellent way to ensure your home goes to your partner is to have a will. A will is a simple legal document that is drawn up by a lawyer or yourself, at places like LegalZoom.com, naming someone - in this case, your partner - as the person to manage your estate upon your death, outlining your specific desires in reference to all aspects of your estate.

Couples may have children and even family members who believe it is their right to inherit your home. If you find it necessary, and helpful, you may sit down with your family and next of kin. Discuss the issues that have been faced because you are not allowed to get married. Advanced lines of communication throughout your relationship will deter the fighting and bickering that can occur when no one is sure how you wanted your things to be handled. It is natural for your parents and siblings to believe you would want all of your property to be inherited by them, if they don't understand your relationship and commitment. Discussing your wishes beforehand can eliminate issues later on — but always ensure any of these conversations are preceded with the proper legal documentation. Unless you have specific legal documents in place upon your or your partner's death, state laws generally hand over financial decision-making and inheritance to blood relatives rather than domestic partners.

### Estate and tax planning.

In a "traditional" marriage the surviving wife or husband inherits all of the couple's assets without incurring any tax penalty. But with the LGBT community, your partner will pay taxes on any inheritance over the federal exemption — check with your CPA for specific details. Always check with a gay/gay friendly lawyer to ensure the laws in your city, state and county follow the general guidelines given above before proceeding on any course of action.

— Jeff Hammerberg

Jeff Hammerberg is the founding CEO of GayRealEstate.com, offering free, instant access to the nation's top gay, gay-friendly Realtors in every city coast-to-coast.



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