

DTC hits the mat with 'Chad Deity'

Play about professional wrestling examines hip-hop culture

For UT grad Corey Jones, demanding play changed his body — and his mind about the homoerotic sport's athletes

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Established 1984 | Volume 29 | Issue 24

FREE | Friday, October 26, 2012

Gay Ghouls

Queer actors find acceptance — and often romance — working at local haunted attractions, not to mention the thrills they get from terrifying you

■ COVER STORY, Page 22

PLUS: The Cedar Springs Halloween Street Party is getting scary-big; and a look at some of the latest thrills and chills on DVD



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Republican state senator from Dallas backs pro-equality bills

In a rare if not unprecedented move for a Republican state legislator in Texas, Dallas Sen. John Carona expressed support for three key pieces of pro-equality legislation on Monday, Oct. 22.

Carona told Instant Tea he would support bills in Texas to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment; offer domestic partner benefits to state university employees; and allow same-sex adoptive parents to have both names on birth certificates.

All three measures are expected to be priorities for Equality Texas, the statewide LGBT equality group, in the upcoming legislative session.

Carona also said he is "evolving" on same-sex marriage but added that he's "not there yet."

"I'm very undecided on the issue and I struggle with it," Carona said of marriage equality. "I think the whole country is evolving, and I know for a fact that our young people are evolving including young Republicans."

"I can't say that I'm there yet, that would be dishonest, but I can say that it's a question that I find myself asking myself over and over," Carona added. "What is the most conservative approach? Well, I'm always told less government, not more government, is better. What is the right thing? Well, I think anything that advances, encourages monogamy is a good thing. And frankly how could you be against people who want to get their affairs in order and have a loving household? So, yeah, I'm evolving, but admittedly I'm not there yet, nor do I believe the district is there yet, but times change and things may change."

Carona made the comments in an exclusive interview with Instant Tea at the monthly meeting of Metroplex Republicans Dallas, where he was the featured speaker, at Mattito's in Uptown on Monday night. Carona said although he has met with gay Republican groups like Metroplex many times over the years, his voting record has not always been supportive of the LGBT community because he also strives to represent the views of his conservative constituency in Senate District 12 in North Dallas.

But Carona also noted that during his 22 years in the Legislature — six as a state representative and the last 16 as a senator — he's been an independent voice who is not afraid to go against the Republican establishment. He said while much of the

focus seems to be on same-sex marriage and civil unions, he feels there are other issues where he can agree with the LGBT community.

"I don't, for example, support any kind of discrimination in the workplace and in my own business, I employ a significant number of individuals who by their own admission and disclosure are gay, and that has no bearing in my view on their eligibility for hire or the recognition that we give them," Carona said.

Asked whether he would back a statewide ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination, Carona said, "I would support that, and not only would I support it, but I already practice it in my own business."

But Carona, who chairs the Senate Business and Finance Committee, stopped short of committing to carry the legislation in the Senate.

"I'm not sure I'd be prepared to sponsor it, but if it made it's way to the Senate, I'd be prepared to vote in favor of it," Carona said. "I reflect that policy in my business. We hire people based on qualification. It has nothing to do with their sexual preference."

Carona is the founder and CEO of Associations Inc., or Associa, a large national holding company for HOA management companies. He said his business, which has 8,000 employees across the U.S., offers domestic partner benefits in several states but not currently in Texas due to cost. But he said he would support offering the benefits in the University of Texas and Texas A&M University systems.

"I support domestic partnership benefits," Carona said.

Carona also said he would vote in favor of a bill to allow same-sex adoptive parents to have accurate birth certificates. Current Texas law says birth certificates must contain the names of one male and one female. Carona noted that he's the father of two adopted children, in addition to three biological children.

"I understand how important it is that children be adopted, and I think that the argument that a child is somehow better off in foster care or the state's custody as opposed to having two loving parents, even if those two loving parents are of the same sex, is a wrongheaded argument, and I think kids need a loving home regardless of what the sexual orientation might be of the individuals involved," Carona said.

Carona is unopposed in the Nov. 6 election.

— John Wright

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'She was a friend to everybody'

Boyfriend Jonathan Stuart Kenney held in murder of trans woman Janette Tovar of Dallas, who was known for her vibrant personality

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Friends, family members — and seemingly everyone who came into contact with Janette Tovar — will forever remember her vibrant personality and infectious smile.

Tovar died Oct. 15 after she and her boyfriend Jonathan Stuart Kenney fought. She was 43.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office ruled her death a homicide, with the cause of death listed as blunt force trauma to the head. Kenney was later arrested in connection with her murder. As of press time, Kenney remained in the Dallas County jail in lieu of a \$500,000 bond.

Kenney, 26, who police listed as Tovar's life partner, allegedly committed murder Monday morning at 6:20 a.m. when he slammed Tovar's head into the concrete in the 830 block of W. Davis Street. He then continued to assault her when they returned home at 918 W. Eighth Street.

Police responded to a 911 call after Kenney found her "not breathing and unresponsive" later that day and administered CPR. The apartment manager told police he heard the couple fighting that morning and said he often heard them fighting since he lives beneath their apartment.

Marisa Anguiano, Tovar's cousin, said she and Tovar, a bar promoter, were inseparable for the last two decades, seeing each other at least twice a week for drinks, laughs and good times at The Grapevine Bar on Maple Avenue, one of Tovar's favorite hangouts.

"She always had a smile on her face. She was always positive," she said.

Anguiano said Tovar's presence lit up any room she entered, adding while laughing that Tovar had a signature hair flip followed by the phrases "Hey, mama!" or "I got you, girl!"

Police reports initially listed Tovar by her legal name of Jesus instead of Janette.

Detective Laura Martin, DPD's LGBT liaison, said police didn't know she was transgender because the case was treated like any other homicide and listed only Tovar's legal name.

Tovar came out as transgender about two decades ago, Anguiano said. She said Tovar's large family was supportive of the beautiful and passionate woman she was.

"There was not a person in the family who didn't love her and accept her for who she was," she said. "She was like a mother, a sister, a confidant to so many people."

Tovar and Kenney had been dating for about a



Janette Tovar

year and a half and moved in together a few months ago, Anguiano said. While Tovar had some troubled relationships in the past, Kenney was different, she said.

"They were so much in love. There was not a fault to be found," she said. "They were the couple that everyone wanted to be."

Although Kenney was known for becoming belligerent occasionally, Anguiano said there were never any signs of abuse until the Sunday evening before Tovar died. Kenney drank more than usual and the two fought at the Grapevine.

Tovar ended up leaving with friends but later took a cab home, telling friends if they didn't hear from her that she was probably dead.

Anguiano said that side of the story is important because Tovar's death was tragic and untimely. She said she wished she knew about the abuse before she lost her beloved cousin.

Tovar's longtime friend Freddy Alvarado grew

up with Tovar in East Dallas, meeting her at 16.

"We practically raised each other," he said. "We helped each other come out."

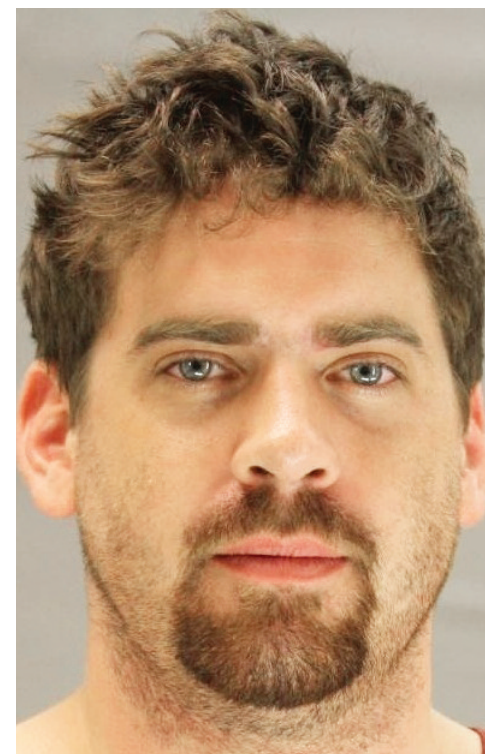
Alvarado moved to Florida a few years ago, but said he met Kenney during a visit in May. He said that while he'd heard rumors about abuse, the reality of it was hard to believe after seeing the couple together.

"He was like prince charming," he said. "He was a gentleman."

Alvarado said he hopes Tovar's death brings awareness to abuse against the trans community and to domestic abuse.

"We don't want this to be brushed under the rug," he said. "People need to know that there's still abuse out there no matter if you're a man or a woman."

Joe Cantu met Tovar when they were both teenagers. He said she was very social from the day they met, leading to many adventures in the



Jonathan Kenney

decades they were friends.

Cantu was out of town when the news of Tovar's death reached him, but he said he still can't come to terms that she's gone and still expects her to call him up for a laugh.

"She was just full of life," Cantu said. "I remember her laughter, her willingness to help anyone out when she could, her warm personality and her giving nature. She loved people and everyone loved her."

Wayne Akard is one of the many people who met Tovar at the Grapevine, meeting her about 13 years ago while working on the bar's remodeling projects.

He said everyone who met her at the bar cared for her because of her kindness and humor. He said he would remember her going around the bar picking up glasses to help out just because she wanted to.

"She saw it needed to be done and she'd do it," he said. "She was nice to everybody. She was a friend to everybody."

Akard attended a candlelight vigil on Thursday, Oct. 18, at the bar in honor of Tovar. He said about 200 people showed up to pray and remember the woman that was so dear to them.

Tovar is survived by her parents, four brothers and a sister. A service for friends and family will be held in the future but had not yet been scheduled.

Tovar's family created the Facebook page "In Loving Memory of Janette Tovar" as an outlet to share photos and memories. ■

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localbriefs

Bravo star to emcee B4 Black

Madison Hildebrand from the Bravo TV series *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles* will emcee the 2012 Black Tie Dinner B4 Black Silent Auction Preview Party.

B4 Black will be 8-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 N. Olive St.

The B4 Black Silent Auction Preview Party has been held the Friday before Black Tie Dinner for the past five years and is open to the public. The party provides a preview of the silent auction floor and begins the bidding process.

At B4 Black, raffle tickets will be available for a 2013 Mercedes-Benz C250 Coupe. The winning ticket will be pulled on the night of the dinner. In addition, more than 30 unique travel packages will be auctioned off Friday night.

Hildebrand is one of California's most sought-after real estate agents. He skyrocketed in Malibu's fiercely competitive real estate market by selling more than \$120 million in property before the age of 30.

Hildebrand is consistently named one of the top producing agents in the nation. He has won numerous industry awards and sold properties in all ranges — even in excess of \$20 million.

Come OUT and Vote on Saturday

The Texas Democratic Party and Texas Stonewall Democrats have named Saturday, Oct.



Madison Hildebrand

27, LGBT and Ally Vote Day.

Early voting in Dallas and Tarrant counties is 7 a.m.–7 p.m. on Oct. 27. For additional voter information including a list of early voting locations, check the new Dallas County website DallasCountyVotes.org.

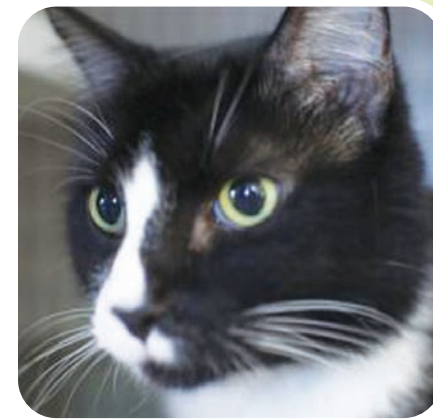
For Fort Worth and Tarrant County, go to TarrantCounty.com/evote.

Collin County voter information is at www.co.collin.tx.us/elections.

Denton County information may be found at Elections.DentonCounty.com. ■

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



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Baylor scraps all family memberships to avoid recognizing gay couples

Health Care System, one of area's largest employers, found in violation of city of Dallas' sexual orientation nondiscrimination ordinance

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

To avoid recognizing same-sex couples, the Baylor Health Care System has opted to eliminate all family memberships at its Tom Landry Fitness Center in Dallas, according to the city attorney's office.

Alan Rodriguez filed a discrimination complaint with the city of Dallas in February 2011 after he and his partner were refused a family membership at the East Dallas gym because they are gay.

The city has now closed the case after finding Baylor guilty of discrimination, and the gym has stopped issuing family memberships, said Melissa Miles, an assistant city attorney who handles discrimination complaints.

Miles' statements came after another city official initially said last week that the complaint was still pending despite Baylor's decision to end family memberships.

A decade-old city ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The gym, owned by Baylor Health Care System, claimed it was a private religious organization and not a public accommodation. Baylor Health Care System is among North Texas' largest



Melissa Miles

employers, with 19,736 employees during the 2011 fiscal year, according to its website.

Miles, who personally reviews every case before the city attorney's office renders a decision, said members of her office met with Baylor representatives, and they agreed to stop offering family memberships effective Oct. 1.

"We made the determination that they were in violation of the ordinance," she said. "A short time later, they announced plans to eliminate all family memberships."

She said the decision will prevent discrimination from occurring in the future and therefore the case won't proceed to court, where Baylor could

■ BAYLOR, Page 16

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Cantrell, Dickey object to DP benefits

GOP commissioners speak out against Dallas County's plan to offer insurance to unmarried partners of employees; vote expected Tuesday

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County's plan to offer health benefits to the unmarried domestic partners of employees is close to becoming a reality after a months-long effort.

The Commissioners Court was briefed on the plan Tuesday, Oct. 23, and is expected to vote Tuesday, Oct. 30.

The plan is the result of the efforts of County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Elba Garcia, both Democrats.

They'd hoped to offer the benefits through the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative, a multi-county partner agency, but other members would not allow it.

