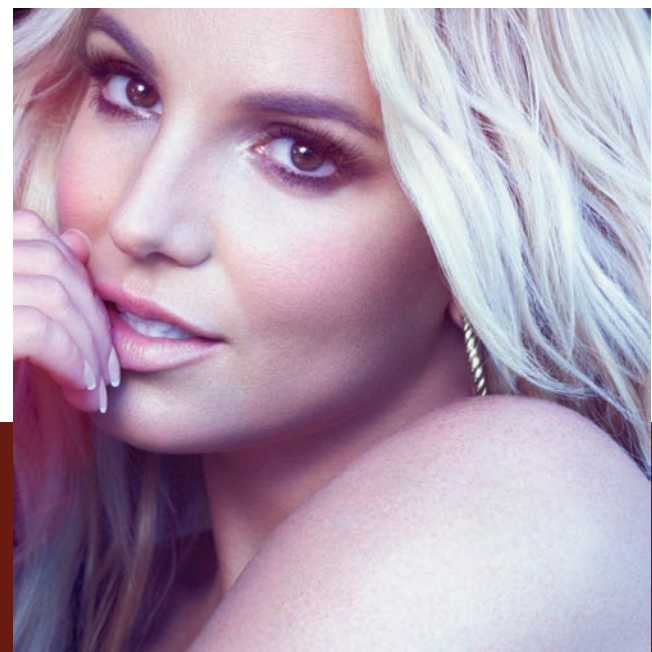


# Oops, she does it again!

Britney Spears: The gay interview

Could it be that the pop princess is unaware of her relationship to the gay community?

■ PROFILE, Page 32



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## The pursuit of appiness

How social networks, including hookup apps, have changed the way gay people interact

By Steve Ramos

■ COVER STORY, Page 6





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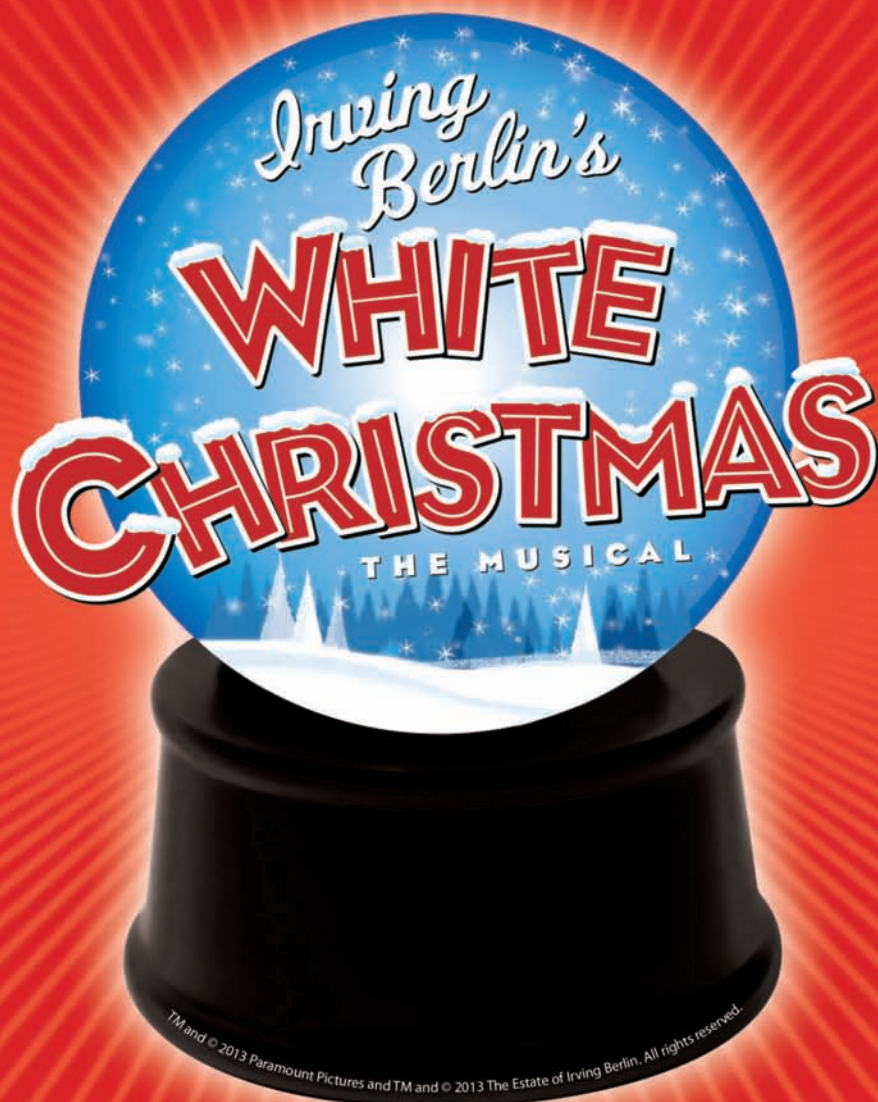
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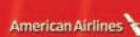
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### Chinese Lantern Festival at Fair Park offers diverse entertainment

For the second year, the Chinese Lantern Festival lights up acres of space at Fair Park with new features, including an acrobat show.

One of the highlights among this year's displays is a replica of the White Pagoda built in 1204 in Yunnan Province. The nine spires stand up to 52 feet tall, about the same height as the original, and is made of 68,000 porcelain plates, cups, bowls and spoons hand-tied together.

Other features include a floating dragon boat that reflects in the lagoon, a multi-story castle and gardens of mushrooms, tulips and bamboo-eating pandas.

