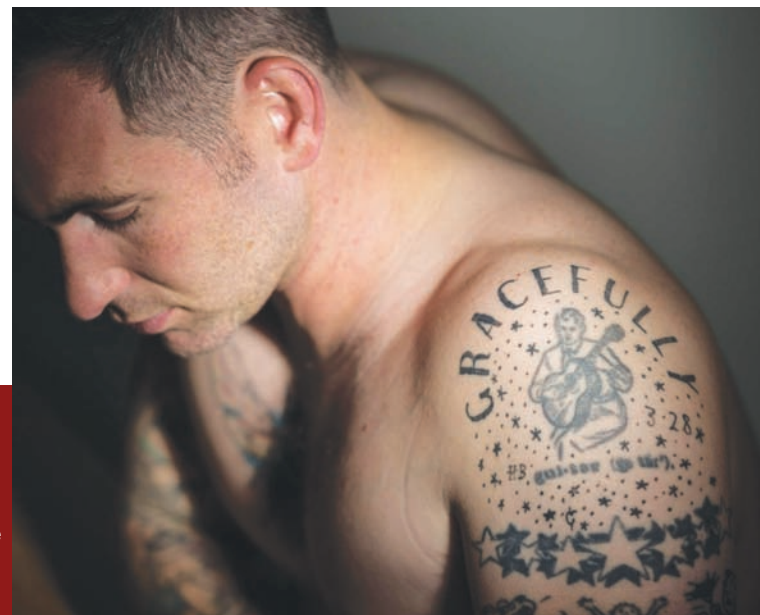


Eric Himan goes soul searching

The out Oklahoman on his new group, his new CD and his new sound
Kicks off national tour to promote neo-soul disc 'Gracefully'

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How a Dallas woman's search for a few new lesbian friends became a national sisterhood

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Photo by Anna Waugh.
Design by Kevin Thomas.

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KINGS FOR A CAUSE | Dallas drag king troupe Mustache Envy performs at Sue Ellen's Aug. 2 as part of the national charity event Kings for a Cause. Mustache Envy raised \$1,300 for the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. For more photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Maddox Price/Dallas Voice)

Councilwoman Vonciel Hill again refuses to sign gay Pride letter

Dallas City Councilman Philip Kingston collected the signatures of the mayor and the rest of the council to congratulate the Dallas Tavern Guild on the 30th anniversary of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, which will be held on Sept. 15.

"I worked very hard to get the right wording to get the maximum participation and am proud of the success it had," Kingston said.

"This annual event celebrates our shared commitment to equality in Dallas and all of Texas," the letter reads in part. "Our city is honored to have the Dallas Tavern Guild and its commitment to diversity, inclusiveness and the rights of all people."

The lone, missing council member is Vonciel Hill, whose district now includes one of the largest LGBT neighborhoods in the city.

Hill is also the lone council member who has refused to ride in the parade, once telling us "there are some acts God doesn't bless." Earlier this year, Hill objected to an HIV prevention billboard featuring two gay men, prompting one of the largest LGBT rallies in the history of South Dallas.

After redistricting in 2011, Hill was moved into District 3, which includes Kiestwood and other LGBT Oak Cliff neighborhoods. She was elected in May to her final two-year term.

In addition to Kingston, who collected the signatures, other new council members who signed the letter were Jennifer Staubach Gates, Lee Kleinman, Rick Callahan and Adam Medrano.

The letter will appear in the Official Guide to Dallas Pride 2013, distributed inside copies of Dallas Voice on Aug. 30 and Sept. 13.

— David Taffet

Activist: HPD cops wore Speedos, suggestive shirts for gay sex sting

Houston police say they arrested seven men — not more than 20, as a longtime activist alleged — in a gay sex sting at Memorial Park last week.

HPD spokesman John Cannon told Dallas Voice vice officers regularly conduct gay sex stings in Memorial Park. But he declined to discuss allegations from activist Ray Hill that on Aug. 1, officers wore Speedos and suggestive T-shirts.

Cannon said undercover officers engaged in conversation with men in the park and some of the men enticed officers with conversation and by getting their attention from vehicles.

Police arrested seven men between 11 a.m. and

1 p.m. for indecent exposure, a Class-B misdemeanor, after they "voluntarily exposed themselves," Cannon said.

As for the account that officers were wearing Speedos and Pride-related T-shirts, including one with a "chrome penis" on it, Cannon said police don't discuss operational tactics. He said police conduct stings in the park "on as frequently a basis that we can because of complaints."

"For the most part, undercover officers have been conducting similar operations for years, so this is nothing new," he said. "This has been an ongoing issue in this particular part of Memorial Park."

The targeted area is the 100 block of Picnic Lane, which Cannon said is near walking and jogging trails, as well as restrooms.

He said the stings focus on men who approach or are approached by male officers, and the operations are conducted in response to complaints. He said because the men willingly exposed themselves in public, the stings aren't entrapment.

"No one gets entrapped when you expose yourself to someone else, especially when you're in a public area for all the public to see," Cannon said.

Hill said he was outraged by the sting in part because gays were targeted in a city with a lesbian mayor. Representatives from Mayor Annise Parker's office declined to comment on the police matter.

Hill told OutSmart Magazine eight to 10 vice officers in Speedos and suggestive T-shirts were along the jogging trail during daylight hours, attempting to beckon male joggers and walkers into the bushes.

"[My source] tells me that one of their shirts had what resembled a chrome penis on the back, and some of the other T-shirts looked to be gay pride affiliated," Hill told OutSmart.

"We have a lesbian Mayor, a 'gay-friendly' police chief and a SCOTUS decision (Lawrence v Texas) finding the law against homosexual conduct unconstitutional, yet these men had to post bond, were held an illegally long period of time in Houston City Jail, they must hire lawyers, defend against the charges, some will lose their jobs and make their family lives confusing at best," Hill wrote on Facebook. "Could someone mention this to the mayor on one of her campaign stops?"

OutSmart reported that two similar operations at Memorial Park netted more than 30 arrests in 2006.

"The cops are going to say they were in uniform [during these arrests]," Hill told OutSmart. "To the vice officers, this is a sport-like activity to impose on perverts — and by 'perverts,' I mean 'queers.'"

— John Wright and Anna Waugh

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LINKED IN | Karyn Choi, from left, Carolina Azevedo, founder Tiff Khris Cochran and Patricia Durham are among members of The S.O.L.I.D. Network, which prides itself on diversity. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

The sisterhood of S.O.L.I.D.

Lesbian social network founded by Dallas woman has grown to more than 1,800 members and expanded to several other cities in two years

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Two years ago, Tiff Khris Cochran wanted to make some lesbian friends. Now she has more than 1,800.

After Cochran's marriage ended in 2011, she realized her few friends were scattered around North Texas, so she created a Facebook page for The SOLID Network — short for "Socially Open Lesbians in Dallas" — as an avenue for lesbians to meet one another.

"That's what it started as and then it quickly became so much more," Cochran said.

Cochran remembers asking her friends to join the group in hopes of reaching a few hundred.

The group grew in a matter of months to several hundred, with members using the network to seek

advice, plan social gatherings and bond.

"People started talking online and started having events, and it just continued to grow," Cochran said.

Amy Poole was among the group's first members. After serving in the military for several years, she moved to Texas and was looking for a group in which to get involved. She said SOLID has a family feel much like the military with members who listen, offer advice and care about one another from the beginning.

"It's a sense of community," she said. "It's really neat because it's a safe place to go."

SOLID members plan events regularly and the group has a monthly talk series focused on empowerment issues for women like building confidence, self-improvement and navigating coming out. Art exhibits, happy hours, game nights and volunteer days are other events the group has staged. The group launched affirming faith events earlier this year as an opportunity for church leaders to speak about their beliefs.

Fundraiser set Aug. 25

The group is having a fundraiser for legal expenses to make it a nonprofit organization from 4-7 p.m. Aug. 25 at Eden Lounge. For more info, visit [Facebook.com/Groups/SolidWomen](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/SolidWomen) or TheSolidNetwork.com.

The original focus was on lesbians, but Cochran said she later decided to open the network to bisexual, transgender and even straight women because she wanted the group to focus on female relationships. And while the group is closed to men, they are welcome at several of the group's events.

"I came to realize that lesbian includes bisexual women. It also includes women who are transgender," she said. "But the primary focus is for women-to-women relationships where they can have a safe place where they can discuss things involved with being a lesbian within the community."

Cochran said the group's diversity has helped change the views of some of the women about stereotypes and cliques within the lesbian community.

She said education within the group to create solidarity has always been a focus of events and discussions.

"What I've learned is even within our own

community we have to learn to educate ourselves about who we are and embrace one another as a whole and not L and G and B and T, but LGBT," she said. "I wanted to get to a place where we have the solidarity that we need so that people don't feel like they don't have anywhere else to go."

The group's more than 1,830 members have built a community that extends beyond online, building friendships as they empower each other.

Karyn Choi joined the group about a year ago after hearing about it from a friend. She said its members genuinely care about the women in the group — and negative posts and people aren't tolerated.

Members helped take her to the doctor after she was in a car accident.

Others have helped complete strangers move and left food and medicine on doorsteps when a woman posted that she was too sick to leave her home.

"I see it as more of a family because, yes, we have our drama, but we're also supportive of each other," Choi said.

Members come from all age groups and back-

■ **SOLID**, Page 8



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coverstory

■ **SOLID**, From Page 6

grounds, something Patricia Durham, one of original members, values.

"What I love about the group is I have met people I probably would not have met," she said. "I have made friends and met people from all walks of life."

Durham said the group helped her grow as a person and become less shy. She said she's amazed by the kindness of SOLID members, who treat one another as extended family.

"A lot of them that you don't even know support you," she said.

Carolina Azevedo joined the group a year ago and enjoys the online discussions. The group is closed, so non-members can view basic info but not discussions or events.

"It's a really safe place to communicate things you feel or get advice," she said.

Azevedo said the calendar allows women to post events or places they want to go and offer to make it a group event, so they will know other people going.