Under the proposed plan, county employees would be eligible for a subsidy if they have opposite- or same-sex domestic partners who do not have insurance through other means. The subsidy



TOUTING THE BENEFITS | LGBT activist Omar Narvaez, left, addresses the Dallas County Commissioners Court, including Republican Commissioners Mike Cantrell and Maurine Dickey, on Tuesday, Oct. 23. Cantrell and Dickey spoke out against a plan to offer benefits to the unmarried partners of gay and straight county employees. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)



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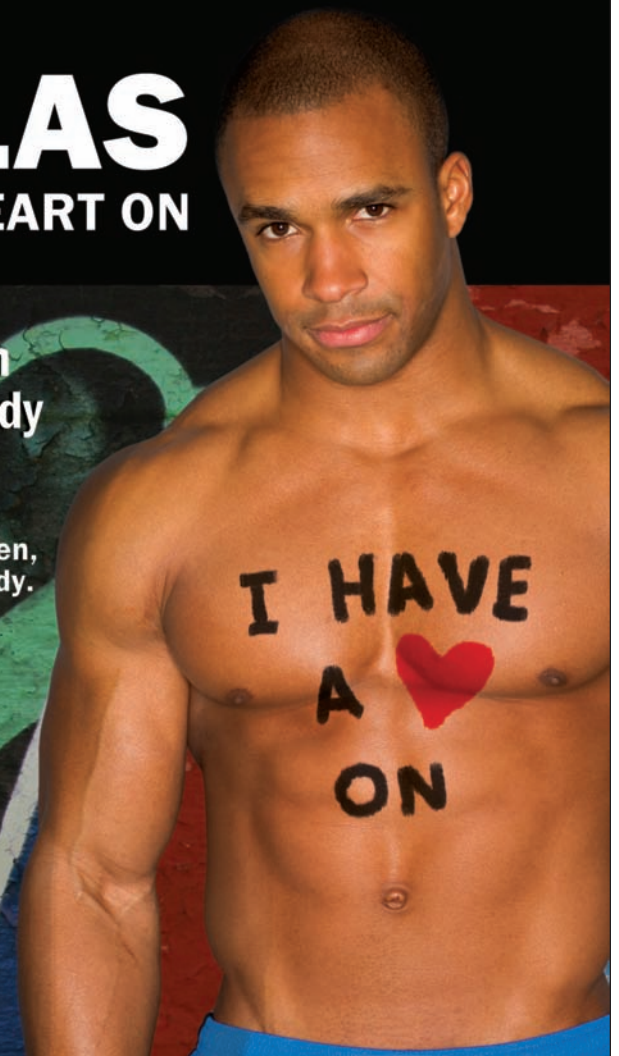
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would be equal to the amount the county contributes to an employee's health insurance.

Those who enroll would have to sign a domestic partner affidavit, and provide two forms of proof that they have lived together for six months, such as a lease agreement or joint bank accounts. Other requirements mandate that partners must be at least 18 and not be married.

The official projected cost is under \$100,000 per year — though based on the experiences of other government entities including Parkland hospital, the actual price tag is likely to be only a fraction of that amount.

If the Commissioners Court approves the plan, Dallas County will be the third county in Texas to offer DP benefits after Travis County and El Paso County.

Republican commissioners Mike Cantrell and Maurine Dickey both expressed opposition to the plan this week, arguing that neither Texas nor the federal government recognizes domestic partners.

Cantrell accused the plan of being "merely a political agenda that's being pushed by those seeking favor with a certain group of voters."

Jenkins, who along with Garcia and Commissioner John Wiley Price have said they support the plan, said offering DP benefits is anything but political.

"This is not about pulling favor. It's not about making a constitutional challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act," Jenkins said. "It's not about any-

thing but trying to promote the very best work place that we can promote for our employees, trying to retain good employees, trying to attract good employees, and taking care of those 6,000 people who work for Dallas County. That's all this is about."

Dickey called the plan "a poorly thought out policy."

"I think that we are circumventing the law by passing a policy which is contrary to the Defense of Marriage Act," she said.

Dickey voted in favor of adding sexual orientation to the county's nondiscrimination policy last year, but later voted against adding transgender protections.

Dickey and her husband own Dickey's Barbecue restaurants, a franchised chain of 130 restaurants in seven states.

Garcia voiced support for the plan in order to continue the work the court began last year by making the county's nondiscrimination policy fully inclusive.

"In my view, we're simply catching up," Garcia said. "We're catching up to the times. We're catching up to the rest of the world. And for me, offering domestic partner benefits we'll stay competitive and we stay healthy as well in the private sector."

Omar Narvaez was among several LGBT activists who spoke in favor of the benefits during the Commissioners Court's meeting. Narvaez said

he was approached by the county about a job a few years ago, but he turned down the offer because he couldn't put his partner on his insurance.

He praised the court for adding trans protections to the county's nondiscrimination policy last year, making it the only county in the state to have a fully LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policy, and encouraged commissioners to make the county the only one in the state with both an inclusive nondiscrimination policy and DP benefits.

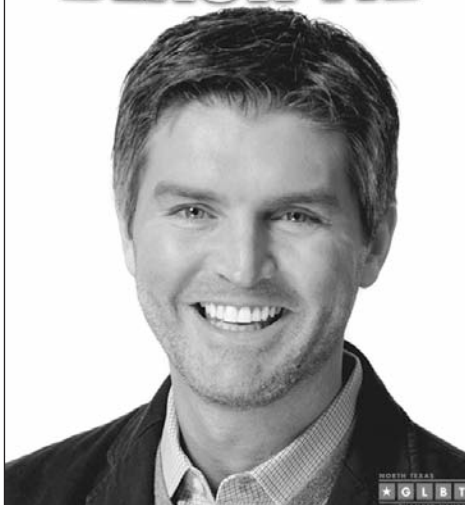
"The two Republicans were using DOMA as an excuse for not offering domestic partner benefits," Narvaez said, adding that several federal appeals courts have declared DOMA unconstitutional. "Many municipalities in Texas are covering domestic partners. It's not something that's illegal. It's about equality and fairness. ... It's not the perfect solution, but it's something."

Rafael McDonnell with Resource Center Dallas provided research to commissioners about cities and counties across the country that offered DP benefits. He said he felt good about the plan, though he was disappointed in the commissioners who made it a political issue.

"Equality should be bipartisan," he said. "I like that the commissioners are supporting equality and see that this is a case where they're doing the right thing, not only in thoughts and words but also putting money behind it." ■

For coverage of next Tuesday's expected vote, visit DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea.

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The board members of BearDance Inc., formerly known as the Big D BearDance, donate the proceeds of their BearDance T at the MC event to Hannah Orsburn, development associate at AIDS Arms, on Wednesday, Oct. 24. "Every penny counts," Orsburn said at the meeting. The event was held at TMC: The Mining Company on Sept. 16 during Dallas Pride. (Photo by Rich Lopez)

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■ texasnews

Betty Moore, iconic lesbian bartender in Dallas, dies at 83

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Longtime Buddies II bartender Betty Moore passed away on Oct. 22, three days after her 83rd birthday.

Moore worked at Buddies for about 28 years. After the bar closed in 2009, she moved across Maple Avenue to Cherries, working there until she suffered a stroke this summer.

Before Buddies II closed three years ago, it was the oldest continuously operating lesbian bar in the country, and Moore may have held the record for the bartender who worked the longest at the same lesbian bar. Without a doubt, she held a Dallas record. Moore's friends this week remembered her as an icon in the community. One described her as "crusty."

"She was well loved," said Dedra Pfarrdrescher. "She could cuss you out in a heartbeat, but she loved her patrons and friends and had a big heart."

Daphne Derden, a former manager at Buddies, said the more Moore cussed, the more it meant she loved you.

"The shift would change and Betty would stay for her two drinks," Derden said. "The day crowd would leave when Betty left."



Betty Moore

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“She could cuss you out in a heartbeat, but she loved her patrons and friends and had a big heart.”

Dedra Pfarrdrescher

”

At the time Buddies closed, Moore told Dallas Voice why she stayed at the bar for so long.

“Well, I loved [owners] Dawn [Jackson] and Sandy [Myers], and I just didn’t want to do anything else or go anywhere else,” Moore said.

She said that what made Buddies so special was “the courtesy people have, the friendliness. They treat everyone the same here. I have the nicest day crowd any bartender could ask for — the nicest, and the most faithful.”

And her customers loved her so much that before the bar closed, afraid they wouldn’t see her again, Buddies regulars insisted on celebrating her 80th birthday a month early, in September.

Moore hosted a number of the club’s regular events. The Old Timers Party and the annual Texas-OU watch party were two of her favorites. Born in Oklahoma, she was a huge OU fan.

The building that housed Buddies II was demolished earlier this year to make way for a high-rise office building that will be the corporate headquarters for Omni Hotels and Gold’s Gym.

The bar had two buildings with a swimming pool and deck between them. Moore staffed the back bar during the day.

Buddies owner Myers died in August 2001. Jackson continued running the bar until 2009. At that time, developers were pushing out businesses between Oak Lawn Avenue and the Dallas North Tollway. Jackson closed the bar and went to Florida to take care of her mother who was ill.

Jackson was in Dallas last week to take care of Moore.

“Her ashes will go in the ocean with Sandy [Myers],” Jackson said.

Moore moved to Dallas in 1960 from Hugo, Okla., after her parents died. She lived in Highland Park with a wealthy aunt, Sue Fitzhugh, and in the 1960s they traveled together extensively.

She began bartending one day while dating a bartender at Jugs. Moore would show up at the bar in a dainty dress and gloves to see her girlfriend. Myers was managing.

One day, her girlfriend didn’t show up for work and Myers put Moore to work behind the bar. Moore said she didn’t know anything about mixing drinks.

Many of her customers would agree. She never really learned the names of mixed drinks. If a customer asked for something like a Tom Collins, she’d just ask if they wanted a scotch and water.

Because Moore fed all of the cats on the deck at Buddies and around her apartment, friends suggested donations in her memory be made to the SPCA.

A celebration of her life will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, at Randy’s Club Cherries, 2506 Knight St. ■

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HOLLOW VICTORY | Alan Rodriguez, right, said he's glad his complaint against the Tom Landry Fitness Center was finally resolved, but disappointed in the outcome. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

■ **BAYLOR**, From Page 9

be charged with a class-C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

"We believe that resolved the issue and we closed the file," she said.

Miles said the fitness center is expected to have all current family memberships changed over to individual memberships by the end of the year.

Since it passed in 2002, 61 complaints have been filed under the ordinance, but none have been prosecuted. Of them, 38 have been dismissed for no cause, six for lack of jurisdiction and four because the complainant was uncooperative. Six cases, including the Baylor complaint, have reached reconciliation with the city, and six have reached outside settlements. One housing complaint is open and is currently being investigated.

Baylor Health Care System sent Dallas Voice a statement this week about the outcome of the case.

"The Baylor Tom Landry Fitness Center has always welcomed a diverse membership," the statement reads. "After receiving a complaint, and after discussions with the city, we reviewed our membership rate structure and decided that we needed to stay focused on our mission of promoting the health and wellness of our members and the communities we serve. Therefore we now offer one discounted rate to everybody."

Baylor's memberships do appear to be less expensive. Prior to the change, an individual membership was \$95 and a family membership for a married couple was \$165. Now each member pays a monthly fee of \$55.

Rodriguez told Dallas Voice he hadn't been informed that his case was closed or of Baylor's decision to get rid of family memberships.

"While I'm happy the issue appears resolved, I'm also a little disappointed with the outcome," he said. "It's unfortunate Baylor decided to drop all family discounts to comply with the city's nondiscrimination ordinance. This is an unusual solution to their problem. Most health clubs in Dallas offer family discounts to both same-sex and opposite-sex families."

Rodriguez said he stopped wanting to join Tom

Landry months ago, joining another gym closer to his home that offered him and his partner a family discount. He pursued the case because he thought Baylor was in the wrong by discriminating against them, he said.

"In the end, all Dallas families are diminished by Baylor's intolerance," Rodriguez said. "Dallas as a whole is also diminished when a prominent institution like Baylor resorts to such austere measures to follow a simple city ordinance. Ironically, an ordinance designed to foster tolerance, choice and personal freedom."

Pam Gerber, a member of City Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force, said she thinks Baylor is taking the easy way out. While Gerber said the task force hadn't discussed the Baylor case, members previously reviewed 53 complaints filed through February 2011 and determined that the city's handling of the cases was appropriate.

"They can hide behind their fiscal prudence, but the reality is there's some homophobia there," Gerber said about the case's outcome.

Rob Wiley, a gay Dallas discrimination attorney, said he would have liked to see the city prosecute the case because settlements rarely please both parties. He said Baylor deciding to end family memberships wasn't surprising because they would never change a policy to be inclusive of the LGBT community.

"That's who Baylor is. They are not going to change their stance on gays and lesbians," Wiley said. "I wish the city would have had a bit more backbone and called them to task."

Wiley said he was surprised that none of the cases have been prosecuted, adding that having the ordinance provided an avenue for investigation and education because a city can only do so much without a state or federal law.

He said the city would likely prosecute a case one day that involved a company with views similar to Baylor where "part of the corporate DNA is that gays and lesbians aren't entitled to equal treatment."

"If employers like Baylor don't believe the city will take them to court, they will weasel their way out like Baylor did in this case," Wiley said. ■

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MODEL DAD | Otis Harris Sr., right, says when he found out his son Otis Jr. was HIV-positive, he thought he'd lost him. But now, Otis Sr. says, 'He's gay. He has HIV. And my choice is to accept my son regardless.'

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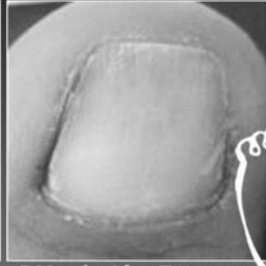
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Father-son bond proves to be Greater Than AIDS

Public service campaign featuring Dallas residents like Otis Harris Jr. stresses HIV's disproportionate impact on black community

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
 taffet@dallasvoice.com

Otis Harris Jr. said one person recognized him on a DART bus as he stood near a photo of himself in a Greater Than AIDS poster.

"Oh wow, that's him," the person said.

Another person who'd seen Harris in the ads reached out on Facebook.

"He said I inspired him to be there for his friend," Harris said.

Harris said he hopes that message gets out to many more as the "Greater Than AIDS" campaign featuring "Deciding Moments" profiles continues through December.

Dallas County Health and Human Services and Greater Than AIDS, a national nonprofit focusing on the disproportionate impact of HIV in the black community, partnered for "Dallas>AIDS Deciding Moments." The public service campaign is designed to increase knowledge and understanding of HIV and AIDS, con-

front the stigma and reduce the virus' spread. Dallas residents who are affected and infected by the virus were chosen to participate and will appear in billboard, transit, print and radio public service ads, and appear at events through December.

Harris said he contracted HIV at 22 through unprotected sex. It took him a year to tell his father, though the two had always been close.

"At that point he didn't know much about it," Harris said of his father. "He thought I was going to die, but he didn't turn his back on me."

When Harris was diagnosed at the Dallas County health department, he listened to the counselor who told him he could live a long, healthy life if he got proper medical care. He began that care at Parkland hospital's Amelia Court before moving to Bluitt Flowers, a Parkland clinic in South Oak Cliff with an HIV specialty.

Harris said he always had a good relationship with his father growing up.

"He always prepared my sister and me for life," he said. "[He taught us] to make good decisions. He always showed he loved us."