*Chinese Lantern Festival at Fair Park. Dec. 5-Jan 5. 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Adults \$22, children 4-12 \$14. Parking \$15 or take the Green Line to Fair Park Station.*

— David Taffet

### Dallas stats missing from FBI hate crime report expected in January

The FBI released its 2012 hate-crime statistics, but figures for five of Texas' largest cities are missing.

Fort Worth reported 14 incidents, but there are no statistics for Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso or Austin. FBI spokeswoman Katie Chamount said Texas as well as New Jersey missed the publishing deadlines. Complete figures should be available in January.

Nationally, 5,796 hate crimes were reported with 1,135 of them based on sexual orientation.

At first glance, the report shows Texas had a significant drop in hate crimes. A comparison shows 1,089 bias-motivated crimes in California, compared to only 60 in Texas.

Chamount explained there are two reporting systems. Across Texas, 65 agencies, including Fort Worth, used one system and those incidents were reported in the national figures. Of Fort Worth's 14 reported incidents, three were based on sexual orientation. Lewisville reported two and Rowlett had one based on sexual orientation.

Highland Park, Flower Mound, Frisco and Rockwall as well as DFW Airport reported there were no bias-related crimes in their jurisdictions.

In addition to sexual orientation, the hate-crime

categories include race, religion, disability and ethnicity/national origin.

Texas Department of Public Safety also reports hate crime statistic. The DPS report contains information the FBI has not received, but the agency expects to have it in January.

DPS reported 170 incidents. Of those, 53 were anti-LGBT, the second largest group after race. Although that number is three times what the FBI reported, it's still low compared to California or the 741 bias-motivated incidents reported by New York.

DPS lists 30 hate crimes reported by Dallas, 17 by San Antonio, 13 by Houston, 6 by Austin and 4 by El Paso.

— David Taffet

### Out & Equal elects new officers

The Out & Equal DFW Regional Affiliate elected its officers for 2014 on Nov. 23.

Sam Seelbach, elected to be the new affiliate chair is an analyst with American Airlines.

"I'm excited to continue to support of the fundamental work of Out & Equal," Seelbach said. "What a beautiful day it will be when everyone is able to bring their whole selves to work. Knowing that teamwork and acceptance are essential tools in creating a productive work environment, we invite you to join us on our journey to equality in the workplace."

Jeffrey Gorczynski (Citi) is the outgoing chair and remains an officer as chair emeritus.

Paul von Wupperfeld (Texas Instruments) will head communications/marketing and Nell Gaither (Trans Pride Initiative) is incoming treasurer. Von Wupperfeld previously has been an officer of the local organization.

Von Wupperfeld said Out & Equal is looking at locations to bring its national convention back to Dallas possibly as early as 2015. The convention was last held here in 2011.

He said that at a local and national level, companies with a global reach working in countries that are not as friendly and welcoming are looking at what they can do internationally.

He gave as an example Google participating in a Pride march in Eastern Europe.

"Police held back the right wing," he said, compared to how they treated marchers in a previous parade.

— David Taffet



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Curtis Peetyohn (Fred), Sirena Irwin (Lucy), Joanna Daniels (Ethel) and Bill Mendelsohn (Ricky) in the Chicago production of I LOVE LUCY® LIVE ON STAGE. (Photo by Justin Barbin.com)

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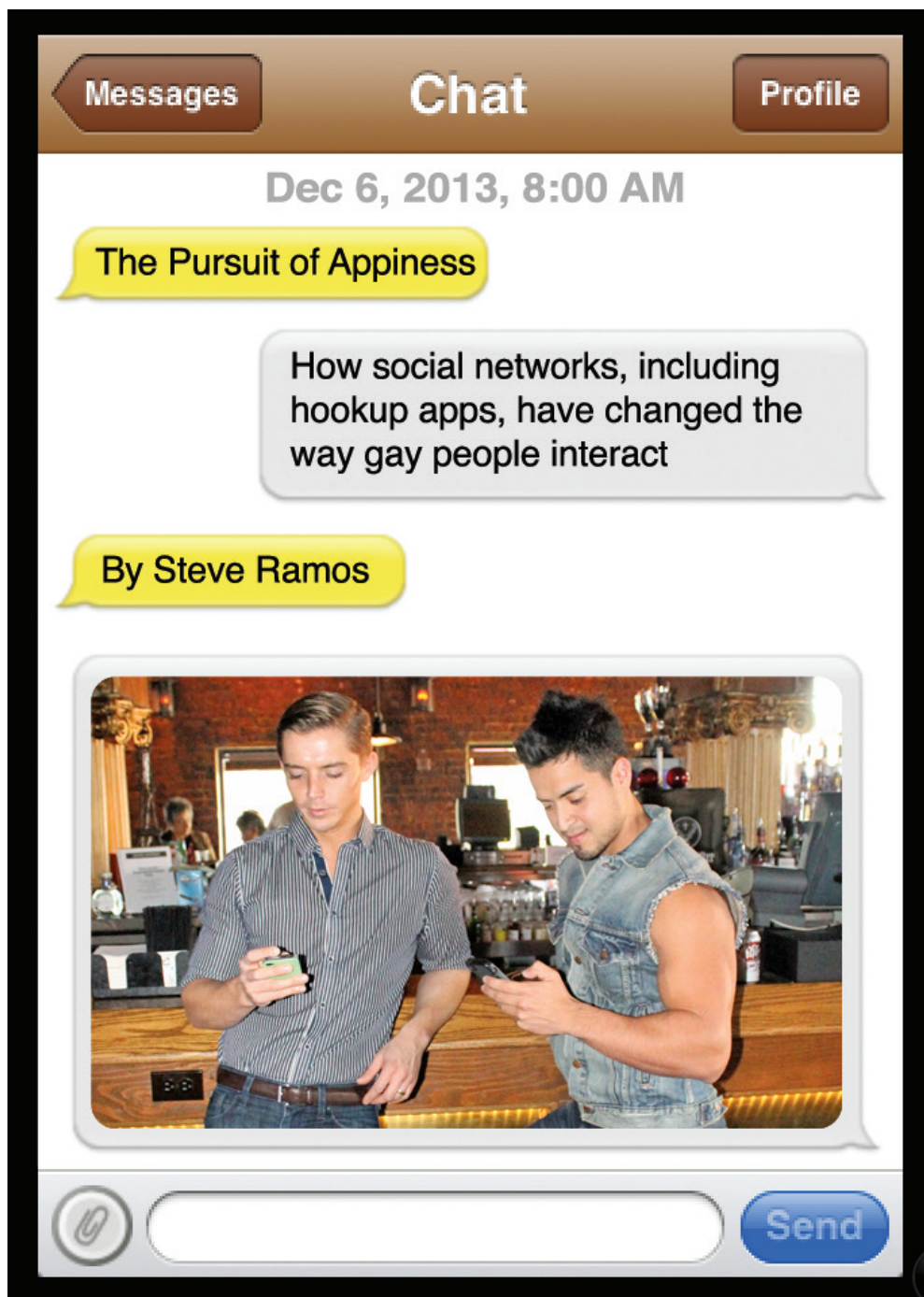
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A smart, attractive, chronically single friend of mine had been feverishly fidgeting with his iPhone half way through the mall, somehow navigating the crowd without once lifting his gaze from the screen.

