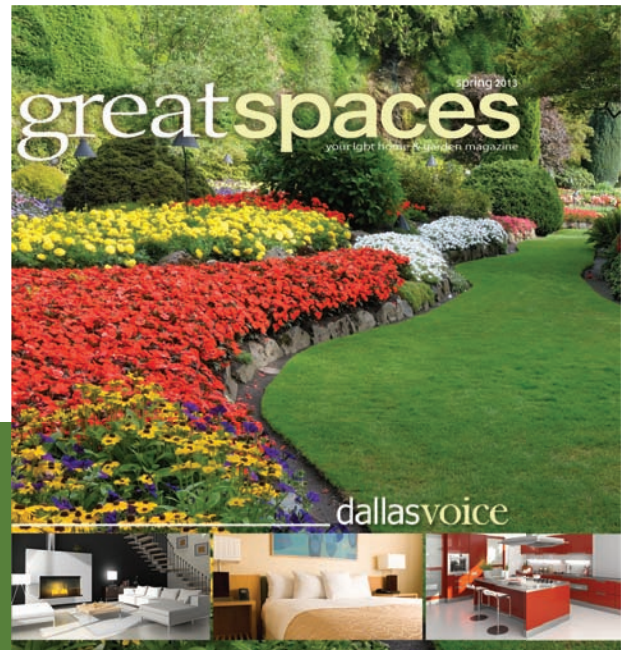


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KEEPING DENTON QUEER

Church that meets at city's only gay bar joins with group that tracks LGBT-friendly businesses to fuel resurgence in activism in 'Little D'

■ COVER STORY, Page 6

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■ COVER ART

Activists march to Denton City Hall before asking the City Council to draft a resolution supporting marriage equality on April 16. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

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Dallas employees honored for appearing in 'It Gets Better' video

Dallas City Councilwoman Delia Jasso honored 13 LGBT city employees who participated in the city of Dallas "It Gets Better" video at a council briefing Wednesday morning.

Jasso said what the employees did was truly special.

"They sat in front of a movie camera and told stories of being picked on and bullied at school and losing family and friends," Jasso said.

She said she was proud of this video that has been viewed more than 3,000 times. She also thanked former Councilman Ed Oakley and Caven Enterprises President Greg Kilhoffer for providing the funding.

"To make the video happen quickly took money," Jasso said.

Oakley described the 13 participants as people you work with everyday who revealed part of their life you don't know about.

He said he hoped the video would inspire LGBT youth to know they could serve on City Council or run for mayor.

He said some of the people in the video he worked with everyday when he served on the council and didn't know they were part of the community.

Mayor Mike Rawlings concluded the presentation.

"I love our LGBT community," Rawlings said.
— David Taffet

TX Senate panel advances repeal of 'homosexual conduct' law

For the second time in as many weeks, a Texas Senate panel has voted to advance a pro-LGBT bill.

The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice voted 5-0 Wednesday to advance SB 538, by Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, which would repeal the state's unconstitutional "homosexual conduct" law. Equality Texas reports:

"SB 538 is the first legislation ever filed in the Texas Senate to repeal the unenforceable §21.06 of the Penal Code. Identical legislation has been filed in the Texas House this session [HB 1701 by Farrar and HB 3232 by Coleman] and in every session since the Lawrence v. Texas decision.

"Today's action is the first time the repeal legislation has ever been advanced by a Texas legislative

committee subsequent to Lawrence v. Texas."

Three Democrats and two Republicans voted to advance the bill. One of the two Republicans was Sen. John Carona of Dallas, who told Instant Tea he would support the measure on Monday.

Although the "homosexual conduct" law isn't legally enforceable, it has remained on the books for a full decade since it was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in Lawrence v. Texas in 2003. Read more about efforts to repeal the law here.

The bill now moves to the full Senate.

— John Wright

GetEQUAL TX expects arrests at action in support of state ENDA

Activists with GetEQUAL TX are gearing up for possible arrests over the next few weeks as part of their efforts to urge lawmakers to pass workplace nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people.

The Senate Economic Development Committee has already heard testimony on SB 237, filed by state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, but the bill was left pending in committee.

Michael Diviesti, GetEQUAL TX state co-coordinator, said the organization was planning actions that could lead to arrests. Next week is when he expects anywhere from 14 to 20 activists to be arrested.

He said his legal team expects everyone to be charged with misdemeanors so the organization is trying to raise \$4,000 to cover bail, or \$200 for 20 people.

The organization is also asking people to contact members of the Senate committee to urge them to support the legislation.

The committee's seven members are: Chairman Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, Vice Chairman Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, and Kirk Watson, D-Austin. Both Davis and Watson are co-authors.

Diviesti said he's asking people to mainly contact Birdwell because his office has told people who call that he is against the bill because it would make it difficult to fire LGBT workers who don't do their jobs.

Birdwell's office did not respond to requests for comment.

— Anna Waugh



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HOLY WATERING HOLE | Pastor Jeff Hood delivers a sermon at Denton's only gay bar, Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chainsaw Repair, on Easter Sunday. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

Keeping Denton queer

Church that meets at city's only gay bar joins with group that tracks LGBT-friendly businesses to fuel resurgence in activism in 'Little D'

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

DENTON — As a crowd gathers in front of Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chainsaw Repair on Easter Sunday, they begin to sing "This Little Light of Mine" and enter the city's only gay bar — for a church service.

Under the direction of the Rev. Jeff Hood, the group of about 35 takes their seats, still singing, until Hood begins his sermon.

Hood moved to Denton from Mississippi last summer. A Baptist minister, he started a house church to spread the word of God in his new city, but when the congregation outgrew his living room, he sought out another worship space.

He thought Mable's was the perfect site because it is the "center point of the queer community in Denton." And his church reaches out to the queer community, including LGBT people, and aims to be a "radically inclusive space" for everyone. He

said many of the people who attend haven't gone to church in a while or have never attended.

"A lot of people who are not comfortable going to church are comfortable going to a bar for church because they were there the night before," Hood said, adding that while many churches have met at bars in the past, few have met at gay bars.

Hood is among a group of activists who've fueled a recent resurgence in LGBT advocacy in this town of some 115,000 about 40 miles north of Dallas.

More than 200 people attended a marriage equality rally at City Hall in late March, and six local churches including Hood's signed a letter vowing to be inclusive published in the Denton Record-Chronicle on Easter.

Lesbian activist Kat Ralph co-founded Keep Denton Queer in December after a patron at a bar in Denton harassed her when she kissed her girlfriend — and the manager wouldn't address the issue.

What started as a Facebook page for people to post about positive and negative experiences grew into a website and the creation of stickers bearing KDQ's logo for LGBT-supportive businesses.

Although she's still putting together information to send out with the stickers, she said six businesses sought her out and already display them in their storefronts.

Ralph hopes the level of involvement from the LGBT community remains strong after past efforts to create an organized movement in Denton — which even led to a citywide Pride celebration in 2009 — died out.

"It fizzled out for a while," Ralph said. "This is the perfect opportunity to do something locally again."

How Jesus is 'queer'

Hood's church began meeting at the bar on Easter Sunday and has had good attendance. Hood's wife paints while he preaches to add a visual element. He also alternates between preaching a Bible study and asking his flock to discuss Scripture in small groups before coming back together.

Part of Hood's teachings focus on the idea that Jesus is "queer" in the sense that his actions were non-normative, even in today's culture.

"In a world of greed and injustice doing something non-normative is queer," Hood said, adding that things such as loving everyone and forgiveness are queer because it often goes against our nature to do either fully.

Raised Southern Baptist, Hood was taught to condemn homosexuality, but he became an LGBT advocate in 2007 after his pastoral mentor came

out to him.

He now speaks out for immigration equality for same-sex couples and is working with Denton churches on becoming more inclusive because only a few currently are.

He sent out letters on Ash Wednesday encouraging dialogue about inclusion and received a response from a few churches that agreed to sign the letter published in the Denton Record-Chronicle.

But some churches were not open to the dialogue he offered. Hood said his teachings are "definitely a threat" to churches in Denton that teach "traditional family values."

"We're committed to being the most inclusive space that ever existed in Denton," he said.