In a video on the Greater Than AIDS website, Otis Harris Sr. said when his son told him he had HIV, he thought he had lost him.

"He's gone. It's over," Otis Harris Sr. says in the video.

But he adds that as he gained knowledge he realized he hadn't lost his son.

"He's gay. He has HIV," Otis Harris Sr. says. "And my choice is to accept my son regardless."

According to statistics from the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services, 14,000 people are living with HIV in the county. That represents a 39 percent increase over the last eight years.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1.2 million people are living with HIV, but that one in five don't know it. About a third are diagnosed so late they develop full-blown AIDS within a year.

In Dallas County, the infection rate among blacks is three times higher than among whites. About 50 percent of all new cases are among blacks, who account for about 40 percent of those living with HIV.

That's the reason Greater Than AIDS is targeting minority communities.

Gary Hayes, aka Gary With Da Tea, was a morning DJ on 97.9 The Beat in Dallas until he moved to *Dish Nation* — seen on Fox 4 weekdays at 12:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. — where he's the gossip commentator.

Hayes, who recently moved to Atlanta, began his affiliation with the Greater Than AIDS campaign when Radio One, which owns The Beat, was contacted about participating.

"We got a gay guy at the station, so why not use



NO STRANGER TO THE AIRWAVES | Gay radio DJ Gary Hayes, aka Gary With Da Tea, said he's HIV-negative but lost many friends to the disease, which he says is 'rampant in the minority community.'

him?" Hayes said his station manager told them.

Although he's HIV negative, Hayes said he lost many friends to AIDS and supports the Greater Than AIDS message of testing and prevention.

Much of the testing is done at events like Hip Hip for HIV, which rewards people who are

tested with concert tickets.

"In the minority community, HIV is running rampant," he said.

Hayes talked about how the AIDS epidemic has changed. He said he began losing friends to the disease in the 1980s.

"People were terrified of it," he said. "Now with good medicine, things have changed tremendously."

Hayes said he has mixed feelings about the new home HIV test kits that became available in October.

"Will the suicide rate go up?" he wondered, when people test positive and have no one there to counsel about medical options available.

He called it a scary thing but said testing is important.

"Be ahead of the disease," he said.

Hayes said that in his community, people assume someone who tests positive is gay. He hoped that the campaign would help dispel the myth that only gay people contract the virus.

In Dallas County, statistics show that 21 percent of new cases are among women and 24 percent of infections occur through heterosexual contact.

Both Harris and Hayes said the message is to get tested and if positive, understand that HIV is a manageable disease.

"I learned to take care of myself no matter what happens," Harris said. "And if you test positive, get into care as soon as possible." ■



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Library Pride aims to boost LGBT collection

Newly formed committee wants to add to catalog of gay-related items housed at Oak Lawn Branch, which is already among nation's largest

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Oak Lawn Branch of the Dallas Public Library houses one of the nation's largest LGBT circulating collections, according to branch manager Angie Bartula.

And a new committee called Dallas Library Pride met for the first time recently to talk about bolstering the collection that currently includes 1,729 items and which during the 2011-12 fiscal year had a circulation of 3,748.

The group of librarians formed to highlight the role the library can play in enhancing the quality of life for the LGBT community. They hope to ex-

pand the special collection, sponsor events and provide a strong virtual presence.

"Our goal is to provide more focused library services for the LGBT community," said Peter Coyl, manager of the Audelia Road Branch. He also sits on the American Library Association Stonewall Book Awards committee that will select this year's winners in January. While others on the Pride Committee called the position a huge honor, Coyl joked that it mostly means he has no dating life and sits home nights reading books.

Coyl joined committee chair Ray Sablack and half a dozen other librarians from around the system — including Angie Bartula, the only member of the committee who is not gay — to discuss the collection recently.

Oak Lawn Branch has housed the collection for at least two decades, Bartula said. She called the circulation numbers pretty good, but she said they would increase dramatically with certain strategic additions to the collection.

She'd like to add to the number of CDs and



CHECK IT OUT | Oak Lawn Branch library manager Angie Bartula, left, tours the LGBT stacks at the Oak Lawn Branch with Dallas Library Pride chair Ray Sablack and librarian David Fettke. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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DVDs she carries because they circulate well. She's also looking for suggestions for additional magazines to add to current titles like *Out* and the *Advocate*.

The Dallas library's collection differs from those in New York and San Francisco. Former Oak Lawn Branch manager Kjerstine Nielsen said those cities have research collections. Dallas has a circulating collection.

Books in the LGBT collection are handled differently than other items in the system. When most books, videos or magazines are checked out, they remain at the library where they're returned. Pieces of the LGBT collection are marked on the binder with a rainbow flag and returned to the Oak Lawn Branch no matter where they're returned.

Part of the renewed interest in the public library's LGBT collection comes with the closing of the Phil Johnson Library at Resource Center Dallas. That collection, begun with the donation of items collected by Dallas gay-rights pioneer Phil Johnson, includes newspaper clippings, artifacts, historical documents and periodicals that are moving to the University of North Texas. The school in Denton has new facilities to preserve and store the items and eventually digitize them for online access. Most of the items going to UNT have been untouched and in storage for years.

RCD's main building on Reagan Street mostly housed books for circulation. Some of that collection will be moving to the Oak Lawn library. Some may be added to the Central Library's research stacks, and other books that librarians think probably won't circulate will be sent to the UNT collection.

Recently, the LGBT collection got a financial boost as well. For several years, the library system has been dealing with cutbacks, including less money for the acquisition fund. Sablack said that this year, City Council restored \$1 million for acquisitions.

But the LGBT collection got another boost with memorial donations made in memory of Carol Wells, who died earlier this year. Wells owned a French restaurant called *Le Pigalle* that became a gay after-hours hangout and in the 1970s she

opened the *Alley Door*, a gay bar.

She was a member of Friends of the Oak Lawn Library and created calendars to raise money for the branch.

Dallas Library Pride writes a monthly post for the library system's *Booked Solid* blog. For National Coming Out Day, the committee posted a short explanation of NCOD and recommended four books to help with the coming out process, including the Dan Savage *It Gets Better* compilation of essays.

Sablack said he'd like to add monthly book reviews, video reviews, and other news and information about the LGBT collection.

Bartula said her branch is the first stop for many people venturing into the LGBT community for the first time. Situated on Cedar Springs Road, the library is in the middle of the gay neighborhood.

Coyle said libraries are safe and confidential.

"We don't assume anyone's checking out a gay book because they're gay," he said. "We provide information without judgment."

Over the next year, Dallas Library Pride hopes to add programming to the newly reinvigorated collection. A film series was successful in the past and the committee hopes to try one again. Sablack suggested a children's book reading event geared toward LGBT families. Among the LGBT collection are a variety of children's books geared toward children of gay and lesbian parents.

Sablack said he'd like to see more authors come to the library to speak as part of their book tours. But the library used to plan those events in conjunction with a book signing at Crossroads Market. With the loss of that store and *Borders* in West Village, the Oak Lawn Branch has no obvious partners in the Oak Lawn area anymore.

"In five to 10 years, North Oak Cliff will have a new building with more resources for meeting activities," Bartula said.

The committee agreed they'd like to develop an LGBT collection for the North Oak Cliff Branch when it opens closer to Bishop Arts District.

Bartula said librarians are early adopters.

"If there's something the library can do, we're always taking suggestions," she said. ■



RAINBOW READS | Items in the LGBT collection are marked on the binder with a rainbow flag and returned to the Oak Lawn Branch no matter where they're returned. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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coverstory



PSYCHO KILLER | Kyle Cypert plays Mr. Kreeg, a Halloween-hating old man who once murdered a bus full of children, at Hangman's House of Horrors in Fort Worth. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

Gay ghouls

Queer actors find acceptance — and often romance — working at local haunted attractions, not to mention the thrills they get from terrifying you

DANIEL VILLARREAL | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — On weekdays, 26-year-old Kyle Cypert works as a pulmonary nurse administering breathing treatments to middle-age patients in Fort Worth.

On weekend nights, Cypert poses as a serial killer.

Dressed in dark, blood-stained clothes, Cypert watches his unsuspecting victims walk through his “bedroom,” waiting in the shadows for the perfect opportunity to pop out and scare them half to death.

For the last five years, Cypert has spent his October weekends spooking visitors at Hangman's House of Horrors, a Fort Worth haunted house in its 24th year.

This year, Cypert is playing the role of Mr. Kreeg, a Halloween-hating old man from the 2007 film *Trick 'r Treat*. Kreeg murdered a bus full of school children in his past and now, as a corpse himself, he frightens anyone who dares enter his home.

More Halloween coverage

- Cedar Springs Street Party, Page 25
- Last-minute costume inspirations, Page 38
- Thrills and chills on DVD, Page 42

“For me acting is an outlet,” Cypert says. “To express raw emotions that I’ve repressed, to express the anger and emotion that I’ve experienced. ... We all have a need to have fantasy in different parts of our lives. For me acting is a way to at least get it out.”

Cypert grew up and attended college in Weatherford — a town, he says, that has “a Southern Baptist church every 5 feet and a very stigmatic environment.”

There’s no gay bar in Weatherford and no LGBT center, either. Although Cypert says that the town’s LGBT community is no longer in hiding, he still thinks it’s not a place where a gay couple could walk around holding hands.

“You just don’t do that around here,” he says.

■ **GHOULS**, Page 24


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 CD-32 **Katherine Savers McGovern**
 CD-33 **Marc Veasey**

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October 27th – LGBT Come Out and Vote!
November 2nd – Last Day of Early Voting

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 HD-114 **Carol Kent**
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Resources

Early Voting Locations: www.dallascountyvotes.org
Dallas County Elections: (214) 819-6300
stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org

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coverstory



DEMENTED DUO | Melody Simmons and her girlfriend Cassie Lunsford met at Bedford's Moxley Manor, where they play demented clowns. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

■ GHOULS, From Page 22

Five years ago, when visiting the Hangman's House website to buy tickets, he saw a call for volunteer actors and signed up.

He had acted several times in high school and junior high theater, but had never considered regularly starring in a real-life horror show near his own hometown.

Now he works weekend nights alongside Hangman's cast of over 200 actors and 600-plus volunteers.

He says he takes pride in the fact that the Hangman's House has donated more than \$1.7 million to Tarrant County charities like the American Cancer Society and the Safe Haven domestic violence shelter over its history.

Cypert says he knows of seven gay men, one transgender person and three lesbians all working in Hangman's cast.

He's also dated a fellow actor — something not altogether uncommon as more than 70 couples have reportedly married after first meeting as Hangman co-workers.

A few miles away, 18-year-old actress Melody Simmons and her 22-year-old girlfriend Cassie Lunsford haunt the halls of Bedford's Moxley Manor dressed as demented clowns.

They met during Simmons' first night acting at Moxley and bonded over their shared love of psychological horror films like the *Nightmare on Elm Street* series, their love of arts and crafts — and the fact that they both enjoy scaring people for profit.

Although neither had any acting experience before getting involved in the haunt scene, they've enjoyed the chance to play and experiment as costumed ghouls in their hometown haunted house.

"It's just something about dressing up and people not knowing who you are," Simmons said. "You can be as crazy as you want ... and nobody will care because they'll think you're just acting.

You can be whoever you wanna be."

During her two years at Moxley Manor, Lunsford's baby face and unnerving child-like giggle have landed her roles as a murderous schoolgirl, a toxic mutant and now a menacing clown amid Moxley's torture chamber and freezer full of frostbitten corpses; a definite change from her day job as a pastry cook.

"It lets me have fun scaring people, I don't have to worry about getting in trouble for it," Lunsford said. "If I've had a bad week, you go to the haunt, you can take out all your frustrations by scaring people."

"I actually [have] a really good talent for it," Lunsford added.

Even though Moxley's cast only has 30 actors, Simmons says the size makes it more like a tight-knit family.

"The haunt community tends to be really accepting of pretty much everybody and anybody," Lunsford said.

Cypert concurs: "Most people who have not done haunted houses might think that a haunted house just comes together for a month and everybody's there for October and that's it. But we're doing things with the house year round. We have Christmas parties, Thanksgiving dinner — we do something twice a month even when we're not operating."

"And because we spend so much time together, you get to know each other really well," she says. "And it's just an amazing group of people." ■

Moxley Manor, 510 Harwood Road, Bedford. Fri.-Sat. 7:30-midnight, Sun.-Thurs. 7:30-10 p.m., Halloween night 7:30-11 p.m., through Oct. 31. MoxleyManor.com

Hangman's House of Horrors, 2013 N. Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth, Fri.-Sat. 7 p.m.-midnight, Sun.-Thurs. 7-10 p.m., through Nov. 3. Hangmans.com

For info on other haunted attractions in DFW, visit www.DfwHauntedHouses.com.



MASKED MOB | The 2011 Street Party drew an estimated 20,000. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

How big is the Halloween Street Party? So big it's downright scary

Everyone knows the annual Halloween Street Party on the Cedar Springs strip draws some big crowds. But in the last few years those crowds have become so big that organizers may have to consider limiting access or expanding the fenced-in perimeter for the event in future years, a police official said this week.

DISD Detective Sgt. Jeremy Liebbe, who's openly gay and serves as co-security liaison for the Street Party, said he believes the event has doubled in size in the last six years, to the point that an estimated 20,000 people attended in 2011.

"I actually got up on the roof of the Round-Up," Liebbe said. "It was just mindboggling how large that crowd was."

Liebbe said organizers are discussing the possibility of putting counters at the gates in future years so they can limit the number of people inside the fences at any given time — similar to St. Patrick's Day on Greenville Avenue.

"I'm not going to say it's getting too big, but it's definitely getting to that point where you can only fit so many bodies in so much space," Liebbe said. "You can only fit so many bodies in so much space before we're stacking people on top of each other or running risks of people getting injured. As the event continues to grow, we want to make sure we stay ahead of the game. At this point we're costing out ideas."

Asked whether organizers would consider charging admission for the Street Party, Liebbe said he has not heard that possibility discussed — though he noted that there is an admission charge for the St. Patrick's Day event.

Caven Enterprises, which owns JR.'s, S4, Sue Ellen's and TMC, puts on the Street Party. Asked to comment on future plans, Caven spokesman Rick Espailat said: "I would not speculate about what may or may not happen next year."

Last year for the first time, the Street Party was fenced in. Liebbe said fencing in the event was "immensely successful" in controlling crowd flow, keeping out glass containers and alcohol, and making cleanup easier. This year, in addition to the fencing, Liebbe said the number of police officers working the event will increase from 20

to 30. The block party typically results in only a handful of arrests, which Liebbe called "insignificant" for an event of its size. "That's definitely a tribute to the community," he said.