She said events go on every holiday for members who don't have family in the area or a place to celebrate.

"It's really a neat family situation," she said.

SOLID's outreach has expanded beyond Dallas, with Austin and San Antonio chapters forming less than a year after the local chapter launched.

Cochran has helped start chapters in other states as well, with groups in Portland, Seattle and Denver she launched with her connections in those states.

Denver's chapter started last year when Cochran visited its Pride celebration and saw the energy the city's LGBT community had. She helped get the conversation about the group started and reached out to local leaders.

"What makes The SOLID Network special is that it's not just a Facebook group," Cochran said. "What we're doing in Dallas is what I'd like to replicate in other cities."

As the network launched other chapters, Cochran changed the name to stand for "Socially Open Lesbians in Demand." SOLID launched a blog and is working on a new website, which Cochran wants to eventually function as the main discussion forum with an event calendar and resource links.

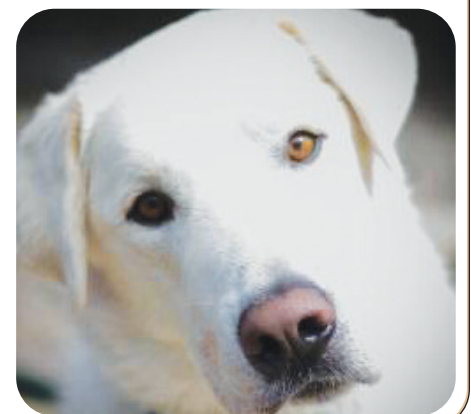
She's also working on a YouTube channel for members to post videos.

While Cochran's desire to make more lesbian friends has provided an entire network of family-like support to Dallas women and beyond, she knows SOLID's success will only continue because of its members.

"It's really a sisterhood," Cochran said. "I may have started the group, but it's the women in the group and the community feel that makes it what it is and keeps it growing." ■

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Out candidate: Don't call me gay

Republican George Clayton isn't trying to hide his sexual orientation but says he doesn't like labels as he launches bid for TX House in 2014

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

At least three openly LGBT candidates plan to run for Texas House next year, but one said this week he doesn't want to be labeled as a "gay candidate."

Republican George Clayton formally announced he'll seek Dallas Republican Rep. Stefani Carter's District 102 seat in 2014. An administrator for the Dallas Independent School District, Clayton served on the State Board of Education from 2010-12 until he was outed as gay and lost in the primary last year.

Carter is stepping down to run for Railroad Commission. Former Dallas Councilwoman Linda Koop has also announced that she will run for the seat in the 2014 primary.

But while Clayton would be the first openly gay Republican elected to the Texas Legislature, he is focusing on his education platform, which includes standardized testing reform and capping administration salaries, and he rejects the gay label.

"I am out and have been for many years. However, I will not run as a 'gay candidate' or 'gay Republican,'" Clayton told Dallas Voice this week. "Labels promote inequality and should never be used by anyone."

Clayton initially indicated he would seek an endorsement from the Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a political action committee that helps elect openly LGBT candidates. But he later said the organization is too left-wing and is "all too fond of labeling."

"I believe that labeling segregates people and creates a platform of inequality," Clayton said. "I am always amazed at how quickly the gay community is willing to embrace this inequality. True equality will come when labels do not precede a person's name or party affiliation."

"Let me be clear," he added. "I support equal standing under the law for all people including marriage, job opportunity, political freedom and the absolute right to live upon the public and private stage free of labels, categories or any highlighted aspect of a person's life or condition."

Victory Fund spokesman Denis Dison said the Victory Fund instructs its endorsed candidates to address questions about their sexual orientation and then move on to address the issues that are important to them.

"In some sense he's right," Dison said about Clayton not wanting to be the "gay candidate." "There is a built-in, mistaken assumption that



LESSONS LEARNED | Dallas school district administrator George Clayton, shown during his tenure on the State Board of Education, was defeated in the 2012 Republican Primary after being outed as gay. Now Clayton plans to run for Texas House in District 102. (Associated Press)

being honest about your sexual orientation is mainly what their campaign is about. People are running for a variety of reasons and more often it's because they see a need for change on issues important to them."

Texas currently has only one openly LGBT state legislator.

State Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, a freshman in the House, said she's already launched her re-election campaign. She said her outspokenness about LGBT and women's issues during this year's sessions have drawn two potential challengers in the Democratic Primary.

Gonzalez, who identifies as pansexual, was targeted for her sexual orientation last year, but won the primary without a runoff. During her first term, she passed four bills to help reform education and infrastructure in her district. She also filed

two LGBT-specific bills.

She said while she expects a hard fight to keep her seat in the coming months, she's excited about the possibility of having more LGBT politicians join her at the Capitol.

"I'm always excited about increasing the amount of LGBT voices in the Legislature," she said. "Having more than one person makes sure we have seats at many tables on different issues."

Austin lesbian Celia Israel could join Gonzalez as a representative in a few months. Israel has filed to run in the special election in November to replace former Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, who resigned earlier this summer.

The election will fill Strama's unexpired District 50 term. Israel, along with two other Democrats and a Republican, are seeking to replace Strama. She has applied for the Victory Fund endorsement

for the special election. Endorsements will be announced in late August.

Israel, a real estate agent and community activist, said she planned to run for Strama's seat at the end of last year when it became clear he wouldn't seek another term. Her campaign will focus on equality, Medicaid expansion, healthcare and public education reform.

"Our state doesn't stand for progress," she said. "The leadership in the Legislature does not represent mainstream Texas."

She referred to the filibuster of a restrictive abortion bill this summer and the bill's later passage in another special session that engaged many Texans to speak out against the Legislature's actions.

"That was the spark that motivated many Texans to say, 'This is enough,'" Israel said.

■ **OUT**, Page 12

3 TX schools on 'Gay-Unfriendly' list

SMU avoids dreaded distinction for 2nd straight year, but Texas A&M, Baylor and the University of Dallas all make Princeton Review's bottom 20

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Three Texas schools remained on The Princeton Review's newly released list of 20 most Gay-Unfriendly schools in 2013 — University of Dallas at No. 10, Texas A&M at No. 11 and Baylor University at No. 12.

Southern Methodist University, which appeared on the list for several years before dropping off in 2012, remained absent this year. Baylor came off for one year but returned last year at No. 10.

No Texas schools made The Princeton Review's Gay-Friendly list, nor did any school anywhere near Texas. The closest is Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, 750 miles from Dallas. All of the Gay-Friendly schools are on the East Coast, or in the Midwest or California.

Sidney R. Gardner, GLBT Resource Center program coordinator at Texas A&M, searched to find something positive about her school's ranking.

"Last year, we were at No. 7," she said.

Unlike Baylor and University of Dallas, A&M has recognized LGBT student groups and an LGBT professional network for faculty and staff.

Gardner said A&M is the only school in Texas with a stand-alone LGBT resource center with full-time staff. Other schools combine women's and LGBT programming into centers for gender initiatives. While A&M doesn't have a formal LGBT alumni group, Gardner said some former students are working to create one. And this year, the GLBT Resource Center was invited to share information at Fish Camp, the school's orientation for incoming students.

And while A&M doesn't offer partner benefits to its faculty and staff because of a prohibition at state universities, the school does have nondiscrimination policies in place.

But Gardner said the real story about where A&M stands could be seen after the Student Senate voted to cut funding for the Resource Center in April by allowing students to deduct an amount from their student activity fees. After the measure was vetoed by the student body president, "We got an amazing outpouring of support for the center and the community," Gardner said.

Gardner also cited other surveys. The group Campus Pride ranks gay-friendly schools using a five-star system based on policies, programs and practices rather than student opinions. On that index, A&M receives three-and-a-half stars.

On the Princeton Review index, which is based on student attitudes about their campuses, A&M may be in the same position SMU was several



WEATHERING A STORM | SMU's LGBT student group, Spectrum, marches in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade last year. SMU has managed to get itself off The Princeton Review's list of the nation's most Gay-Unfriendly schools. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

years ago when it was working hard to climb off the Gay-Unfriendly list.

Karen Click, who runs the SMU Women's Center for Gender and Pride Initiatives, said she was very happy with the news that the school remained off the Gay-Unfriendly list this year.

"You have a choice when selecting schools," she said. "You can choose one that will support and affirm you."

SMU has officially recognized gay student organizations and offers domestic partner benefits to faculty and staff. Its LGBT employees work without fear of reprisals because nondiscrimination policies have been in place for more than a decade. Campus Pride gives SMU four stars.

Joe Hoselton, admissions director for SMU's Meadows School of the Arts graduate programs, said the school continues to move in the right direction.

"We've been proactive," he said. "We're now making ourselves more visible."

Hoselton, better known as drag performer Jenna Skyy, should be plenty visible when he

The Princeton Review's Most Gay-Friendly and Gay-Unfriendly schools

Gay-Friendly

1. Emerson College
2. Warren Wilson College
3. New College of Florida
4. Stanford University
5. University of Wisconsin-Madison
6. Oberlin College
7. Franklin W Olin College of Engineering
8. Smith College
9. New York University
10. Bryn Mawr College
11. Wellesley College
12. Bennington College
13. University of Chicago
14. Yale University
15. Carleton College
16. Sarah Lawrence College
17. Macalester College
18. Pitzer College
19. Marlboro College
20. Grinnell College

Gay-Unfriendly

1. Grove City College
2. Hampden-Sydney College
3. College of the Ozarks
4. Wheaton College
5. University of Notre Dame
6. Brigham Young University
7. Wake Forest University
8. Calvin College
9. University of Rhode Island
10. University of Dallas
11. Texas A&M University
12. Baylor University
13. Trinity College (Connecticut)
14. Auburn University
15. Colgate University
16. Wofford College
17. Hillsdale College
18. Catholic University of America
19. Pepperdine University
20. University of Wyoming



GIGGING THE GAYS | Texas A&M student Emily Bach holds a sign in opposition to a Student Senate bill aimed at cutting funding for the GLBT Resource Center in April. Given repeated attacks on the Resource Center in the last few years, it's no surprise A&M once again appears on The Princeton Review's list of the nation's most Gay-Unfriendly schools. (Stuart Villanueva/The Eagle)

brings an evening of Gay Bingo to the SMU campus this fall along with the crew from the Rose Room. Hoselton wondered if he'd be equally welcome to stage that event at Baylor.