Natalie Elle Woods, associate pastor-in-training at Hood's church, found comfort in the church's teachings. Also raised Southern Baptist, she came out to her family a few years ago after leaving her husband.

"My faith wasn't something I could ever leave, but when I came out to my family, they said I had to pick between God and being gay," she said.

But at Hood's church, where Woods will be ordained next Easter, she's found acceptance and spiritual healing.

"It's a place of acceptance and love and completely different ideology and theology of what

■ DENTON, Page 13

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HELPING HOMELESS TEENS | The Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope, far left, and Yadi Martinez, minister for mission and youth at the church, far right, present a check for \$2,000 to Zach Bartush, volunteer and special projects coordinator, and Judy Wright, vice president for external affairs, of Promise House, a Dallas shelter for homeless, runaway and at-risk teens, giving teens needed support, encouragement and hope to live a better life. Participants in Cathedral of Hope's Youth Ministry chose Promise House as the recipient of the funds, raised from a special soup supper fundraiser, "Souper Bowl of Caring," on Feb. 3 at Cathedral of Hope.



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Dallas health officials monitor meningitis outbreak in NY, LA

3 recent deaths in California prompt local expert to warn: 'We did not ring the bell quick enough with HIV. That was a catastrophic mistake.'

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Three gay men in Los Angeles have died from meningitis since December. In New York seven of 22 who contracted the disease since 2010 have died.

Should the gay community be worried about this dangerous strain of bacterial meningitis that appears to have spread through encounters between men?

AIDS Healthcare Foundation Texas Regional Director Bret Camp said it will be important to keep an eye on what's happening.

"We did not ring the bell quick enough with HIV," he said. "That was a catastrophic mistake."

But he also said it's important to view this as an infectious disease, not a gay disease.

The latest death occurred in Los Angeles last week. The victim was Brett Shaad, a 33-year-old attorney who had just returned from the White Party in Palm Springs.

A week later, Shaad began feeling sick on a Monday, was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis on Wednesday, and died on Friday.

Health officials discovered two other young Southern California gay men died of the same strain of bacterial meningitis in December. Two others may have contracted the disease as well.

While L.A. county health officials are not raising an alarm, AHF decided to begin offering free vaccines in its Los Angeles clinics.

Camp said bacterial meningitis is "contagious, but not highly contagious like colds or flu."

He said the disease can be contracted by sharing food, kissing or during sex, but it is not sexually transmitted and protection such as condoms will not prevent it.

In New York, most of the 22 cases that occurred in gay men were among people who hooked up on phone apps, online or in bars. New York City health officials said that meningitis is not a gay disease but this specific cluster seems to have been transmitted through intimate same-sex encounters.

In September 2012, the New York City Health Department recommended gay men who meet partners online or at bars get vaccinated.

Resource Center Dallas spokesman Rafael Mc-



LATEST VICTIM | Brett Shaad, a 33-year-old West Hollywood attorney who had just returned from the White Party in Palm Springs, died last week.

Donnell said he's gotten calls from people in the community concerned with reports of the disease.

Meningitis must be reported by physicians, and no cases have been documented in North Texas.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zach Thompson said he's watching the outbreak as well.

"We normally look if there are trends in other states," he said.

He asked his staff to take a look and see if there are any upticks in Texas or in the Dallas area.

Meningitis is not a gay disease. According to the National Meningitis Association, about 1,500 Americans contract the disease annually, with 11 percent of those cases fatal. Adolescents and those living in dorms or barracks are at greatest risk.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends vaccination at age 11 with a booster at age 16.

In Texas, students have been required to be vaccinated for meningitis before 7th grade since 2009. Since 2011, students have been required to show proof of vaccination before entering college.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Diagnosis is often late because the early symptoms are similar to flu — fever, nausea, headache and stiffness in the neck. Later symptoms may include sensitivity to light, a rash, cold hands and feet, confusion, delirium and seizures. Symptoms appear three to seven days after exposure.

Meningitis can be viral, bacterial or fungal. The strain affecting gay men is bacterial. When caught early enough, antibiotics usually fight the disease,

■ MENINGITIS, Page 11



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FOUNDING FATHER | Cooper Smith Koch is a founding member of the HRC Family Project, which focuses on community building and teaching couples options for becoming parents. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Better than advertised

North Texas GLBT Chamber honors Cooper Smith Koch — best known for appearing in J.C. Penney ad — for years of community service

On April 25, the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce will honor Koch with its 2012 Community Service Award.

Tori Hobbs, AIDS Arms director of development, nominated Koch after noticing how much he donated through his website and email service, Gay List Daily.

"I started seeing a pattern. He's always promoting a group, an event," she said. "He has promoted every community group and he does it because he thinks it's the right thing to do."

Koch owns Cooper Smith Agency, a public relations firm. He's served on the Texas Ballet Theater board, is honorary co-chair of the Turtle Creek Ball and has done public relations work for AIDS Arms and Uptown Players for years.

Koch says since he became a parent, his volunteer work has evolved.

"I used to go from meeting to meeting," he says, adding that now he does anything he can to avoid them. But that doesn't mean his commitment to helping organizations has

diminished. Just his approach has changed.

He says he opened his home for a Lambda Legal event, calling that the best type of volunteering, because it allows him to stay home with his kids.

"Now I try to do things where I don't have to show up for meetings," he says.

Gretchen Kelly has worked on special events for many organizations throughout the LGBT community. She says Koch has always been there when she's needed him.

"There's not an organization in this city he hasn't done something for," she says. "He's touched everyone."

She says DIFFA, Legal Hospice of Texas, Legacy Counseling and AIDS Interfaith Network

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In 2008, Cooper Smith Koch served as a Hillary Clinton delegate to the Texas Democratic Convention.

"I wanted to go into politics," he says.

Or so he thought.

After months of notoriety surrounding his appearance with his partner and children in a J.C. Penney's Father's Day ad last year, he's not so sure now. If that's the type of scrutiny that comes with appearing in an ad, he said he can't imagine what life is like for elected officials.

He said the supportive comments far outweighed the negative ones, but as recently as this week, the ad campaign — and, by extension, him — was blamed by Family Research Council for J.C. Penney's billion dollar annual loss.

One of the more puzzling criticisms of the ad, he said, was from a hate group that described his children as "brown" but never mentioned their two gay dads. He wonders if that was some bizarre step forward in bigotry.

Responding to the Penney's ad took two months out of his life.

The best part came when he happened to be in New York with his husband on business during Pride weekend and J.C. Penney's LGBT resource group asked them to ride on their float.

N. Texas GLBT Chamber Dinner

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have also benefited from his public relations expertise at no cost.

Koch said he's been volunteering since he served on student council and admits he gets as much out of his volunteering as anyone he's trying to help.

As one of the founding members of the HRC Family Project, Koch says the group has two main goals — community building and teaching LGBT couples options for becoming parents.

Once he became a parent and parenting took up most of his time, he said he drifted away from many of his single friends and couples without children. The HRC Family Project became a way to connect with other parents and share similar problems and issues.

A recent Family Project panel shared with prospective parents some of the options available to become parents through surrogacy or adoption. He spoke about his experience with private adoption.

From the time he and his partner began exploring parenting, through two failed adoption attempts, to bringing home their first newborn, the process took only 17 months.

But according to Kelly, it was worth it. She said the day Koch brought his daughter home was the happiest day of his life. ■

■ **MENINGITIS**, From Page 9

reducing risk of death to about 15 percent. The risk is higher in the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. Untreated, meningitis is fatal.

Thompson said he was checking on Dallas County's vaccine supply and making sure, in case of a local outbreak, it would be available to those who can't afford to pay for it. ■

More on meningitis

Transmission

The bacteria is transmitted through secretions of the mouth, nose and throat. The transmission is through close contact so people living together but not in a romantic relationship are at high risk of passing it to one another. But the bacteria is not sexually transmitted. Condoms will not protect someone from the bacteria.

Symptoms

Early symptoms similar to flu: sudden onset of fever, headache and stiff neck. Then nausea, vomiting, light sensitivity, rash and confusion.