"Here's one ... 1,127 feet," he muttered. And then, "Oh, 413 feet!"

Sensing my annoyance, he showed me his phone: dozens of little thumbnail pictures of guys, with little blurbs about themselves, organized from top to bottom in order of proximity.

Suddenly, it became clear to me what his excitement was about. Could this crude little iPhone app be every single gay man's dream: to be able to cruise anywhere, anytime? Shopping? Why not? Meet me in Aisle C! Killing time at the airport? I'm sitting at Gate 17. At the gym? A no-brainer. Even

at gay bars: cruising within cruising.

Grindr claims its app has more than five million users in more than 180 countries, including Sri Lanka, Djibouti, Haiti, Iraq and Iran, places where being gay can get you killed. I'd tried computer-assisted dating only once before, with mixed results, but Grindr seemed so easy — a few taps of my iPhone screen and I was off to the races — that it was impossible to resist.

First I needed a profile. Grindr profile photos fall into four general categories: lazy, earnest, absurd and sexually suggestive. The staple of the lazy category is the lo-res, self-taken mirror shot, which translates into "I don't give a shit about Grindr or any of you so I'm not gonna try very hard."

In my experience, most promiscuous gay guys,

the type I expected to encounter on Grindr, tend to prefer detached, screw-you types and are turned on by offput-ishness. The projection of apathy is essential to the lazy strategy. Under no circumstances is it ever acceptable to come across as eager.

I put on my favorite T-shirt, and a few dozen shots later I had my very own screw-you, lo-res mirror profile photo, the back of my iPhone in the foreground, my pissed-off-looking mug in the background.

Next came my profile blurb. Rarely have I ever re-written, edited and re-edited so few words so many times. I finally settled on the passive-aggressive, faux-nonchalant "Make me an offer." As soon as I started cruising profiles, I scrolled into several friends and acquaintances. I stopped to drop each a line to let them know I was in the house (not yet having realized that if I could see them, they could see me).

At first, Grindr felt a bit like the neighborhood gay bar, not "the scariest gay bar on earth that is all over the earth," as blogger Choire Sicha put it. There wasn't a shortage of freaks, but neither were there any genuine creeps.

Grindr is dominated by two warring archetypes: the shirtless, alpha-male Headless Torsos and their archenemies: the fussy, uppity Faces. The Headless Torsos see Grindr as a pure, single-function tool for facilitating hookups, not a social center for chatting and making friends. Spartan word-smiths, the Headless Torsos are fluent in just a handful of words and phrases, like "Hey," "Sup," and "Who's hosting?"

The Faces see Grindr more as a multi-functional public square and are convinced they hold the moral high ground. Why can't you Headless Torsos just man up and pan up to include your faces? Occasionally a virtual bar brawl between the Headless Torsos and the Faces spills out onto the sidewalk. One Face fires off a warning shot in his blurb: "I'm not into headless torsos and 'hey' is for horses."

A Headless Torso responds by tagging himself "Headless Torso" and fuming, "I already have friends!" There are plenty of vigilante crossing-guard types eager to referee. "If you can't be a gentleman at least be polite," scolds one. It's no wonder that with all the commotion some guys are perplexed over how to behave or what to write on Grindr. "Um, not sure what to write here," confesses Tom, gingerly dipping a toe into the cauldron.

Grindr's list of 34 rules, or "profile guidelines," reads like the student handbook at a parochial school. Grindr doesn't just forbid nudity; it also requires a buffer zone, a no-man's land "one inch above the pubic area." Nor is it kosher to show your undies, even the waistband, and don't try to skirt the rules by covering up with a towel or "sheer, or otherwise see-through" clothing.

You can't grab your crotch or pose in any other sexually suggestive way, and "obscene gestures" and "profanity or curse words" aren't tolerated. Grindr seems to be getting more serious about enforcement. Lately I've noticed an increase in the number of profile pics taken down and replaced with "Photo Under Review." "Apple has very specific guidelines — no nudity, no profanity. Those are their guidelines which we abide by," Grindr founder and CEO Joel Simkhai told blogger Zack Rosen.