Susan Duty, a film and digital media major at Baylor, said she doubts it. She described the atmosphere on her campus as "don't ask, don't tell."

"If you're LGBT, that's fine," she said. "As long as you're not out."

She called Baylor's faculty more accepting than its administration, especially in departments like hers.

Earlier this year, she said, she heard about nondiscrimination ordinances in other cities in Texas.

"Why can't we do that in Waco?" she said.

Working with Equality Texas, she helped introduce a city EEO policy that passed a committee in July. She said she was surprised that no opposition came from the school, but she thinks that because the school is a religious institution, it considers itself exempt.

Representatives from the University of Dallas, a Catholic school, did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

A&M, Baylor and the University of Dallas also appear on The Princeton Review's top 20 schools with the Most Conservative Students and the top 20 schools with the Most Religious Students.

While the poll is not a scientific, random sampling, it reflects attitudes of students about life on their campuses.

Campus Pride does not rate either Baylor or University of Dallas.

Of the three Texas Gay-Unfriendly campuses, University of Dallas fared the worst, appearing on a number of lists, including No. 3 Least Beautiful Campus. The school was also in the top 20 for Little Race/Class Interaction, This Is A Library? and

Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution.

The only positive list University of Dallas made was No. 3 Most Popular Study Abroad Program. With such an unattractive campus, leaving is apparently a great option.

Students at SMU, on the other hand, are some of the most content in the country. SMU placed in the top 20 Best-Run Colleges, Most Beautiful Campus, Best College Dorms, Best Athletic Facilities, Best Career Services and Happiest Students. Dallas even gets a nod from SMU students in the College City Gets High Marks category.

Other Dallas-area schools didn't do so well in the surveys. Texas Christian University made one list — Little Class/Race Interaction. University of Texas at Dallas is on the Least Beautiful Campus list.

Rice University students in Houston touted their institution naming it as No. 3 Best Run School and scoring No. 2 under Happiest Students in the country.

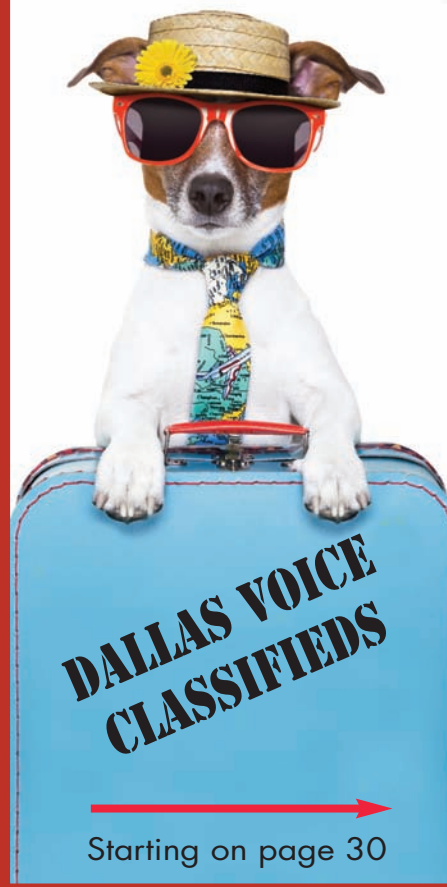
While University of Texas in Austin didn't earn the rank of top Party School of the year, it did place in the top 20 in that category, as well as Lots of Hard Liquor, Lots of Beer and Reefer Madness. And in case the partying overwhelms any UT students, they ranked their health services among the top 20 in the U.S.

The National Center for Transgender Equality has begun a project to collect information about resources for the trans community.

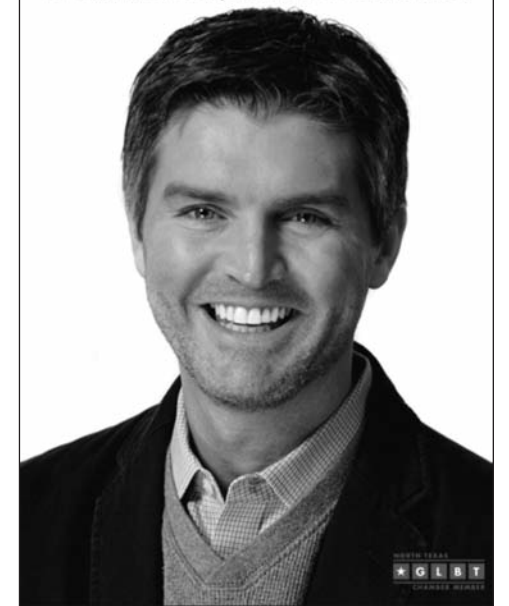
Its Transgender On-campus Nondiscrimination Information or TONI Project listed six schools in Texas with some policies or practices provided for their trans students, such as gender-neutral housing options.

Those schools are TCU, SMU, UT Austin, Texas A&M Galveston, Texas Tech and University of Houston. ■

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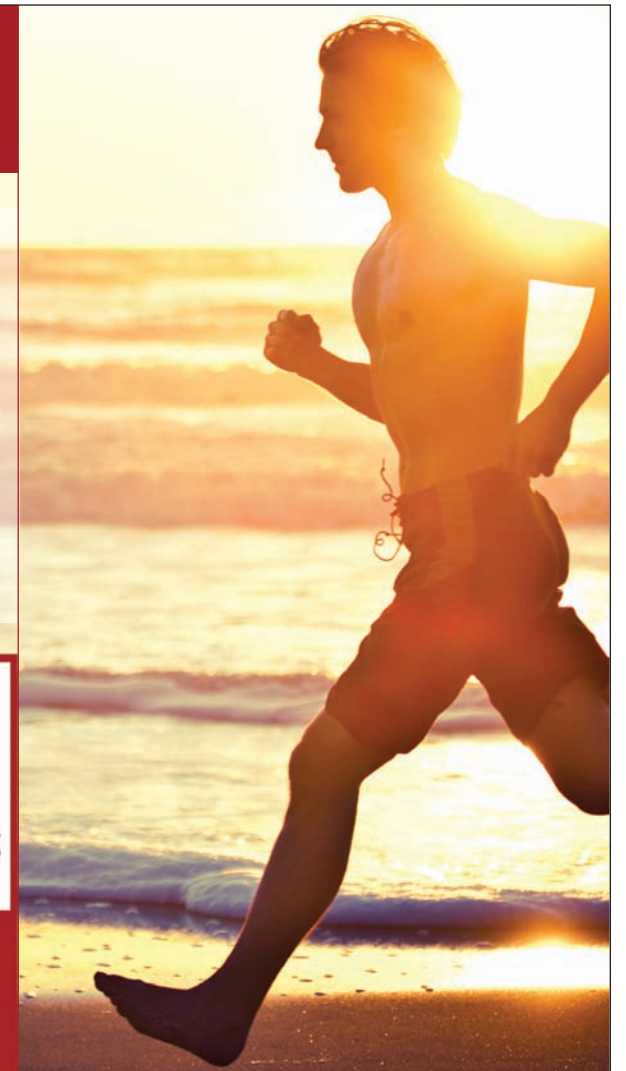
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VICTORY WOULD BE SPECIAL | Out lesbian Celia Israel is running in a special election this November for the District 50 House seat in Austin.

■ **OUT**, From Page 9

Israel, who is from El Paso but has lived in Austin for 31 years, joked about the possibility of having two female LGBT representatives in the House, saying "Texas is big enough for two lesbians." She said her political activism and volunteerism, which began when she was an aide for former Gov. Ann Richards, makes her the most experienced candidate in the race.

"There's no one else in this race with my deep roots in the communities of Austin," she said. "I have the experience that will reassure the voters that I have a wide range of credentials to serve and represent them well."

Another potential gay candidate for state Legislature in 2014 is Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns.

State Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, said this week that she would either run for her Senate seat or for governor. In her address to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Monday, Aug. 5, she outlined her work on the abortion filibuster that shot her to political stardom and said many voters feel legislators don't reflect their views.

If Davis decides to run for governor, Burns could run for her Senate seat.

Burns did not respond to requests for comment on whether he would run to replace Davis. He ran for Davis' seat on the council in 2007 when she resigned to run for the Senate.

Davis is expected to make a decision by Labor Day. ■



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test, you have the right to refuse. However, refusal will warrant a possible fine and automatic license suspension.

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SA council to vote on anti-bias law Sept. 5

Opponents falsely claim ordinance protecting LGBT people would 'punish those who speak out against homosexuality'

SAM SANCHEZ | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

SAN ANTONIO — LGBT activists in San Antonio learned late last week that a City Council vote on the proposed nondiscrimination ordinance will most likely occur on Sept. 5.

The vote, which has been delayed several times, has proven controversial after local opponents dubbed the measure "anti-Christian."

Opponents of the proposed nondiscrimination ordinance, which adds citywide protections for LGBT citizens, are speaking out to complain (erroneously) that the revisions would "punish those who speak out against homosexuality."

The proposed changes would be made to sections of the city code that cover public accommodations, fair housing, city employment, city contracts, and appointments to city boards and commissions.

The language in the code would be amended to include sexual orientation, gender identity and veteran status as protected classes. The cities of Dallas, Fort Worth and Austin have similar ordinances.

In late July, articles in online publications including The Washington Times, One News Now, World Net Daily and Biz Pac Review, and reports on KENS-5 TV and KABB Fox, ignited a firestorm of criticism nationwide that has yet to subside.

A copy of the proposed ordinance changes were made public in June after the measure was slated for discussion by the City Council. The passage opponents have been citing says:

"No person shall be appointed to a position if the City Council finds that such person has, prior to such proposed appointment, engaged in discrimination or demonstrated a bias, by word or deed, against any person, group or organization on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, age, or disability."