Survival


Untreated, bacterial meningitis is fatal. The mortality rate in the U.S. over the past 10 years is 11 percent. About 15 percent of survivors will have long-term disabilities, including loss of a limb, deafness, brain or nervous system damage.

Vaccine

The vaccine that protects from bacterial meningitis does not contain live bacteria or even dead bacteria. It contains part of the shell of the bacteria, so it is impossible to contract meningitis from the vaccine.


Source: CDC.gov

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AIDS Interfaith to honor 'champion of human rights'

Grace McFerrin to receive Crystal Hope Award at Bloomin' Ball

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Grace McFerrin's volunteer work with AIDS Interfaith Network over the last 20 years has improved the way her church views the disease — and given her strength to fight cancer.

McFerrin began volunteering with AIDS Interfaith Network's Care Team in 1993 when her church, First United Methodist in downtown Dallas, added a team. The endeavor appealed to her as a woman of faith because she saw how the church viewed AIDS as a "gay disease" and she wanted to help people, not blame them.

"I had noticed in the '80s churches who blamed people themselves for having AIDS," she said. "I thought [volunteering] would be perfect because I thought it was the church's responsibility to take care of people like Jesus did."

A year and a half later, her daughter, Laura, came out to her as a lesbian. She then became a stronger ally to the community, meeting more gay people at her church and reaching out to others

about acceptance.

"In a way I became more involved after she came out by talking to people about LGBT issues," she said.

She joined Reconciling Ministries Network, a national organization that aims to grow acceptance for LGBT people within the Methodist church. The involvement has taken her to many conferences for the church, where she's protested the denomination's teachings condemning homosexuality.

McFerrin will be among the recipients of AIN's Crystal Hope Awards on Saturday, April 20, at the Bloomin' Ball.

Laura McFerrin, a GetEQUAL activist who directed the documentary *March On* about the 2009 March for Equality, said she is proud her mother is being recognized for her commitment to the organization and AIDS patients.

"She has been involved with caring for people living with AIDS since 1993 and her devotion to helping others is so inspiring," Laura McFerrin said of her mother. "I feel so lucky to have been raised by this extraordinary woman who teaches me each day to be kind."

Although McFerrin was initially hesitant to care for people dying from AIDS, she said she



Grace McFerrin

found the strength even though she knew she would eventually lose them.

"At the time I didn't know if I could deal with working with people who were terminally ill," she said, tearing up. "But that wasn't the case."

McFerrin has cared for about nine clients in various stages of the illness over the years, cleaning for them, chatting with them and taking them to run errands. She said many of them had been abandoned by family or their family couldn't dedicate time to their care, which mainly focused on socializing with them, she said.

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000, McFerrin found strength in AIDS clients who had battled intense and life-threatening treatments in order to survive. Having watched what they could endure, she said she was able to see an end in her painful treatment.

"The breast cancer was a breeze in comparison," she said. "I knew I had a beginning, a middle and an end, but they'd be on medication for all their lives with different side effects."

Sowing Seeds of Hope

AIN's Bloomin' Ball: Sowing Seeds of Hope is at 6 p.m. April 20 at Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. BloominBall.org

Steven Pace, executive director of AIN, has become close with McFerrin during his 14 years at AIN. He said her passion has inspired others to serve and has helped advance LGBT causes.

"At the core of her volunteerism is her faith and willingness to promote human rights," Pace said. "She's been a champion for human rights as long as I've known her."

In 2004, McFerrin joined AIN's Board of Directors and was in charge of her church's Care Team for a number of years. She said working with the agency helped her dispel rumors among churchgoers so they would not fear AIDS.

But just as McFerrin's seen lives lost to AIDS, she's also witnessed a community come together to treat and prevent the outbreak that shook a generation and still affects the LGBT community.

"Knowing a lot of these people starting in the '90s really helped me see how the gay community helped themselves," she said. "I was amazed at all they did and organized."

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■ DENTON, From Page 6

God is," Woods said. "He wants everyone to regain their faith and even begin their faith."

Kelly Sanders, who owns Mable Peabody's, said she opened her doors to Hood because "we're a part of the community, they're a part of the community."

The bar opened in 1979, and Sanders has owned it since 1994. It reopened in a bigger venue after a 2007 fire closed it. As the city's only gay bar, she said the business has filled a void in the LGBT community.

Sanders said things have changed immensely since patrons needed a code to enter the bar in the '80s and early '90s.

"There's a bigger acceptance," she said.

Ralph hopes to continue to work with businesses and the community to turn acceptance into equality. She wants to turn Keep Denton Queer into a nonprofit in the next six months and would like to have Denton eventually start its own LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

"I think what we're doing is fun and has made a difference, but there's a certain professionalism that needs to be attached," she said.

But the chamber would remain separate from KDQ, which will remain a community-based outreach and safe haven in Denton, which has no other citywide LGBT organization.

"We're definitely a place for citizens to go and

have a safe place to talk about their experiences," she said.

From religion to politics

Tyler Carlton, a member of the Denton County Democratic Party's Executive Committee, helped plan the March marriage equality rally and another one this Tuesday before a City Council meeting where he asked members to create a resolution supporting marriage equality.

Carlton said the response from council members was supportive. Members assigned the city secretary's office to conduct research for a possible resolution. He said Councilman Dalton Gregory also asked the city manager's office to research policies and benefits the city could offer its LGBT employees, including domestic partner benefits. The city currently prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in its Equal Employment Opportunity policy.

Gregory told Dallas Voice he thought the reports made before the council on marriage equality "were thoughtful and compelling."

"I have no idea what the rest of the council would do if this came to a vote," he added. "It is way too early to tell since we have no data and have not had a discussion on the issue."

Gregory said he wants the city manager to find out if same-sex city employees with partners could add them to the city benefits program and



RESURRECTION | The last time Denton saw a rise in LGBT activism it led to a citywide Pride celebration in 2009, but then died out. Hood, shown on Easter Sunday, and others are hoping this time will be different. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

if death benefits could be given to same-sex partners. He said he expects the office to research other cities that offer these benefits.

Carlton said he was pleased with the response from Gregory and hopes it will lead to change. He will follow up with the city to ensure the measure

makes it before the council for a vote and will plan more activism to urge them to pass it.

"I'm optimistic about the future," he said. "We'll keep an active role and make sure they don't forget."

Longtime Denton activist John Turner-McClelland, who started Denton County's Stonewall Democrats chapter, became the first openly gay male elected official in the county's history when he won a seat on the district board of the Denton County Fresh Water Supply in March 2010.

He said Denton has had a long history of activism from the early days of the statewide group Equality Texas to local efforts in the 1970s.

And Denton Mayor Mark Burroughs signed a city proclamation in 2009 and 2012 recognizing LGBT Pride Day in the city of Denton at the request of the Stonewall Democrats of Denton County and other organizations, he said.

"I think like any organizational effort, there are peaks and valleys, and hopefully this is another peak," he said about the resurgence of activism in Denton.

He also said the March rally was different than past rallies and hopes the demand for action for change from Denton leaders will remain strong.

"We've held protest rallies before on the Denton Square, and I felt this time was different, Turner-McClelland said. "This time there was more of a sense of community and that we are not alone."

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Why it still matters

Photo of gay Boston police officer responding to marathon bombing serves as reminder that we are everywhere, and we can be heroes

Apparently I didn't get the memo that we're all supposed to go back in the closet. But even if I had, I would have torn it up.

Last month, I wrote that I couldn't understand why some LGBT political leaders in Dallas would support a City Council candidate whom they know to be a closeted homosexual.

To me, this amounts to aiding and abetting and goes squarely against the fundamental principle laid out by Harvey Milk 35 years ago — that for us as a community, coming out is the key to achieving equality.

Indeed, I've heard it said that if all closeted LGBT elected officials worldwide were to come out, we could achieve equality under the law fairly quickly. It seems to logically follow that closeted elected officials are holding us back.

But I digress. The point is, I found myself even more dumbfounded this week when Dallas Voice came under attack for reporting that one of the heroes of the Boston Marathon bombings was gay.