Simkhai may be a prolific rule writer, but the company seems to be suffering from a serious case of writer's block when it comes to articulating what Grindr is or intends to be. Its slogan is "Grindr. It's a guy thing," as if the "guys" are Grindr during ball-game commercials. Its logo looks like a cross between a vaudeville mask and something Hannibal Lecter might wear.

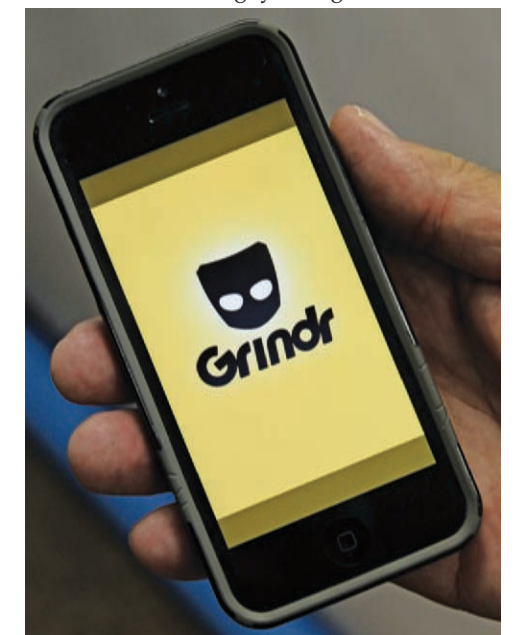
The company's explanation of the name Grindr strains credulity. "Here's the deal: The name 'Grindr' was chosen because it embodied the idea of 'grinding' people together in the same way that a coffee grinder grinds coffee beans," the company explains on its website. "The name is also partly a combination of the words 'Guy' and 'Finder.'" You'd be hard-pressed to fool even the dimmest-witted queen with such clumsy spin.

The blog site Celebrifi declared Simkhai responsible for the "biggest change in gay hookups since the hanky code," yet Simkhai tirelessly downplays Grindr's obvious sexual undercurrent.

"From my perspective ... it's not sex. It's a precursor to sex. It's just before," Simkhai told London's The Observer.

I've read or heard various utilitarian-themed anecdotes about Grindr: the guy who got a job with an Italian acting troupe after meeting its director on Grindr; the guy who got locked out of

*Grindr's list of 34 rules, or "profile guidelines," reads like the student handbook at a parochial school.*





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■ localbriefs

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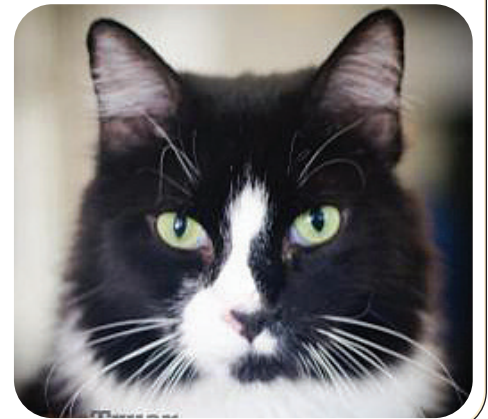


**RECIPIENT ROUND-UP** | The Dallas Tavern Guild distributed funds from the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade to Youth First and from the Festival in Lee Park to AIDS Services Dallas, AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, Legacy Counseling Center and Resource Center. The organizations received a total of \$27,200. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

■ pet of the week / FLASH

**Flash** was adopted from us as a tiny kitten and lived the last few years very comfortably with his adopter. After his person passed away, none of the family members could keep him, so he came back to Operation Kindness. Flash is a very independent guy and enjoys roaming loose in our cat room. He will make a wonderful companion, and he is looking for a family to call his own.

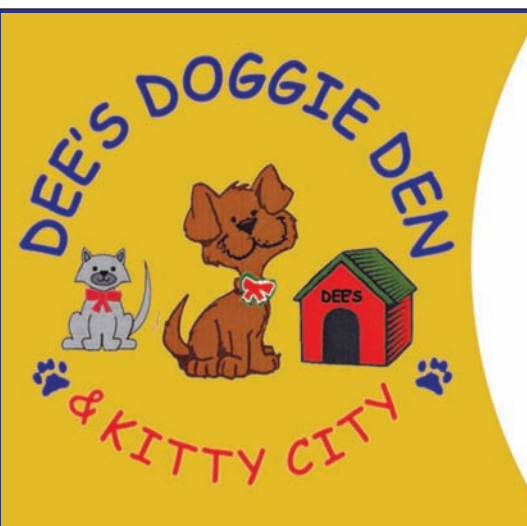
**Flash** and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost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



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## The Dallas Way signs contract with UNT to archive historic collection



**CONTRACT PENDING** | The Dallas Way President Buddy Mullino, left with board member Mike Grossman announced at this week's board meeting a contract with UNT is pending. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

A group committed to archiving LGBT history in North Texas is working with UNT to provide online access to the materials

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

"We've all come out of the closet," The Dallas Way board member Bruce Monroe said. "Now it's time to go back in and clean it out again."

LGBT members committed to the preservation of the community's history created The Dallas Way two years ago, and the group is collecting memorabilia to send to the LGBT archives at University of North Texas. The items range from commemorative T-shirts to the minutes from the various organizations' meetings and their newsletters.

On its website, The Dallas Way says its mission is to gather, store, organize and present the complete LGBT history of Dallas.

Members of the group have been looking for material, and no cranny escapes their search.