This language already existed in the city code for decades, and the only difference is the addition of sexual orientation, gender identity and veteran status.

"Me standing here, or anyone standing here in opposition of this particular ordinance are not allowed to be on any committee in the city and that goes against my freedom of speech," Mike Knuffke of the San Antonio Family Association told KENS-5 TV.

Soon after those complaints surfaced, City Councilman Diego Bernal, who is leading the effort to enact the ordinance changes, removed the language from the draft.



CONFLICTING SIGNS | An anti-gay activist, far left, stands next to pro-LGBT counterprotesters at a rally in San Antonio's Milam Park on Aug. 3. (Sam Sanchez)

Despite that, the attacks in conservative media have continued.

Many of those conservative media reports are spreading untruths about the ordinance, including that it threatens free speech, that it bans Christians from public office, and that religious businesses and organizations will be shut down.

In an Aug. 2 interview with MediaMatters.org, Bernal said: "I don't mind people saying they disagree and listing the reasons why they disagree. And there's a very stately or gentlemanly way to do that. But I've been taken aback by the amount of purposeful misinformation and I find that to be very harmful."

"Because I believe that instead of saying 'you should oppose this because of these reasons' or 'you should oppose this based on moral or religious grounds,' they're saying if this passes it will result in this, and whatever this is, isn't true," he added. "Whether it's keeping people off working commissions, disallowing them from running for council, or resulting in the arrest of Christians. That is ludicrous."

"So at any point someone speaks to the public

or addresses the public and tells them that something will befall them that is not true, not only is it scary but it's dangerous."

On Aug. 3, about 150 anti-gay Christians, mostly Catholics, held a protest rally at Milam Park. There was little discussion of the nondiscrimination ordinance and more about protection of "traditional families" and anti-abortion rhetoric. LGBT protestors mingled with the crowd, often standing side by side with them during prayers and singing of hymns. The event was sponsored by the Texas Leadership Coalition, the San Antonio Family Association and the St. Joan of Arc Brigade.

While the City Council was on vacation during July, CAUSA (Community Alliance for a United San Antonio), the coalition of LGBT groups and allies that's promoting the nondiscrimination ordinance, has been working to help assure passage of the measure.

In the past two weeks, CAUSA met with several City Council members, including Rey Saldana, Ray Lopez, Shirley Gonzales, Ron Nirenberg and Cris Medina. Three of those meetings, with Sal-

dana, Lopez and Gonzales, resulted in assurances of support for the ordinance.

In the other two meetings, Nirenberg and Medina did not reject the measure but have asked for more time to make their decisions. Passage of the ordinance changes requires six votes out of 11 on the City Council.

CAUSA organizers say they hope to meet with all 10 council members prior to the final vote. Two city council members, Elisa Chan and Carlton Soules, have already said they would vote "no." Mayor Julian Castro supports the ordinance.

CAUSA has started a Change.org petition urging citizens to sign in support of the ordinance. As of Thursday, Aug. 8, 588 people have signed it. To sign, go to TinyURL.com/saordinance.

Also this week, Equality Texas issued an action alert: Equality Texas is asking that people contact these four city council members and ask them to support the ordinance:

- District 2, Ivy Taylor: 210-207-7278
- District 3, Rebecca Viagran: 210-207-7064
- District 7, Cris Medina – 210-207-7044
- District 8, Ron Nirenberg – 210-207-7086. ■

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viewpoints

Are we a community?

Pitiful response to hate crime victim Jimmy Lee Dean's fundraising page suggests LGBT people in Dallas are just a loose, fair-weather association

Jimmy Lee Dean deserves help from the North Texas LGBT community. In July 2008, he was brutally attacked by two young men bent on robbing and savaging a gay man in the storied Cedar Springs neighborhood.

Now, his face a wreck from failed surgeries, Dean has reached out to the LGBT community in his longtime Dallas home. But despite coverage by the Dallas Voice commemorating the fifth anniversary of the attack that nearly stole his life away, and an Indiegogo campaign to raise the money to set his ravaged face right again, only three anonymous funders have risen to the challenge and reached out to him.

What is going on here?

Besides the usual American aversion to remembering difficult events for longer than a news cycle, could there be something else preventing LGBTQ people from responding positively to the pleas of a home-grown hate crime victim who barely escaped with his life?

Jimmy Lee tells the story of his need on the Indiegogo campaign home page he originated two weeks ago. Here is his statement:

"On July 17, 2008, I was the victim of a hate crime in Dallas, Texas. Through the kind act of everyday people like you, I did not die that night. The criminals were stopped, prosecuted and the good people of Texas provided \$50,000 from their crime victims' fund to repair my physical damages and any psychological help that might be needed.

"Problems started when I left Parkland County

Hospital intensive care unit. Up to that point everything seemed to be going OK. Then after some 16 visits to the Oral Surgery Clinic, two surgeries and one attempted surgery that never took place and 27 visits to Parkland crisis center I am in the same physical situation as at the crime scene.

"Work done in the second surgery at Parkland Hospital has all come undone. My jaw and cheek bone are no longer attached. Teeth have never been dealt with. No one has followed up on my broken back. I have headaches every other day. My eyes are having problems. I walk with a cautious gait. I get lightheaded all the time. I don't really go anywhere because of the facial disfigurements and the way I look when I eat.

"I never asked for what happened. It could have been any one of us at that spot at that time.

"My dreams and identity are gone along with my ability to smell, but maybe there are medical procedures that might restore me to a point where I can have some kind of a normal life."

The anti-gay hate crime attack on Jimmy Lee in the heart of the "gayborhood" was an outrage. The two defendants in the case, Jonathan Gunter and Bobby Singleton, were brought to justice. Gunter received a 30-year sentence, and Singleton got 70 years.

Dean moved away from Dallas to try and put his life back together, but his orphaned story has largely been unremembered and unattended, de-

spite the efforts of a few LGBT activists who went to court in support of Jimmy Lee, and the efforts of Dallas Voice editors and staff.

Who knows if Jimmy Lee's assailants will serve their whole sentences — sentences achieved by the Dallas D.A.'s Office without hate crime enhancements for the usual reasons that hate crimes are hard to prove in Texas.

But what Jimmy Lee is asking for is something more tangible than answers to opaque questions

of law and right and wrong. He is asking for financial help. And, as of this writing, only three donors out of the thousands and thousands of queer folk in North Texas have done anything. The Indiegogo fund stands at \$100.00.

Shaming, of course, does little or no good. But the broader question behind the non-response to the pleas of a bona fide hate crime survivor is whether there is anything like an LGBT community to appeal to in the first place? Has the loose association of interest groups and tavern patrons, the merchants and real estate developers in Dallas who are happy to claim to be progressive LGBT community members when it suits their self-interest, actually never matured into a community at all?

Is the reason for the non-response to the call of a former member of the gayborhood for help actually because there was no real LGBT community in Dallas to begin with? And, what are the signs that a gathering of people on the margins of heterosexual society have begun to attain the seriousness and sacrifice for their own people that denotes a community of character and concern? Whether Jimmy Lee's appeal finds its way into the generous heart of queer Texans remains to be seen. LGBT Texans are an able bunch, once they are motivated. But hate crime victims are at least one important litmus test of a true community, as African-Americans, Jews, and Buddhist commemorators of Hiroshima and Nagasaki can attest from their own histories of struggle and resistance.

A community begins to become serious and exist in the real world when it starts to take care of its own whenever they meet crisis and disaster. Until then, it is a fair-weather association, at best. ■

Dean's page is at TinyURL.com/JimmyLeeDean.

The Rev. Stephen V. Sprinkle is an ordained Baptist minister, an openly gay professor at Fort Worth's Brite Divinity School, theologian-in-residence at Cathedral of Hope and the author of *Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims*. He can be reached at svsprinkle51@yahoo.com.



The Rev. Stephen Sprinkle
Contributing Columnist



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I'm not constantly trying to reinvent myself," Eric Himan declares. But even if he's not trying to, it's what he seems to do.

Himan might disagree, seeing each new phase of his career, each new album, as a natural progression. But even he would concede that working on his latest album, *Gracefully* — which came out just last week, and for which he kicks off his national tour in Dallas Aug. 17 — marked an evolution in his way of working.

It's only logical that it would. Himan has been at the music game for 12 years, spreading his rockabilly influenced sound. A few years ago, he teamed up with a brother and sister act — calling themselves Eric Himan and the Adams — and added an electrified edge to his typically acoustic-laden songs.

He split with the Adams in 2011. Then last year, Himan married his husband Ryan (they just celebrated their first anniversary) and simultaneously launched an online fundraising campaign to finance a new CD.

"We raised \$16,000, and I started [recording] in October," Himan says. "It had more of a rock approach, but it didn't feel refined to me — it was like I was giving away demos."

That's when he did something the old Eric never would have: He began again from scratch.

"I'm the kind of guy who typically says, 'Let's make the best with what we have.' So it was hard for me to start over," he says.

Through a series of lucky breaks, Himan got a new producer who booked him into the famed Jim Henson Studios in Los Angeles. "This was the studio where they recorded 'We Are the World,'" Himan says, still as much a fan of music as a maker of it. "We were recording with, basically, Alanis Morissette's band. There are four [bays in the facility]. That week, it was me, the Goo Goo Dolls, the Jonas Brothers and Justin Bieber, who I kept bumping into." One day, Chaka Khan barged into Himan's studio and

SOUL SISTERS | Eric Himan teams with back-up duo Soultré Sisters on his new album and tour. (Photo courtesy Jeremy Charles)



Soul searching

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

Eric Himan reinvents himself (again) with a funky, neo-soul vibe on his new CD, 'Gracefully'

asked to commandeer it for just a few minutes. He was delighted to accommodate her.

But even that didn't give him what he wanted. The sound wasn't there. Yet.