Amid the horror of this terrorist attack, I was quite proud of the fact that despite the proliferation of national LGBT news blogs, the little old gay rag in Dallas, Texas, broke the story that a police officer in one of the iconic photos from the bombings — Javier Pagan — was the Boston Police Department's GLBT liaison.

Pagan had been stationed behind the barricades near the finish line where one of the bombs went off.

In a Boston Globe photo that went viral, Pagan and other officers can be seen running onto the course in the immediate aftermath — still being buffeted by the force of the explosion, one brandishing a weapon and another with a radio in hand — above a runner who'd been knocked to the pavement.

Pagan was uninjured, and it turns out his partner is a former New York City police sergeant who reportedly rescued many people when the Twin Towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001.

What a coincidence, what a scoop for us, and what an amazing story.

But my pride soon turned to disbelief when some commenters, including LGBT ones, slammed us for mentioning Pagan was gay.

"Seriously, if you want to stop being treated

differently, then stop calling us out for being different," one commenter wrote.

"Please do not use this tragedy to push any political agenda," another wrote. "By doing so makes you the same as those responsible for yesterday's tragedy in Boston."

First of all, Pagan is openly gay, so in this case, our LGBT critics could not hide behind the accusation that we had broken an unwritten rule against outing people — a rule which doesn't necessarily apply to public figures in the first place.

Second, we're an LGBT newspaper, so obviously we're going to focus on the gay angle of any major story.

From a journalistic standpoint, we were simply reporting facts, and it's no surprise our post was picked up by outlets from BuzzFeed to Rachel Maddow.

But in responding to some of the critics, I began to realize there were much bigger implications to this story and photo, and that some of the commenters were undoubtedly driven by internalized homophobia.

Throughout history, those seeking to oppress minorities have aimed to silence them in the media and write them out of the history books.

On one level, Pagan is no different from all the heroes, LGBT and otherwise, who were the first responders in both Boston and West, Texas, this week. But on another, Pagan, a native of Puerto Rico, is living proof that not all heroes are straight white males.

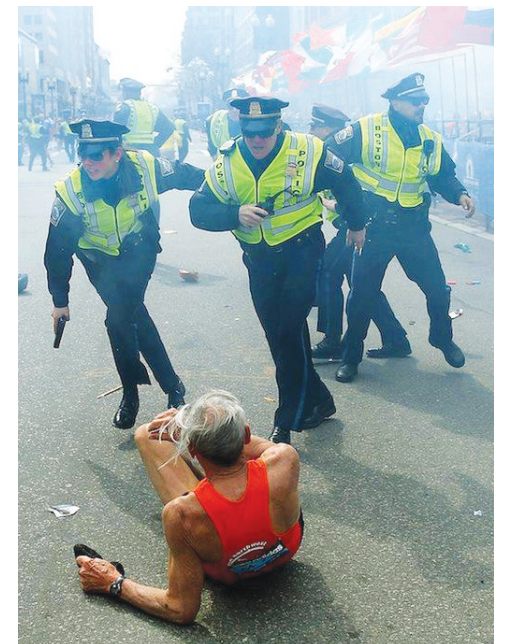
He also serves as a reminder that LGBT people are everywhere — and he stands alongside the likes of Gabrielle Giffords' intern Daniel Hernandez (whose sexual orientation we were also first to report), Flight 93 passenger and gay rugby player Mark Bingham, and New York Fire Department Chaplain Mychal Judge.

Shining a light on LGBT heroes not only makes it harder for our enemies to hate us, it makes it harder for LGBT youth to hate themselves.

In fact, one could argue that LGBT first responders like Pagan — and like police liaisons Laura Martin of Dallas and Tracey Knight of Fort Worth — are unwittingly saving the lives of LGBT youth on a daily basis by giving them hope that their sexual orientation can't stop them from doing whatever it is they want to do.

I suppose that someday, when we are truly equal, it may not matter who's LGBT and who isn't in the public sphere.

But until then, the sexual orientations of both our heroes and our elected officials *does* matter,



BADGE OF PRIDE | Officer Javier Pagan, the Boston Police Department's GLBT liaison, is shown at far right in this photo taken by John Tlumacki of the Boston Globe.

and we *should* report on it, and we *should* expect them to be out. Indeed, for the LGBT community, the difference between out and closeted often amounts to the difference between hero and would-be hero.

Let's not get the cart before the horse by saying sexual orientation no longer matters, and therefore we don't need to be out.

In actuality, the more people who come out, the sooner it won't matter.

Thank you, Officer Pagan.

John Wright is senior editor of Dallas Voice. He can be reached at wright@dallasvoice.com.

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Petticoat injunction

Lisa Lampanelli is leaner *and* meaner in her new act



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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There was a time when you recognized Lisa Lampanelli as much by her blowsy frame, hidden under rows of petticoats, as you did her saucy mouth and no-holds-barred one-liners.

But that was more than 100 pounds ago. Not only has Lampanelli become slim and sexy, the comedian — who notoriously dated only black guys — is married to a white guy, and she's wearing slimmer-hipped clothing to show off her rockin' bod.

Has the world turned upside down? It's not possible, is it, that she's ... gotten ... nice?

Fuck, no.

You don't hate her because she's beautiful — she's still armed to do all the hating, thank you.

"Fuck these hillbillies," Lampanelli says on the phone from somewhere near Sioux Falls, S.D., a stop on her tour that will bring her back to Dallas for her semi-annual laughfest on April 26, this time at the Majestic.

You might think insulting your hosts isn't the best way to engender repeat business, but then you don't know Lampanelli. She's turned the art of bigoted rants into a thriving career.

"That's the best thing about being a comic draw is that everyone makes money," she says.

Domesticity has yet to soften Lampanelli. She still makes fun of her husband (although she admits he's a sex symbol in the bear community) and "I trash my dog onstage even though he's the best dog in the world," she says. And people get it.

Remarkably, it's not just in metropolitan areas or blue states where she sells out — it's everywhere, from San Fran to Salt Lake. Because her fans understand and appreciate Lampanelli's brand of humor.

"How do they react [in blue states]? It's not like they're just showing up to the theater and saying, 'Who's this?' and getting offended," she says. Not that she still doesn't get a few humorless audience members.

"Everybody [at one of my concerts] is allowed to laugh at everybody else, but if you can't laugh at yourself, you shouldn't [come]," she says, noting some groups have a better sense of humor about themselves than others.

"I always have so much luck with gay guys and any Latinos — they're very open and great to me. Also interracial [couples]. Gay women were harder to warm up to me, but I eventually win all

groups over," she says. And those she hasn't turned?

"You can't worry about every single person. I have strong opinions about who I hate, and some people will have similar reactions to me."

It helps knowing that most of Lampanelli's jokes are meant to be ironic; her onstage persona is Archie Bunker, but in real life she's Queen of the Fag Hags.

"As far as gay marriage goes, you cornholers should be able to legally marry," she says. "If two guys get married, they should move in next door to me! They'll put up a beautiful tool shed with cock rings displaced on colorful hooks and dildos in descending order of size. Plus they adopt — of course, it's easier to get an Asian kid than a real one. If [anyone should be prevented from marrying], it's ugly people. I got three words: Honey Boo Boo."

Lampanelli's fans surprise her constantly.

"I'm always in shock when anyone has heard of me or when older people really get me. I wanna say, 'Are you sure you know why you're here?'" she says. "I'm also surprised when anybody smart likes me. I was at the [Writers Guild Awards] a

few weeks ago and Lena Dunham, Fred Armisen and Colin Jost were scared to come up to me! [Once they did,] they were gushing about being fans of mine. Barry Manilow is a big fan. It shows you how uncool people can still have cool views of things."

Lampanelli has become almost as notorious for her Twitter wars as for her celebrity roast monologues. She famously exchanged tweets with Donald Trump, and is currently targeting Dogg The Bounty Hunter for her 140 characters of wrath. But whether online or onstage, Lampanelli says she's never gone too far.

"At least I don't think so," she says. "I don't remember any instance I felt sorry or bad. It's a lot of fun to make fun of people. I made jokes about Liza Minnelli's husband, David Gest, being gay, and I got a letter from her lawyer. Of course what did that lead to? More jokes!"