"One of our goals has been to get stuff out from under people's beds," The Dallas Way President Buddy Mullino said. "Now we have a safe place for it to go."

Included in the material that will be sent to UNT are papers and other memorabilia that belonged to Bill Nelson, one of Resource Center's founders, which his mother donated to the history group.

"Nieces and nephews who never knew Bill won't appreciate the importance of these items, so she gave them to us," Monroe said.

When the group isn't scouring Dallas for

LGBT memorabilia of historical significance, its raising money to assist UNT in the digitizing of the archives so it can be accessed online. William Waybourn, another of Resource Center's founders, issued a \$5,000 challenge grant for The Dallas Way to raise an additional \$10,000.

Monroe said they have almost met the challenge and are looking for a little more money to push them over the top. Mullino said any donations to The Dallas Way are going directly into the digitization process.

Kay Wilkinson, a board member of The Dallas Way, said UNT library's staff has been engaged with the group. UNT library officials have been attending The Dallas Way meetings since the organization was founded.

She said UNT's commitment to amassing the collection of LGBT material from North Texas is "unprecedented." They expect it to be the cornerstone of the school's LGBT studies program.

"They've elevated it to a level of academic scholarship," Wilkinson said.

The university's resources and capacity to digitize photos and documents and make them available online prompted The Dallas Way to partner with them. Dreanna Belden, UNT libraries assistant dean for external relations, is excited about the partnership.

"All of The Dallas Way's board members are so active and intertwined in the LGBT community," she said. "This partnership will help us dramatically as we document the community."

The Dallas Way is expecting to sign a long-term agreement with UNT to archive the materials, and the contract will be similar to the one between the university and Resource Center for the Phil Johnson collection. ■

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Alicia Butler and Judith Chedville were awarded Cathedral of Hope's Ambassador of Justice Award by Interim Senior Pastor Jim Mitulski on Dec. 1. (Photo Courtesy of Cathedral of Hope)

## Texas

On the first day of registration of same-sex partners by National Guard units nationwide, Texas refused to register Butler. Her wife, Chedville, is a nurse in the Texas National Guard.

Texas' refusal to register same-sex partners of military personnel ended last week when the state, under threat of a lawsuit by Butler and the possibility of losing federal funding and equipment based in Texas, relented. Under the new system, which is exactly the same as the old system,

couples will be registered by federal employees using a federal computer system at federal bases or National Guard bases statewide.

Registering as a military partner allows the spouse access to the base where they are offered discounted shopping, medical services and other benefits. Butler's 5-month-old daughter wasn't able to access the medical care that is available to all National Guard personnel and their dependents. ■

## Louisiana

Louisiana's National Guard followed Texas and began registering same-sex partners of military personnel.

"Officials from the Louisiana National Guard have finally made the right decision, and we are satisfied with the outcome," said Stephen Peters, president of American Military Partner Association. "However, this situation only highlights the bigger issue that still needs to be addressed.

There are still major conflicts between state and federal laws where states have codified discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans into state laws and constitutions. This is yet another stark reminder of how far we have yet to go to

achieve our nation's promise of 'liberty and justice for all.'"

After Texas first began refusing to register same-sex partners, Louisiana soon followed along with Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Florida.

Texas changed its policy on Nov. 27.

States that refused to follow Defense Department policy could have lost federal funding and equipment.

Registration of partners is completed on a federal computer system that is placed in National Guard facilities and is funded entirely by the federal government. ■

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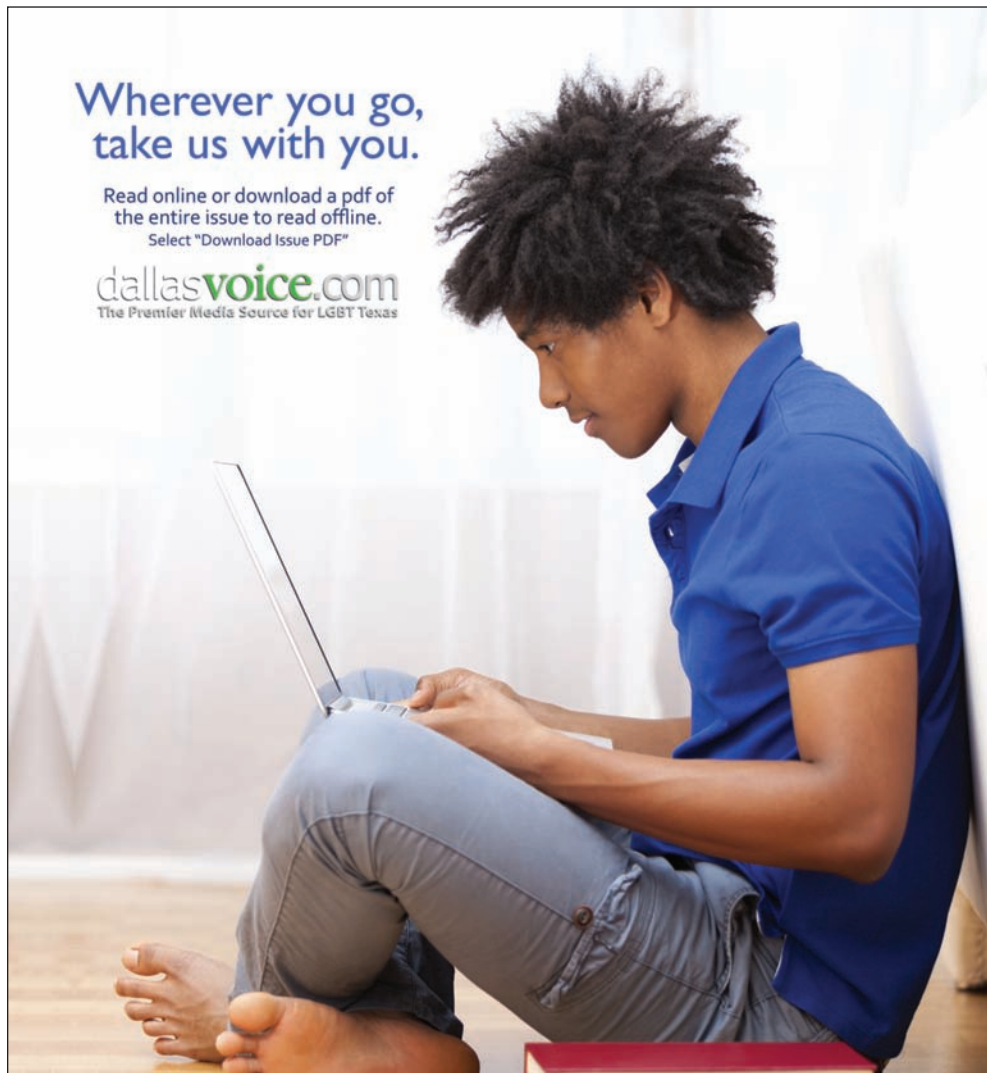
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## Shaking it up: Texas politics gay style



