

Priscilla's adventure in Dallas

'Queen of the Desert' drives into Fair Park

Camptastic musical spreads its gay sensibility to the world

■ STAGE, Page 20



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FREE | Friday, May 10, 2013

ANNUAL LGBT PRESS TOUR HAS COME UP ...

This week's 10-year-old junket for travel writers has been a success, but what about the Dallas CVB's other gay-related marketing efforts?

■ COVER STORY, Page 6



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Model: Jenna Skyy
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5 GetEQUAL activists arrested for blocking traffic in Austin protest

Five GetEQUAL TX activists were arrested Wednesday evening, May 8, for blocking traffic near the state Capitol while protesting for LGBT nondiscrimination in the workforce.

Holding a sign that read, "We Work Together," the group blocked the intersection at 11th and Congress in Austin, calling for the Texas Senate to stop blocking the progress of SB 237, which was left pending in committee. This is the second set of arrests in as many weeks for activists protesting SB 237.

The Austin action was part of a new national GetEQUAL campaign that launched this week to urge Congress to pass the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which was recently reintroduced. In Washington, D.C., activists held light panels on the grounds of Congress, reading "PASS ENDA NOW."

The campaign, "Workplace INclusion: Winning LGBT Workplace Protections (WIN)," kicks off a week of action across the country to draw attention to need for workplace protections for LGBT employees. The actions will end May 14, the anniversary of Bella Abzug's Equality Act of 1974, which was the first piece of pro-LGBT legislation in the U.S.

"For LGBT Americans from California to Connecticut and from Alabama to Alaska, the need for federal workplace protections is clear," said Heather Cronk, co-director of GetEQUAL. "We hear story after story after story of folks who are simply trying to earn a living and provide for themselves and their families — but who encounter harassment on the job, who are refused jobs because of who they are, or who face insurmountable options for promotion because of who they love. In America, anyone qualified for a job should be able to get and hold that job without fear of violence, harassment, or termination. We need Congress to act now!"

A Dallas rally is planned for Saturday from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Dallas County Courthouse, 600 Commerce St., to educate voters on the impor-

ance of passing SB 237 before the Texas Legislature ends its session in three weeks.

— Anna Waugh

Mayor to put equality resolution on June 12 City Council agenda

Paula Blackmon, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, confirmed Wednesday that Rawlings plans to place an LGBT equality resolution on the City Council agenda on June 12 — which just so happens to be right in the middle of National LGBT Pride Month.

As we reported last week, Rawlings is required to place the resolution on the agenda on or before June 12. He has chosen the latest possible date. The resolution would express the council's support for marriage equality and LGBT employment protections.

Rawlings, who claims he personally supports marriage equality, made national news when he said he believes the resolution is a "misuse" of the council's time because the city doesn't have jurisdiction over marriage. Rawlings also said last week he hadn't made up his mind how he'll vote on the resolution.

Councilman Scott Griggs, author of the resolution, counters that it won't take much time at all and would send a powerful message to officials in Austin and Washington, D.C. — not to mention Dallas' LGBT residents.

Blackmon said that Rawlings will wait until after Municipal Elections on May 11 before commenting further on the resolution.

Griggs says he has the eight votes needed to pass the resolution — with or without Rawlings' support.

Those who've indicated they'll vote for the resolution are Griggs, Delia Jasso, Angela Hunt, Pauline Medrano, Monica Alonzo, Jerry Allen, Dwaine Caraway and Sandy Greyson.

Those who haven't publicly said how they'll vote are Rawlings, Sheffie Kadane, Ann Margolin, Linda Koop, Tennell Atkins, Carolyn Davis and Vonciel Hill.

— John Wright

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PURPLE PARTY PROPS

Dallas' Purple Party, shown here last month, was recently ranked No. 9 on GayTravel.com's list of the top 20 LGBT events worldwide in 2013. However, the Purple Party wasn't included on a list of major local events on the LGBT tourism website maintained by the Dallas Convention and Visitor's Bureau. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

Tourism efforts get mixed reviews

Press tour, now in its 10th year, is considered a success, but CVB has nixed outside consultant and scaled back website, which isn't up to date

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Doug Mayo has been to Dallas twice on press trips sponsored by the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau promoting LGBT travel to the city.

Mayo published and wrote for a gay publication in the United Kingdom called *Beige*.

"I've found Dallas to be an inspiring city," he said. "I have a love of the arts and was genuinely surprised to find such a thriving and substantial arts community in the city."

Mayo said he's remained friendly with people in Dallas who welcomed him — and he's even

thought of packing up and moving here. He credited Michael Doughman and David Berryman of the Dallas Tavern Guild, the city's association of gay bars, for staging a successful annual tour for LGBT travel writers. This weekend, six travel writers from the U.S. and Europe are in town for the 10th annual Dallas International LGBT Travel Writers press tour.

The Tavern Guild partners with the CVB and the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce to put together the tour.

Although most expenses are donated by participating airlines, hotels and restaurants, Doughman said the total cost would be an estimated \$40,000 to \$45,000. It's a small price to pay to tap into the \$70-80 billion annual LGBT travel market.

But while the press tour has been a continuing bright spot, questions have emerged about other aspects of the CVB's LGBT travel marketing campaign, which began in earnest in 2004.

The CVB dropped its chief consultant for LGBT

marketing in 2011, and its LGBT website has been scaled back to one page that contains outdated information. Meanwhile, the president of the Dallas Bears, whose Texas Bear Round-Up brings hundreds of thousands to Big D each year, complained about a lack of cooperation from the CVB.

In response to those concerns, CVB officials said they are reorganizing and relaunching the LGBT marketing campaign — and will actually be spending more money on it than ever, including national print advertising in publications such as *The Advocate*.

"We're engaging community leaders," said Veronica Torres, the CVB's former director of diversity and community relations, who now serves as experience director. "We're working more strategically."

She said the CVB has an office in Washington, where many national LGBT organizations are based, selling Dallas as an LGBT destination and promoting the city to travel planners at events like

the International Lesbian and Gay Travel Association convention.

Big changes for 'GLBT Dallas'

Steve Jolly owns SRJ Communications, which did marketing and public relations and maintained the LGBT website for the CVB from 2004-2011. But those functions for the CVB's four "Diverse Dallas" groups — LGBT, African-American, Asian and Latino — have since been brought in-house.

The "GLBT Dallas" website that Jolly managed was a place to find a list of nightclubs, gay-friendly restaurants and other venues of interest to the LGBT community.

Since coming in-house, an entire website devoted to the community has been reduced to one page with three links and a list of just nine events — two of which no longer exist.



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Tickets on sale for Razzle Dazzle Dallas Main Event, MetroBall

Razzle Dazzle Dallas is less than a month away, and tickets have gone on sale online and in person.

Tickets range in price from \$5 for general admission to the Main Event, to \$100 for all access throughout the weekend including the MetroBall. Also available online are Razzle Dazzle T-shirts, parking and a four-pack.

Online tickets may be printed, sent to a mobile device, left at will call or mailed.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the UPS Store, 3824 Cedar Springs Road, or the Razzle Dazzle Dallas Administrative Office, 2525 Wycliff Ave., #124 (next to the Brick).

Thelma Houston performs at MetroBall at S4 on June 7. The event is a fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

The Main Event takes place at Main Street Garden in Downtown Dallas on June 8. The party includes burlesque entertainment, aerialists, DJs, dancing, carnival games, adult beverages, community and vendor booths, food trucks and more. The band The Bright headlines the entertainment.

A free shuttle bus will run from Cedar Springs

Road and from DART's Market Center Station park-and-ride to Main Street Garden.

For more, visit RazzleDazzleDallas.org.

Resource Center Dallas reopens cyber center with 8 computers

Resource Center Dallas has reopened its cyber center with eight new computers.

The David Bohnett Foundation provided the center for new computers, according to RCD spokesman Rafael McDonnell. Updated software was also included in the grant.

Bohnett, who is gay, founded GeoCities in the 1990s and sold it to Yahoo in 1999.

The cyber center was part of the Phil Johnson Library. Those archives have been moved to University of North Texas as part of the GLBT Archives.

McDonnell said 60 community centers around the country have cyber centers funded by Bohnett. In Texas, he has funded centers in Houston and Austin as well.

The center is open to the public. People using the computers do not have to be registered RCD clients. But McDonnell asked people using the computers limit their time to one hour.

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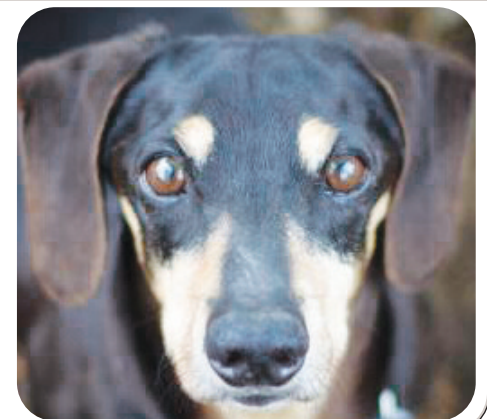


CASH FROM THE DASH | Dash for the Beads 2013 presents its beneficiary, FIDO Oak Cliff, with a check for \$12,500 representing proceeds from its Feb. 9 event in Oak Cliff. Pictured are, clockwise from top left, DISD student Carlos Colon, DASH overall 5K winner; David Sassano, 2013 DASH co-chair; Chris Shultz, 2014 DASH co-chair; Taylor Catalano, DASH Board member; Michael Reagan, FIDO board member; Catherine Dodge-Reagan, FIDO board member; David Spence, Good Space, 2014 DASH title sponsor; Chad West, DASH co-chair; and Brian Bleeker, DASH board member. (Chuck Marcelo/ MarceloMedia.com)

pet of the week / GARITH

Garith is a wonderful little guy who was transferred from a local shelter and brought to Operation Kindness in hopes of finding his forever home. Garith gets along well with other dogs and he loves belly rubs. He also enjoys playing with tennis balls and toys in the play yard. He is very active and will make a great companion and friend. If you're looking for a new forever friend to add to your family, please come and meet Garith.

Garith 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.



DP benefits plans may need changes

AG's opinion prompts lawsuit to halt coverage for same-sex partners in El Paso County, but Equality Texas maintains there's a simple fix

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

LGBT advocates are encouraging governmental entities in Texas that offer domestic partner health benefits to revamp the language of their plans so they can continue offering them without interruption or legal action.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott issued an opinion last week, stating that governmental bodies that give health benefits to unmarried partners violate the state's 2005 constitutional amendment that prohibits recognition of any status "identical or similar to marriage."

Following the opinion, El Paso activist Carl Starr filed a lawsuit against El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar.

In response, the El Paso County Commissioners Court this week decided to revise its health plan to remove language that could hinder the lone employee who's enrolled in DP benefits from receiving them.

Starr's suit seeks a permanent injunction to prevent the county from offering the benefits, but he asked the commissioners this week to consider suspending the employee's benefits until after the U.S. Supreme Court rules in two key marriage equality cases in late June.