Virtually all of those jokes will be fresh, Lampanelli promises — her Dallas concert will feature all-new material.

"You rich people need laughter, too," she says. ■

**TRIUMPH! THE INSULT
COMIC DOLLS UP** | Even after shedding more than 100 pounds, Lampanelli still has plenty to complain about, as she's out to prove at her April 26 concert.

LISA LAMPANELLI

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Iceman cometh

From cocky fighter pilot to gay P.I., Val Kilmer has had a wild career. It gets even wilder as he returns to the stage for his one-man show, 'Citizen Twain'

When Val Kilmer looks you directly in the eyes — and, cobra-like, he never seems to break a connection with you — it's difficult not to be charmed. Still handsome at 53, this bushy-eyed actor held his own opposite Tom Cruise in *Top Gun*, DeNiro and Pacino in *Heat* and Brando in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*; he took over the iconic role of Batman, only to walk away from the franchise despite excellent reviews; he renewed interest in Method Acting following acclaimed turns as Jim Morrison in *The Doors* and Doc Holliday in *Tombstone*. And then, almost out of nowhere, he dropped out of sight.

"I didn't fall off the map," Kilmer corrects, "I tumbled down the Grand Canyon."

You might say, reports of the death of his career have been greatly exaggerated. For much of the past decade, Kilmer has taken mostly character roles in indie films; he hasn't headlined a big-budget Hollywood film since the sci-fi flop *Red Planet* in 2000.

"I went from a Top 10 box office star to getting out of the system," Kilmer offers from the lobby of the Wyly Theatre. And most significant of all? He's totally OK with that.

"I was trying to be a responsible parent," he says. "I don't have any regrets."

Kilmer was less a part of the Tinseltown machine than his fame might suggest. He started in theater, and has no problem coming back to it, as he does this week with the one-man show *Citizen Twain*, which Kilmer wrote and stars in as the legendary humorist. It's not as much as a stretch as you might think. Kilmer wrote two plays back in his high school and college days, and when you see him in full makeup, it's easy to be lost in the illusion.

And if you think of Kilmer as serious, well, you don't remember his earliest movies: The spy spoof *Top Secret!* and the teen

comedy *Real Genius*. (Also check out Kilmer as a gay detective opposite Robert Downey Jr. in 2005's darkly comic *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*.)

"I would've liked to have more comedies," Kilmer sighs. "Hollywood is very finicky — they like to understand and make money off of known commodities." By breaking away from the machine, Kilmer gets to reapproach his career on his own terms.

"I was looking for a film to write and happened upon something that would engage me for the many years it takes to get a project off the ground," he explains. "I found this story, which captivated me. It's a story about America, but also about the likes of Mark Twain and [Christian Science founder] Mary Baker Eddy. Twain was fascinated by Mrs. Eddy — she was the most quoted person of the 19th century in her time. He was jealous of her, I think."

Of course, Kilmer not only has to combat pre-



MAKE 'EM LAUGH | Val Kilmer finally returns to comedy in his new show at the Wyly.

conceived ideas about being a dramatic movie star while doing a comedy in the theater; he also competes with the iconic role created 50 years ago by Hal Holbrook in a series of one-man shows about Twain.

"Holbrook has been so supportive of my vision," says Kilmer. "He's made my job really easy — many people know of Mark Twain because of Hal Holbrook!"

But Holbrook is now 82, and unlikely to perform the role much in the future. And Kilmer understands the burden of being associated too closely with one role. "People come up to me all the time and say, 'Your Jim Morrison is more Jim Morrison than Jim Morrison!' That doesn't make sense to me — I don't think Jim Morrison knew who Jim Morrison was!"

Ultimately, portraying Twain is just part of the actor's craft: A character study and love story with a dual perspective.

Kilmer is committed to four performances of the show, with the opportunity to expand to as many as 10 performances, based on demand.

"Dallas is a sophisticated city," Kilmer says. "You get humor — hopefully [audiences] will laugh more than they did in New York City or Berkeley. I have never had something dramatic as satisfying as writing a joke and having it hit onstage."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Union Bear

As an aging hipster myself, I have to confess that one thing I don't like about hipster culture is this: Hipsters *judge*. And they manifest those judgments in many not-so-subtle ways. (In that way, they're a lot like the gay community.)

So, when I went up to the bar at Union Bear, once the bartender noticed me (I was one of two people at the bar then), I ordered a Moscow mule. Now, fans of the mule know it's a drink that is not just made up of liquids, but of presentation: Tradition dictates it be served in a copper cup. Instead, mine arrived in a tall glass with an even taller straw. (Doesn't anyone know a straw should poke just above the lip of the container, no matter how tall the container is?) I pointed out the lack of a copper cup to the bartender.

"We only use those on request," he said. "They get stolen."

All well and good; I suppose I looked like a thief, then? Some schmo who would walk off with barware? It didn't put me in the best of moods. But then I drank the mule.

My memory beyond that is a bit fuzzy. The reason they *call* the damn thing a Moscow mule is because (1) it's made with vodka and (2) it packs a kick. Union Bear's made me woozy in the best sense. Proper presentation? Maybe not. But for impact it did what a cocktail should.

I did recover long enough to taste the food as well. (Union Bear does bill itself, after all, as "A



HELLO DOLLOP | Union Bear's odd-looking goat cheese pizza.

Place to Eat.") It's gastropub wannabe in style, and, like the cocktail, less functional than flavorful. My lamb-and-goat cheese pizza (ordered for one, but enough for two or even as a shared app; \$15) looked a bit strange and behaved a bit stranger. With burbled, thick crust along the edges but tapering slightly to a flat, almost New York-style center, the goat cheese was served up in bulbous white dollops in the center of each piece, like the bouncing balls that chased Patrick McGoochan on *The Prisoner*. The tomato sauce and mozzarella formed a cacophonous swirl, while boulders of lamb poked from beneath.

When I grabbed the first slice by the corner, virtually all of the toppings slid inward onto the other pieces, leaving a naked flap of dough. I spooned the ingredients back on and bit in. Chewy, but also crisp; rich warmth from the goat cheese and spicy but not overwhelming flavors from the lamb. It didn't take me long to complete, though my judgment may have been impaired from the mule.

The soup-and-half-sammy (\$13) offered my lunch companion a bit of home-spun familiarity. The tomato basil arrived slightly cold, but welcoming (even if it's not as good as the granddaddy of the genre at La Madeleine). The sammy, while not memorable, met expectations.

Union Bear conjures a hipsterish neighborhood bar for good and bad, but you can't argue with results. Even if you're too wasted to return to work after a Moscow mule.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Union Bear, 3699 McKinney Ave. in the West Village, across from the Magnolia. UnionBear.com.



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see staff for additional details

TASTING NOTES: TACO FESTIVAL!

If you live in Dallas, you eat tacos — simple as that. Jose Ralat-Maldonado has chronicled the best of this distinctive street food on his *Taco Trail* blog for years, but this weekend moves from commentator to impresario with his inaugural **North Texas Taco Festival** in Deep Ellum on Saturday. You can sample tacos from restos like **El Tizoncito** (pictured), **Lazaranda** and **Urban Taco**, plus attend a panel discussion and a "taco throwdown" with top Dallas chefs competing. NorthTexasTacoFestival.com.



Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com



Dear Howard,

How does the saying go? You can fool all the people some of the time, some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all of the time. Well, put me in the category of, "that idiot all the time who can be fooled constantly."

I don't understand why it is that I *always* get made a laughingstock by every man I go out with. I met a perfectly nice guy recently, we spent the night together at his gorgeous loft Downtown, he was sweet to me the whole night, then took me out for brunch in the morning. I was sighing to myself, "Finally, a decent, respectful date for once!"

Then, like some sort of fairytale flimflam, my dreamy visions of wedding bells and bridesmen in Tom Ford couture went up in a puff of smoke. We were making pleasant, post-coitus chitchat when I grinningly asked where his sexy accent was from. With a deadpan face he answered in that deep, gravel-melting voice, "I grew up in Tasmania, luv."

I drew a total blank, and winked, "Like, where vampires come from?"