**REPORTING FOR DUTY** | If elected, Louie Minor would become the first openly gay member of Congress from Texas and the first gay veteran and first gay Hispanic to serve. (Courtesy photo)

Louie Minor talks exclusively to *Dallas Voice* about taking on tea party incumbent John Carter in Texas Congressional District 31

**ANNA WAUGH** | News Editor  
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Louie Minor has a lot of titles: veteran, father, Democratic candidate, and he hopes to add Texas' first openly gay congressman to the list next fall.

Minor, 34, is challenging Republican incumbent John Carter in the Republican-leaning Congressional District 31. The suburban Austin district includes all of Williamson County and most of Bell County, from a portion of north Austin to Temple. It also includes Fort Hood.

Carter, first elected in 2002, has received a zero each session on the Human Rights Cam-

paign Congressional Scorecard, which rates members of Congress on their support for LGBT issues.

A native of CD 31, Minor grew up in Belton. He's a veteran and a captain in the Army Reserves, and has spent a decade in the military, even serving 14 months with the Texas National Guard in 2008-09.

He recently spent a year and a half working for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., before resigning his position as a federal employee earlier this year in order to run for office.

Minor is the first openly gay candidate to run for a Texas congressional seat in 15 years. James Patsch-Galvan ran as a Libertarian in 1998 against Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee in Houston's District 18.

Before that, Barbara Jordan held that district seat from 1973-79. While she never acknowledged her sexual orientation publicly, the

Houston Chronicle mentioned her longtime partner in her obit in 1996.

If elected, Minor would be the first openly gay Congressman from Texas, as well as the first openly gay member of Congress who is a veteran and who's Latino. On Dec. 3, Minor wrote on his Twitter account: "It's official. We're on the ballot."

**Dallas Voice:** Why did you decide to run for office?

**Louie Minor:** I saw the current representative doesn't represent me, my family or the majority of Texans. I believe the future of Texas is at jeopardy, and our country if we continue to let tea party Republicans be our voice in Congress. So that's why I decided to run.

**What was it like serving under DADT?** You're just worried about the safety of your guys and accomplishing your mission. So, that really didn't affect me too much as far as "don't ask, don't tell." It affects you more when you're at home because what happens is you had to be one way at work and then you had to be a different person when you're at home.

**Did you come out after it was repealed?** I really didn't come out in the military. I have a 15-year-old daughter, so people never really questioned me about my sexuality much. And after years and years of living with keeping my work and personal life separate, I just always maintained that. I would never invite co-workers over to my place to do anything. I guess I really don't think about it because that was the norm for me to have that separation and to keep that personal life separate from work. But I think now probably the biggest difference is just having a family picture up, and not being afraid to have that up.

**What would it mean to you to be the first openly gay Congressman from Texas?** I thought about it, and I was humbled by that [opportunity], and then just the fact that I'll be the first openly gay veteran to be in an elected office in Congress. To me, there's no words to describe just how humbling that is.

**Are you worried about running against an incumbent, especially a tea party conservative?** I'm absolutely not concerned at all. I used to be a Republican several years ago prior to me joining the military and after leaving, because that's all I knew. That was the only thing that was around. I thought that was acceptable. But after joining the military and being exposed to more diversity, that's when I realized I am a Democrat and the Democratic Party represents me and my family more than the Republican Party.



As far as running against the tea party, yeah it's going to be a hard fight, a hard race, but it's one that's necessary.

**District 31 has some conservative areas. Has your being an openly gay congressional candidate sparked dialogue about the changing times in Texas politics?** I don't think it's widely known yet as far as my sexual orientation because I'm more than a gay candidate. But it's not something that I think is widely known. Obviously that's something that I'm not shy to talk about. It's something that I fought for in Iraq to be who I want to be. I don't plan on shying away from that. If anyone asks me, I will tell them I am gay, but I'm a veteran, and I served my country. I've been in public service my entire adult life. I don't look at a person's background or education or party or religious beliefs. I just look at a person, and I want to help that person, and I think a majority of the people here in the district and across the country are not getting the help that they need to live a better life.