Several governmental entities in the state offer partner health benefits, including the cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin, along with Travis, El Paso and Dallas counties.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said many cities are already considering following El Paso County's example. He said the ruling, which isn't legally binding, helps offer the benefits if policies remove "domestic partner" and replace it with "qualified individual."

"I think any entity would be prudent to look at language in their plan and amend it," he said.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said the Commissioners Court here has requested a briefing from the district attorney's office on the issue. Jenkins said the county's voucher plan for domestic partners, which commissioners passed last fall, is still considered a valuable asset by the court's Democratic supermajority.

"I don't think the attorney general will change their minds on what's best for Dallas County," Jenkins said. "But in light of [the opinion], we'll set out to achieve the goals and see if any modifications need to occur."



Chuck Smith

Julia McDuff, a spokeswoman for the county's Human Resources department, said no one has signed up for the benefits, which went into effect Jan. 1.

Dallas city officials haven't started reviewing the city's health plan either, said Assistant Dallas City Attorney Donna Lowe of the employee benefits section.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said the city will "stand firm" in support of its DP benefits program, which has been in effect since 2004.

"This is not his business. This is our business," Rawlings said of Abbott. "The city has jurisdiction over this. I feel very comfortable with the stance we have on this, and it's the right thing to do for our LGBT employees and the right thing to do for the city of Dallas. This is our jurisdiction, and I feel very strongly about it."

Meanwhile, in Fort Worth, spokesman Bill Begley said the city's legal department is reviewing Abbott's opinion and its benefits policy.

"At this point, we really don't know what this means," Begley said. "We have no plan to make any changes to our domestic partner plan at this time."

Smith cited Michigan's health benefits fight, which ended last week when the state's Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of a ruling that found the state can offer DP benefits. The plan that offered health benefits to unmarried partners of state employees had previously been found unconstitutional because of the Michigan's marriage amendment. But the reworded health plan, offering the same benefits, was upheld.

"It is still possible to cover these employees, but it has to be structured differently," Smith said.

The request for Abbott's opinion from anti-gay state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, also resulted in HB 1568 by Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster,

■ **BENEFITS**, Page 12



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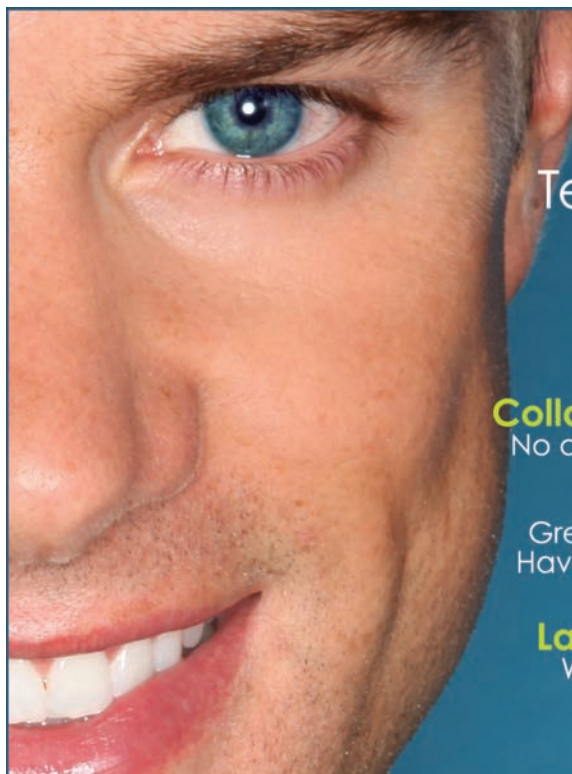
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DÉJÀ VU | Protesters gathered in City Hall Plaza in January 2012 after Mayor Mike Rawlings refused to sign a marriage equality pledge. Rawlings again drew the ire of the LGBT community last week when he called a marriage equality resolution a 'misuse' of council time. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Does Dallas City Hall need an LGBT liaison?

District 14 candidate says position would address 'lack of sensitivity' after Mayor Rawlings calls marriage resolution a 'misuse' of council time

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In the wake of another LGBT public relations dustup for Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, one council candidate is proposing that City Hall add an LGBT liaison position for the mayor's and council offices.

Last week, Rawlings made national news and prompted widespread criticism on LGBT news sites when he said that even though he personally supports marriage equality, it would be a "misuse" of the council's time to consider a resolution in support of it.

Last year, Rawlings sparked similar backlash when he refused to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage.

Following Rawlings comments last week, District 14 City Council candidate Bobby Abtahi contacted Dallas Voice to propose adding an LGBT liaison who would be available to the mayor and council members.

"There's a lack of sensitivity to the needs of the community," Abtahi said.

Gay former Councilman Chris Luna also suggested the idea of an LGBT liaison recently, in part because the city hasn't had an out gay council member for six years. Dallas received a score of 76 out of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index last year.

Abtahi suggested the LGBT liaison position would be part-time, taken on by someone already working at City Hall.

He pointed to Chris Heinbaugh, chief of staff for former Mayor Tom Leppert, as an example of how the position would work. Although Heinbaugh was not officially an LGBT liaison, Abtahi called him the de facto link between the community and the mayor who was available to the council as well.

Abtahi said he is concerned about the image of the city as a good place for corporate relocation.

"We have to be out there promoting ourselves as a place to move," he said. "You have to dispel the myths. Folks from out of state may see us for something we're not."

He suggested the liaison should be someone already in a high position at City Hall and willing to hold a dual role.

"The dialogue was insensitive and disturbing," Abtahi said of the mayor's comments about the marriage equality resolution. "He's on your side, but there was something missing."

Jim Rogers, one of the other six candidates in

■ **LIAISON**, Page 12



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Gay candidate vies for Dallas school board seat

Arturo Sierra would be DISD's 2nd out trustee; Fort Worth incumbent Carlos Vasquez seeks re-election amid opposition within community

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas school board could gain an openly gay member this year, but Fort Worth's could lose gay incumbent Carlos Vasquez.

Arturo "Art" Sierra hopes to make it into a runoff in the May 11 election for the District 7 Dallas school board seat.

Sierra, who runs a small landscaping business, is the only gay candidate running in the May 11 DISD elections, but faces law firm office manager Rafael Narvaez III and incumbent Eric Cowan, who is a director of revenue management.

If elected, he'd become just the second openly gay DISD trustee in history, after Jose Plata.

Vasquez, FWISD vice president and elementary school teacher, is running for re-election in District 1, with former Dallas Trustee Camille Rodriguez and political newcomer Jacinto Ramos Jr. challenging him.

Vasquez and Austin ISD Trustee Jayme Mathias are the only two openly gay school board members in the state.

Vasquez, 45, has been criticized for his temperament and infighting on the board. His lack of attention to LGBT issues has also caused strife.

Many in the LGBT community are now supporting juvenile probation officer Ramos, 38, who said he would be an ally for the community.

Vasquez didn't return calls seeking comment for this story.

Ramos said he's spoken to LGBT youth at several schools and wants to ensure that they and other youth have a safe environment to grow and learn. He spearheaded the creation of a multicultural awareness club at North Side High School to celebrate diversity and offer support many youth don't feel like they have from the administration or school board.

"I just don't feel we have the quality of leadership in my district that advocates for all backgrounds," Ramos said.

Openly gay Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns is not endorsing in the race, but called Ramos an "up and coming star and Hispanic leader in Fort Worth."

Dallas' Sierra said he was approached by schoolteachers and retired principals to represent the district.

He said the heavily Hispanic district, which includes North Oak Cliff and parts of West Dallas, isn't well represented, which prohibits Hispanic and LGBT families from participating.



Arturo 'Art' Sierra

"I'm able to reach out to so many families," he said.

Sierra has helped unite his neighborhood over the years, helping create a safe neighbors group, to which he was elected chairman. The group plans meetings and social gatherings to discuss crime rates and prevention, code compliance and meet neighbors. He's also worked as elections clerk and served as elections judge in his precinct.

Sierra wants to focus on helping bring in and retain bilingual teachers so students can learn English and progress faster, as well as staffing more police on school campuses.

"It's important that we have these bilingual teachers from day one because these kids are being pushed through," he said. "They need to make a transition to English classes as soon as possible."

He also wants the bullying policy enforced. Two of his neighbors are schoolteachers and worry about the effectiveness of DISD's LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying policy. Growing up in Brownsville, he said he knows what it's like facing adversity in public school while being gay and Hispanic.

"As a Hispanic gay male, I know what it's like to go to public school," he said. "We need that ordinance enforced across the board. Schools need to help end bullying. We need to protect our LGBT students."

Sierra also wants to follow in the footsteps of Austin and Pflugerville ISD and offer employees domestic partner benefits. While DISD cannot offer them currently because its health insurance is through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, he said the district should find a way to provide them by leaving the TRS or changing the policy's definition of who is eligible.

"There's no reason we shouldn't be offering these benefits already," he said. "I think it's something that needs to be done."

While Sierra's chances at winning are slim with an incumbent in the race, he said he at least hopes to make it into a runoff.

"It's always difficult to beat an incumbent, but never say never," he said.

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■ **BENEFITS**, From Page 9

which originally aimed to cut state funding for school districts that have elected to offer the benefits.

A substitute bill passed out of committee in late April that would have allowed the attorney general to defund and close school districts that offer DP benefits without an appeals process.

But the bill didn't make it onto the last House calendar this week, and therefore will not go to the floor for a vote.

"It's dead," Smith said. "This is a victory."

The bill could come up again this session if it's attached to another bill, but Smith said Equality Texas would watch changes to bills to ensure that doesn't happen.

Anti-gay Texas Values President Jonathan Saenz previously told Dallas Voice he expected HB 1568 to pass both chambers and be signed into law. The group filed a brief last year requesting Abbott to find entities in violation of the Texas Constitution if they offer the benefits. Saenz said Abbott's opinion "now makes it clear" that offering the benefits is illegal.

Advocates are unsure what the effect the opinion will have on the Dallas Area Rapid Transit's

Board of Directors, which has postponed a decision on DP benefits until the Supreme Court rulings in June.

Rafael McDonnell of Resource Center Dallas said he's addressed the fact that the opinion is not legally binding with DART board members. He noted that changing the wording to include just a qualified individual would be similar to an option DART's administrative committee once considered.

"I don't think it really changes the playing field," McDonnell said, adding that he's not sure the benefits will be implemented later. "I'm not sure where their heads are on this."

The Dallas City Council will reappoint five of the city's seven DART board appointees in the next few weeks. Only one current member, Claude Williams, wasn't recommended for reappointment. Williams has taken the lead on LGBT issues at DART in the past and requested the committee take up the health benefits.

McDonnell said he's not sure the votes are on the board to pass the benefits unless every Dallas appointee supports the measure, adding that it would be difficult to do without Williams because advocates have worked so closely with him on the issue. ■

■ **LIAISON**, From Page 10

District 14, agreed a liaison might be a good idea and thinks one of the problems at City Hall is a lack of training.

"There used to be a significant training budget," he said. "Now there's almost none."

He said personally as a member of the council, he'd like to have his own "kitchen cabinet." He said as a straight man, he wouldn't be as aware of LGBT issues as members of the community.