"Not quite," he laughed. "Like where Tasmanian devils come from, you know, from Bugs Bunny? But most all the devils have gone extinct lately. My family has a thorium mine in Tasmania. A bloomin' boondoggle it was growing up, but the Chinese are suddenly racing to harness 'clean' nuclear energy using thorium."

Howard, I kept my mouth shut after that, scarfed down my pancakes and left: a Tasmanian thorium mine? I mean, was this wacko for real? Like, what the tarnation even *is* thorium? Did he spend all night in bed with me just brewing this crud up? Do I have "sucker" tattooed across my taint? I don't understand why men always get *such* a perverted thrill out of making outrageous stuff up to my very face on the fly and watching me just swallow the hook, line and sinker whole, but they always do . . . and this guy seemed so *nice*, too — really, *really* nice. Why did he even bother? What did he really get out of it? Any advice for me?—Marco J.

Dear Marco,

Yes, excellent advice I have for you, in fact; foremost, I'm sorry to be the bearer of incredulous tidings, dear man; however, I honestly think your initial, first-date instincts about this Tasmanian thorium mine owner, as being a "really,

really nice guy," may have, *actually*, been spot-on correct from the very get-go. Not every man who spins seemingly outrageous tales over breakfast come the morning after is full of bull. Once in a wonderfully rare while, there *are* some men one stumbles across out in the dating wilderness who are both genuinely honest *and* outlandishly real. Extraordinary as manna from heaven these men are, too.

My very own long-term spouse, for instance — of 20 dazzling years now, thank you! — originally fed me some seemingly cockamamie nonsense on our first date about him hailing from a remote corner of northern Alaska, and how his father (or, was it his grandfather?) had been one of the original Yukon gold rushers; yeah, right, scoffed I — as if! Of course, it was all true.

Marco, just a quick Google search (which was not *remotely* available to your fine adviser here during my own epoch of fabulosity 20 years back) will quickly reveal that thorium *is* an actual metal — four times more abundant even than tin is for mining — and that Australia, New Zealand *and* Tasmania are super-rich in thorium, and (drum roll, please!) China is already building the world's first thorium power plant! Additionally, most all the devils on the island of Tasmania are, indeed, nearly extinct as of late due to a rare facial cancer that spreads, contagiously, by literal contact between devils, who have tendencies to engage in slobbering, fanged-teeth battles whenever one Tasmanian devil happens to chance across another in the wild.

Marco, please phone the gravel-voiced, Tasmanian thorium miner back up (you should still have his number, I hope). Give him a chance to prove his outlandishness comes genuinely, and sincerely, *real*. If you ask me — which you did — you'd only be a fool *not* to. ■

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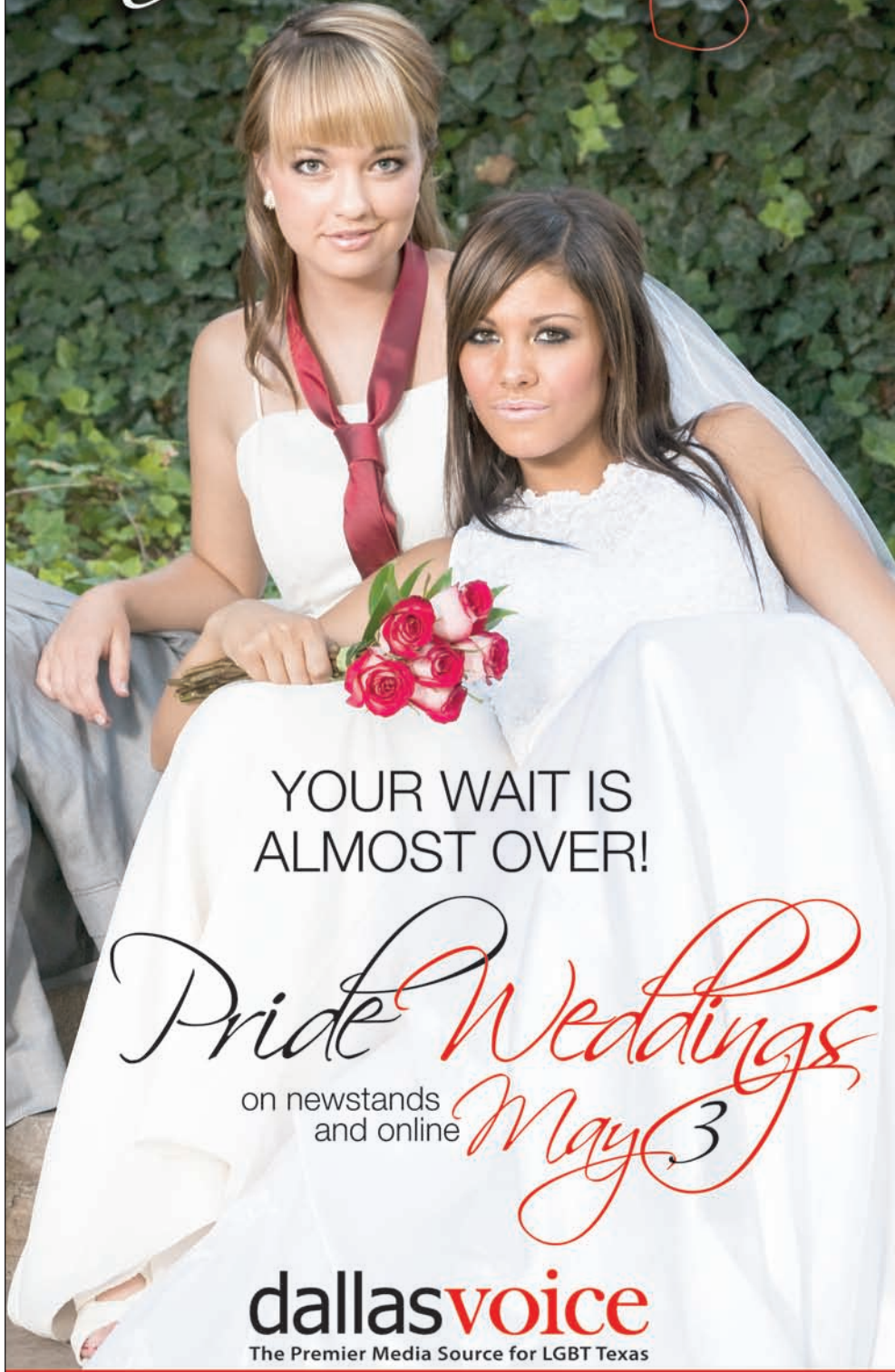
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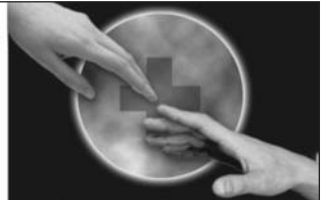
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Saturday 04.20

Spring blooms with Bloomin' Ball

AIDS Interfaith Network has been sowing the seeds of hope to the HIV/AIDS community with its spring gala, the Bloomin' Ball, since 2007. This seventh annual affair blossoms once again this weekend. Featuring a silent auction, three-course seated dinner and plenty to drink, the ball this year features entertainment from community favorites Denise Lee and Gary Lynn Floyd in the familiar setting of the Hilton Anatole, bedecked with colorful floral decor.

DEETS: Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. 6 p.m. \$150 general admission. BloominBall.org.



Thursday 04.25

QCinema returns with its Spring Series with Lesbian Shorts

The Dallas International Film Festival just concluded, and two more are on the horizon. The USA Film Festival begins its five-day fest Wednesday, and Fort Worth's QCinema brings back its Spring Series with this one-night-only event on Thursday. Lesbian Shorts: Best of the Fest reprises short films that screened at past QCinema festivals for additional encores. Ten shorts over the course of two hours are comic, romantic, dramatic, quirky ... and all audience faves from prior years.

DEETS: Four Day Weekend Theatre, 312 Houston St., Fort Worth. 8 p.m. \$10. QCinema.org.