Espailat said the Street Party began as nothing more than an especially busy night at the gay bars circa 1980.

"It got bigger than the clubs," Espailat said. "It spilled out into the streets and continued to spill out into the streets until the streets had to be closed by Dallas police unofficially, and then we did it officially starting I think in 1982."

Since then the event has become one of the largest outdoor parties in the city, Espailat said.

"In terms of gay and straight mix, it is certainly one of the most eclectic," he added. "My recollection is that it was almost entirely gay in the beginning, and then as the party became more famous and more notorious, it became more of a mix."

The influx of non-LGBT people has sometimes been criticized, but Espailat said, "I think everyone should be welcome."

Liebbe doesn't see it as much of a controversy. "From a diversity standpoint, 20 or 30 years ago, if a straight person was in any of those clubs, they were probably police officers doing a raid," he said. "To have a large segment of the straight community coming out and knowing that it's an LGBT event, really I think shows that we're getting toward greater inclusivity. While there's definitely a debate on the perceived loss of identity ... I think that shows the direction society is going overall."

Richard Curtin, aka Edna Jean Robinson, who emcees the Costume Promenade, said he doesn't mind the influx of straight people, but wishes more would dress up. "I think that if you go to the Street Party, you should come in costume. They're not coming to participate; they're coming to spectate," he said. "I think it's one of the best in the country, and what will make it the best in the country is if we have more people participating."

— John Wright

Halloween 2012: The Street Party, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, 3900 block of Cedar Springs. Costume Promenade begins at 9:30.

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viewpoints

Why we still need Champions

As long as we still need bills banning reparative therapy, it should be news when people like Sam Champion of 'Good Morning America' come out

One recent morning I awoke to the earth-shaking news that Sam Champion of *Good Morning America* fame was getting married to his longtime boyfriend, and yes, they look great together.

I can hardly keep count of all the folks coming out nowadays and I must admit that it's making me nostalgic for the days when there were, maybe, two out LGBT celebrities besides Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein — ever.

Can you imagine Time magazine putting anyone on its cover *today* just for coming out? (Except maybe a presidential candidate, which would be really cool, but the subject of another column.)

For simple record-keeping purposes, I think we can now say that all handsome blond news guys are gay, all female talk-show hosts and former world-class athletes are lesbians, and all up-and-coming hot actresses are bi. There, that makes things tidier.

This is how it should be, I know. The whole point of the "come out, come out wherever you are" thing was to make being gay kind of ordinary so that at some point we don't ever have to "come out," but rather just be. Which was what I tried to explain in the comments section of a Facebook post about Champion's wedding. You see, the good news is that most of the comments said things like, "Congratulations!" or "Damn, I had such a crush on you and now my hopes are dashed."

However, a large number of those comments also said things like, "Gross," or "I knew he was a fag," or the slightly more critically sophisticated, "This is news *why?*"

I can't help illuminate anything for the grossed-out cretins, but I did decide to answer, at ridiculous length, the ones who felt that Sam should keep his marriage to himself. I think I wrote, like, comment No. 6,427, and so it was read by no one except the person right after me, who said only, "nah."

I should never take anything on Facebook personally; I've learned that the hard way lately, but I'm really tired of having to explain why coming out matters. And I do get that people struggle with apparent inconsistency in the idea that we need to make a big deal about being gay so that one day we won't have to make a big deal about it.

In these times when arguments have to fit into 140 characters before your opponent drifts off to



Sam Champion, right, and fiancé Rubem Robierb (Associated Press)

play Fruit Ninja, I think I need to find another approach than nuanced multi-layered reasoning.

Which brings me to California's new ban on "Reparative Therapy" for LGBT kids. Homosexuality has been officially *not* a mental illness since 1973, according to the American Psychiatric Association. Curing homosexuality has been up there on the list of pointless and likely dangerous medical ideas that people have tried, right next to arsenic tea and skull drilling ("trepanning" for you word wonks), for almost 40 years.

You wouldn't think we'd need a law to prevent such things, but because people like the National Association for Research and Therapy on Homosexuality (NARTH) and Liberace hair-clone Marcus Bachmann are still practicing the 21st century version of applying leeches to release unwanted evil spirits from the body, I guess we do. (You may contact NARTH — I recommend re-

peatedly and with many pointed questions — at info@narth.com if you would like further explanation).

So, when the NARTHs of the world are out there convincing parents that their kids need to be cured through total quackery, it's good to know that those same parents might also tune into *Good Morning America* and see a happy, likeable gay man living his life fully and appropriately, just like his straight counterparts. Perhaps they will think twice about trying to fix their kids when there is nothing wrong with them to begin with.

This is why Sam Champion's wedding announcement matters.

Still too convoluted? How about this tweet-sized argument instead: When straight celebrities announce their weddings, no one ever says "Please stop shoving it in our faces." I mean, didn't we also see Katie Couric's bowel exam on TV? #CongratulationsSamChampion. ■

California-based writer Abby Dees is the author of *Queer Questions Straight Talk*. She can be contacted via her website at QueerQuestionsStraightTalk.com.



Abby Dees
Thinking Out Loud

No, son, you cannot tear down that Romney campaign sign

I'm having a feeling of déjà vu. Four years ago, I was waiting to see if Barack Obama would be elected president; waiting to see the outcome of a ballot measure in California that would decide the legality of marriage equality in that state; and baffled that a patron of a Colorado library had asked for the removal or reshelving of the children's picture book *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*, claiming it was "inappropriate for children" because it showed two anthropomorphic male guinea pigs getting married.

It's now 2012, and I am once again waiting to hear whether Obama will win the election; whether voters will allow marriage equality in their states (this time, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington); and baffled that yet another library patron (in Missouri) has recently asked that *Uncle Bobby* be removed from a local library.

Has nothing changed in four years?

Fact is, a lot has changed. Since the last election, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and the District of Columbia have begun allowing same-sex couples to wed. Polls show an increase in support for marriage equality across the country. Federal hate crimes legislation now covers crimes based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Gay men and lesbians can now serve openly in

our military. A federal rule now requires hospitals to give same-sex partners visitation rights. Two federal circuit courts have ruled that the section of the Defense of Marriage Act that prohibits the federal recognition of same-sex marriages is unconstitutional. Same-sex parents are even more visible on our TV screens.

Nevertheless, some people still feel that a book showing two male guinea pigs getting married is a threat to children.

Uncle Bobby's Wedding, by Sarah Brannen, tells the story of young guinea pig Chloe, who worries that her favorite uncle won't have time to have fun with her after he marries his boyfriend. Uncle Bobby assures her that is not the case, and in fact, she'll be able to do things with both him and her new uncle. The book focuses on a young child's concerns about family relationships and change, and is not "about" same-sex marriage per se. It just happens to include one.

As in 2008, the local library director is supporting *Uncle Bobby's* right to remain on the shelves. She told Brannen that the library board will soon vote on the patron's request to remove it, but all of the board members want to keep it, as do most of the more than 75 other patrons who have

called or emailed about the issue.

What it boils down to, for me, is freedom of speech. Just because one person objects to the content of a book doesn't give him or her the right to prevent others from accessing it. I respect the library patron's decision that the book is not appropriate for his daughter; but I am outraged that he wants to push that judgment on others.

Freedom of speech, however, is a concept that strong opinions and partisanship — especially around election time — may make us forget. I was reminded of this the other day while driving through my neighborhood with my 9-year-old son. Near our house, a homeowner has set up a giant "Mitt Romney" campaign sign, at least 10 feet long by 6 feet wide. My son, who knows I support Obama, commented that he wished he could tear it down.

Much as part of me dislikes seeing neighbors cheer for the opposing candidate, my Democratic (big "D") leanings do not trump my understanding of what really matters in our democracy (small "d"). "You can't do that," I told my son. "Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. That's one of the key freedoms we enjoy in this country."



Dana Rudolph
Mombian



Uncle Bobby's Wedding

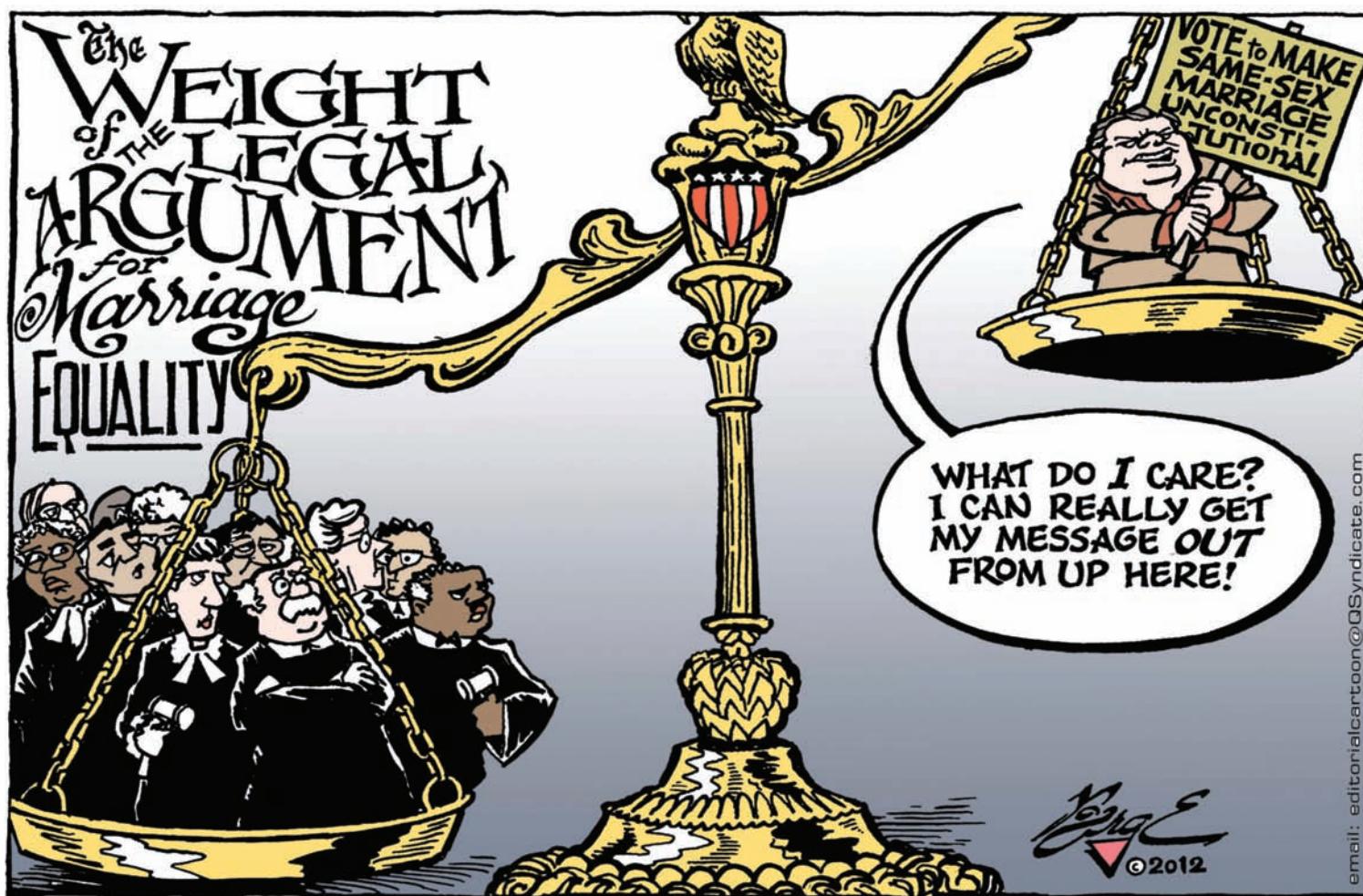
SARAH S. BRANNEN

BANNED BOOK | 'Uncle Bobby's Wedding,' a book about gay guinea pigs, is no better off than it was four years ago, but the LGBT community is.

No matter our political persuasions (and I don't presume that every LGBT person is a Democrat), explaining emotionally charged political issues to our kids is never easy. Conveying the principle of freedom of speech at the same time is even harder. It is essential to do so, though, if we don't want our children to grow up believing people should restrict ideas simply because they don't agree with them. That attitude leads to people trying to ban books like *Uncle Bobby* from libraries.

What the next four years will bring, we can only guess. Regardless of the outcome of the election, however, we will grow more as people and as a country if we teach our children compassion and respect for different viewpoints. Leave gay guinea pigs in the library and political signs in the yards. That will leave us with our core values as a nation — and that is what will ground us as we press forward into the future. ■

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



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Aiding 'Aida'

Gay choreographer Kenneth von Heidecke gives movement to the classical canon's most balletic opera

DENIAL AIN'T JUST A RIVER IN EGYPT | A love triangle between Aida, Amneris and Radames provides a unique challenge for a director of movement. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

LIFE+STYLE

opera

GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS | Contributing Writer
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com

The first impression Kenneth von Heidecke makes is that he looks and moves like a dancer. He is tall and slender and — while a few months shy of his 60th birthday — is obviously very fit under his jeans and T-shirt. As an openly gay man in the world of dance, von Heidecke has always been very comfortable in his own skin. It is not surprising that he gets many admiring glances from both sexes. He is handsome and lithe with a naturalness that is disarming. And while his career as an internationally renowned dancer ended after a tragic mid-air collision with another dancer in 1981, leaving him with a slight but noticeable limp, von Heidecke has maintained his conditioning.

Not one to let anything stand in his way, von Heidecke quickly picked himself up and moved on without any noticeable bitterness about the accident that changed his life. After difficult years of rehab, he turned to choreography and teaching, quickly returning to the top echelon of the world of dance.

That second career has brought him to Dallas to choreograph the dance segments in the Dallas Opera's production of Giuseppe Verdi's blockbuster opera *Aida*, which opens Friday.

Back when he was a dancer, he was a soloist for the likes of the

legendary George Balanchine and a protégé of Native American prima ballerina Maria Tallchief. As a choreographer, he has made a name for himself mostly in the world of opera ballet although he also works in the world of *Nutcrackers* and *Cinderellas*, working with some of the best names in classical music. But his most unexpected student has nothing to do with opera or ballet. Not even the arts *per se*: He has coached Olympic gold medalist and world champion figure skater Evan Lysacek.

"There are 10 world-class skaters in my ballet studio right now," von Heidecke says, a hint of bemusement sneaking into his voice. "Ballet training has always been popular for athletes — more so recently. However, they get the same standard ballet training as those wanting to be dancers. How they apply it is up to them."