"Those of us on City Council, we create whatever structures we need to keep up on issues," he said.

Rogers said he'd ask a number of people whose opinions he respects highly and meet with them regularly and be responsive to what they say.

District 14 candidate Philip Kingston said depending on the details, the LGBT liaison may be a good idea.

"If it's a Band-Aid because of a short-term public relations problem the mayor has with the LGBT community, no," Kingston said.

But if it is someone whose responsibilities are to communicate with the LGBT community and that person has the ear of the council and the mayor, he said it could be workable.

Kingston said the LGBT community is uniquely vulnerable because there are no federal laws against discrimination.

"But if it's to burnish one person's credentials, not interested," he said of the liaison position.

Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center Dallas, said she thinks a liaison position is a "good idea," but wondered how it would be structured. She also questioned whether it would be equitable to other minority communities.

"I think any decision like that shouldn't be

made in a vacuum," she said. "I think Chris Heinbaugh was helpful to Mayor Leppert in terms of keeping issues on the table, being able to connect the mayor's office to sources of information that could be helpful, remembering and including our community."

Heinbaugh was in the mayor's office from 2007, when Dallas last had a gay council member, until Rawlings took office in 2011.

Cox said having a "proverbial seat at the table" is important.

"I think there was better communication back-and-forth between the LGBT community and the mayor's office and council, because Chris [Heinbaugh] had knowledge," she said. "And let's face it, we all work with allies and appreciate them, but a constant presence of an LGBT person is different than if there isn't one."

Last year, after the city of San Antonio received a rating of 48 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, Mayor Julian Castro named his senior policy advisor, Adam Greenup, as his LGBT liaison. That quickly added a few bonus points to the city's score.

But in a recent battle with Stonewall Democrats, Castro decided not to fill out the organization's questionnaire and the group didn't give the mayor its endorsement in the upcoming election. "But we do have a point of communication that we didn't have before," said Dan Graney, president of Stonewall San Antonio.

He said his group's relationship with Greenup is working well in getting a new human rights ordinance through the council. Currently, San Antonio has no employment nondiscrimination ordinance in place.

Kingston said liaisons can only be effective if elected officials listen to their advice. ■

Minnesota set to be 12th marriage-equality state

Legislature could become 1st in Midwest to approve same-sex nuptials — and 3rd in 2 weeks after victories in Delaware, Rhode Island

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A pivotal vote Thursday in the Minnesota House positioned that state to become the 12th in the country to allow gay marriages and the first in the Midwest to pass such a law out of its Legislature.

The 75-59 vote was a critical step for the measure, which would allow same-sex weddings beginning this summer. It's a startling shift in the state, where just six months earlier voters turned back an effort to ban them in the Minnesota Constitution. The state Senate plans to consider the bill Monday, May 13, and leaders expect it to pass there too. Gov. Mark Dayton has pledged to sign it into law.

"My family knew firsthand that same-sex couples pay our taxes, we vote, we serve in the military, we take care of our kids and our elders and we run businesses in Minnesota," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Karen Clark, a Minneapolis Democrat who is gay. "Same-sex couples should be treated fairly under the law, including the freedom to marry the person we love."

Hundreds of supporters and opponents gathered outside the House chamber up to and during the debate, chanting and waving signs. They sang "We Shall Overcome" and a John Lennon song in the minutes before the vote.

Four of the House's 61 Republicans voted for the bill, while two of its 73 Democrats voted against it.

Opponents argued the bill would alter a centuries-old conception of marriage and leave those people opposed for religious reasons tarred as bigots.

"We're not. We're not," said Rep. Kelby Woodard, R-Belle Plaine. "These are people with deeply held beliefs, including myself."

Pro-marriage demonstrators filled the hallways outside the House chambers, some dressed in orange T-Shirts and holding signs that read, "I Support The Freedom to Marry." Behind them, opponents held up bright pink signs that simply read, "Vote No."

Among the demonstrators was Grace McBride, 27, a nurse from St. Paul. She said she and her partner felt compelled to be there to watch history unfold. She said she hopes to get married "as soon as I can" if the bill becomes law. The legislation would allow her to do so starting Aug. 1.

"I have thought about my wedding since I was a little girl," she said.

On the other side of the divide, the Rev. Steve Goold of New Hope Church led followers in a morning prayer before they set out to lobby lawmakers. He told them they had the power to change minds, but urged them to be respectful.

"Do not shout and boo. Pray," Goold said. Galina Komar, a recent Ukrainian immigrant who lives in Bloomington, brought her four-year-old daughter and one-year-old son to the Capitol to express her religious concerns.

"I do believe in God, and I believe God already created the perfect way to have a family," Komar said.

But gay marriage supporters also boasted faith leaders in their ranks.

"I've celebrated marriages for same-sex couples, but I've never been able to sign a marriage license for any of them," said the Rev. Jay Carlson, pastor at a Minneapolis Lutheran church. "I look forward to the day when I can."

Eleven other states allow gay marriages — including Rhode Island and Delaware, which approved laws in the past week. Minnesota would be the first state in the Midwest to pass the measure out of the Legislature.

Iowa allows gay marriages because of a 2009 court ruling. Leaders in Illinois — the only Midwestern state other than Minnesota with a Democratic-led statehouse — say that state is close to having the votes to approve a law, too.

But most other states surrounding Minnesota have constitutional bans against same-sex weddings, so the change might not spread to the nation's heartland nearly as quickly as it has on the coasts and in New England.

The Minnesota push for gay marriage grew out of last fall's successful campaign to defeat a constitutional amendment that would have banned it. Minnesota became the first state to turn back such an amendment after more than two dozen states had passed one over more than a decade.

The same election put Democrats in full control of state government for the first time in more than two decades, a perfect scenario for gay marriage supporters to swiftly pursue legalization. They tapped the cross-section of citizens, businesses, churches and others who spoke out against the amendment and staged rallies as part of a lobbying effort to build support. The bill cleared committees in both chambers in March, and with a succession of national polls showing opposition to gay marriage falling away nationally.

"There are kids being raised by grandparents, single parents, two moms or two dads," said Rep. Laurie Halverson, a Democrat from the Twin Cities suburbs. "Some of those folks are my friends. And we talk about the same things as parents. We talk about large piles of laundry, and how much it hurts to step on a Lego. That's what we do, because we're all families." ■



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■ TOURISM, From Page 6

The Fort Worth CVB also does LGBT outreach, which started as a recommendation of the Task Force formed after the Rainbow Lounge Raid. The FWCVB is a co-sponsor of the press tour, which includes a night in the city.

Marianne Roth, vice president of marketing and communications for the Fort Worth CVB, said her agency is funded primarily through hotel taxes.

The Fort Worth CVB's website also has a page devoted to marketing the LGBT community. But the page is more political, possibly in an effort to overcome the city's image that was tarnished by the Rainbow Lounge raid. Links connect the CVB to a number of the city's organizations beyond those that are tourist related, like Tarrant County Gay Pride Week, QCinema and the rodeo, as well as community groups like PFLAG and Fort Worth Transgender Support.

The Dallas CVB receives funding through the hotel tax but also sells memberships. That may be one of the problems the Dallas CVB is having in reorganizing its diversity marketing. If none of the clubs or restaurants on Cedar Springs are members of the CVB, is there any relationship between the businesses and the agency and does the agency have any incentive to market them?

Among the LGBT events not listed on the CVB website that bring the most visitors to Dallas are the Texas Bear Round Up and the Purple Party. GayTravel.com recently ranked the Purple Party as No. 9 on its list of top 20 LGBT events worldwide for 2013.

Purple Foundation President Blake Baker said he hopes to use more of the CVB resources next year. About 40 percent of attendees come from out-of-town, and the CVB helped the organization find its new host hotel.

"The Dallas CVB is good at opening doors and making connections that would be difficult to get otherwise," he said.

But TBRU had a different experience.

About 1,800 visitors from 48 states and 14 countries sold out eight hotels for TBRU this year, after filling the host hotel within two hours of opening reservations. Dallas Bears President Wayne Davis said many more attended some of the parties and other events without bothering to register. Because the weekend has grown so much, he said they were hoping to find a bigger hotel to better accommodate them.

"We reached out [to the CVB] several times, and they never came around," he said.

To make the weekend even larger, Davis was hoping the CVB would help his group connect with possible business sponsors as well.

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tony Vedda suggested local LGBT groups contact his organization as a starting point. In addition to information he has about marketing Dallas as an LGBT destination, he said he could make an introduction to the right person at the CVB.

Mayor's actions called 'problematic'

Bre Peterson, Dallas CVB public relations proj-



POSITIVE TRAVEL STORIES CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT | LGBT travel writers from the U.S. and Europe visit the Dallas Arts District on Thursday, May 9, during the 10th annual Dallas International LGBT Travel Writers press tour. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

ect manager, said the diversity division is being revamped. Budgets are currently being worked out but money for marketing to the LGBT community has actually increased, she said. She said tentative plans call for some advertising in national publications and marketing efforts with groups such as Black Tie Dinner and GLAAD.

GLAAD will hold a pool party with out actor Wilson Cruz as a featured guest in June.

GLAAD's James Shackelford called it the largest event the organization's Dallas chapter has attempted since relaunching. The CVB purchased a sponsorship, but Shackelford said it won't be participating in marketing the event.

"Their sponsorship will help us increase our marketing," he said.

One of the most successful recent LGBT conferences in Dallas was the October 2011 Out & Equal Workplace Summit, which had an economic impact of millions of dollars at the Hilton Anatole, the host hotel, and participants spent even more at surrounding hotels, area restaurants and businesses on Cedar Springs Road.

Out & Equal's chief marketing officer, Teddy Witherington, credited the robust local chapter with bringing the 2011 national conference to Dallas. But he said in deciding which city to choose, the group balances "those cities that need us with those cities that feed us."

He said they consider which cities have a track record of implementing change with those cities that could benefit from an appearance. While it wouldn't be a deciding factor, he called Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings' refusal to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage last year "problematic."

While there's not one deciding factor, Witherington said his organization takes its cues from the local community. Arizona, for example, is a state Out & Equal is not currently considering because of the governor's push to remove benefits from

same-sex couples and other anti-gay legislation.

"We want to ensure we go where our attendees can have the best experience," he said.

And with rave reviews from attendees last time, Dallas is on the short list for a 2017 return visit.

Does D-FW need a gay landmark?

The LGBT press tour has been a consistently successful tool to sell Dallas as a gay and lesbian travel destination.

Doughman called the LGBT press tour the most successful of the CVB's niche market press junkets. The CVB bases success on distribution of articles written and advertising value per page of editorial copy. The current tour is expected to generate 1.8 million views. Doughman said many travel writers come to Dallas with preconceived notions.

"They think of this as a red state and include us in that," he said. "A lot of travel writers are afraid to come. Dallas is a big surprise to them when they get here."

Dallas wasn't the first city to market to the LGBT tourism community. Philadelphia began a marketing campaign aimed at gay and lesbian travelers more than 10 years ago.

Bruce Yelk is director of public relations at the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp. His city's press trips showcase art and dining and target mostly the drive market from New York to Washington, Yelk said.