Tuesday 04.23

David Sedaris at the Winspear

Once you've heard gay essayist David Sedaris read from his humorous stories in the distinctly nasally, droll, laconic delivery, it becomes impossible to read his printed words and not imagine his voice in your head. Sedaris' confessional, hilarious tales — from growing up in North Carolina with his kooky family (one sister is actress Amy Sedaris) to moving to Europe with his partner Hugh — Sedaris is a treasure trove of clever observations and wit that makes you feel smarter just listening. He returns again to Dallas, for the first time at the Winspear, presented via the Dallas Museum of Art's Arts & Letters Live Series.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



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calendar highlights



BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | The Fort Worth Opera kicks off its festival on Saturday with 'La Boheme,' pictured, with three more operas performed in repertory until May 12.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Angels Fall. Pulitzer Prize-winning gay playwright Lanford Wilson's comic drama about six people brought together in a New Mexico mission church, directed by Rene Moreno with a cast including Jim Crawford and Sue Loncar. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. April 19–May 5. ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com.

Avenue Q. Theatre 3's hit from last summer and fall returns for an unlimited run in its Theatre Too space with most of the original cast. A puppet show, but not for kids (there's lots of sex). Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Ongoing. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. \$10–\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Citizen Twain. Film star Val Kilmer wrote and stars in this one-man show about America's most quotable humorist. Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Sunday. \$45–\$125. ATTPAC.org.

The Grapes of Wrath. WaterTower Theatre presents the Tony Award winner about the Joads, Oklahomans making a life for themselves in Cali. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Futility of Hope. Mark-Brian Sonna's newest play deals with a conservative teenaged girl who finally meets her biological father, only to find out he's gay. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Final weekend. MBSProductions.com.

Re-Designing Women. '80s sitcom, performed by men. Presented by Uptown Players in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Through May 19. UptownPlayers.org.

Rx. Kitchen Dog Theater presents this regional premiere, a dark comedy about Big Pharma. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through April 27. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Wicked. The bewitching hit musical returns, courtesy Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through May 5.

OPERA

Turandot. Puccini's final work, containing the most famous tenor aria in the canon, "Nessun Dorma." (Reviewed this week.) Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 13 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

and April 21 matinee at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.

The Aspern Papers. The 25th anniversary staging of the English-language opera that received its world premiere from Dallas Opera in 1988. (Reviewed this week.) In repertory with *Turandot*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 20 at 7:30 p.m., April 28 matinee at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.

Fort Worth Opera Festival. The Fort Worth Opera opens its 17 days of opera, featuring four different works, beginning Saturday with *La Boheme*. For a complete schedule, visit FWOpera.org.

FINE ART

Marc Chagall: Beyond Color. The groundbreaking surrealist's work, from early posters to costumes to sculpture, are exhibited in a splashy exhibit. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through May 26. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Cindy Sherman. Massive collection of massive photographs from the influential artist are on display. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through June 9. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Dan Rees. Work from the man just designated the first artist in residence at the Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 27. GossMichaelFoundation.org.

China Through the Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872. The vanished world of Imperial China preserved on glass plates. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through May 5. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Gold on Black: Japanese Lacquer from the Jacqueline Lavant Collection. The beauty of lacquered finishes is highlighted. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Sept. 15. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Connecting Dallas to the Holocaust. A temporary exhibit at the Old Red Courthouse in cooperation with and curated by the Dallas Holocaust Museum. 100 S. Houston St. \$8 admission, \$4 special exhibit fee. Through July 14. OldRed.org.

ModArtists. More than a dozen artists exhibit at the ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, suite 107. Through May 11. ilumegallerie.com.

FRIDAY 04.19

COMMUNITY

Dick's Night Out. The gay happy hour continues at its new home in the W Hotel's former Ghostbar space, and introducing bottle service from Bar10. W Hotel, 2440 Victory Park Lane. 6–10 p.m. No cover, but RSVP required at DicksNightOut.com.

 browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

 submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvssubmit.

'FALL' THIS SPRING | Contemporary Theatre opens gay playwright Lanford Wilson's 'Angels Fall' Friday.



TGRA Meet and Greet. The Texas Gay Rodeo Association holds its annual meeting in Dallas this weekend, and will kick off with mixers at the Round-Up Saloon and Sue Ellen's.

C&W title. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m. RoundUpSaloon.com.

SATURDAY 04.20

BROADCAST
Lambda Weekly, radio show addressing LGBT issues. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY 04.21

WORSHIP
Cathedral of Hope. Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

MONDAY 04.22 — EARTH DAY

BROADCAST
RuPaul's Drag Race. The new season continues. Logo at 8 p.m., followed by the behind-the-scenes series *Untucked*.

TUESDAY 04.23

COMEDY
David Sedaris. The humorist reads from his essays. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.

WEDNESDAY 04.24

FILM
USA Film Festival. The annual festival of American film kicks off with a centerpiece screening of *Manhunt*, about the hunt for bin Laden. Visit USAFilmFestival.org for a complete schedule.

COMMUNITY
Mr. and Miss Round-Up. Contestants compete for the

THURSDAY 04.25

FILM
QCinema Presents Lesbian Shorts: Best of the Fest. Highlights from prior QCinema festivals include 10 lesbian-themed short films. Four Day Weekend Theatre, 312 Houston St., Fort Worth. 8 p.m. \$10. QCinema.org.

COMMUNITY
Boi Thursdays. Grammy-nominated producer/DJ Dave Aude spins at the weekly gay mixer. Winston's Supperclub, 3111 Welborn Ave., Suite 110. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. \$10 cover (\$5 early-bird tickets available through April 22). DaveAudeWinstons.eventbrite.com.

FASHION
Stiletto Strut and Loafer Lounge. A benefit for The Family Place featuring haute-foot styles for men and women. Cocktails and canapes. Neiman Marcus Downtown, 1618 Main St. 6:30–8:30 p.m. \$100. StilettoStrutDallas.org.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY



Tim Curry turns 67 on Friday. The versatile, Tony-nominated actor is comfortable in comedy, drama and musicals, but will forever be remembered for his starring role as the “sweet transsexual” Dr. Frank-N-Furter in the cult movie *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

ARIES: Mar 21 — Apr 20

Everything is opening up for you. This could leave you feeling a little intense. In some cases, you aren't going to know what hit you. The coming weeks will require you to think before you act.

TAURUS: Apr 21 — May 20

The burdens that the past has laid upon you have gotten to be too much. The need to make peace is on top of the stack. To carry the weight of whatever hasn't been put to rest is going to make the things that are working harder than they have to be.

GEMINI: May 21 — Jun 20

The next thing on your list may have something to do with a certain someone who has arrived just in time to rattle your cage. For better or worse, you need this. As much as life seems to be moving along smoothly, you are getting a good lesson in the way you deal when things take a turn.

CANCER: Jun 21 — Jul 20

Your best laid plans need to take a sharp right, or a sharp left. You are at the mercy of external forces that are both unpredictable and outside of any ability you think you have to control things. So much is likely to be confusing the issue.

LEO: Jul 21 — Aug 20

Nobody is holding you back; if it looks that way, realize that whoever's out there pinning you down is just a reflection of the part of you whose fear of success outweighs your desire for it. You didn't come here to hide your light.

VIRGO: Aug 21 — Sep 20

You have to be clear to people about where you stand. Your heart is so caught up, seeing things for what they are is an ongoing battle. It's OK to be open and loving and kind, but there are times when self-preservation requires us to temper some of that with enough street smarts to see what's up.

LIBRA: Sep 21 — Oct 20

Finding your strength will be easy once you stop looking for it in others — they can't do much but make your situation harder. If you're already losing it, it's up to you to behave like a grown-up long enough to achieve some level of sanity.

SCORPIO: Oct 21 — Nov 20

Stretching your limits is the key to so much of what's going on with you right now. You have become a slave to expectation. In other words, your beliefs about what's possible and your ideas about “the way things are supposed to be” need to be reframed in light of experiences that defy analysis.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21 — Dec 20

The need to play things out keeps you tied up with people who can't respond to, or help you resolve, any of your problems. Coming down to earth requires you to look at the bottom line.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21 — Jan 20

The next phase of this experience will bring you back down to earth and take you far enough away from the rat race to remember why you're here. Too much energy has gone into making sure everything is taken care of and everyone has what they need. You can't keep this up.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21 — Feb 20

There's no sense dumbing yourself down so that others can feel good about themselves. It's one thing to be open and quite another to waste your time patronizing people who have nothing to offer, or teach you.