**What will be your priorities if elected?** Education is key for me. I'm a first-generation college graduate, so I know how important it is for someone to have a college education, what that means financially and as far as moving up the social ladder, so education is key. The next big priority would be the economy. My father's a small business owner, and back in the early 90s when the recession hit, he lost his business, and he had to rebuild it. And whenever something happens to the economy, the small business owners are the last people to get help but the first ones affected by the economy, so I want to make sure that small business have a voice and resources available to them, so they can fulfill their dreams of having a small business. And the last thing would be veterans and military since this district has Fort Hood in it and one of the largest VA hospitals in the state, making sure that their needs are addressed approximately.

**What will be your priorities for the LGBT community?** I will support marriage equality. I think that's a big thing. It's something that I think should be a non-issue. I think government and elected officials should be concerned with other things like the economy and educations and veteran's issues, not so much social issues. So anything I can do to support equality from Washington, D.C., I'm going to do that, all across the board, whether it be employment or any type of discrimination. ... I have friends here in Texas who are part of the LGBT community, even my youngest sister, she's gay as well, and I know there's a day, and that's what I'm going to fight for, that we can marry in Texas.

That's definitely something I would like to see in my lifetime, and I know it'll happen. We just need to have a voice in Washington to fight for that. ■

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# Making lives easier for LGBT families

The new executive director of Family Equality Council stops in Dallas for fundraiser and calls his group the LGBT voice for families

**DAVID TAFFET** | News Editor  
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Gabriel Blau calls his work at Family Equality Council personal.

In 2008, he and his husband adopted a child, making them one of the three million LGBT parents in this country. Six million children of all ages have LGBT parents, Blau said.

Family Equality Council supports those families with advocacy work to ensure all families are respected. Blau has been in his position as executive director for just three months and said he was attracted to the organization because of what he called its groundbreaking work. He will be in Dallas on Dec. 6 for a fundraiser at a private home.

Blau described Family Equality Council as the LGBT voice for families.

"We have a crisis in this country," he said. He said there are 400,000 kids in foster care and 100,000 eligible for adoption.

"There are qualified adults but significant barriers to them adopting," he said.

Every study indicates gays and lesbians make excellent parents, but changes to laws don't always reflect those studies, he said, citing a recent amendment to Virginia adoption law. That state recently added what it called a "conscience clause" that allows agencies to discriminate against same-sex or transgender parents.

"If an agency doesn't want any LGBTQ people, they can do that," he said. "It's an awful situation that limits the rights of children looking to have families."

While Texas law doesn't restrict gays and lesbians from adopting, bias at some agencies puts obstacles in the way and lack a nondiscrimination law is a problem.

"Personal bias is the greatest problem across the country," Blau said.

He said that hurts the chances of some children ever finding a permanent home.

"We're the most likely to adopt children not likely to be adopted by anyone else," he said, in-

cluding nonwhite, older and special needs children. "We must put in nondiscrimination laws that put children first."

Blau listed some of the work his organization has done. He said his staff regularly works with state organizations to help write legislation.

In two cases heard by the Supreme Court this year, Family Equality Council submitted briefs entitled "Voices of the Children." He said Justice Anthony Kennedy quoted from the briefs and asked in the Proposition 8 case, "What about the 40,000 children in California with LGBT parents?" The influence of those briefs, Blau said, was critical for the LGBT community.

Blau described work his group has done with the federal government to change forms to make it easier for children with LGBT parents.

For the 2014-15 funding cycle, marital status on student aid forms is no longer relevant for applicants whose same- or different-sex legal parents are living together.

Passport applications now have spaces for two parents instead of a gender-specific mother and father, and Social Security cards are also easier for same-sex parents to get for their children because of forms that recognize various types of families.



**MODERN FAMILY** | Gabriel Blau, right, the new executive director of Family Equality Council is pictured with his husband, Dylan, and son Elijah.

"They're thinking of a broader range of parents now," he said.

Blau said what he does is very simple. He's an advocate for sensible policies that support families but more than anything, he describes himself as a regular dad.

This week he's been traveling, but like any dad with a 5-year-old, the night before he left, he spent time with his son.

They lit Hanukkah candles and as much as he's enjoying meeting LGBT families across the country, he's looking forward to getting home to his family.

*Family Equality Council reception hosted by Bryan Carr and Mark LeDoux, 3828 Alta Vista Lane. Dec. 6. 7-9 p.m. FamilyEquality.org.*

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**HOW YA DOIN'?** | Jordan Small, left, and Joel Mendoza relax during a photo shoot at J.R.'s. The men modeled for the story that discusses how gay men interact on apps. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

■ **APPS**, From Page 6

his apartment at three a.m. but found a suitable place to crash for the night thanks to Grindr; the guy who's new to town and uses Grindr to meet friends. Not to mention the irresistible Grindr-ing-on-a-plane stories.

But for me, Grindr hasn't proven very useful as a tool, sort of like the alligator wrench in the workshop. In the six months I've been on Grindr, it's provided me with a few new Facebook friends, and I reconnected with an old acquaintance for a

pleasant Sunday brunch. Modest gains indeed, given the amount of time I've spent on Grindr.

When you boil it down, Grindr is really just another time-sucking techno toy, another trendy distraction of the Gadget Era, albeit one carrying the faint hope of sex or friendship.