Ice skaters and highly placed students aside, von Heidecke is looking forward to creating dances for stage director Garnett Bruce for the current production of *Aida* — and for his long overdue return to Dallas.

"In the early days, I was here quite a lot, but I think it has been about five years since I have been back," he says. "I am also eager to work in the beautiful new Winspear Opera House and to work with [music director] Graeme Jenkins again."

Working on the dance side of an art form known for its vocal and orchestra primacy may seem like a less-than-fulfilling function for a choreographer or von Heidecke's reputation, but nothing

could be further from his mind. He loves the interplay.

"The conductor is critical to ballet since the dancers have to obey the rules of gravity," he says with a laugh. "Ballet conductors understand this on a gut level, but opera conductors are different. Some do and some don't. Graeme is one who does. He has a great feel for the tempo of dance. We had a conversation about tempo some time ago and he is really consistent about it now that we are here. On top of that, unlike some other conductors, Graeme will be at the dance piano rehearsals so we can work out the final details together."

Among the great operas, *Aida* is one of the most dance-filled, which always presents a challenge for von Heidecke.

"This is an opera that I have choreographed many times before. It is the only opera for which Verdi wrote actual ballet music as an integral part of the score — his other ballet sequences were always add-ons and written later to please the ballet-loving Paris audiences," he says. "There are about 15 or more minutes of dance in this opera, which is a lot for an opera. Best of all, the dance sequences are really integral to creating the atmosphere of ancient Egypt. I also create movement for the 'Triumphal March,' which is probably the best known music in the score."

In addition to long-term relationship with the Dallas Opera, von Heidecke creates dances for major opera companies, such as the Los Angeles Music Center Opera, New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. That has kept him on

■ AIDA, Page 35

AIDA

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L+S stage



The first time Corey Jones saw the costume he was expected to wear playing a pro wrestler in *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, his reaction was simple: Hell, no.

"It was basically a thong," he says over a bowl of queso fundito. "I don't care what your sexual orientation is, it is *no fun* having a piece of fabric in your crack."

Jones couldn't have been *too* surprised. Pro wrestling is, after all, the gayest of all sports, unless you count men's ice figure skating — and ironically so. Its heroes wear tights, worship their own well-toned muscles and roll around with other half-naked men. They must be the only such figures on a T-shirt that a macho dad would happily dress his 6 in. But Jones still wasn't having the thong.

They settled on a more comfortable, if not more modest, pair of white briefs, but for Jones, the goal was still the same: *Get in shape*.

At 6-foot-2 and a lean 190 pounds, Jones is hardly what you'd call out of shape. But the actor — who lives in Los Angeles but proudly touts his Texas roots from attending grad school at UT-Austin — was never, he admits, an athlete.

"I didn't play sports in high school or college; I was always the skinny guy," he says. But tackling the title role in *Chad Deity* has required him to bulk up. It's why he doesn't mind diving into a bowl of queso — hey, a wrestler needs his

protein.

"This summer when I got the role, I started hitting the gym four or five times a week," Jones says. That increased exponentially once rehearsals started. "It's been six days a week, and I'm focused on gaining mass," he says. "My goal is 210 pounds by opening night. We'll see..."

The experience working on the play — which premiered in Jones' hometown of Chicago and deals with issues of race, hip-hop and the culture of excess — has not only changed Jones' body, but also his perception of professional wrestling.

"When [a friend] first suggested I audition for it, I said, 'Isn't that a play about wrestling? You think I'd be right for it?'"

Jones had his suspicions. Like a lot of people, he'd always assumed the "sport" was just a big put-on: Showman pretending to wrestle who adhered to a prepared script.

"I thought, 'He's not *really* hitting that guy!' It insults your intelligence. But you know what? The skill and athleticism it takes to pretend to do a pile-driver is just as demanding as something like football. It's really where art and sports meet, with all this choreography."

As an actor, choreography is something Jones is familiar with, but he has tremendous respect for one of his co-stars, Jaime Olivencia, who plays many of the ring opponents and is in fact a

...CHAD DEITY

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St.
Oct. 19–Nov. 11 (in previews through
Oct. 25). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

BODY SLAMMED | Corey Jones, right (pictured with Alex Hernandez), sculpted his body to play a flamboyant pro wrestler in DTC's *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

Rassle hard

Pop culture's most homoerotic
'sport' proving a boon to
'Chad Deity' star

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

pro wrestler by training. ("Man, he came in *chiseled*," Jones says. "And Alex Hernandez, who plays Mace, whose story this really is, is an outdoorsy guy, too.")

Getting to play Chad Deity — a fictional creation who has the fame and grandeur of a John Cena or Hulk Hogan — also gave Jones insights into pop culture he hadn't really considered before.

"This play is about class and the haves and have-nots and the glorification of celebrity and excess, especially as it is propagated by hip-hop," he says. "There's this image that if you don't have the ability to make it rain and 45 women hanging on you, you are not valued."

It's something that irritates Jones, a thoughtful and well-read man who is just as happy talking about Obama advisers Plouffe and Axelrod as he is *Game of Thrones*. He created his own backstory for Chad Deity that includes a childhood of poverty, but also a sense that the man has become the image — that even if private, he's never just "Darnell," he's a superstar who deserves all he got, a modern day Charles Foster Kane in his castle, removed from the realities of the world. It's a sad role, really.

But there is one thing that makes him happy about Chad: Corey Jones could never have afforded the time and expense to pay quality trainers that Chad has, and that he's worked with on this show.

"After all this hard work, we'll all leave here with great bodies," he says.

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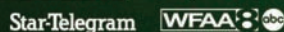
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L+S travel

Gay Santa Fe

Part 2 of New Mexico for romantic couples: The other SF is still very gay



Forty-five minutes to the north of Albuquerque, Santa Fe easily holds claim to New Mexico's gayest and gay-friendliest city. Although it has no exclusively gay restaurants and bars, this high-elevation arts enclave (it jokingly "looks down on" Denver) is a haven for travelers who are both outdoorsy and artsy.

The tourist office in Santa Fe claims that the percentage of same-sex couples is second only to San Francisco. With many Santa Fe shops dedicated to home décor, gay decorators will not be far away.

What's more fun than LGBT couples doing what we do best: shopping. With 250 galleries in the LGBT-popular Guadalupe District and on Canyon Road, you'll be astounded by the variety of items you'll want to take home. Whether it's contemporary paintings, photography, pottery, sculpture or locally woven textiles, you'll find something that opens your wallet. Santa Fe's Native American and Spanish colonial roots and other global cultures' influences are on display.

Meet some of the artists at Santa Fe's famous Friday evening gallery openings. These occur with more frequency during the summer months. One of our favorite galleries is Blue Rain, which is the only gallery offering works by devotional artist Gustavo Victor Goler, or the New Mexico Museum of Art and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum are each located near The Plaza.

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, the Loretto Chapel and San Miguel Mission are historically significant. However, for experiences that your friends may miss, take a drive outside Santa Fe.

Gays love Hollywood stars, and what would a visit to Pecos National Historic Park, with its 1100 A.D. pueblo ruins and walls of the 1625 Mission, be without a tour of Greer Garson's 1920s Forked Lightning Ranch?

The old village of Chimayó is a 1740 adobe pueblo. For security, the original village had few entrances, and those were only wide enough for a person or horse to enter the square. Several of the 270-year-old homes remain occupied, and only recently have owners added electricity and modern conveniences, including pitched roofs.

Chimayó's Ortega family carries traditions into the 21st century. Their weaving shop creates blankets, runners, purses and clothing in traditional Hispanic and Native American influenced patterns.

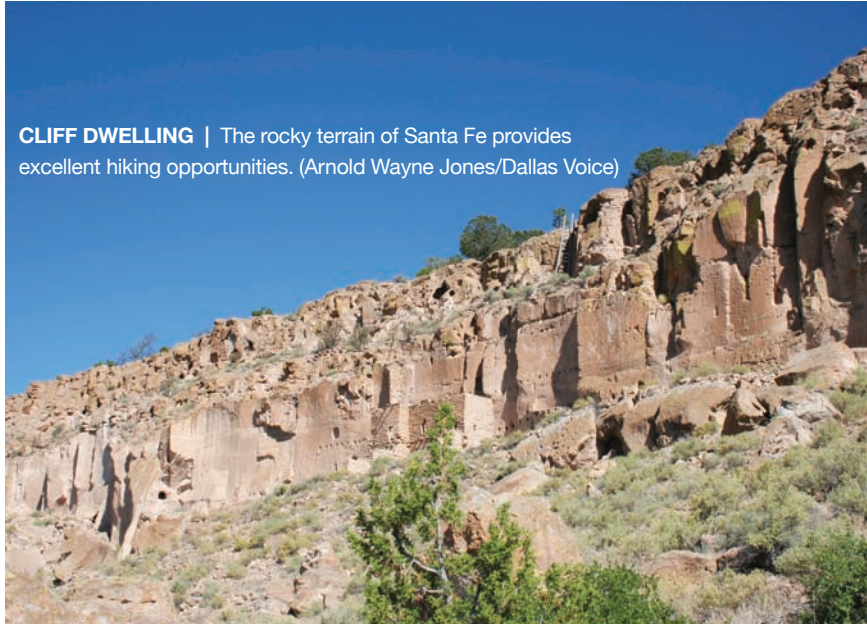
El Santuario de Chimayó dates from 1810. The sanctuary is built on the site of "holy dirt," which the faithful believe has curative powers. Behind El Santuario you'll find Santo Niño Chapel dedicated to the Christ-child who is revered for his protection of children. Several rustic galleries of local artists are near the chapels.

Time to get off your feet. Although not specifically gay, the Rouge Cat and the Silver Starlight Cabaret are LGBT-friendly watering holes. Gay-friendly Hotel Chimayó boasts the Low 'n Slow Bar, frequently with live music. The rooms here are not pretentious but are decorated with Chimayó-themed items, such as several crosses composed of twigs and strands of wool, and Southwestern weavings on the comfy bed. It seemed as if we had an endless supply of fluffy pillows.

The St. Francis Hotel's Secreto Lounge is a re-

THE ART OF THE IRIS | New Mexico's most famous painter, Georgia O'Keeffe, has a museum dedicated to her in Santa Fe, including samples of her erotic images of flowers.

CLIFF DWELLING | The rocky terrain of Santa Fe provides excellent hiking opportunities. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



laxing (though energetic) spot, with lots of dark woods. The bar is managed by one of America's top mixologists, Chris Milligan, who works the bar, as well as manages it. And his commitment to the perfect cocktail — made from scratch, no premade mixes — makes the Secreto a top cocktail destination.

If you are dining in the hotel's Tabla de Los Santos Restaurant, preface your meal with Milligan's orange champagne cocktail. Best of all, engage Milligan in some lively cocktail recipe conversation. He's a master entertainer. (Cute, too, but lay off, guys — he's married.)

From Dallas to Albuquerque or Santa Fe, the distance is 645 miles — about 11 hours by car. After Amarillo, you can sing "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" for hours.

But American Airlines also offers direct flights to Albuquerque International Sunport, and American Eagle can get you to the edge of Santa Fe in an hour and forty-five minutes. Southwest flies to Albuquerque from Love Field. ■

— David Currier



MOVES LIKE JAGGER | At 59, Kenneth von Heidecke still moves like a dancer as he plans the 15-minute ballet in Dallas Opera's production of 'Aida.'

■ **AIDA**, From Page 28

the road for much of his career. While he loves the work, he is a little wistful about the string of hotel rooms his itinerant career requires. "It is hard always to be somewhere else all of the time other than home. This last year, I literally traveled around the world."

This past year, that lifestyle struck home in a profound way. Tragically, his longtime partner passed away last December.

"It is still pretty raw and hard for me to talk about," he says. "But I stay busy and that helps. I

was on the road for a lot of our time together, but I always could call him and I knew he was there for me. It is very hard."

Work has been his solace and Dallas is pleased to welcome him back. "Aida is a spectacular opera, maybe one of the most spectacular in the repertoire," he says. "I love to work on it, and I love to watch it ... even if it is not my choreography. Here in Dallas, this is a great cast, a fine conductor and stage director, and a beautiful production. I am very proud of what you will see on the stage when it opens, not just my 15 minutes of fame." ■

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Diamond glitter

Diamond Rings' 'Free Dimensional' enshrines gay, kitsch-free retro synthpop

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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FREE DIMENSIONAL
Diamond Rings
Astralwerks



The best thing about the otherwise predictable Hugh Grant rom-com *Words & Music* is the opening number: A 1980s-style video to Grant's character's one chart-topper, a silly ditty called "Pop Goes My Heart." For lovers of '80s kitsch, it's the perfect expression of the greatness and the groaniness of Reagan Era music.

John O was barely even alive back then, so whether it was by osmosis or design, the musician and songwriter who goes by Diamond Rings has found a way to channel that kind of sound. But unlike with "Pop Goes My Heart," Diamond Rings isn't making fun — he's dead serious.

With his rainbow eye shadow, Ziggy Stardust glam persona and Devo-ish costumes, Diamond Rings is a throwback, producing catchy synth-

pop with a retro feel that borders on what Scissor Sisters does, only with a more electronic aesthetic. (Jake Shears and company are more Carter administration than Reagan.)

There's a refreshing *lack* of irony on his new album, **Free Dimensional**, which hops genres like the frequencies on a jumpy car radio. From the opener "Hand Over My Heart" (it even has a similar name to the Hugh Grant movie theme) to "Stand My Ground" (vaguely reminiscent of Blondie's perkier singles like "The Tide Is High" — sprightly and engaging and with a simple hook), he's approaching his music with sincerity, and it rubs off on you.

Partly that's because Diamond Rings' genre-hopping is anchored by a deep, hypnotic voice that defies expectation. It's not as deep as, say, fellow Canadian Brad Roberts' basso profundo as lead singer for Crash Test Dummies, but it certainly recalls David Byrne's throaty beats, though John O's voice has more polish and also more variety. He moves from the electronica rhythms of 1980s new wave on the track "All the Time" to a more staccato, Britpop double-time beat on "Runaway Love" with a squeakier pitch, then down to the lower depths on the song "Put

Me On."

It's hard to imagine all these sounds coming out of the twinkly frame of this glamish club kid, which is probably why the album works so well. Yes, sometimes you can almost see in your head how the inevitable video would have looked in 1986. But if the opening synth chords of "Hand Over My Heart" don't make you wanna jump up and dance as if Deniece Williams was singing "Let's Hear It for the Boy," you weren't alive in the '80s. And you probably lack healthy appreciation for goofy dancing.

What sets Diamond Rings apart, though, is how effortlessly he transitions into a contemporary idiom. Before that song has ended, it has morphed into a modern rap, layered with the *pling* of right-hand keys on a Moog and the reverb of AutoTune.