PISCES: Feb 21 — Mar 20

The spotlight keeps moving around from one issue to another. It's never just one thing. In your world the kaleidoscope is much more intense than it is for the rest of us. The need to keep rearranging the scenery is being fueled by the craving for change.

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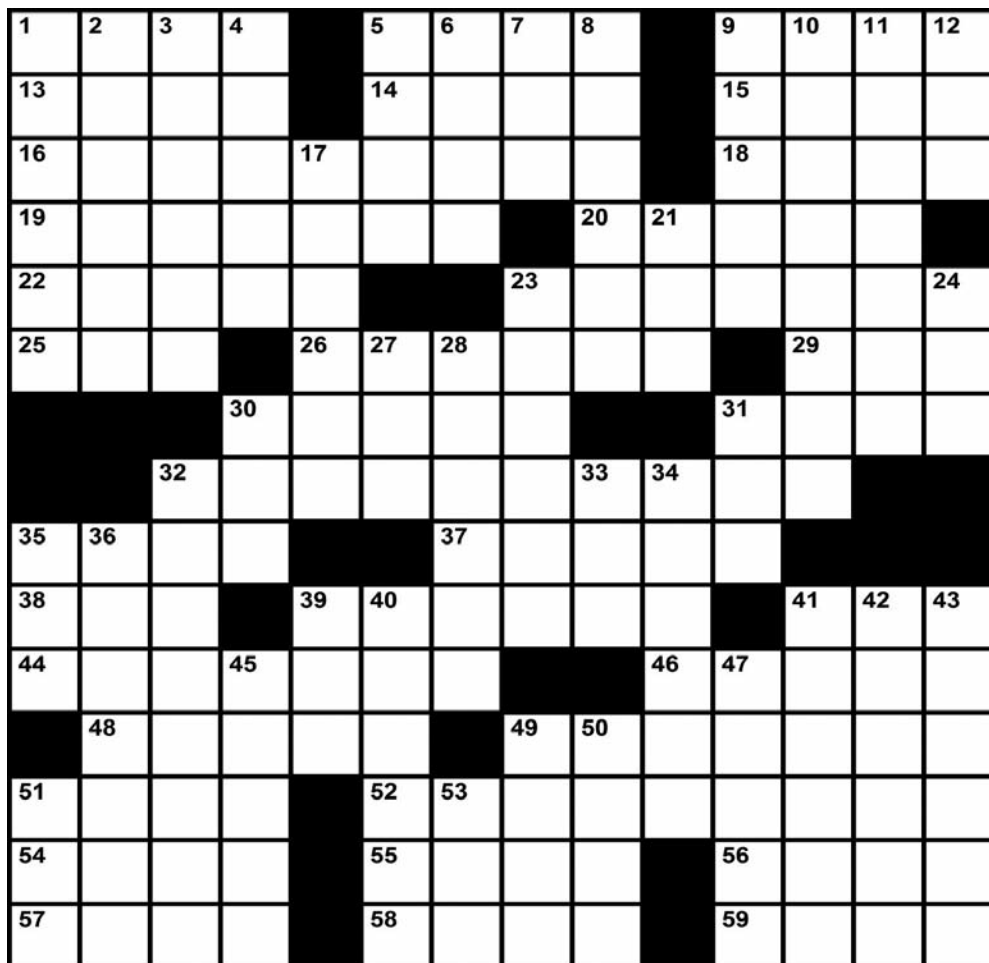
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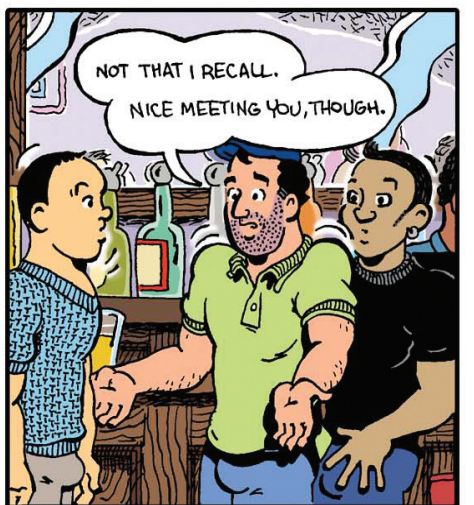
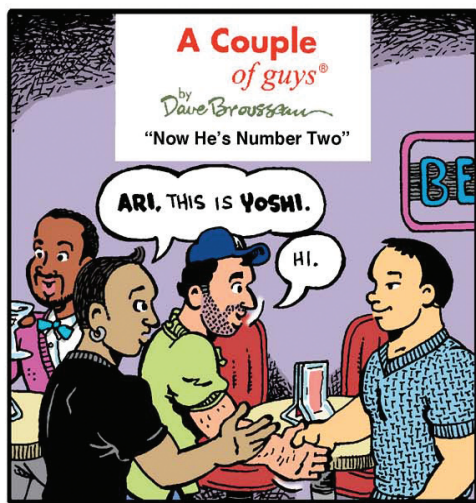
Solution on page 25

Across

- 1 Coup target, to Cocteau
- 5 Points at the target
- 9 "There Is Nothing Like a ___"
- 13 The M in SMU (abbr.)
- 14 Cut it
- 15 Juan, in Moscow
- 16 With 32-Across, Liberace biopic
- 18 Famed Loch
- 19 Ferrera of *Ugly Betty*
- 20 Gets frothy at the mouth
- 22 Gives temporarily
- 23 With 44-Across, Liberace portrayer in a biopic
- 25 C. Torres and others, on *Grey's Anatomy*
- 26 Banana treats
- 29 Regret bitterly
- 30 Acted sheepishly?
- 31 Tabloid fodder
- 32 See 16-Across
- 35 Perry of Metropolitan Community Church
- 37 Happening place
- 38 Internet trigram
- 39 Rears to your first mate
- 41 Dyslexic's deity?

Down

- 4 See 23-Across
- 46 Cole Porter's "Katie Went to ___"
- 48 Accusation of pedophilia, e.g.
- 49 Enters through the cracks
- 51 The Beatles' "Let ___"
- 52 Actor who played Liberace's lover in a biopic
- 54 Rip Torn's voice role in *Hercules*
- 55 Touched down
- 56 Lambda Legal Defense suit, e.g.
- 57 Hebrides language
- 58 Irene of *Fame*
- 59 Watched intently



Pekers holds a live and silent auction benefiting **Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of North Texas** on April 21. Dogs welcome. ... **Mr. and Miss Round Up 2013** royalty contest with live entertainment and lots of hot and handsome cowboys compete for best singing voice, best talent and Q&A on April 24 at the **Round-Up Saloon**. ... **Crystal Ramon** takes the stage at **Alexandre's** on April 19. **Bad Habits** appears on April 20. **Gary Floyd** and **Denise Lee** appear on April 25. ... Thursdays are **Team Trivia Night** at **Eden Lounge**. ... **Night Train** performs at **Sue Ellen's** on April 19 and **Three Drunk Monkeys** appear on April 20. ... **Jenna Skyy** hosts **GayBingo** on April 20 at **S4** with special guest **Psycho Shannon**. ... **Miss Icon Newcomer USofA** presents **An Evening in Paris** at **Club Cherries** on April 23. ... **Rainbow Lounge** salutes the movie **Dreamgirls** at its second annual drag brunch on April 21. Two seatings are at 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. ... **So Strung Out** performs at **Woody's Back Patio** on April 25. ... The **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents a show hosted by **Dellah Devasquez** at **Dallas Eagle** on April 20.

More Scene photos at DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.



Friends' night out at Alexandre's.



Friends at Eden Lounge.



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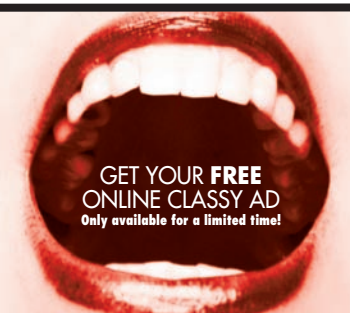
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