He measures the success of his city's campaign through surveys. Before the marketing effort began, Philadelphia ranked in the top 25 travel destinations among LGBT leisure travelers. In recent years, the city has ranked in the top 10.

Today, Philadelphia boasts being the only city that received 100 on Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index without needing bonus points.

Yelk said his organization spends \$200,000 per

year marketing to the LGBT community. Research shows that the average LGBT visitor to his city spends 75 percent more on lodging than general market visitors and 68 percent more on food and beverages.

He said he'd like to see marriage equality come to the state next as a way of continuing to attract gay and lesbian tourism to the city.

How much LGBT convention business comes to a city is easy to track, according to Doughman.

"But there's no way to document the leisure traveler," Doughman said. "We know from clubs and businesses on Cedar Springs there are a lot of people from out of town."

And that number is increasing.

But there's no way to track if they are gays and lesbians who happen to be in town on business or if they saw a travel story about the city in a local gay publication and decided to come see Texas.

Positive travel stories keep Dallas on the radar as an LGBT destination and influence the decision to bring a meeting to town, he said.

Upcoming groups include the National Gay and Lesbian Chambers of Commerce Business and Leadership Conference, the International Gay Bowling Association tournament, the GALA chorus convention and the gay softball world series.

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager of Resource Center Dallas, said effective marketing of a city takes more than a Visitors Bureau website.

He gave examples from several cities he's visited. He mentioned a historical marker across from Independence Hall in Philadelphia commemorating a gay rights demonstration that predated Stonewall. On Halsted Street in Chicago, he said, pillars have rainbow stripes and historic markers.

"It says 'this is historically a gay neighborhood,'" he said. "And it's a distinctive neighborhood feature. It's important to show off what we've done." ■

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A Letter From Hon. Ed Oakley

Dear Friends,
It was my great honor to serve as your City Council representative from 2001-2007. The time that I spent serving on your behalf was one of the most meaningful and rewarding periods of my life.

Because of that, I feel compelled to write you about the current race for District 1 between Delia Jasso and Scott Griggs. Since leaving office in 2007, I have followed the leadership on the Council I feel strongly that Delia has done such a great job of representing the citizens of District 1 that I must speak out.

Delia has demonstrated her leadership abilities time and time again. I believe that she is a true rising star in Dallas. She has done outstanding work, serving on the Dallas Park Board for 7 years and City Council for four years. During that time, she learned how to handle the critical day-to-day issues that our residents face, such as code enforcement, public safety, crime reduction, zoning, economic development, and transportation. If you talk to the people who live in District 1 or the business owners there, they will tell you that Delia came through for them time and time again.

Delia went to Washington to lobby for the funds to bring the streetcar to Oak Cliff. She worked to bring the first complete streets to Bishop Arts District and funding for Kidd Springs Recreation Fitness Center

She has won over 200 endorsements from people like you. She was endorsed by The Dallas Morning News in 2009 & 2010, the Police and Firefighter Associations, the Real Estate Council. People of all races and income levels have endorsed Delia. She has support from the all over the district.

I strongly urge you to vote for Delia Jasso for Dallas City Council District 1. It is rare that we see someone so dedicated and experienced to serve on the City Council. Oak Cliff needs her now more than ever.

Early voting begins April 29 and runs through May 7, and the election is Saturday, May 11. If you would like a yard sign or further information about Delia, you can contact her campaign by calling 214-984-7279, or you can go to her website at www.deliajasso.com.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for the honor of serving as your Councilmember in the past.

Ed Oakley



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viewpoints

Not my grandfather's BSA

Boy Scouts of America's proposed policy change goes squarely against principles of strength and honesty espoused in group's Handbook

Sometime in the '20s, my grandfather became the then-youngest Boy Scout to obtain the top rank of Eagle Scout. When he died he was as proud of that as he was of piloting ships into Tokyo Bay at the end of the war. He was a classic Scout, too. The epitome of honor and resourcefulness, he whistled while he worked and did everything he could think of to make life better for the people in his world.

I never talked about the gay Scouting ban with my grandfather. Maybe I didn't give the 97-year-old guy enough credit, but I thought that conversation would be too awkward. I'd have to explain things that we just didn't talk about together, like the difference between plain old sex and sexual orientation. And I worried he'd think I was criticizing him personally, so I cut us both some slack. You get to do that with family sometimes.

I'm not cutting the Boy Scouts of America any slack right now, though. They have announced a proposed policy change on which the National Council will vote at its meeting in Grapevine,

Texas, on May 22: The BSA might admit gay Scouts — but definitely not gay leaders.

So why even try? The stated basis for the ban has always been that homosexuality violates the Scout's oath to be "morally straight." Here's what they mean by that, according to the Boy Scout Oath and Law: "[Y]our relationships with others should be honest and open. You should respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions, and remain faithful in your religious beliefs."

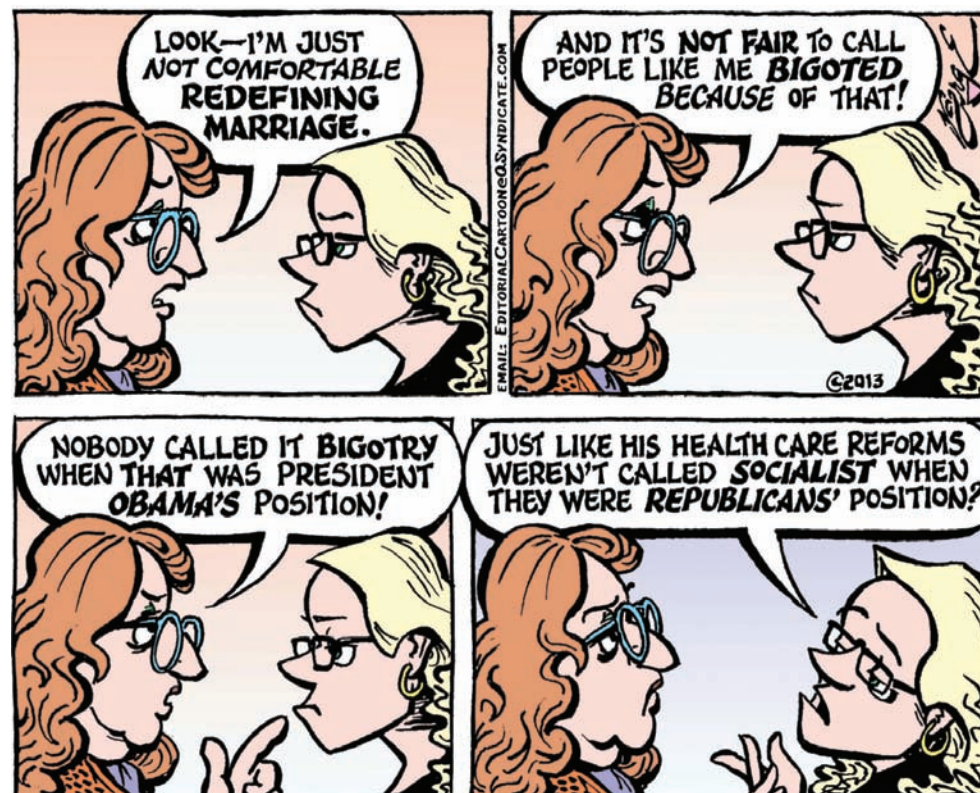
In other words, being gay is inconsistent with these characteristics. I'm not sure if it's the honest and open part or the faith part, or whatever. I'm not privy to the bizarre conversation that must repeatedly transpire among BSA leadership every time they review and reaffirm the ban, but it's clear to me that the new policy proposal in no way seeks to challenge the idea that gay people, by definition, cannot be "morally straight."

But wait, there's more! They've also stated, "We allow youth to live as children and enjoy Scouting and its diversity without immersing them in the politics of the day. ... The

Boy Scouts of America has always reflected the expectations that Scouting families have had for the organization. We do not believe that homosexuals provide a role model consistent with these expectations."



Abby Dees
Contributing Columnist



Nonetheless, the BSA may feel comfortable now allowing gay boys to join their ranks even though they have officially labeled gays unworthy of admiration. This is no compromise, but a twisted update on "don't ask, don't tell," and children will pay the price for adult cowardice. I can't think of a worse way of virtually dunking kids into "the politics of the day" than forcing them to parse this hypocrisy.

Imagine what this might feel like to a gay Scout. He's allowed to join, presumably because he can't help himself, poor thing. But the BSA can still provide a bulwark that keeps other, still-unsullied straight boys from looking up to a gay Scout leader and getting ideas. He'd learn that people like him, once they grow up, can't be trusted to behave. What a thing to look forward to.

Where in this is the idea of strength and honesty that is all over the Boy Scout Handbook? I get that the BSA is a private organization and free to set its policy, but that doesn't stop me from calling them out for causing harm to young people. With the mission of building character and honesty in our next generation of men, they are instead teaching that self-respect and respect for others is too fragile to withstand human difference and variety. (Interestingly, some individual chapters flout the ignorant directives from above and are thriving, of course.)

This isn't my grandfather's Boy Scouts. He would have struggled to understand what it meant to be gay and probably gotten it wrong in parts, but he would have measured the man, or the boy, by his actions. As a good Scout, he certainly wouldn't have singled anyone out based on archaic stereotypes. BSA, check your own traditions and try again.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionstraighttalk.com.

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Does LGBT marketing/publicity influence your travel decisions?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Do you think Councilman Scott Griggs' LGBT Equality Resolution is a 'misuse' of the Dallas City Council's time?

- Yes: 15 percent
 - No: 81 percent
 - Unsure: 4 percent
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'Desert' storm!



'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' — the gayest movie in history — becomes the gayest stage musical in history ... and that's saying something

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

The last time most North Texas audiences got to see Wade McCollum, he was slithering around in a pair of tight-fitting pants (and little else) in Dallas Theater Center's production of *Cabaret*. When he returns this week, you'll see a very different side of him.

"You know what I look like in nothing," he says. "Now you'll know what I look like in drag."

And not just any drag. McCollum headlines the national tour of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, a jukebox musical so full of outlandish costumes it does them a disservice to call them "just" costumes.

"They are more than costumes — they are engineered creations," says McCollum, who plays Mitzi (the Hugo weaving character from the film). "The seeds of all the ideas are in the film. But here you'll see the trees and all the fruit."

Michelle Harrison, a Dallas native and costume director for the national tour, confirms the scope.

"I'm responsible for five [tours] right now, and *Priscilla* has the most costumes *by far*. There are just under 500 total costumes — and that's taking a costume of one person's individual look, not all the pieces that make it up, or for the swings or understudies," she says. "It takes up a 53-foot semi-truck. Costumes are transported in rolling closets called gondolas; most shows have 10 to 20 gondolas. *Priscilla* has about 40.

It's huge.

"I should finally just count my own costumes," McCollum admits. "I counted once while walking to a party; I think I came up with 20 to 22 costume changes [for me], some of which are, like, 30

seconds long."

But does McCollum have a favorite look among his wardrobe.