He does it again on "(I Know) What I'm Made Of," this time starting off with a Harold Falter-

meyer sound before sliding into a driving syncopated rap.

Faltermeyer? Deniece Williams? When's the last time you even thought about those names? Yet you can't escape them in *Free Dimensional*, as Diamond Rings dashes through styles faster than Jennifer Aniston hairstyles.

The 10 tracks of the 40-odd minutes don't really build to something greater — this isn't a concept album *per se* — but it does seduce you with its upbeat, retro melodies. Synth hasn't been this quirky and accessible since before Bush was president ... and I don't mean W. ■



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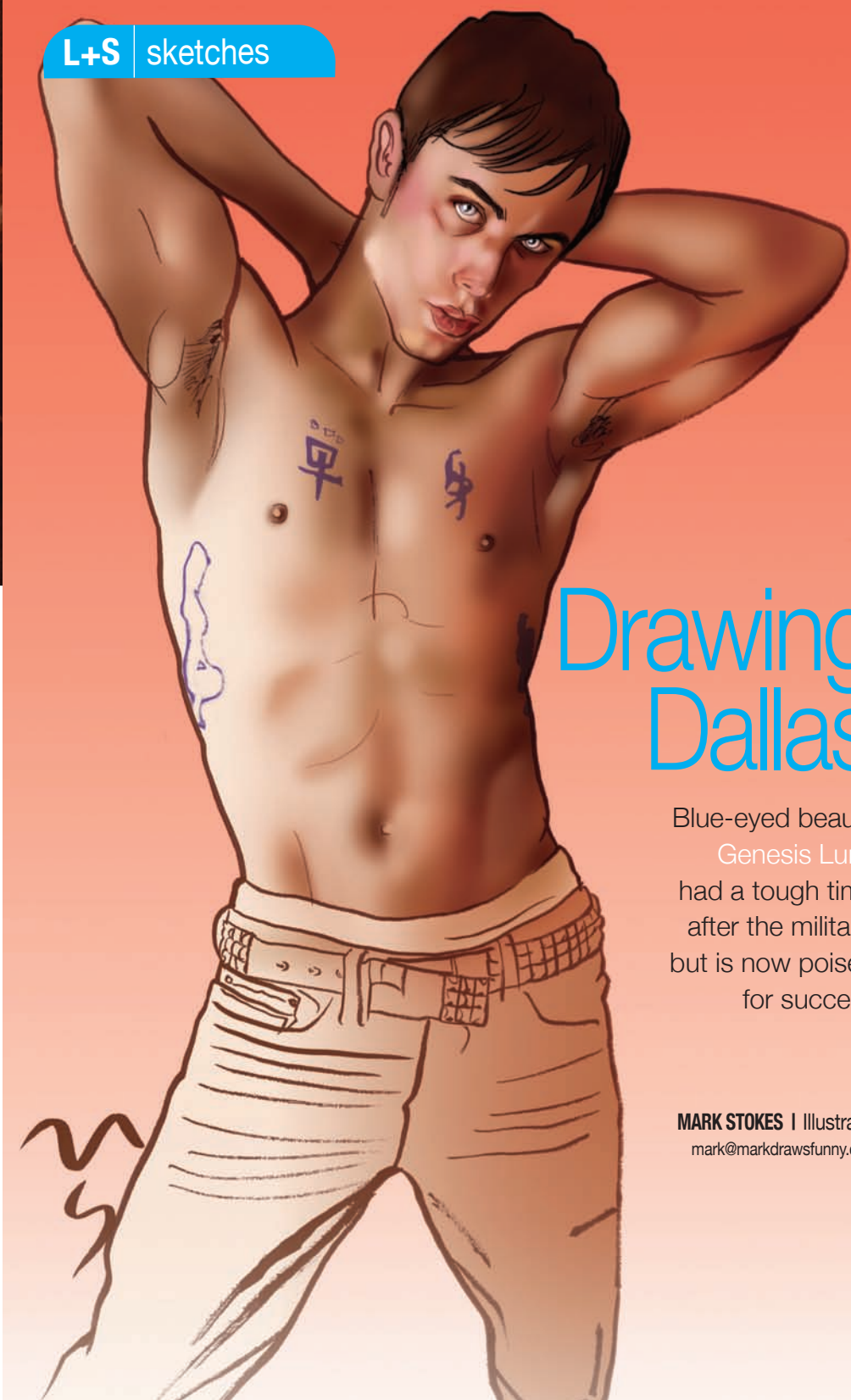
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Drawing Dallas

Blue-eyed beauty Genesis Luna had a tough time after the military, but is now poised for success

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Patrick "Genesis" Luna

Occupation: Model/actor

Spotted at: Wycliff and Maple

The first thing you notice about Genesis are his heavenly, sky-blue eyes. If the eyes are the window to the soul, this beauty has plenty of soul to go around. Born on the military base at Fort Campbell, Ky., Genesis has made Texas his home for a number of years, originally living in San Antonio and Amarillo before moving to Dallas a few years ago. This striking Aquarius is half German, a quarter Spanish and a quarter Chicasaw. He wears a wolf paw tattoo to represent his native animal.

Veteran at life: Genesis served five years in the Army National Guard; three years ago, he returned from Iraq and had a hard time adjusting to civilian life. He couldn't find a job, which led to him losing his car and his apartment; he

spent several months living on the street. A VA counselor diagnosed him with PTSD and suggested counseling, which eventually got him back on his feet.

As an actor, Genesis' handsome build, honed by years playing sports and time enlisted in the military, is often cast as a jock. He is currently producing and acting in a horror/thriller feature shot locally, *Sylance*, due to be released shortly. He is also starring in *The Complex*, a comedy sitcom for NBC, and will be in *Man on the Roof* and *Tinsel*, to be released in 2013.

"I'm not a bad boy." Genesis is a spiritual person with a positive spirit, who doesn't cling to material things. He says he's a chance-taker, but likes to analyze things before making any decision. "I'm not a bad boy. I'm a good boy. I just didn't get caught."

You can follow him on Twitter @Genesisxxx24.

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LIFE+STYLE

halloween



HALLOWEEN: THE GAY HOLIDAY | From cowboy garb to leather harnesses to men in high heels, all dress-up is a version of drag. Even more than Pride, it's an opportunity for people to let loose with their creativity and join many like-minded folks — and Dallas' Halloween Street Party (this year on Oct. 27) is one of the biggest. Have you come up with a costume idea yet? If not, take some inspiration from last year's, from a Christmas theme to politics (election's in a few days!) to skin to your fave superhero, there's no dearth of good ideas out there. (Photography by Gregory Hayes)

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Deja wow

Beautiful and thought-provoking, 'Cloud Atlas' is a thinking man's epic

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

I don't envy the folks in the Warner Bros. press office, tasked with marketing *Cloud Atlas* for general consumption. Based on one of those "unfilmable" novels (another, *The Life of Pi*, comes out next month — so much for impossibility), *Cloud Atlas* spans centuries, telling six parallel stories that prove their interconnectedness with gimmicky (but effective casting) while juggling a half-dozen set-ups, a half-dozen climaxes, sets of characters, denouements and everything else that comes with telling one tale, magnified six-fold. One story is a seafaring adventure yarn; one a sci-fi; one a post-apocalyptic allegory; one a farce; one a thriller. Good luck keeping them straight.

And yet, that's completely possible, thanks to Lana and Andy Wachowski and Tom Tykwer, the co-directors and co-writers of this gargan-

antuan and epic undertaking, a massive stab at serious filmmaking that you almost never see anymore outside the confines of an HBO miniseries. *Cloud Atlas* isn't a perfect film, and indeed it has some notable flaws; but it is also the first truly great film of 2012, and one of the most serious efforts ever made at making a \$100 million blockbuster that requires its audience to think as much as it feels.

It would be difficult to recommend someone attending *Cloud Atlas* on a first date, or after a heavy dinner involving wine, because the film demands to be addressed with the same seriousness with which it has been made. Thankfully, there are still folks out there willing to finance expensive movies by talented and intelligent filmmakers about serious ideas.

It helps to be the Wachowskis, the sibling filmmakers (Lana, formerly Larry, may be the first trans woman to helm a huge Hollywood film) responsible for *The Matrix* series. The first of those films was as smart and revolutionary as *Cloud Atlas* is: A breathtaking ride through the mind that touches on issues of destiny, spirituality and the power of rebellious thinking without getting mired in the goey slog of navelgazing smugness. (That didn't come until the second and third *Matrix* films.) It does so by rushing (though, at three hours, it may not seem so) through the complex interplay of stories



ACROSS THE UNIVERSE | Ben Whishaw, left, and James D'Arcy, rear, play star-crossed lovers united spiritually throughout the ages in the visually dazzling 'Cloud Atlas' — perhaps the biggest-budget mainstream Hollywood movie ever with a gay love story at its center.

joined together by slender threads — a disc of lapis, a mysterious manifesto, a haunting symphony.

In 1849, a fortune-seeker (Tom Hanks, almost unrecognizable under certain-to-win-the-Oscar makeup) forages a Pacific Island beach for evidence of cannibals from millennia past; 1,000

years later, cannibals terrorize villagers (including Hanks, again) in post-nuclear winter Hawaii. A gay composer (Ben Whishaw) writes letters to his love in 1930s England, recounting his efforts to compose a musical masterpiece; in 1973, his ex-lover (James D'Arcy) debates whether to become a whistleblower to an investigative re-

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porter (Halle Berry). On and on continues these echoes upon echoes, with the directors elegantly linking the disparate timelines visually (the photography and special effects as constantly breathtaking as *The Matrix*), aurally and with quintuple casting of all the principals.

If the concept sounds slightly fake, well, occasionally, it is. You do spend a more-than-usual amount of time playing “spot the star under the prosthetic nose.” But in the end, not only does it serve the film’s motifs, it also keeps your mind alert. And when the actors are this good — Broadbent (emphasis on the “broad”) hams it up deliciously; Whishaw and D’Arcy make the gay love story profoundly moving; Hugo Weaving and Hugh Grant have a ball as assorted villains — you can forgive it. *Cloud Atlas* lives up to its name, mapping the ineffability of humanity in a compendium of genuine vignettes. Prepare to be wowed. ■



Halle Berry and Tom Hanks.

Shores nuff

In turns dark and funny, ‘Blues for Willadean’ packs a punch

It is, perhaps, in poor taste to say a movie about wife-beating packs a punch, but that’s the kind of wincing irony that would probably tickle Del Shores. Shores, our foremost chronicler of the tragedy of white-trash Texas (and how to make it trashier), has a dark sense of humor — one where infidelity, missing limbs, church hypocrisy and pointed zingers occupy the same beer-soaked barroom ... or semen-dappled church pew. He does not suffer foolishness gladly, and foolishness takes many forms in his universe.

But his universe is unnervingly real sometimes, as it is in *Blues for Willadean*, the film adaptation of his play *Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*. Willadean is a meek woman, cowed by the brutality of her husband J.D. (David Steen), a trucker who plants his dipstick in the engine of the local cocktail waitress (Dale Dickey) in between backhands to Willie. Over one monumental weekend, Willa endures horrible humiliation before finding her

★★★★★
BLUES FOR WILLADEAN
 Beth Grant, Octavia Spencer, Dale Dickey. Rated R. 110 mins.
 Playing Oct. 26–Nov. 1 at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.

inner strength. If it sounds relentlessly dour, you’re only half right: Part of the success of this film — and it is a surprising but resounding success — is how effortlessly Shores toggles between the Lifetime Movie horrors of Willie’s efforts to stave off violence and the oxygen-depriving laughs occasioned by

Dickey and Octavia Spencer, playing Willie’s saucy next door neighbor LaSonia. “She is trash that will not burn,” LaSonia clucks with hilarious judgment.

If it sounds like an awkward fit, it’s not, especially with this stellar cast of Shores regulars. As everyone knows, the blues are sad ... but they are also joyous and full of hope. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones



TRAILER TALK | An abused woman (Beth Grant, left) shares a moment of happiness with her sassy neighbor (Octavia Spencer) in the compelling domestic drama ‘Blues for Willadean.’



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THE HORROR! | The second season of 'American Horror Story' is currently airing, but the first — with a creepy villain played by Denis O'Hare, right — is just out on video and alarmingly scary.

American Horror Story: The Complete First Season. No series in recent memory has as many creepy twists, terrifying boos or half-naked backside shots of Dylan McDermott as the Ryan Murphy miniseries that transformed Jessica Lange into an Emmy-winning psychopath. FX's horror hit, in its first button-pushing season, turned us on (sometimes literally) to all things horrific — Rubber Man (*and* Piggy Man), a freaky home invasion and mistresses that come back from the dead — as a family regretfully uncovered the dark secrets of Murder House. One of those secrets? What happened to the gay couple that used to live there (half of that twosome being the newly out Zachary Quinto).

It wrapped after 12 self-contained episodes (the second season, which debuted last week and is set 50 years in the past, comes with an *Asylum* tag), all of which are included here, but the haunts keep coming: The bonus features include a making-of, a cool look at the menacing opening sequence, an introduction to the ghosts and a tour of the house where it all started — and ended.



Dark Shadows. If anybody knows bizarre, it's the bromantic movie-making duo of Johnny Depp and Tim Burton. Together they've turned *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* into a freak show and brought the musical story of knife-wielding barber *Sweeney Todd* to the big screen, among many more pairings. Weird isn't a problem for either. So, naturally, *Dark Shadows*, based on the '60s soap opera, throws ghosts, vampires and, uh, werewolves into the Gothic mix, starting off with promise as we meet a family of distinctly dysfunctional characters and a cursed vampire, Barnabas Collins (Depp), who returns to his ancestral home ... and tries to adapt to things like, you know, cars.

It's got wackiness (and standout roles from Helena Bonham Carter and Eva Green), but where's the bite? The last half of the directionless *Shadows*, which does look fantastic at least, collapses on itself with incongruous storytelling



and off-the-wall hysterics, dragging itself to a *Death Becomes Her* finish that's all frills but no fun. The extras are just as disappointing: six minutes of deleted scenes and scene-specific interview snippets. Not even a full commentary to make up for this mess.

Prometheus. Even without Sigourney Weaver going all butch on some killer mutants, this prequel to *Alien* has all the necessary components of a Ridley Scott flick: kick-butt babes, alien-baby births and stomach-turning ickiness. Only if Michael Fassbender, who stars as a deceitful android, showed his very large penis (again) could this movie be everything you ever wanted.