"It was too rock-oriented. It broke my heart [to walk away], but I came back to Tulsa," he says. And that's when things finally started to come together.

"I hooked up with Leon Russell's drummer [Brandon], and once I started recording with him, everything changed," Himan says. "No one 'got' me the way Brandon did. I was overwhelmed. I wanted that Bill Withers, Earth Wind & Fire [vibe], or Richie Havens; Richie Havens was my first album I bought. He was *ridiculous* — acoustic but soulful." The album that proceeded in fits and starts for six months was quickly falling into place.

ERIC HIMAN

Poor David's Pub, 1313 S. Lamar
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"It was working up with people who got it," Himan says — the core of what he's always wanted to do.

You can sense Russell's influences on the album, which combines elements of '70s neo-soul and Southern funk with a pop-country crossover appeal. It's eclectic but addictively good and radio-friendly.

"Suddenly, this album I was trying to squeeze out quickly but was taking a year came together in just the last two months," he says. Himan even got to open for Russell in concert recently, a personal highlight of the experience.

"If you said to me [before I started], 'Here's the road you'll have to take in order to reach the end,' I don't think I would have taken that road. But the experiences that led to this CD are why it ended up the way it did," he says.

Himan is sharing the experience with his

backup singers, who are billed as the Soultré Sisters and add depth to his songs while reinforcing the sound he's aiming for.

For economic reasons, "I had the opportunity to bring either a drummer and a bassist or the girls; I *had* to bring the girls," he says. "They have this amazing gift to add to the music without any equipment. It makes for an interesting 'evening with' thing."

And rising to the level where Himan is worthy of "an evening with" title is kind of the point.

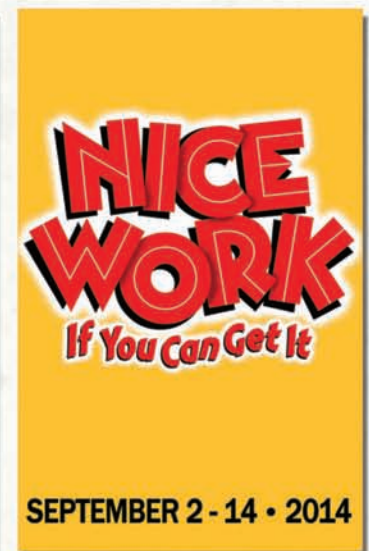
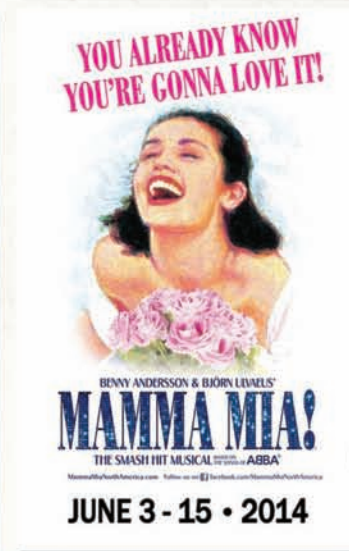
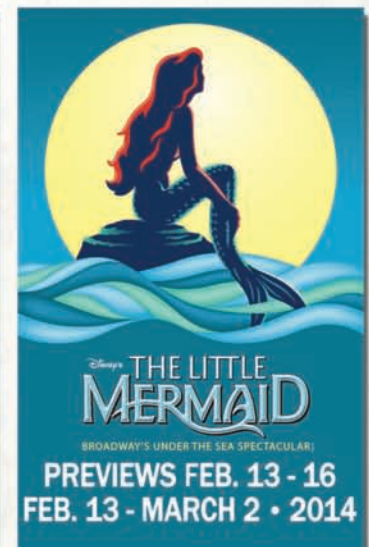
"I love Ani DiFranco, Leon Russell — I think consistency is what those artists possess. Two of my favorite people are Sade and Natalie Merchant: To me they are the best at doing what they do. They don't placate or do any gimmicks. They are just artists. It's not about people being a flash-in-the-pan or taking your clothes off. It's about longevity and talent and being consistent about who you are. And this is where my heart is." ■

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Desert hearts

Gay-friendly Flagstaff is a refreshing 'contemporary cowboy' Western locale

ANDREW COLLINS | Contributing Writer
outoftown@qsyndicate.com

The laid-back, cultured and pine-studded college town of Flagstaff has plenty going for it and makes a terrific base for exploring northern Arizona.

The largest city on Interstate 40 between L.A. and Albuquerque, Flagstaff is known for its seemingly endless supply of inexpensive chain motels and restaurants. Sadly, too many road-tripping visitors never get much beyond the exit ramp before continuing on with their journeys. In fact, this well-kept, historic city of about 66,000 is worth getting to know — it's renowned for cool, dry summers and snowy but sunny winters, and has enough diversions and attractions to keep you busy for several days.

The presence of Northern Arizona University infuses Flagstaff with a youthful, bohemian personality that's enhanced by the many outdoorsy types who have settled here from smoggier and more crowded parts of the West. The gay scene is subtle but pronounced — plenty of gay men and lesbians live here or nearby, and the rest of the population seems largely split between those who embrace diversity and those who simply don't care much about their neighbors' gender, race or sexual orientation.

Activity in Flagstaff often revolves around the picturesque downtown, which is rife with Victo-

rian and early 20th-century redbrick buildings that date to the city's early years as an Old West railroad hub. The Arizona Historical Society's Pioneer Museum, housed in a 1908 building constructed of rock deposited by an ancient volcanic eruption, traces the region's growth with a variety of artifacts and exhibits. The AHS's Riordan Mansion, an ornate Arts and Crafts mansion, is also open for tours — it was built by the same architect responsible for the Grand Canyon's iconic El Tovar Hotel.

Be sure to see the Museum of Northern Arizona, which contains an outstanding collection of Native American arts and crafts and natural history exhibits. And keep your eyes and ears open for any events scheduled for the Coconino Center for the Arts, whose arts exhibits, musical performances and workshops draw on different aspects of the American West, from Native American history to the contemporary cowboy's lifestyle.

Outdoors enthusiasts will find plenty to keep them busy. Reaching around the city on almost every side, Coconino National Forest contains the largest concentration of ponderosa pine trees in the world. There are many places within the forest where you can hike or mountain-bike. Just 15 miles northwest of town, the Arizona Snow-bowl draws winter skiers to its 40 downhill runs and 2,300-foot vertical drop and offers a tram ride to an elevation of 11,500 feet during the warmer months.

COCKTAILS AND COWBOYS | The Hotel Monte Vista and its cocktail lounge have anchored downtown Flagstaff for nearly a century, and retain their Old West charm. (Photo courtesy Flagstaff CVB)

Dining

Flagstaff has a lively and increasingly sophisticated dining scene full of excellent values. The hip Tinderbox Kitchen focuses on slow food and regional ingredients with its superb and creative modern American cuisine. Criollo attracts foodies with its finely crafted, upscale Latin American fare, while Cuvee 928 and Hops on Birch appeal to wine and craft beer fans, respectively.

You can observe the local color at Mountain Oasis, a cute storefront cafe with tall windows and a handful of sidewalk tables; nosh on leafy salads, falafel plates, and fine coffees and micro-brews. Beaver Street Brewery turns out great wood-fired gourmet pizzas, hefty burgers, and other hearty but often creative pub fare.

Drop by Karma for the best sushi in town, and Pato for artfully presented Thai food. Macy's European Coffeehouse & Bakery is a favorite of the gay community, known for delicious espresso drinks, hearty and healthy breakfasts and decadent baked goods. While there are no gay bars in town, you'll often find LGBT folks at some of the restaurants above, at the lounge in the Hotel Monte Vista, and at eclectic bars like Pay 'N Take, the Green Room and Uptown Pub and Billiards.

Accommodations

A beautifully decorated, gay-friendly B&B, the nine-room Inn at 410 dates to 1907. Rooms have canopied beds, local Southwestern and Indian arts and crafts and fine original woodworking — the decorative themes vary considerably from room to room, and some units have fireplaces.

On the east side of town, gay-owned Starlight Pines B&B is a richly furnished, four-room inn that's a favorite of couples seeking romance. You'll find a brass-accented fireplace and a long, deep claw-foot soaking tub in the Dragonfly Room, and two ground-floor accommodations enjoy easy access to the inn's dramatic 70-foot wraparound veranda.

A sponsor of Flagstaff's gay Pride event in June, Pride in the Pines, the upscale, pet-friendly Woodlands Hotel has 183 well-appointed rooms, a seasonal outdoor pool and renovated fitness center. The funky but affordable Hotel Monte Vista has been an anchor of downtown Flagstaff since the 1920s — it's just a block north of historic Route 66. Numerous celebrities and dignitaries stayed here during the hotel's heyday. ■

Accommodations and Dining

Starlight Pines B&B, StarlightPinesBB.com. **Hotel Monte Vista**, HotelMonteVista.com. **Woodlands Hotel**, FlagstaffWoodlandsHotel.com. **Inn at 410**, Inn410.com. **Macy's European Coffeehouse & Bakery**, MacysCoffee.net. **Pato**, PatoThai.com. **Karma**, KarmaFlagstaff.com. **Cuvee 928**, Cuvee928WineBar.com. **Uptown Pub & Billiards**, UptownPubHouse.net. **Tinderbox Kitchen**, TinderboxKitchen.com. **Criollo**, CriolloLatinKitchen.com.

Resources

Flagstaff, FlagstaffArizona.org.

Bed crumbs

HBO airs new sex documentary



PILLOW TALK | George and Farid, one of two gay couples in the doc 'Americans In Bed.'

Americans in Bed, a new HBO documentary, puts couples (including some same-sex) in their beds, turns on the camera and has them all pillow-talk about their intimate experiences. Those familiar with HBO will recognize the tone as similar to *Real Sex* and *Taxicab Confessions* series, with a hint of Woody Allen thrown in. The 10 profiled couples range from *Jersey Shore*-ish Joe & Patty to 6-foot-6 polyamorous Leon and his 4-foot-10 girlfriend Blanca to the elderly, randy Helen & Red, wed 71 years.