"There are so many great costumes, but I'd have to say the finale — where we wear these huge Marie Antoinette dresses — is really more of an emergency shelter than a dress. It's 7 feet wide, with a huge metal skirt and 5-foot-tall wig that represents the ocean with the Santa Maria on top."

That's not even the most outrageous thing. When all the actors come together, domes come arching up over their heads and together they create the Sydney Opera House. "It's one of those moments when you say, 'Are you fucking kidding me?'" says McCollum.

That's a surprise especially when you consider the low-budget Aussie film — about three drag queens road-tripping it to the Australian Outback in a bus they christen Priscilla, only to shock, upset and occasionally delight a series of baffled locals along the way — notoriously had one of the cheapest costume budgets ever imagined: \$15,000 (out of an overall budget of \$1 million). The costume budget for the Broadway version? Reportedly half a million *alone*, "if not a little more," confirms Harrison. "Everything from the shoes to the wigs is of excellent quality, but there is also stuff from the dollar store, which works, because the three queens don't have any money, either." (The iconic \$7 flip-flop dress from the film — which was instrumental in winning designers Tim Chappell and Lizzie Gardiner the Oscar — is in the stage production's Tony Award-winning costumes as well.)

Indeed, one of the directives given to Harrison and company in constructing the costumes for the tour was not to make them look

"too nice."

"It's definitely something we have to keep in mind, especially with the shoes. When we finished them, they looked too good — we needed to make them look a little dirty, a little used."

Harrison's own fave among the costumes varies depending on her mood.

"Definitely one of my favorite *and* one of the hardest to create were the cupcakes — big, bulky and hard to fit. We put them on the actors 12, maybe 14 times before we readjusted them right. And I love that flip-flop dress. But where I am now, I am in awe of all the shoes. They are amazing."

An ironic thing about the national tour is: It's easy to attract New York audiences to a Broadway production with drag; but has art imitated life? Has this road show production of kitschy flamboyance and uber-gay characters wooed folks in the hinterlands or delighted them? Definitely the latter, says McCollum.

"They say if it plays in Peoria, you have a hit," he says. "Well, we have *all* been incredibly surprised at the deafening roar of the crowds every night. Sure, some people may not relate to [drag queens *per se*], but on a fundamental level it's about humans: An older woman finding love, a young kid who can't be as radical as he wants to be, a father afraid of rejection. It's the trope of belonging, the beauty of diversity. Audiences find themselves relating to [the characters] as people."

But the camp certainly plays a role.

"Hey," McCollum says, "seeing the show is like being inside a drag queen's imagination for a night. Who doesn't want to be there?"

PRISCILLA

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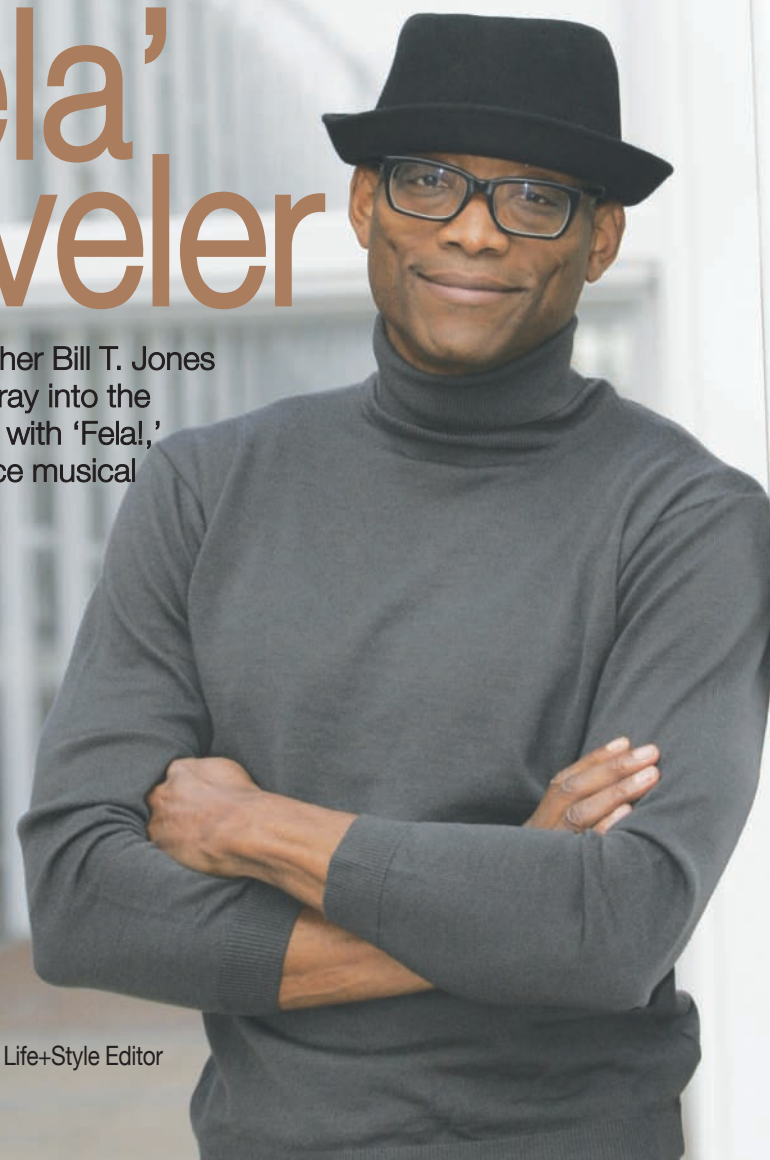
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L+S stage

'Fela' traveler

Out choreographer Bill T. Jones continues his foray into the legitimate stage with 'Fela,' the African dance musical



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

Although he's best known as a choreographer, Bill T. Jones would probably resist applying any label to what he does that inhibits his creative expression.

As the surviving founder of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, he revolutionized dance — notably with *Still/Here*, which explored the impact of AIDS on the body — and won a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant along the way. But a few years ago, he moved from the esoteric world of dance to the pop sensibilities of Broadway, choreographing *Spring Awakening* (and winning a Tony).

Apparently, the theater bug's bite is strong, because he returned with *Fela!*, a dance-heavy musical he choreographed, directed, co-wrote and developed.

Nobody puts Billy in a corner.

"I don't just stage dances," Jones insists. "My dances often have text in them. I work from the ground up. But Broadway is its own animal — the demands make it that."

Fela!, which opened at the Winspear this week, wasn't an obvious sell to American audiences. Then again, Jones specializes in stretching boundaries, and his passion carries it.

Based on the life of African musician and na-

tionalist activist Fela Kuti — who helped define the Afrobeat sound in the 1960s and '70s before succumbing to AIDS in 1997 — *Fela!* is an exhausting voyage through politics, music and movement, much of which would be unfamiliar to Americans. But Jones' interest in Fela started decades ago.

"I had been a member of a dance collective in Binghamton, N.Y., in the 1970s, and one of our teachers went to a library looking for some African music," Jones recalls.

"The teacher was drawn to this colorful album and got it. We played it a great deal and began to follow his story, including his incarceration at that time. I imagined it like a rock star [in the U.S.] being thrown in jail."

Flashforward a few decades, and an American theater producer was looking for someone to tell Fela's story. "Our shared lawyer had seen my work at the Guthrie Theater [in Minneapolis] and told him about it," Jones says. They met, "and he said, 'I think you are the guy.'"

It took a lot longer than that to get the show off the ground, however.

Casting was a huge hurdle. The actor playing Fela commands the stage for more than two

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES | At 61, Bill T. Jones, above, choreographed, directed and co-wrote 'Fela,' opposite ... and has no plans to slow down.

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hours, sweating like a racehorse. It would require back-up casting to keep the show fresh every night. And there weren't many actors who could pull it off anyway. (He eventually enlisted Sahr Ngaujah, who won a Tony nom for his performance.) Then came the process of culling through Fela's music and selecting not just pieces that would aid in the story, but rewriting the songs for a wider audience.

"We had to find a way to change and translate [Fela's] lyrics," Jones says. "His music was often sung in pidgin English or other [African dialects]. But that whole generation of Afrobeat musicians consider them sacred," and didn't want to mess with them. They eventually found a balance that worked.

Initially, Jones saw the production as something like his other dance work. "We thought *Fela!* should be the hip, downtown thing — showing in Brooklyn, or as a weekend show, building a rep" among the New York tastemakers. But commercial theater beckoned.

"We were off-Broadway at 37 Arts and said, 'Let's put it up on its feet.' [As soon as it opened,] people were lining up down the block. I went on vacation and didn't know it had been as successful as it was."

The move to B'way was natural, but required even more changes — including lopping at least



20 minutes from its runtime. "We were freaked out by it but it was exciting," Jones says. "Songs that we fell in love with, that talked about that period, eventually had to go to shape a commercial theater run even though they were very close to our heart."

Fela! closed on Broadway in 2011, but the national tour continues to represent Jones' vision. He does not travel with the show, however: He remains busy with his dance company, serving as executive director of another arts group and even continues his B'way career. Now at age 61, you might expect Jones to be looking toward retirement. He scoffs.

"You're thinking of *normal* people," he says. "Artists don't think that way." ■

'Fly by Night' Where were you when the lights went out?

A half-dozen or so disaffected New Yorkers, linked together by fate or coincidence, sing about coping with death, loneliness, aimlessness. If that sounds like *Rent*, or even *Avenue Q*... well, it's not, but it is just as smart and entertaining, with a little bit of Robert Altman thrown in.

Fly By Night, a newish musical making its regional debut at the Kalita thanks to Dallas Theater Center, combines elements and tones culled freely from *The Twilight Zone*, *Spring Awakening*, *Magnolia*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, (500) *Days of Summer* and chamber musicals like those of Jonathan Larson and William Finn and *Little Shop*, to create a spiritual but not ponderously didactic piece that plays with lovely insight within the intimate space of the Kalita. (I imagine it working well in the black box of the Wily, too.)

It's November 1964 — the era of *Mad Men* — and the sole foray by schlubby Harold (Damon Daunno, pictured left with Michael McCormick) into advertising is misspelling the sign on his boss' sandwich shop. Harold meets Daphne (Whitney Bashor), a perky transplant from South Dakota, and falls for her fast. But Daphne's mousy older sister Miriam (Kristin Stokes), resignedly alone, meets a fortune teller who predicts she and Harold are meant to be together... and that it won't end happily. (It doesn't.) Everything in their lives, though, seems to be zeroing in on that day in 1965 when the Eastern Seaboard went black due to a power outage, and the fortunes of everyone were changed.

This is the kind of show where even its weaknesses exude a goofy likability. The second act is easily 20 minutes too long, and the character of an aimless playwright is a waste of actor Alex Organ's sizeable talents. (The entire plot about a constantly revised play-within-a-play comes off as excessively twee.) You also want to spend more time with Harold's father (David Coffee), although his last-act solo makes the wait worth it.