It's the year 2089 and a crew of inquisitive explorers sets out to seek the origins of humanity in uncharted territory that's obviously a breeding ground for all sorts of human-hungry gross things. Questions aren't answered like the film promises, but it's sure hella-fun watching aliens tear apart these people — not to mention seeing Charlize Theron play rough and a pretty incredible finale that lays the foundation for Scott's great tetralogy. Released in IMAX 3D, *Prometheus* gets the same fancy treatment for its home-release (with many hours of special features), but the two-disc Blu-ray still pops with visual splendor and a few cool extras: a Ridley Scott commentary, deleted and alternate scenes and The Peter Weyland Files for the *Alien* diehards.

Universal Classic Monsters: The Essential Collection. Before "torture porn," scary movies weren't all boobs and guts, they could scare you without sawing off a foot. Universal's gone back over 80 years to remaster the classic *Dracula* and unleash the other beasts that followed the less-is-more approach: With eight films in all, the studio that defined the horror genre goes all out with this must-have for monster-movie fans.

The first dates to 1931, when Bela Lugosi turned *Dracula* into a legendary nutcase full of weird ticks; the original is included here, and with a striking cleanup — check out the cool restoration process during one of the many special features — that should scare up new horror fans. How some of these movies inspired contemporary fright films should be apparent with not only *Creature from the Black Lagoon* (a trailblazer for underwater spooks that now, some six decades later, comes off as delightfully hokey, "did they really think that was scary?" camp) but also *The Wolf Man*, which

might feature the most empathetic "villain" ever. Also included are both *Frankenstein* (by gay director James Whale) and *The Bride of Frankenstein*, the 1943 version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Mummy* and *The Invisible Man*. Besides the better-than-ever Blu-ray transfers, all the films are tucked in a neat book with a supplemental info guide that breaks down their beginnings. And the special features? Lots to sink your teeth into. ■

—Chris Azzopardi



FUTURE PAST | The 'Alien' prequel 'Prometheus,' above, is an outer space haunted house; but the Universal collection of classics, left, wrote the book.

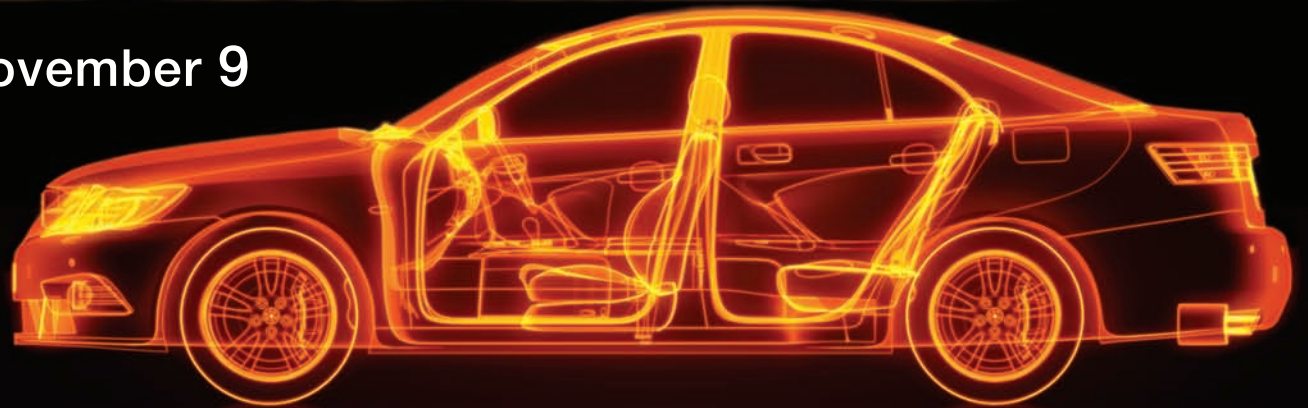


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L+S auto



Don't pet this Fiat

The Abarth may look cute (it is!), but this tight new ride packs real fire-power

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

"Look at that. Isn't it cute?" said the lady to her husband as she walks into the sub shop where I'm eating. Yeah, lady, that's the Fiat Abarth. Real cute — with a bad attitude. I wouldn't pet that scorpion! But I would flog it. Hard.

Two blind monks could tell there's something amiss with the Abarth upon first encounter. Our test car was painted Nero Black metallic with 17-in. forged aluminum alloys shod with low-profile Pirelli P-Zero performance tires. Wide stripes and Abarth logos adorn the sides. The 500's traditional "whiskers and logo" face looks as good as ever, but is accentuated by bolder fascia, twin snarling nostrils, and a big scorpioned Abarth logo in the nose. Flared wheel arches, unique side skirts, and twin chrome exhausts up the visual gravity. A rear spoiler gives the car a longer look while increasing downforce and the rear diffuser optimizes airflow. While there is some jewelry for jewelry's sake, most of the add-ons have purpose.

If the monks sniffed deeply, they might believe they're in a Ferrari. One-piece leather thrones look beautiful, grip your sides, and smell like fine Italian cow. It is hard to deny the thick

flat-bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel either. Dash panels continue the body color for an expensive look. Automatic climate control and TomTom Navigation add convenience. Fiat's BLUE&ME hands-free communications system utilizes smartphones, connected via USB or Bluetooth, for calling, real time traffic reports, weather and points of interest. Beats by Dr. Dre audio with a 368-watt amplifier and subwoofer rocks you happy, but the powertrain will blow your hair back.

The Abarth's acoustically-tuned exhaust makes the car sound like a souped up lawnmower, but the car's light weight and abundant energy give it a fun-loving spirit that only an Italian could divine (even if it is built in Mexico). Under the stubby hood is a turbocharged and twin-intercooled 1.4-liter four-cylinder engine that sends 160hp and 170 lb.-ft. of torque through a five-speed manual transmission to the front wheels. That may not register as a lot of power until you realize the Fiat only weighs 2,500 lbs.

That all sounded like the potential for rapturous turmoil and hedonistic pleasure, but on first drive, the car was not living up to the spirit I imagined. It seemed to take a lot of throttle-ca-

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ressing to get it to move even when revved obnoxiously through its click-click shifter. But then, I discovered the Sport mode's "fun button" and all Hades erupted. In no time, I was giggling like a devil on the win. Fuel economy is rated 28/34-MPG city/hwy. — less so under full stomp.

All of the body accoutrement and rebellious thrashing is backed up by a track-ready chassis. Engineers lowered the ride height and stiffened up the suspension to give the tall city car handling that would set a Mustang back a couple of paces. Four-wheel disc brakes are up to the car's potential while an innovative 3-mode stability control system can be switched "On," "Partial Off" or "Full Off," allowing the Torque Transfer Control system to maximize performance through corners. There's only so much you can do to make a front-drive car handle like a sports car, but the Abarth gives its soul to play the part.

The Abarth is not all whipped espresso. The driving position is typically Italian with a forward-canted steering wheel and legs-length clutch travel — made more difficult with a dime-sized pedal. You feel like you're shifting with your tippy-toes. The suspension is necessarily stiff, but thunks over rough pavement. Except for what's leather and painted, interior quality is about what's expected for a \$15,000 car. Rear seat space is best left to those with severed legs. My partner got hot over the rowdy exhaust rumble, but it could tire your ears every day.

Your morning drive, whether to a stuffy office or college campus, does not have to be boring. The Fiat Abarth is as practical as every other city-sized 500, but comes with a lot more attitude. Don't pet the Abarth. Love it. Relish it. Wash it. And, by all means garage it. But, don't hug it.

An as-tested price of \$26,200 puts it against the Mini Cooper S, Chevy Sonic RS, and upcoming Ford Fiesta ST. ■



QUEER CLIP: 'LOVE FREE OR DIE'

When Gene Robinson became the first openly gay, partnered bishop in the Episcopal Church in the United States, he was the right man for the job. Self-described as "unashamedly gay, unashamedly Christian," he's warm, sincere and stands his ground without appearing confrontational ... the very qualities work against him as the subject of the documentary *Love Free or Die*, airing this week as part of Independent Lens. (He'd be better played by Philip Seymour Hoffman.)

Alas, Macky Alston's film is necessary nonetheless, spotlighting as it does a man who deserves the attention he received for his place in LGBT history.

There are glimpses of Robinson's early days, including his 2003 consecration in New Hampshire, but Alston focuses on the period from 2008. The first is when he was intentionally snubbed an invitation to the decennial Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion in Canterbury, England. (Instead, Robinson hung around outside, drawing plenty of media attention; he was even asked to preach at a church in London.) The second is the General Convention the following year, where the Episcopal Church officially voted to allow the consecration of openly gay bishops and to perform same-sex weddings in states where they are legal.

Alston allows people on all sides to state their cases, from those supportive of full equality for LGBT people in the church to those struggling with their feelings to those whose conservative attitudes will never change. There is general talk of the schism the change has caused in the church and the communion but no specific figures.

Robinson has his moments to shine, from delivering the invocation at the start of Barack Obama's inauguration activities to giving a classic comeback to Jon Stewart on The Daily Show, but the best line comes from Bishop Barbara Harris, who in 1989 became the first female bishop in the Episcopal Church. (Where's her documentary?) Speaking of the Anglican Communion and presiding Archbishop Rowan Williams she says, "If assholes could fly, this place would be an airport!"

Amen to that, sister.

— Steve Warren

Two and a half stars. *Love Free or Die* premieres on PBS' *Independent Lens*, airing on Ch. 13 on Oct. 30 at 10 p.m.

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Friday 10.26

Lyric salutes '1776'

With election season upon us, it bears remembering the efforts that went into preserving our democracy, and no musical captures that better than *1776*, about the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The team at Lyric Stage is at it again, with Cheryl Denson directing, Jay Dias conducting and Steven Jones producing this enchanting musical with a 33-piece orchestra and Dallas' own B'way veteran, Brian Gonzales, as John Adams.

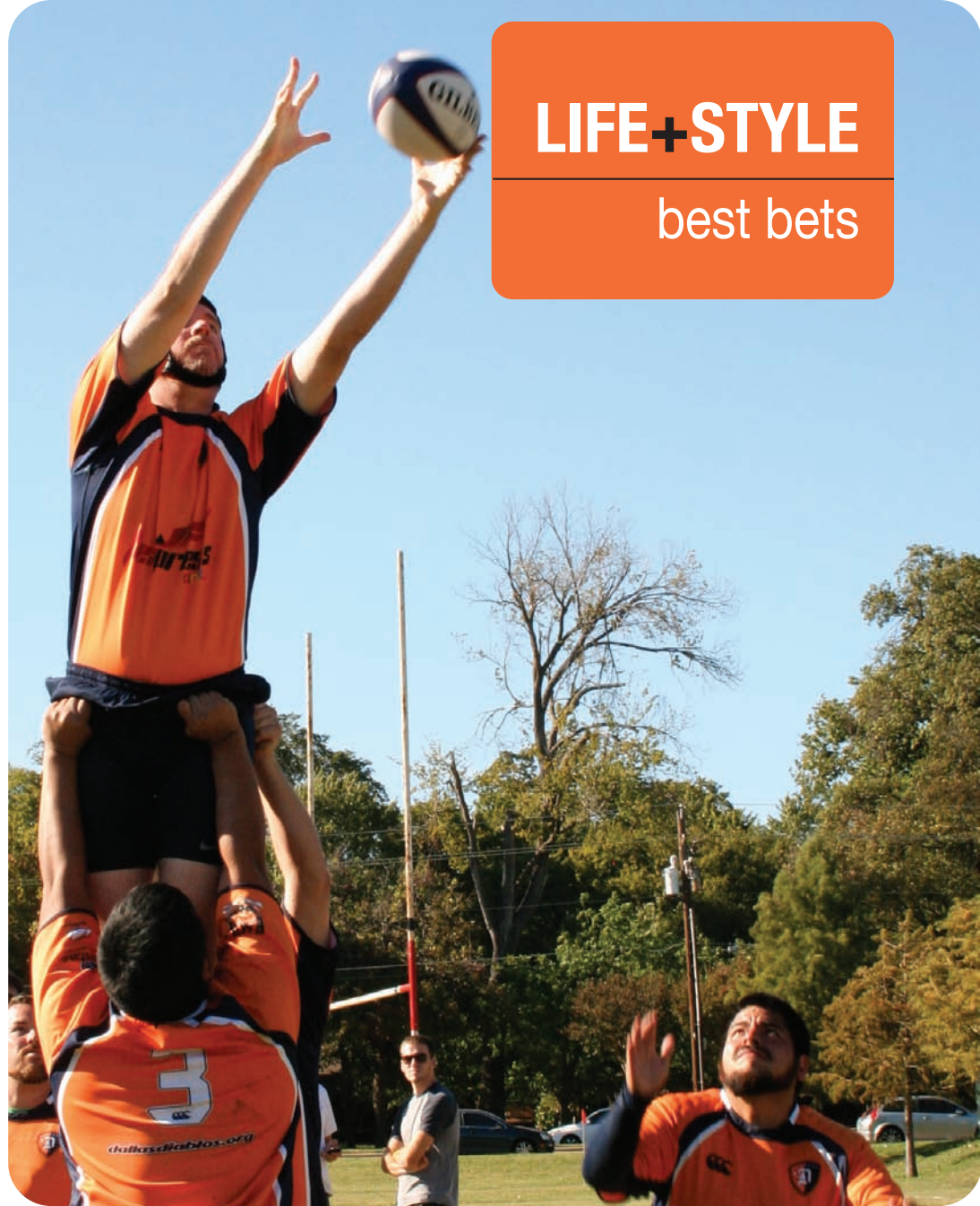
DEETS: Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Oct. 26–Nov. 4. LyricStage.org.

Friday 10.26

Tret Fure begins North Texas music tour

Tret Fure is something of a rarity nowadays: The musical activist. The gay singer, known for her catalog of songs about social justice, brings her style of jazzy folk to North Texas, starting with a show Friday at the Agape MCC in Fort Worth, then moving to the Community Cafe in Plano Saturday and Community Unitarian Church Sunday.

DEETS: Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. \$15. Community Cafe Coffee House, 2875 E. Parker Road, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. \$10. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m. worship.



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Saturday 10.27

Gay rugby players from all over descend on Dallas for HellFest

The Rangers may have missed the World Series this year, but important tournament play is hardly dead in Dallas. The Dallas Diablos Rugby Football Club once again sponsors HellFest, the annual competition of gay-inclusive ruggers from around the U.S., who show up just in time to look really scary for the Halloween Street Party. Attendees gather at Lake Highland Park starting early Saturday for a full day of scrums until the victor emerges from all the blood. Then they all go out partying. Sounds like a plan.

DEETS: Lake Highland Park at Buckner Boulevard. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. DallasDiablos.org.