You're likely to react, as I did, to each couple uniquely. A few (Fatima & Kevin, Antonio & Roberta) don't leave much of an impression, even when the emotions they express are sometimes uncomfortably honest. Leon seems like an ass, while Randy & Julie (especially Julie) seem shallow ("Sex is the most important thing in our relationship ... and I think I'm speaking for every woman in the world," she announces).

It's refreshing to see a Muslim couple (newlyweds Yasmine & Mohamed) profiled, as it is lesbians Linda & Margie and almost charmingly old-fashioned gay men George & Farid.

"Either you sleep with each other right away or you don't," Farid says — but he and George waited a while ... almost to no end. ("The first time we had sex was terrible," they agree. "Even though the sex was bad, I thought maybe it will get better," George says. "But I didn't just see him as a sexual being. I saw him as a partner. I don't know what changed, but it got better.") When Farid tears up talking about children, you're touched by the depth of their feelings.

Perhaps the most interesting element, though, is listening to the hetero couples work out their issues. Gay couples (especially men) are accustomed to coming up with their own relationship rules about fidelity and openness and sex; watching Farid & George profess their monogamy while the straight men (and women!) disparage it tickled me. It just goes to prove deep down, we're all the same ... because we're all different. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Debuts Monday on HBO at 8 p.m.

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L+S fine art

Squaring the Circle

Kelly Fearing and other artists of the Fort Worth Circle gave mid-century Texas art a sophisticated — and often homoerotic — identity

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

When you think about “early Texas art,” chances are the idea of “gay art” doesn’t jump to mind.

But you might be surprised.

One school of painting, the Fort Worth Circle, arose in Cowtown starting around the 1930s, and unlike a lot of other Texas-based painting, it exuded worldly sophistication.

“[Members of] the Fort Worth Circle were socially connected and they traveled and spent a lot of time in New York and Europe,” says Atlee Phillips, director of Texas art for Heritage Auctions and a scholar familiar with the Circle. “They were experimenting with new ideas — they were intellectuals and bohemians, and Fort Worth was a pretty sophisticated town in its time, as far as art goes.”

The Circle contrasted to the more regional-based art, such as the school known as the Dallas Nine, which was more rooted to landscape painting and naturalism.

“Some of their contemporaries were more solidly in the WPA style,” Phillips says. “They became modernists and did more abstract work later, but they were more regional — more tied to the land.”

But because members of the Circle tended to be affluent, they were exposed to more diverse artistic styles, which they put into practice.

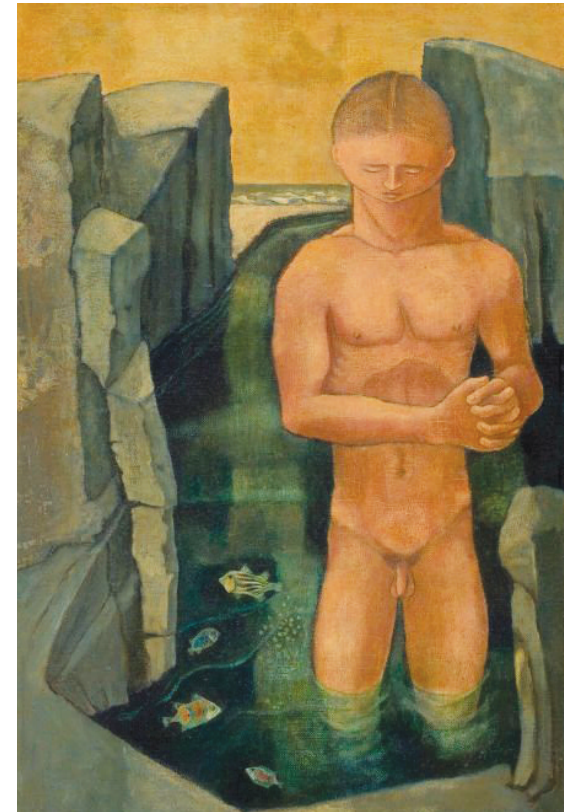
“They were driven by modernism and a really strong vein of surrealism, probably influenced by the Mexican art of the time,” Phillips notes.

It started because one local artist of the day, Veronica Helfensteller, had a print shop where the others would gather to make prints — and to drink, according to Lin Wang, who with his partner, Eric Miller, runs Vintage Promotions. The company is running an art show in Fort Worth this weekend, displaying works from the Circle and other pioneers of early Texas art.

“It was a social club [at first],” says Wang. “No one cared about sexual orientation back then — it was never an issue. They were intermingled; some were gay but they all got along together.”

That put them a step ahead of the Dallas Nine, who were more closely associated with the America regionalism movement of a decade earlier. The Dallas Nine didn’t even allow women in their group, Wang says.

Members of the Fort Worth Circle weren’t on the fringe of local art, either. Many of them were respected and highly successful in their lifetimes, with some gaining in fame and influence.



TEXAS SWING | Gay artist Kelly Fearing pioneered a modern style of painting more than half a century ago.

Among the most prominent of the group was Kelly Fearing, who died in 2011 at age 92. Even in the 1940s, Fearing lived as an out gay man. Like the later work of gay artist David Hockney, Fearing’s subjects were often pretextual reasons to show men in a state of undress — *Male Bather* (1950) exemplifies this style, an emerging, transitional work influenced by Paul Klee — a theme that runs through many artists of the time.

“They were looking ahead,” Wang says, noting the forward-thinking uses of “pictograph, saturated colors and dreamlike quality.”

“They were a notoriously wild group,” Phillips notes of the Fort

Worth Circle. “There’s one famous story where they had a costume party at Bill Bomar’s house and people painted [what happened at] the party.”

Along with Bror Utter, Fearing, Helfensteller and Bomar were among the leaders of the Fort Worth Circle — “the top tier” in Phillips’ words — whose work is still collected today. Wang says to expect works from them to be available at the show this weekend.

“The last 20 years there’s been lots of renewed interest in early Texas art,” Phillips says. And the show is an excellent way to wet your feet and see how progressive North Texas used to be. ■

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Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade Sunday, September 15th - 2pm
The Festival in Lee Park Sunday, September 15th - 11am to 8pm





QUEER CLIPS

Elysium. With that bone structure and those steely eyes, Jodie Foster is naturally designed to seem patrician, even when she's playing a rape victim or a hillbilly. It's just her lot. So it doesn't require any effort for her to portray the elegant, French-speaking defense minister of the orbiting Eden known as Elysium, where in the future, all the rich folks live happily while earth-bound humans live in squalor. And I mean *no effort*, because she puts in none here; it's like watching someone cash a paycheck.

She's hardly the worst thing about this Robo-Cop-in-space movie, though, which, on its own terms, passes as summer entertainment — cool slo-mo explosions, a few exciting action scenes — as long as you don't expect more. The writer-director, Neill Blomkamp (*District 9*) has made a futurist sci-fi parable without much thought about the futuristic part. Aside from L.A. looking like 1990s Sarajevo and the use of hovercraft, nothing really suggests 150 years hence: Not the clothing or the language or really the attitudes. Blomkamp is so interested in his message about the inevitable results of the one-percenters, he forgets to tell a real story. *Elysium* is predictable, its smug navelgazing undercutting its bite. **Two stars.**

Lovelace. Linda Lovelace was a boring white-trash teenager until, for a brief time in the 1970s, she became the most celebrated porn star ever, based solely on her oral skills in the crossover X-rated hit *Deep Throat*. Hers was an old-fashioned Fellatio Alger tale. Only it was really a nightmare.

Linda spent less than three weeks in the porn biz, but was horribly exploited, which directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (the documentarians behind *The Times of Harvey Milk* and *The Celluloid Closet*) tell in a sly, Möbius-strip fashion, starting the film over midway through — first presenting a sanitized version, then one that makes us question all we've seen. Amanda Seyfried does commendable work as Linda (she's unrecognizable in the later scenes), but Peter Sarsgaard as her abusive husband and a breathtaking Sharon Stone as her icy mom get the money shots. **Four stars.**

Blue Jasmine. I don't know this for a fact, but I bet Woody Allen got the idea for this script when he saw a woman in a Balenciaga dress and Prada shoes talking to herself on a park bench and wondered what could bring a person to that point. What he comes up with is mostly dull stuff about a modern-day Blanche DuBois (Cate Blanchett), putting on airs while taxing the patience of her middle-class sister (Sally Hawkins). Like *Elysium*, it's a rambling look at economic inequality. But Allen's secret weapon is Blanchett, such a compelling actress she makes this pretentious, flawed socialite someone we care about. **Two stars.**

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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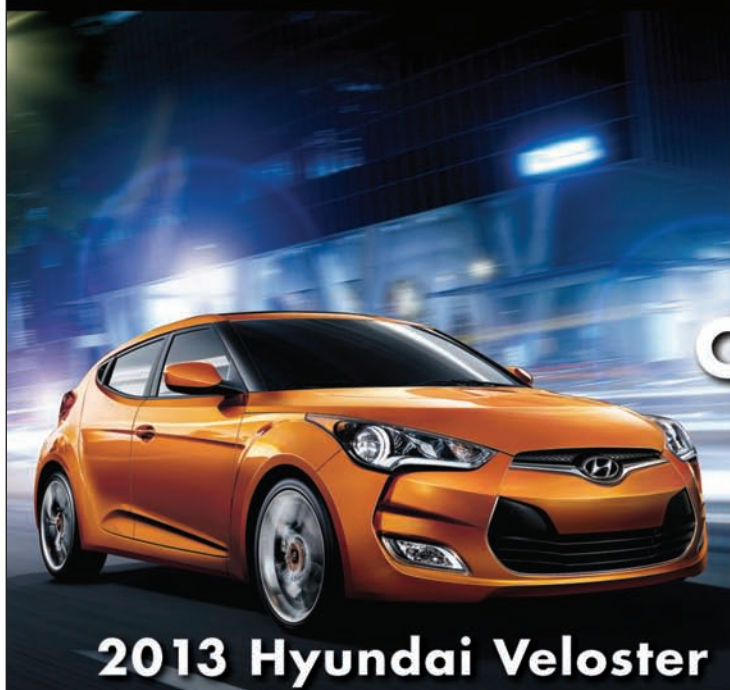
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LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday
08.09

Kathy Griffin headlines at Verizon Theatre

She's the de facto Queen of the Gays, our favorite hag, the one who says all the things we think. Kathy Griffin returns to North Texas this weekend, and if you haven't seen her live ... well, we wonder if you're really gay enough to keep that toaster oven.