Fly By Night casts a spell on you in any number of ways, from the melodic appeal of the Disney-esque songs ("I Need More" and "I Am a Turtle" linger, as do the voices of their singers) to the appealing actors to Bill Fennelly's creative staging. And it does all this not by dazzling, but by reassuring us of the beauty of life even in those moments of desperation. It makes living in the dark of the universe not seem so scary.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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L+S music

Maines attraction

Texas' most rebellious Chick goes solo, rocking covers big-time on 'Mother'



RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
getrichindallas@gmail.com



MOTHER
Natalie Maines
Columbia



Most great contemporary music trios contain a budding artist, eventually ready to take a crack at solo superstardom. You often see it coming: In Genesis, both Peter Gabriel and Phil Collins went on to bigger and better things; Sting broke free from The Police; Beyonce was really just

preparing to become Beyonce while serving time in Destiny's Child.

The latest unsurprising addition to that list is Natalie Maines, the headstrong lead singer for The Dixie Chicks.

Don't worry, the Chicks are just "on hiatus," as Martie Maguire and Emily Robison and Maines still remain a group despite successful side projects — Maguire and Robison's Court Yard Hounds, and now **Mother**, Maines' venture into the waters of Timberlake.

But what a strange entry it is. Rocker Ben Harper co-produced the disc, taking Maines into rocker-chick territory. (She's teased fans by loudly proclaiming her disinterest in country, saying her first release would be rock.) Her genre jumping isn't what's odd; it's that *Mother* is mostly covers. What Maines does with those tunes, though, is magic.

Much like Annie Lennox's *Medusa*, Maines demands ownership of these songs; they reflect her voice literally and figuratively. When "Without You" opens, she takes Eddie Vedder's track to a different place because, you hear she's still healing from her famous 2003 controversy. But she is

also slyly stepping away from her band when she sings *I'll fly when you cry / lift us out of this landslide?* In an instant, she declares her independence.

She strikes more gold with the title track, extending her message. Maines cleverly balances both maternal tenderness and defiant energy. When she croons *Mother, do you think she's good enough for me*, parent or not, that feeling is immediately recognizable.

Maines approaches her covers with abandon. They say what she's clearly feeling and more so than even she does. She co-penned "Come Cryin' To Me" with Maguire and Robison (along with The Jayhawks' Gary Louris), but the ballad was empty and said far less than any of the previous tracks. With her stunning voice, Maines lost out in properly checking her emotional side on the slower entries. Jeff Buckley's "Lover Should've Come Over" was a missed opportunity, but in this case, she overdid it.

Maines isn't short on dramatics, but they fare much better in the muscular Semisonic cover of "Free Life," which proves that a gospel choir never does a song wrong. The harmonies amid the rich guitars in The Jayhawks' "I'd Run Away" is so potent, it's easy to yearn for another five minutes of it.

There is nary a misstep in *Mother*. The sound doesn't recall The Dixie Chicks but you do hear the foundation there and her covers are brilliant selections that are never obvious, but never pretentious. The Chicks have confirmed some live dates this summer, so the ladies will be back together soon. But Maines undoubtedly makes her presence known that she can hold her own and be one helluva mother. ■

Oh, my word

Even queer lingo doesn't get past gay 'A Way with Words' host and logophile Martha Barnette

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
getrichindallas@gmail.com

We applaud when someone like NBA player Jason Collins comes out of the closet. But why was he in the closet anyway? No, not metaphorically, but really. Is "the closet" some arbitrary term, or did it hold certain significance? Why not the basement or the trunk?

Questions such as these are no big deal for Grant Barrett and Martha Barnette, who co-host the public radio show *A Way With Words* (airing on KERA Fridays at 1 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.). The wordsmiths will come to Dallas for a live show at the Lakewood Theater on Thursday, benefiting (natch) The Aberg Center for Literacy. But before they got here, we sought from Barnette, who is lesbian, some insights about how queer colloquialisms (colloqueerisms? queerloquialisms?) have entered the public lexicon. And as a lover of words (formal term: logophile) Barnette enjoys explaining just how LGBT culture is likely influencing today's language.

"We certainly see gay slang bubbling up and sliding over," she says. "'In the closet' arose around the late '60s and early '70s, but the idea of coming out has been around for hundreds of years. And now, everyone uses it as a type of reveal: 'I came out of the closet as a fan of Honey Boo Boo!'"

Barnette relishes in the amorphous nature of English as it compares to other languages. If it were a Scruff profile, it would proudly proclaim itself "versatile."

A WAY WITH WORDS LIVE

Lakewood Theater,
1825 Abrams Parkway, May 16,
8 p.m. \$40-\$200. AbergCenter.org.

"I would suspect that the case is, as society gets exposed to us and then our language, more people adopt [the terminology]. That happens across the board," Barnette says. "That's the great strength of the English language: its diversity. Unlike others, English is open and embracing. It's like the person at the table asking in French or Italian, 'Are you gonna eat that?'"

Barnette is excited by her Dallas appearance, and says she and Barrett can always tell when the show is on the air in North Texas by the sheer volume of calls they receive. She's not just blowing smoke: Tune in or download any episode and D/FW gets a fair representation of fans calling to figure out that weird thing grandma always said or where certain foods get their name.

"We have experienced so much love from you guys," she says. "You all have such an intellectual curiosity."

She hopes people will bring that to the event. The night will bring awareness to the Aberg Center's mission to provide adult education and family literacy programming to decrease the near half-million Dallasites who lack a high school education and English fluency.

"It's a perfect fit," says Teri Walker, the Aberg Center's executive director. "Martha and Grant and Aberg Center share an understanding of how language creates and reflects culture. We're grateful to them for coming to Dallas in support of literacy."

KERA's *Think* host Kryss Boyd will moderate, including the

■ RADIO Next Page



MARTHA, MARTHA, MARTHA! | Public Radio's doyenne of word originals, Martha Barnette, swoops into Dallas for a live show of 'A Way with Words' quicker than a duck on a junebug. (Ask her what it means.)

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■ RADIO From Previous Page

partaking of quizzes and a Q&A consistent with the show's affable, insightful nature. Perhaps even the gays can hit up Barnette for some homo-definitions and origins — like, why is “Mary” such a popular name to throw around.

“I think that’s very interesting,” Barnette admits. “I’ve heard ‘Blanche,’ also. Use of feminine names has been around — ‘Miss Nancy’ goes back to the 1820s. And ‘Nelly’ was derived when people would use ‘Nervous’ or ‘Nice Nelly.’ There’s even a Broadway show now with Nathan Lane called *The Nance* where he plays that kind of character.”

Barnette does say lesbians don’t have an equivalent: “There are the ‘U-Haul’ types or

‘bois’, but no tradition that I’m aware of,” she says.

While Barnette described herself as “pretty gay” during our interview, she followed it up with an email asking if I was familiar with the term “Quiltbag.” (Nope.)

Pointing to a link to QueerDictionary on Tumblr, I find “Quiltbag” is an acronym for “Queer/Questioning, Undecided, Intersex, Lesbian, Transgender/Transsexual, Bisexual, Allied/Asexual, Gay/Genderqueer.”

“I’d say I fall somewhere on that continuum,” she says. “I’m wondering if that will cross over into the mainstream.”

Here’s hoping. ■

Consult the guru

GayTravel.com guru Bryan Kosarek may live in Austin but admits he loves Dallas

You know the old joke: “I just flew in from Miami; boy, are my arms tired.”

Well, that’s sort of Bryan Kosarek’s actual life now.

The transplanted Texan (a Chicago native) has been winging it for more than two months, and still has nearly four more to go as the GayTravel.com “guru,” a position that sends him from spots like Southern California all the way over to Thailand and back to the U.S. ... especially his home base in Austin.

Kosarek is no stranger to the Lone Star State, having attended college in San Antonio; for the past five years, the 31-year-old has lived in Austin, where he works in real estate by day and writes the blog *GayInAustin-Texas.com* — a social/relocation guide about the queerpeal of the state’s capital — by night.

Last fall, just as a relationship was ending, Kosarek decided to enter a contest held by GayTravel.com to find their new travel guru — a paid position where one lucky journalist criss-crosses the world, blogging and vlogging about the gay scene from Sonoma to the Caribbean. And he won. (Best news of all for Texas: The runner-up was *also* from Austin.) Since then, he’s been traveling *a lot*, with occasional breaks back home to recuperate and recharge.

Even though he’s been an enthusiastic cheerleader for gay Austin, Kosarek admits Dallas has its own draws, which he experienced late last month. Kosarek landed in Dallas (a city he already knew somewhat) but got to explore it with new eyes.

And what an adventure. He stayed in the gayborhood at the Warwick Melrose Hotel, and got to hang out (alongside me) with the gay filmmakers and celebs at the USA Film Festival; was able to meet restaurateurs like Abraham Salum and dine at Dish and Nick & Sam’s Grill (and partake in one of mixologist Leann Berry’s signature cocktails at Komali, pictured above); walked through the Dallas Museum of Art (seeing the Coco Chanel exhibit was the highlight, he says); and got to see for the first time Lisa Lampanelli (he was suitably offended and delighted). And he got to whoop it up at the Purple Party, from seeing the Rose Room girls perform alongside Drag Racer Chad Michaels to sunworshipping at Sisu (pictured below).

If lounging by a pool sipping cocktails surrounded by hunky men sounds like your idea of a dream job, keep in mind: Kosarek spends about half of his time in locations writing and editing, and jet-lag has become a way of life. It’s not all roses.

Then again, Kosarek isn’t complaining — at least not yet. Over a beer at the Katy Trail Ice House, Kosarek ogles the crowd, taking in the stylish variety the city has to offer. After visiting the men’s room, Kosarek even tweets this little missive: “Everything isn’t bigger in Texas. Everything’s just bigger in *Dallas*.”

We try, Bryan; we try.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

You can follow GayTravel Guru Bryan Kosarek’s adventures until August by signing up for his blog at GayTravel.com.



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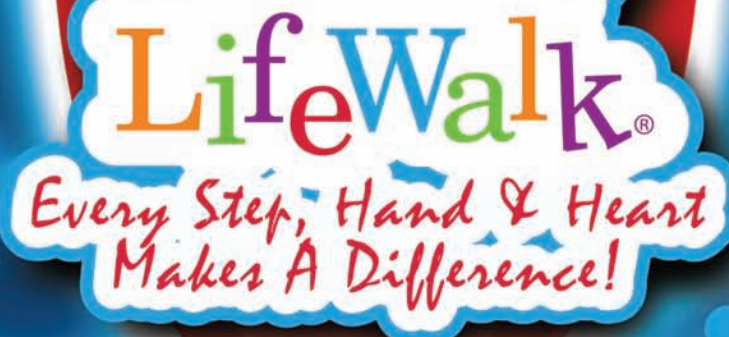
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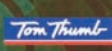
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Saturday 05.11

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DEETS: Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 8 p.m. \$10.



Saturday 05.11

4th annual HomeGrown Music and Arts Festival returns to Downtown

Outdoor festival season in North Texas continues with one of the newest: The HomeGrown Music and Arts Festival in Downtown. Now in its fourth year, this collection of music, yoga, art, food and more features performances from the likes of Polyphonic Spree, Burning Hotels (pictured), A.Dd+ and more for a day-long concert and bonding experience with a local edge.