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FRIDAY 10.26

THEATER

Avenue Q. Presented by Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. An adult musical with puppets. Gay puppets. Having sex. Leave the kids at home. Extended through Dec. 9. Theatre3Dallas.com.

1776. Cheryl Denson directs this patriotic classic about the writing of the Declaration of Independence. Presented by Lyric Stage. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Oct. 26–Nov. 4. Lyric-Stage.org.

Complete Hollywood (Abridged). The team who comically “abridged” Shakespeare turns its sights on Tinseltown. Presented by Rover Dramawerks. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 Avenue H, Plano. Through Nov. 17. \$16–\$20. RoverDramawerks.com.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity. A play about professional wrestling. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Nov. 11. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Evil Dead: The Musical. A comic horror, presented by Ohlook Productions. 1631 W. Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Oct. 26–31 (including late-night shows). OhlookPerform.com.

Theatre of Death. MBS Productions’ annual catalog of creepy and dark plays with roots in ancient Spain. Stone Cottage Theatre, Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Nov. 3. \$18–\$25. MBSProductions.net.

BALLET

Peer Gynt. Ben Stevenson’s presentation from Texas Ballet Theater. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Oct. 26–28. Evenings at 8 p.m., weekend



EVIL DEAD | The comic musical plays for a raucous five Halloween Week performances, from OhLook.

matinees at 2 p.m. TexasBalletTheater.org.

BROADCAST

Broadway: The American Musical. A new six-part series about musical theater. Interviewees include Bernadette Peters, Patti LuPone, Stephen Sondheim, Harvey Fierstein, Tommy Tune and many more. Tonight: Episode 3. Ch. 13 at 8 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING

Adversity Builds Character by Tom Ufert. The author will sign copies of his story of overcoming disability and addiction. Crowne Plaza Market Center, 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway. Oct. 26–27, noon.

COMMUNITY

Dick’s Night Out. GayListDaily celebrates its five-year anniversary at this mixer at Ku•De•Ta, 3121 Ross Ave. 5–8 p.m. No cover.

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SATURDAY 10.27

COMMUNITY

Undy 500. The fifth annual family-friendly 5K walk/run, where the participants show up in boxers and other underwear, raises money to fight colon cancer. Winfrey Point at White Rock Lake. Registration starts at 7 a.m., 5K begins at 8:30 a.m. Support.CCAlliance.org.

Barktober Fest. Pet Halloween costume contest. Prizes include packages from The Pooch Patio. Sun-down at Granada, 3520 Greenville Ave. 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Klyde Warren Park Grand Opening. The new Uptown/Arts District deck park opens amid a weekend of ceremonies, music and more, including The Concert for Dallas on Saturday at 7 p.m., featuring the Polyphonic Spree and DJ Lucy Wrubel. For a complete schedule, visit KlydeWarrenPark.org.

Drag Queen Halloween. Drag show and dinner with Candis Cayne at Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Seatings at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Dish-Dallas.com.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas on its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

SUNDAY 10.28

WORSHIP

Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. LGBT-friendly “meditation and more” event. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality, all faiths welcome. Deaf interpretation provided. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson. 5 p.m. Donations accepted. InterMindful.com.

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

COMMUNITY

Drag Brunch. Candis Cayne returns to Dish for three daytime shows alongside Jenna Skyy and Jenni P. Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Seatings at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Dish-Dallas.com.

Sunday School Brunch: Halloween Edition. Costumes encouraged at the monthly Hotel Zaza brunch and party. 2330 Leonard St. Noon. \$50/person.

MONDAY 10.29

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars. Favorite queens return for this competition. Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 10.30

BROADCAST

The New Normal. A comedy about a gay couple hiring a surrogate, from Ryan Murphy (*Glee*, *American Horror Story*). Ch. 5 at 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 10.31

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.

THEATER

Burying Our Father: A Biblical Debacle. Fred Curchack writes and stars in this comic retelling of the story of Abraham. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Oct. 31–Nov. 7. Undermain.org.

THURSDAY 11.01

COMMUNITY

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

PFLAG Fort Worth meets the first Thursdays of each month. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-428-2329. PflagFortWorth.org.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY



David Ogden Stiers turns 70 on Halloween. Best known as the erudite surgeon Charles Emerson Winchester on *MASH*, Stiers has also been a regular in Woody Allen films and animation voices. In 2009, he came out as gay — allegedly, to improve his dating life.

SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20

You can't be expected to carry on if every fiber of your being wants to be elsewhere. Something else is calling your name and the bigger part of you wants to rise up and meet it. There are other things floating around that have to do with how much you've invested in doing everything correctly.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20

You would feel better about everything if you could get others to listen. You see, sense and know everything that's going on, and yet no one pays attention to your well meant advice. What to do next doesn't need to be decided now.

CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20

Life would be so much easier if you didn't feel like you weren't the only one on the planet who could take care of things. Let yourself off the hook and let everyone else find the strength to fix themselves.

AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20

You have gone out of your way, so far above and beyond the call of duty, it's hard to figure out why the need to keep proving yourself is so out of control. There's a lot riding on this, but if you fall flat, it wasn't meant to be.

PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20

Change is in the wind. You're not sure what it means but you sense that something is about to inject a little novelty and excitement into your life. For the longest time there's been enough of the same old thing and a little too much certainty.

ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20

You keep skirting issues; you're avoiding whatever you can't confront. For someone whose warrior spirit is always there when you need it, at the moment you're having a tough time coming up with the strength to look yourself in the eye.

TAURUS Apr 21–May 20

By the time you read this you'll feel a whole lot better about why things went the way they did. Sometimes we get caught in the crossfire of other people and their stuff.

GEMINI May 21–Jun 20

Enough is on the line for you to be feeling a little tense. I get the feeling many of you are ready to snap. It comes down to knowing whether to quit or keep going. No one can tell you what to do, so it's best to go with what works.

CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20

You have much to be thankful for. In the midst of one change after another, take the time to look at what is going right. Things that have been so hard to define for the past couple of years are now looking more like what you were dreaming of.

LEO Jul 21–Aug 20

Finding a way to be part of your life without sacrificing all of yourself is the trick of the ages. There is no answer for what you're going through. If you have someone who's there for you, you are lucky.

VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20

Step back and give everything enough room to show you what it can do. People in your life need to be left to their own devices as well. For one reason or another "space" has become an issue; someone needs a little more of it than usual.

LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20

The way things are going you'd do well to let everyone do what's expedient. There's no way you're going to get them to live up to your need for attention when life is making it very obvious that a number of things are more important than you.

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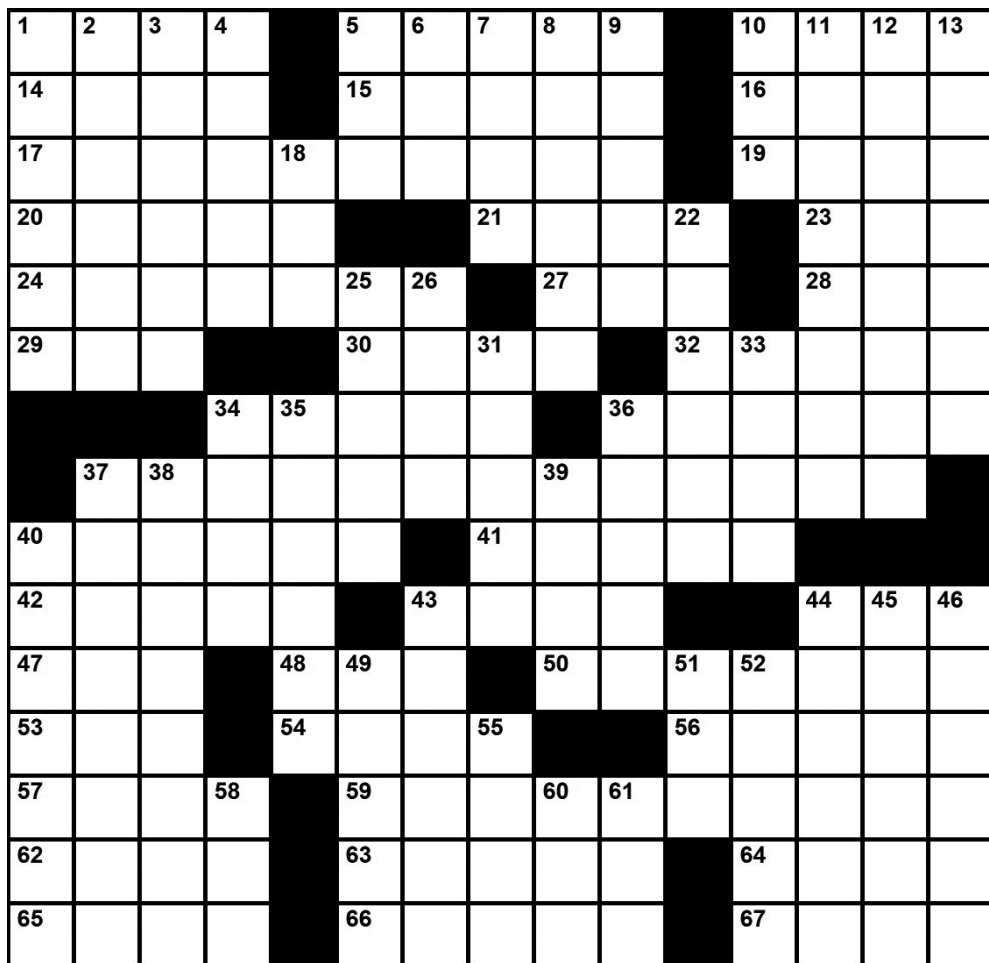
bitter girl



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Pandering to Male Gay Voters

Solution on page 49

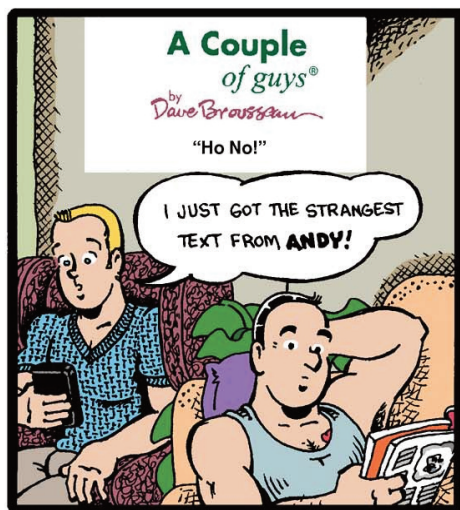
Across

- 1 "Nuts!"
- 5 Kind of basket
- 10 Force in *Milk*, for short
- 14 Vehicle for the high C's?
- 15 Porn director Chi Chi
- 16 Kind of loser
- 17 With 19-Across, attire of Joe Biden, at meetings, in a joke
- 19 See 17-Across
- 20 Anesthesia of old
- 21 Vermont, to Vivien
- 23 R. E. Lee's nation
- 24 Star wearer
- 27 Part of a Stein line
- 28 "___ was saying ..."
- 29 Abe Lincoln's boy
- 30 Very plentiful
- 32 Trojan rival
- 34 Trial figure
- 36 Govt. notes
- 37 With 57-Across, comment by Barack Obama about Biden
- 40 Margaret Mead interviewee
- 41 Slight variation
- 42 Paces in races
- 43 Matches a poker bet

- 44 "___ Were a Rich Man"
- 47 Summer hrs. at Key West
- 48 La leader
- 50 Doyle's lover
- 53 Here, in Le Havre
- 54 Casa chamber
- 56 Hacks it
- 57 See 37-Across
- 59 Host of *The Daily Show*, where this joke was told
- 62 Rubik of cube fame
- 63 Colette's love
- 64 Peace Nobel Wiesel
- 65 Silence for Saint-Saens
- 66 *Daisy Miller* author James
- 67 Bottomless

Down

- 1 Most like some porn
- 2 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- 3 Supported Metropolitan Community Church, e.g.
- 4 It may stick out in front of a cavalryman
- 5 Initial course at lunch?
- 6 Sound of the New York Liberty cheerleaders
- 7 Lake traveled by Ohio ferries
- 8 Em's title
- 9 Painter of ballerinas
- 10 Teakettle sound
- 11 Philosopher Michel
- 12 How a queen may walk
- 13 Holds up
- 18 Paul Newman role in *Exodus*
- 22 Designated
- 25 Refrigerator gas
- 26 Squealer
- 31 Choreographer Bob
- 33 Circumcision, for one
- 34 One-armed bandit's opening
- 35 Says "Bottoms up!"
- 36 Refuse
- 37 Like some gay porn
- 38 They may be worn on one's sleeve
- 39 "That stinks!"
- 40 Rod on a screen
- 43 Oscar Wilde tragedy
- 44 Run through
- 45 Like Spenser's Queene
- 46 It may be under the tongue
- 49 Indian chief
- 51 Frozen dessert
- 52 Dragged behind
- 55 Soon, to Shakespeare
- 58 Decimal point
- 60 Kerouac's "Big ___"
- 61 Give it a go



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Donna and Kim at Sue Ellen's.



Friends' night out at Drama Room.



Jonathan and Michael at the Round-Up Saloon.



Roberto and Luis at Havana.

One of the biggest nights of the year on **Cedar Springs** takes place on Oct. 27 with the annual **Halloween** celebration. ... The **Street Party** runs from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. featuring **Costume Promenade** with live commentary from **Edna Jean Robinson**. Catch the featured **Rose Room** performances in the back lot. ... **BJ's NXS** holds a costume contest on Oct. 27 beginning at 9 p.m. hosted by **Sunel**. The winner will be awarded \$150. ... The **Caven** costume contest takes place on Oct. 31. Winners at **JR.'s Bar & Grill**, **Sue Ellen's** and **S4** will be announced at 11 p.m. Finalists at **S4** compete at midnight for cash and prize packages, including a pair of coach domestic tickets on **American Airlines**, a weekend stay at **Palomar Hotel** in a luxury suite with breakfast for two each day, a \$500 voucher from the **Globus** and more. ... **Dallas Diablos** presents **HellFest** at **Dallas Eagle** 4-9 p.m. on Oct. 27. The masquerade ball and costume contest follow hosted by **Wanda**. ... At the **Round-Up Saloon**, **Zombie Man Candy** begins at 8 p.m. on Oct. 28. The costume contest takes place on Oct. 31 at midnight with cash prizes for best individual and group. ... The costume contest at **Woody's** begins at midnight on Oct. 27. ... **Kallente's** Halloween contest is Oct. 28 with cash prizes. ... Have a spooky Halloween. ■

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Girls' night out at Station 4.



Brian at Honey Pot Bear Fest at the Dallas Eagle. More at DallasVoice.com.

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After a quick photo shoot, we will
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