DEETS: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 8 p.m. \$40-\$60. AXS.com.

Friday 08.09

'Men on the Verge' opens at Teatro Dallas

A Cuban refugee must deal with his homophobic family ... a gay immigrant watches the L.A. riots and thinks he's in the middle of a *Lethal Weapon* shoot ... a Latino actor passes for Anglo — but can he pass for straight? These are just some of the comic monologues that make up Guillermo Reyes' *Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown*, the salsa-flavored play from Theatre New West, opening this week at Teatro Dallas. It's a colorful adventure through the world of being gay and Hispanic.

DEETS: Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Road. Through Aug. 31. \$18-\$20. 214-443-8181.



Sunday 08.11

Voice of Pride Finals at Rose Room

It takes most of the summer at most of the gay clubs in Dallas and hundreds of songs, but the Voice of Pride competition is down to the final 10 contestants (one woman and nine men). And on Sunday, we not only get to hear some of the best amateur singers in town regale us with their musical styles, we get to see *a la* Miss America the winner lauded with sashes, money and bragging rights — but also airline tickets and a gig at Dallas Pride. Some VIP seating is still available.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 6:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. DallasTavernGuild.org.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Kiss of the Spider Woman. The Tony Award-winning musical, based on the Oscar-winning film, about a gay inmate in a South American prison. Linda Leonard revives her performance in the title role. Presented by Uptown Players. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Aug. 18. UptownPlayers.org.

Xanadu. The campy '80s movie musical gets an even campier stage adaptation. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 18. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

In A Forest, Dark and Deep. Regan Adair returns to Dallas to direct this Neil LaBute play for Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Aug. 9-31 (in previews Aug. 9 and 10). 2TT.co.

The Foreigner. Theatre Arlington presents this modern farce about a painfully shy man on vacation, with the company's former artistic director, BJ Cleveland,



AMERICAN DREAMBOAT

Sexy North Texas native Daniel Rowan stars as Chris in Casa Manana's production of 'Miss Saigon.'

returning to its stage. 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Aug. 25. TheatreArlington.org.

Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown. A series of comedic monologues about gay Latinos.



Review: 'Kiss of the Spider Woman'

Two prisoners in a South America hell hole — one flamboyantly gay, one angry, political and straight — who are tortured and betrayed on their way to ignoble ends might not sound like the stuff of musical theater, but then again, who thought a cabaret on the eve of World War II and murderesses clamoring for press coverage in Chicago would make for good musicals either? But that's what Kander & Ebb do: Make brightly scored musicals out of dark materials. In the case of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, though — now onstage at the Kalita — they don't manage any catchy tunes on the level of "All That Jazz" or "Wilkommen." And they have to cope with a heavy-handed script from Terrence McNally.

What they do get, though, is an opportunity to show audiences what an American opera would look like if written for Broadway. Because that's what *Spider Woman* is: ravishing, melodramatic excess. That's never more apparent than on the Act 1 quartet "Dear One," which uses counterpunctual melody lines effectively. And if there's a contemporary aria that can be delivered with more drama and musical bravery than Linda Leonard's rendition of the title song, I'd like to hear it.

Leonard — playing Aurora, the fantasy character who the gay prisoner Molina (Mikey Abrams) conjures in order to coax information out of his cellmate Valentin (John Campione) — is a force of nature in the production, underserved by Bruce Coleman's direction (which doesn't render the imagined worlds in which Aurora lives with enough contrast to the prison). But the message of the peculiar interplay between art, politics and love — and the pointless necessity of all three (the title is a euphemism for death, for crying out loud!) — makes for one of the more thoughtful musicals of the summer.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Aug. 18. UptownPlayers.org.

Presented by Theatre New West. Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Road. Through Aug. 31. \$18–\$20. 214-443-8181.

Assassins. Onstage in Bedford stages this musical by Stephen Sondheim, which tracks American assassins throughout history. 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. *Final weekend.* \$15. OnstageInBedford.com. 817-354-6444.

Fly. A new retelling of the Peter Pan story, courtesy of Dallas Theater Center. Directed by Tony Award-winning producer Jeffrey Seller. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 18. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Forever Lovely. A world premiere play by Alejandro de la Costa features once again third-rate drag queen Lovely Uranus dealing with a comical series of problems. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 17. \$18–\$23. 214-477-4942. MBSProductions.net.

The Fox on the Fairway, a comedy by Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me a Tenor*). Presented by Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* StageWest.org.

Real Men. A series of one-act plays about the male of the species, one starring Q Cinema and Q Live! founders Todd Camp and Kyle Trentham. SceneShop at Arts Fifth Avenue, 1628 5th Ave., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* \$12. ArtsFifthAvenue.org.

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged). A sassy comedy of biblical proportions. Milburn Theatre, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* \$25–\$30. 817-923-3012. AmphibianProductions.org.

FINE ART

The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece: Masterworks from the British Museum. A collection of marbles, 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.

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.

Icons. A juried group exhibition featuring images of iconic toys and games. Mary Tomas Gallery, 1110 Dragon St. Aug. 10–Sept. 7. Opening night reception 6–9 p.m. (free and open to the public). MaryTomasGallery.com.

Biennial: Origins in Geometry. A juried competition of emerging visual artists. Museum of Geometric and MAD! Art, 3109 Carlisle St. Through Oct. 6. GeometricMadiMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 08.09

COMEDY

Kathy Griffin. The dishy comedian performs. Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 8 p.m. \$40–\$60. AXS.com.

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. Monthly LGBT mixer for those in the tech field — or anyone else interested in joining them. Max's Wine Dive, 3600 McKinney Ave. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

 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/dvsubmit.

SATURDAY 08.10

THEATER

Miss Saigon. The sweeping musical adaptation of *Madama Butterfly*, by Boublil and Schoenberg. Presented by Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Aug. 10–18. CasaManana.org.

COMMUNITY

Lambda Legal Landmark Dinner. Annual fundraiser for the gay legal group will celebrate 10 years since *Lawrence v. Texas* and the group's 40th anniversary. Hotel Palomar, 5300 E. Mockingbird Lane. 6 p.m.–2 a.m. LambdaLegal.org/LandmarkDinner.

SUNDAY 08.11

COMMUNITY

Mimosas and Music: Sunday Soul Food Brunch. Every week at Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ministry. Weekly Sunday tea-dance-and-more gay mixer with a new DJ each week. LeVu, 2505 Pacific Ave. 6 p.m. Cover 21+: \$5 before 7 p.m. (free with flier), \$10 after 7 p.m.; cover 18–20: \$15.

MUSIC

Voice of Pride Finals. Ten local singers perform two numbers each before a celebrity panel of judges to decide who will be crowned the best in Dallas — and perform during Dallas Pride. The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 6:30 p.m., curtain at 8 p.m. DallasTavernGuild.org.

WEDNESDAY 08.14

COMMUNITY

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

THURSDAY 08.15

THEATER

Exit, Pursued by a Bear. A dark domestic comedy, presented by Circle Theatre. 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 14. CircleTheatre.com.

this week's solution

R	O	A	D	M	A	P		I	S	L	A	N	D	
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B	A	R	G	E	S		E	A	R	N	E	R	S	