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Sunday 05.12

Women's Chorus celebrates moms with 'Cherish' concert

Sunday is Mother's Day, and if your mom's nearby, you'll probably want to take her to The Women's Chorus of Dallas' annual concert in Fair Park, *Cherish*. This hour-long celebration of mothers everywhere through song, and concludes with a release of live butterflies. Your ticket price even includes complimentary parking and day-long access to the Discovery Gardens.

DEETS: Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. 2 p.m. \$20-\$25. TWCD.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Fri 5/10 - An Evening with a Psychic- 7:30pm
- Fri 5/17 - An Evening with a Hypnotist- 8pm
- Wed 5/22 - A Night of Reds- Tasting (RSVP)
- Fri 5/31- Live Jazz Quartet- 8pm
- Wed 6/5 - Paint Like Picasso (RSVP)

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calendar highlights

IDEAL MEN | Concepts of perfection in the human body are explored at the new exhibit of Ancient Greek marbles at the Dallas Museum.



ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

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.

Enron. A musical adaptation of the events that led to one of the biggest corporate scandals in history. Regional premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 25. \$10-\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Fly By Night. A new pop musical set during the time leading up to the Big Blackout of 1965. (Reviewed this week.) Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 26. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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

Fela! A raucous dance musical set to African rhythms about the life of Afrobeat activist Fela Kuti. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through May 19. ATPAC.org.

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley. Presented by Dallas Children's Theater; intended for ages 5 and up. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through June 2. DCT.org.

Daffodil Girls, Inspired by David Mamet's Glengarry Glen Ross. A children's play with a dark bent, written and directed by Jeff Swearingen. Plano's Children's Theatre, 1301 Custer Road, Suite 706, Plano. Through Sunday. \$5-\$10. FunHouseTheatreAndFilm.com.

CONCERTS

Around the World with the TCC Chamber Chorus. The Turtle Creek Chorale's smaller chorus performs a concert of music from various cultures, including Germany, Israel and Russia. Cathedral of Hope Interfaith Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. May 10. \$15. 214-526-3214. TurtleCreek.org.

FINE ART

The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece: Masterworks

from the British Museum. A collection of marbles and pottery and bronzework from Greek antiquity focusing on the human form, especially the male nude. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 6. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

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.

Justin Ginsberg: Mesophase. New show with opening night artist's reception. Ro2 Art. 110 N. Akard St. Through June 1.

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 Saturday. ilumegallerie.com.

Dick and Jane: A Narrative and Pull the Lion's Mane. New exhibits with artists' reception Saturday begin at Norwood Flynn Gallery, 3318 Shorecrest. Through May 25. NorwoodFlynnGallery.com.

FRIDAY 05.10

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. A mixer sponsored by Texas Instruments' gay group, but open to all. Capitol Pub, 2401 N. Henderson Ave. 5:30-7:30 p.m..

SATURDAY 05.11

FESTIVAL

HomeGrown Music and Arts Festival. The fourth annual event featuring performances from Polyphonic Spree, A.D.d+ and many more, plus yoga, exhibits, food, etc. Main Street Garden Park, 1900 Main St. (between Harwood and St. Paul streets). \$17-\$25 (kids under 10 get in free).

COMMUNITY

BearDance: Blowoff. Bob Mould and Rich Morel headline this benefit for Youth First Texas. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 8 p.m. \$10 at the door.

THEATER

Centerstage 2013 Gala. Liz Mikel and Cedric Neal are the featured entertainment at this annual tribute and fundraiser for the Dallas Theater Center. Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. May 11 at 6:30 p.m. \$1,000. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly, radio show addressing LGBT issues, with guest Erin Moore. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY 05.12 MOTHER'S DAY

CONCERTS

The Women's Chorus of Dallas: Cherish. TWCD's annual Mother's Day concert honoring moms. Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. \$20. 214-520-7828. TWCD.org.

FUNDRAISER

Barbecue for Brian Mooney. A cookout at Dallas Eagle to raise money for an employee who faces mounting bills related to stage 4 cancer. 4-8 p.m.

MONDAY 05.13

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County. The Poor House, 2725 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743. TarrantCountyStonewallDemocrats.org.

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

TUESDAY 05.14

STAGE

Priscilla Queen of the Desert. The drag musical, based on the campy Oscar-winning hit movie, opens in Fair Park, courtesy Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. May 14-26. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

WEDNESDAY 05.15

COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statute of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FronrunnersDallas.org.



GALA NIGHT | Liz Mikel joins fellow DTC acting company alum Cedric Neal as the featured entertainment at the Centerstage 2013 Gala, a fundraiser for the Dallas Theater Center, Saturday.

FUSE Connect, a weekly social and decision making group for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

THURSDAY 05.16

EVENT

A Way With Words Live. Public Radio show about language comes to Dallas with hosts Grant Barrett and Martha Barnette, benefiting the Aberg Center for Literacy. KERA's Krys Boyd will moderate. Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Parkway. 8 p.m. \$75-\$200. AbergCenter.org.

COMMUNITY

Boi Thursdays. Weekly gay mixer with music from guest DJs. Winston's Supperclub, 3111 Welborn Ave., Suite 110. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Free Third Thursdays. Free admission day. Trinity River Audobon Center, 6500 Great trinity Forest Way. 9 a.m. Free. TrinityRiverAudobon.org.

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 submit

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY



Jasper Johns turns 83 on Thursday. One of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century, known for his use of the American flag, he helped define the modern movement. For many years, he and fellow artist, Texan Robert Rauschenberg, were a couple. Rauschenberg died in 2008.

TAURUS: Apr 21—May 20

If you've been approaching anything from the standpoint of needing to remain on top no matter what, you're probably overwrought with the pressures that go with feeling out of control. Ironic as it seems, you can't make any further improvements until you accept the need to surrender to the will of fate.

GEMINI: May 21—Jun 20

You've got a core of security that comes from the one thing you do better than anyone. Beyond that how much do you really need? You're too scattered. In the past, you could get away with this. You can't afford to take on anything new.

CANCER: Jun 21—Jul 20

You're in a place where you haven't really got your bearings. Let the mechanics of living show you how to proceed and do your best not to project too much of the past onto the present. If you're open and continue to swim through these changes from a place of surrender, your life will open up.

LEO: Jul 21—Aug 20

So many people have disappeared. The ones who are left are here for a reason. Those of you who are in the place of being totally alone are very clear that you need connection and companionship more than anything.

VIRGO: Aug 21—Sep 20

For the first time in your life you're at a place where you're beginning to see what's important to you. At some point you'd be wise to forget about everyone else to start looking at what it is that you want for yourself.

LIBRA: Sep 21—Oct 20

Now that you can see how foolish it is to imagine the worst, you are just as aware that you have to learn how to respect people enough to believe that they mean you no harm and that they could in fact be here to do you some good!

SCORPIO: Oct 21—Nov 20

Rewinding back to the point where you made the decision to jump in no matter what the cost will do a lot to show you who got the ball rolling; what if you had said "No" instead of "Yes"? You can't change the past but learn to live with it in the present.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21—Dec 20

You have a sense of responsibility to either your standards or the past, but something else has come along to show you that you've not only outgrown the need to be responsible, your standards and the past are irrelevant to who you are now.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21—Jan 20

These things are only indicators or signs that say "things have changed" and you can no longer go by anything that was in place even a month ago. Don't waste time worrying about your reputation — you are not what you do.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21—Feb 20

Others have made the assumption that this is easy for you, or just keep taking advantage. If you want to maintain any sort of balance in your relationships, you might want to take a look at why the give and take is so one-sided.

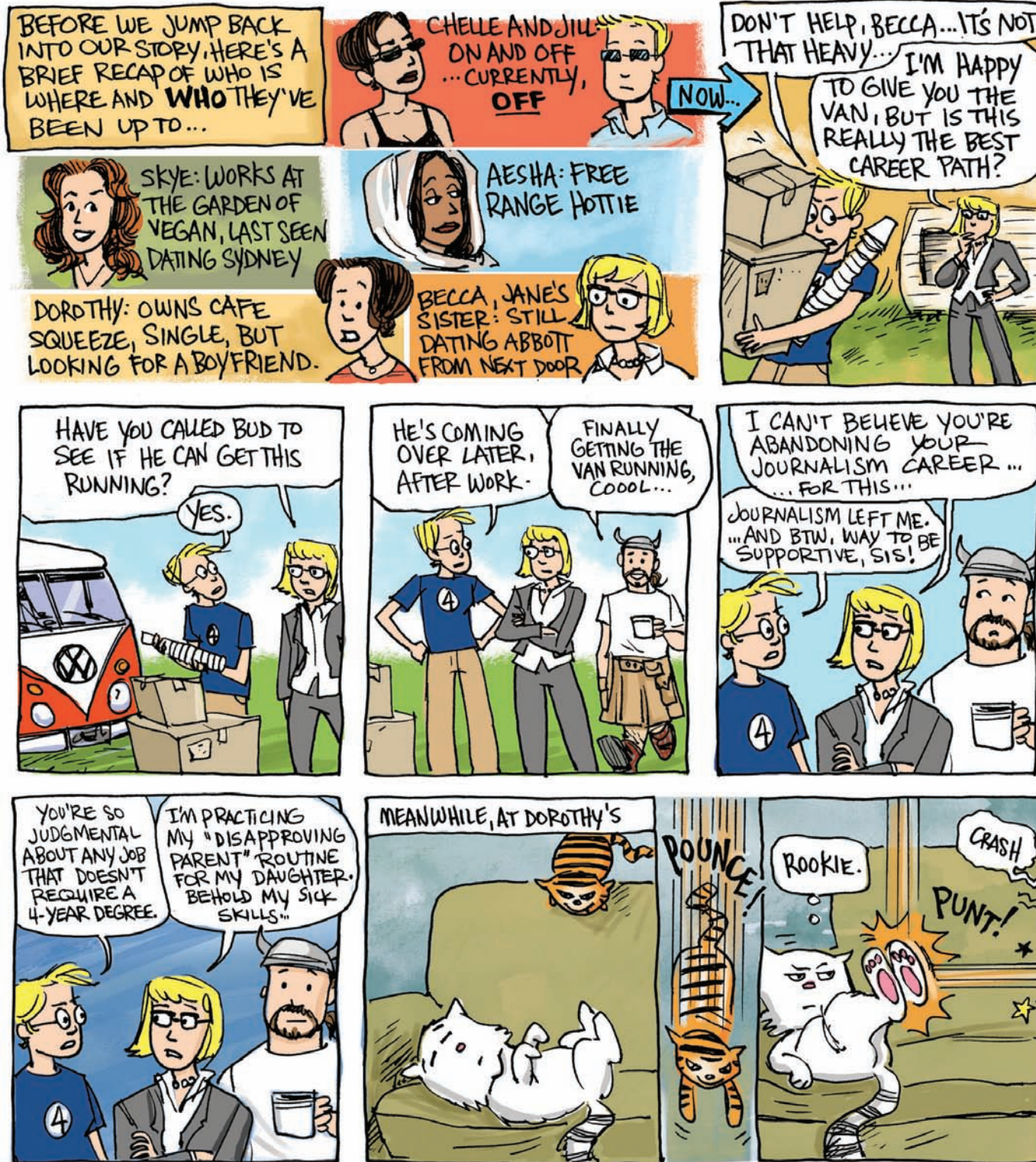
PISCES: Febr 21—Mar 20

This is one of those times when stress is so unusual. Words of comfort won't match the level of intensity that's swirling in and out of this, so for now, don't even try to figure this out and do your best to endure what you can't avoid.