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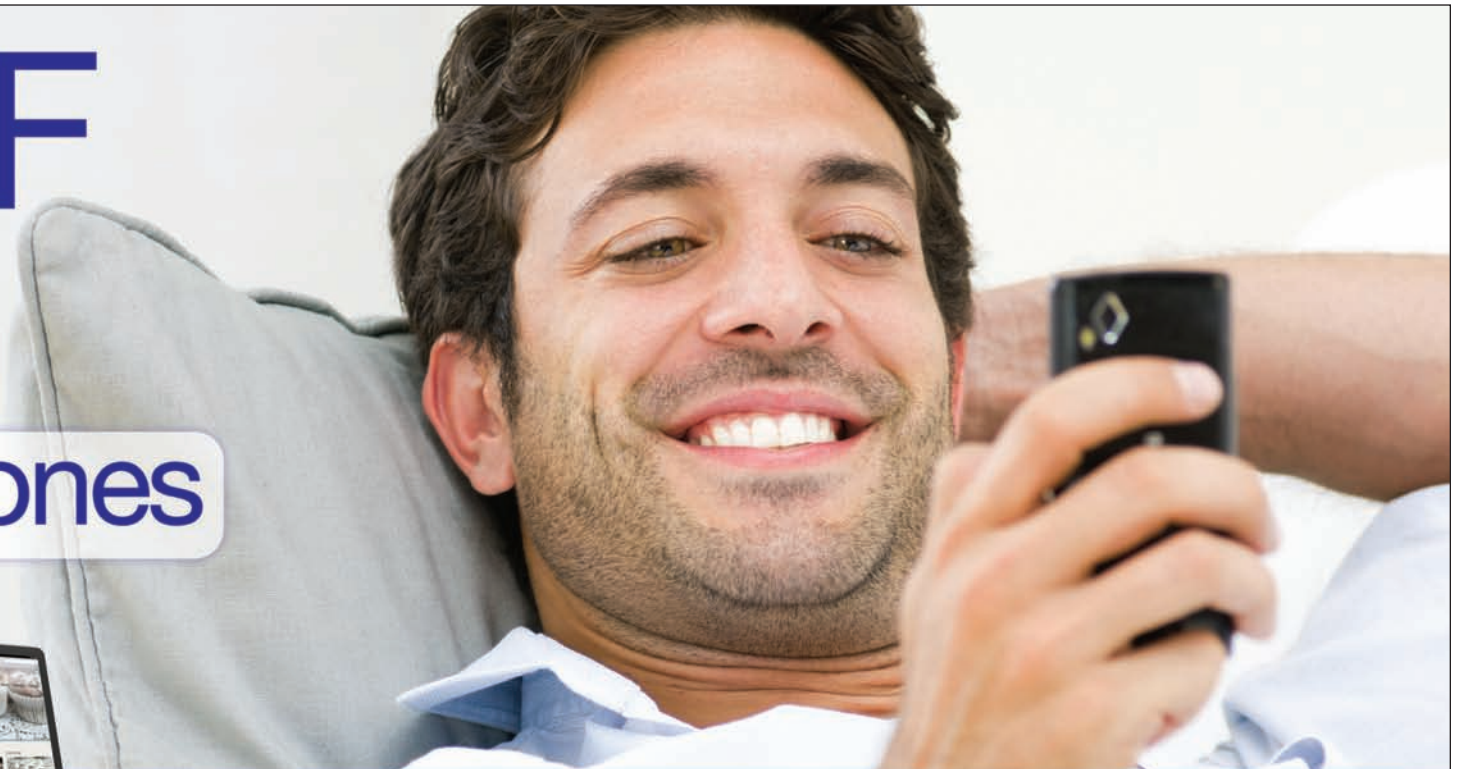
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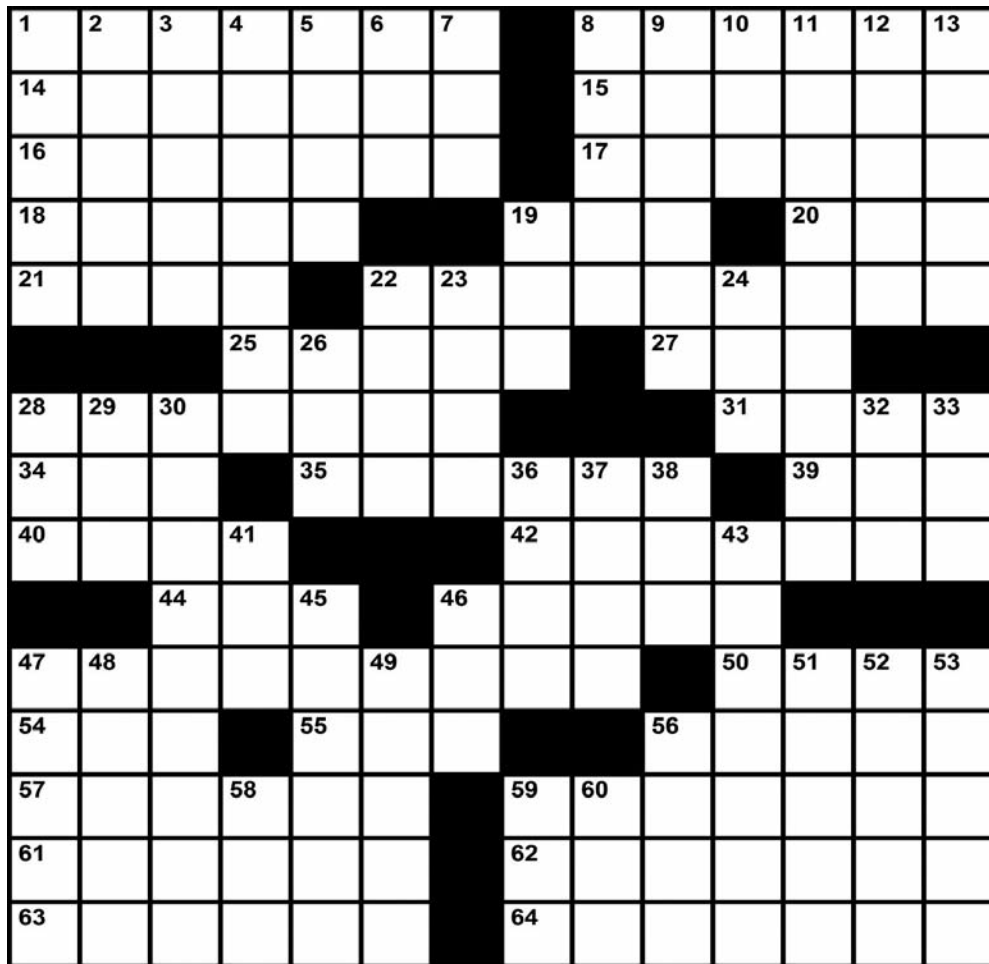
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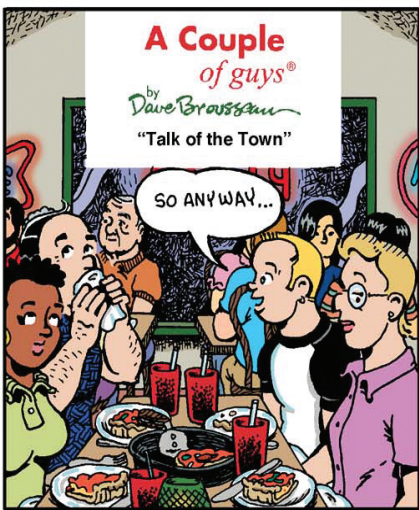
Solution on page 25

Across

- 1 One of the motorist's aids
- 8 ___ Records (Etheridge label)
- 14 Artist Robert
- 15 Loch name
- 16 Pope who recently spoke in Rio about gay priests
- 17 Cobbler containers
- 18 Uses the keyboard
- 19 Where to put your meat, in a deli
- 20 Traveler's info
- 21 Studio stages
- 22 Start of how Pope Benedict XVI labeled gay lifestyle
- 25 Coming soon
- 27 Some sex-toy batteries
- 28 Hook up
- 31 Medicine dose
- 34 Beantown tower, with "the"
- 35 Start of what 16-Across said about gay priests
- 39 Prefix with classical
- 40 Maria's "Do-___"
- 42 John, who played a transsexual in *The World According to Garp*
- 44 Sixth sense

Down

- 46 Gay porn director Francis
- 47 See 22-Across
- 50 Good buddies
- 54 Half of a ballroom dance
- 55 Pitching stat
- 56 Former *American Idol* judge Paula
- 57 Lane of *The Birdcage*
- 59 See 35-Across
- 61 Turn on
- 62 Tangled up
- 63 Interrupts, with "in"
- 64 Bacon procurers



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Girls' night out at Sue Ellen's.

Voice of Pride finals take place in the **Rose Room** on Aug. 11. A limited number of VIP tables available can be reserved by contacting Chris@Caven.com. The finalists are **Joey Arias, Walter Cunningham, Colby Geyer, Vanessa Guzman, Matthew Harrington, Zack Hicks, Tony Jackson, Carlos Saenz, Steve Stallings** and **Eric Way**. ... **Miss Gay Texas USofA**, three nights of talent and gowns, takes place at the **Round-Up Saloon** Aug. 13-15. Cover charges that apply each night go to the pageant system. Plus, every Monday in August, there's a **Texas Hold'Em** poker tournament. The weekly winner returns for the finals on Aug. 26. Cool prizes and a challenging evening of fun. ... Karaoke every Thursday and Sunday as well as the second Saturday of the month at **Barbara's Pavilion** in Oak Cliff. ... **Andrea Dawson** performs at **Alexandre's** on Aug. 9 followed by **Sheelah P and Infinity** on Aug. 10. ... Win a trip for two to Las Vegas at **Woody's Sports and Video Bar** on Aug. 10 at a benefit show for Woody's softball teams. Raffle tickets available now. ... Stop by **Randy's Club Cherries** for an evening of song, dance and drag as the bar says happy birthday and farewell to **Michael** who's off to Philly. ... **National Leather Association** holds its monthly bar night at **Dallas Eagle** on Aug. 10. ... Say goodbye to **Steven** at **BJ's NXSI** on Aug. 9 at **Steven's Going Away Fireball Party**. ... **Mojo Dolls** appears at **Sue Ellen's** on Aug. 9. The **Heather Roberts Band** performs on Aug. 10. ... Win a copy of **Cher's Woman's World Remix** at **JR.'s Bar & Grill** on Aug. 13. ... Celebrate **D Fashion Week** at **S4** on Aug. 10 with featured designers **Tish Cox, Rulli Torres, Gasolina Wear** and **Rosie Del Bosque**. A percentage of ticket sales benefits **AIDS Arms LifeWalk**. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.



David and Chase at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



Aaron, Heather and Lance at Station 4.

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Trey at the Round-Up Saloon.



Biana, Joe Michael, Kendra and Lauren at BJ's NXS!



Micah at Tapelenders.



Jake at The Brick/Joe's.



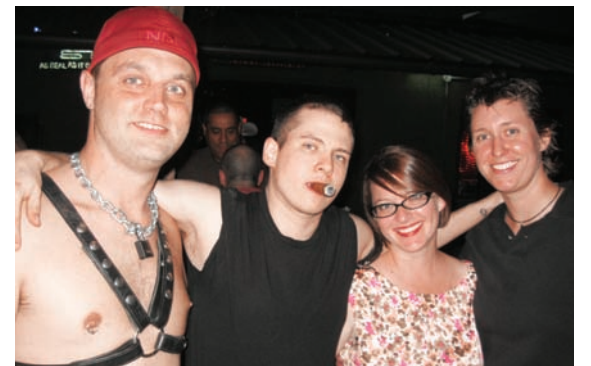
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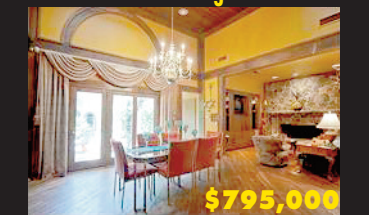
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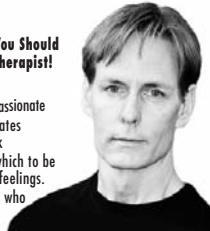
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