ARIES: Mar 21—Apr 20

You know what's going on. If there's anything to it, your heart will feel it in time. As far as the ones who've popped in to rattle your cage are concerned, they have come back to open your eyes to the part of yourself that is dying to come back to life.

JANE'S WORLD



Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2013

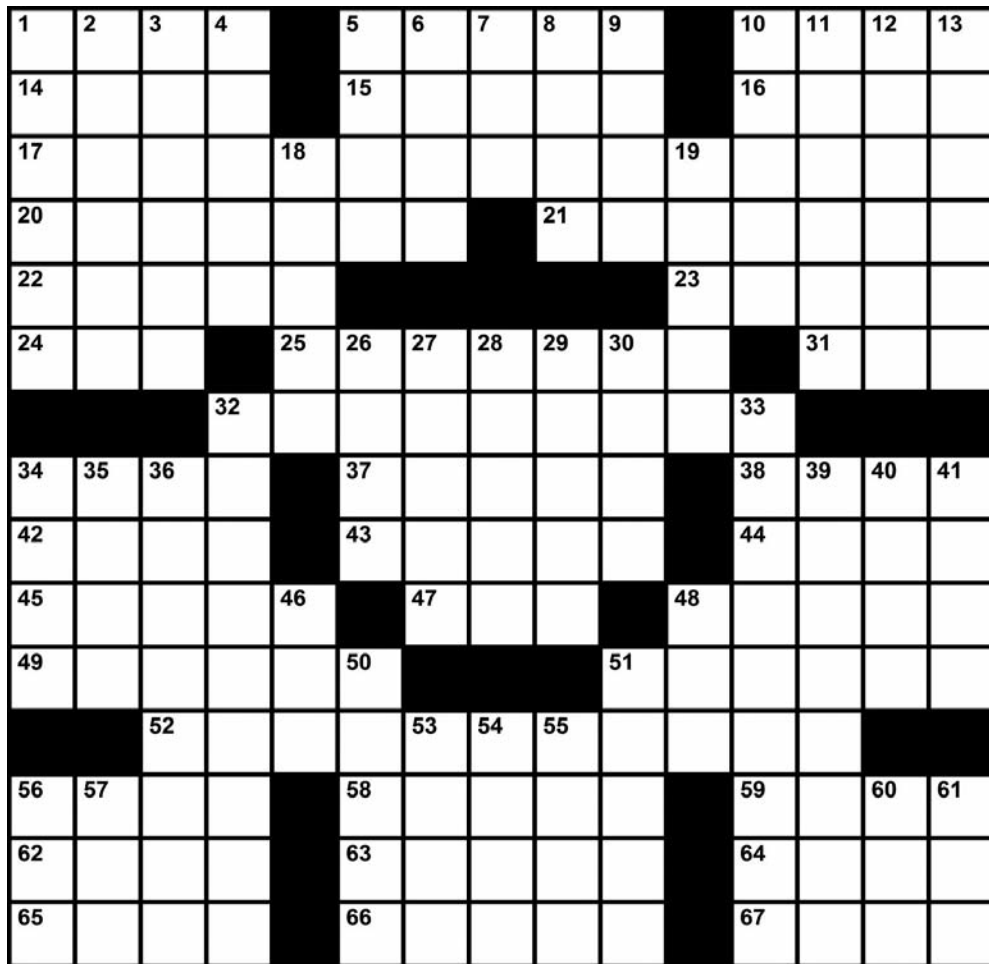
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He's Seven Feet Tall, So ...

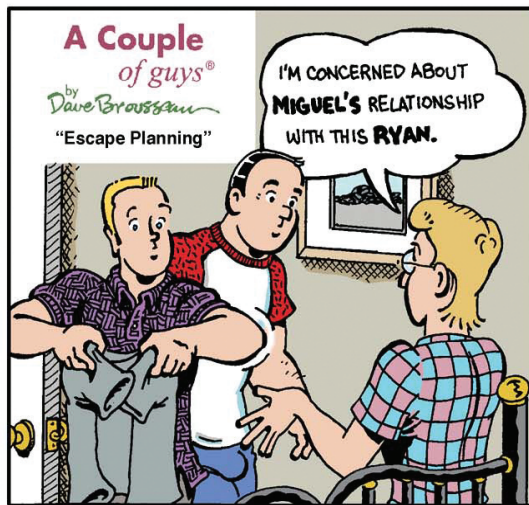
Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Sprint at the Gay Games
- 5 Sucking sound
- 10 Places where women might sweat together
- 14 Italian wine city
- 15 The bottom line
- 16 Antifur org.
- 17 Start of a comment about Jason Collins
- 20 Brian on ice
- 21 Audrey Hepburn role
- 22 German Surrealist Max
- 23 Penetrate
- 24 Musical notes
- 25 Service receivers
- 31 Cold war prog.
- 32 More of the comment
- 34 Leonardo's thing
- 37 Boyfriend
- 38 Silica stone
- 42 Strong as ___
- 43 Connect with
- 44 Biggest of a bear threesome
- 45 Pinko's hero
- 47 U-turn from SSW
- 48 Ruhr industrial center
- 49 Rabies threat

Down

- 1 Black Sea city
- 2 End of the comment
- 56 Look curiously
- 58 Diabolical one
- 59 Robert of *The Brady Bunch*
- 62 Like a fairy tale brother?
- 63 Peta Wilson's Nikita, e.g.
- 64 Charlotte Brontë's Jane
- 65 Multitude
- 66 Top-drawer
- 67 Peter the Great
- 1 Robin Williams' Pam of *Mork & Mindy*
- 2 Toward Dinah?
- 3 Members of Gertrude's family
- 4 Dropped hankie and such
- 5 W.W. II gun
- 6 Nuts
- 7 Hollywood's Hagen
- 8 Butts
- 9 Guilty, to Perry Mason
- 10 Blow off
- 11 ___ fours (small cakes)
- 12 Made amends
- 13 African outing
- 18 Concoct, as a plot
- 19 Over the top in the middle
- 26 Split
- 27 Leave stranded on a gay ski weekend, say
- 28 Talk show host who made the comment
- 29 Streisand's *Prince of Tides* costar
- 30 Poet ___ Wu
- 32 Art of stuffing animals
- 33 Active one's affair on the side?
- 34 Collected
- 35 Top draft level
- 36 *Gypsy* lyrics writer
- 39 Superintendents' masters
- 40 King Kong's kin
- 41 Star Turner
- 46 Japanese theater
- 48 College web address suffix
- 50 Fish hooks
- 51 More queer
- 53 Debussy's deity
- 54 Short term employee
- 55 Round-buyer's words
- 56 Org. of athletes that Sheehan doesn't swing with
- 57 Screw up
- 60 Bill written by Alice Paul
- 61 Aachen article



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LIFE+STYLE

scene



Rich and Charles at TMC: The Mining Company.



Scott and Joseph at Club Reflection.



Friends at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

Team Guys & Dolls annual garage sale takes place May 10 and May 11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3764 Crown Shore Drive benefiting AIDS Arms LifeWalk. Heather Thomas, Miss LifeWalk 2012, presents A Night of Comedy and Frivolity & Charity at the Hidden Door on May 11 with guests Lipps Larue, Kourtney Wells and Shonda Leer. ... Miss Big Thicket Beauty Pageant 2013 at the Round-Up Saloon last week took in \$5,700 for the Turtle Creek Chorale Member Scholarship Fund and AIDS Arms. On May 12, the Round-Up Employees Turn-About Show promises to be the wildest show of the year. ... This week's entertainment at Sue Ellen's begins with the Heather Roberts Band on May 10, Chris Miller Band on May 11 and Bad Habits on May 11. ... There will be two album release parties and a CD giveaway at JR.'s Bar & Grill this week — She & Him on May 13 and music from Baz Luhrmann's The Great Gatsby on May 14. Then on May 16, get a copy of Charli XCX's debut True Romance while supplies last. ... May 11 at the Dallas Eagle is National Leather Association's monthly bar night and Bob Mould and Rich Morel hold their EPIC Blowoff party. ... Pete Daye hosts karaoke night every Monday at the Rainbow Lounge. ... Jason Huff performs at Alexandre's on May 10 and Mi Diva Loca on May 11. The mid-week entertainment is Anton Shaw on May 15 and Alicia Silex on May 16. ... Jada Foxx has special weekly guests every Thursday at Woody's Sports and Video Bar. ... The LGBT Press Tour will be at Eden Lounge on May 11 at 4 p.m. Mingle up on the roof. ... A big shout out and thank you to the amazing Jenna Skyy for making this week's cover possible. ■

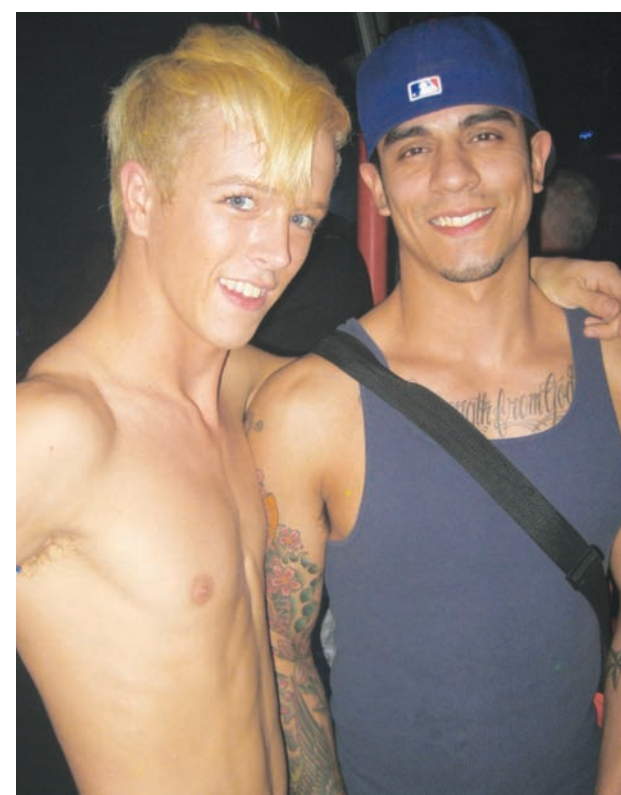
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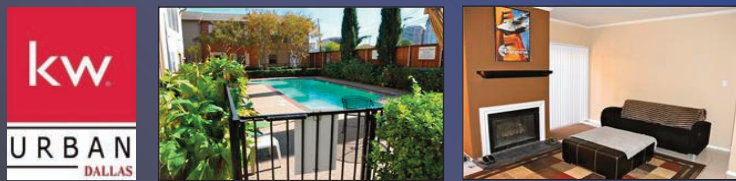
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