Call me old-fashioned, but I'm nostalgic for the pre-mobile-device days when a night out on the town held the promise of adventure — or at least the unknown. ■

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## What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

**STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

**STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:**

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

## Who should not take STRIBILD?

**Do not take STRIBILD if you:**

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John’s wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

## What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

**Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:**

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

**The most common side effects** of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

## What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.







STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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## Patient Information

### STRIBILD™ (STRY-bild)

(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

### What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

### What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

#### STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

**1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

**2. Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

**You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.**

**3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

### Who should not take STRIBILD?

#### Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

#### Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

**STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.**

### What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

#### STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.



**The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:**

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

**Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.**

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?**

**Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:**

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
  - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:**

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
  - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
  - Antacid medicines that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
  - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
    - amiodarone (Cordarone<sup>®</sup>, Pacerone<sup>®</sup>)
    - atorvastatin (Lipitor<sup>®</sup>, Caduet<sup>®</sup>)
    - bepridil hydrochloric (Vasacor<sup>®</sup>, Bepadin<sup>®</sup>)
    - bosentan (Tracleer<sup>®</sup>)
    - buspirone
    - carbamazepine (Carbatrol<sup>®</sup>, Epitol<sup>®</sup>, Equetro<sup>®</sup>, Tegreto<sup>®</sup>)
    - clarithromycin (Biaxin<sup>®</sup>, Prevpac<sup>®</sup>)
    - clonazepam (Klonopin<sup>®</sup>)
    - clorazepate (Gen-xene<sup>®</sup>, Tranxene<sup>®</sup>)
    - colchicine (Colcris<sup>®</sup>)
    - medicines that contain dexamethasone
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- phenytoin (Dilantin<sup>®</sup>, Phenytek<sup>®</sup>)
- propafenone (Rythmol<sup>®</sup>)
- quinidine (Neudexta<sup>®</sup>)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin<sup>®</sup>)
- rifapentine (Priftin<sup>®</sup>)
- risperidone (Risperdal<sup>®</sup>, Risperdal Consta<sup>®</sup>)
- salmeterol (Serevent<sup>®</sup>) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus<sup>®</sup>, Advair HFA<sup>®</sup>)
- sildenafil (Viagra<sup>®</sup>), tadalafil (Cialis<sup>®</sup>) or vardenafil (Levitra<sup>®</sup>, Staxyn<sup>®</sup>), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca<sup>®</sup>), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek<sup>®</sup>)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend<sup>®</sup>)
- warfarin (Coumadin<sup>®</sup>, Jantoven<sup>®</sup>)
- zolpidem (Ambien<sup>®</sup>, Edlular<sup>®</sup>, Intermezzo<sup>®</sup>, Zolpimist<sup>®</sup>)

**Know the medicines you take.** Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

**Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.**

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to [www.STRIBILD.com](http://www.STRIBILD.com).

Issued: August 2012



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# Chorale members survived AIDS crisis with song



The decades-old tradition of placing poinsettias to remember the singers who died of AIDS will continue at this year's Chorale performance

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

1985. The Turtle Creek Chorale was on its way to becoming one of the foremost men's choruses in the nation. Its sound, founding member Steve Mitchell said, was "exceptional," and the audiences were growing as the group's enchanting name gained recognition.

221985. AIDS hit the chorale. "It was a surreal time in which we were astonished by the fact that this disease was starting to infect our men and that we were starting to lose them," Mitchell said. "We were frightened and depressed."

So, when the first Chorale member became ill, Mitchell didn't want to believe it.

"My fears became stronger when another member became ill," he said. "I hoped and prayed it

was only temporary and that we would not lose any more."

But the disease didn't go away, and the funerals for the members began. Chorale member Robert Emery sang at 120 of them.

"We didn't have time to cry," he said. "We'd go from someone's funeral to someone's hospital room."

The disease ravaged the Chorale, but the members closed ranks and used their voices to fight back. Their music was imbued with the emotion that comes only from the ruins of war, which is how the members thought of the AIDS epidemic.

"We had a war mentality," Emery said, and that attitude helped him cope through the battles that took Chorale members' lives. There came a time when the chorus had lost more members than the 120 men who were singing in the Chorale.

Chorale board member Kevin Hodge remembers that time — a time when he sang with a member one week and then sang at his funeral the next week.

"In a sense, that's how you coped — by singing," he said.

The music healed the souls of the men who were watching their friends die, and Hodge used

it to shore up strength as he sang at the funerals. There were so many funerals that his memories of them are blurry. One of them, though, still echoes in his heart. John Thomas, the executive director of Resource Center, died, and the Chorale raised their voices in remembrance.

"John Thomas' funeral felt like you were singing for this icon who had passed away," Hodge said. "Like you're out of your own body. This can't be real."

Tom Seelig joined the Chorale as artistic director in 1987, and around that time, the tradition of the poinsettias began.

"I do wish I could remember who first thought of a poinsettia," Seelig said. "I do remember that it began early on with a single poinsettia on the piano in memory of those who had passed."

When that number reached 20, the tradition evolved into placing one live plant for each person across the front of the stage.

"The number grew," Seelig said. "At 50, they were crammed across the stage."

Each year, the performance included "All Is Well" and "Silent Night."

"It was something they had sung with us," Emery said.

While the human loss mounted, the Chorale stood strong. Its reputation, like its voice, reverberated throughout Dallas and the country, but people also knew how many members had been lost. Several years into the epidemic, WFAA-TV in Dallas asked to profile the chorus and how it was dealing with AIDS.

"There was quite an uproar among the members," Seelig said. "Many were not out at work. Others were afraid we would become known as 'The AIDS Choir,' and people would make assumptions that 100 percent of the singers were ill."

However, they decided the risks were worth putting a face to AIDS. Soon after, PBS produced a documentary titled *After Goodbye, An AIDS Story* about the Chorale's journey of grief. It won an Emmy Award.

"The chorus never became known as 'The AIDS Choir,' but it did become very well known as one of the most important healing and comforting voices in the community, singing at countless memorial services while taking care of the singers who needed it," Seelig said.

Jamie Rawson, who joined the Chorale in 1994, felt that bond. He remembers when Seelig told the members during a rehearsal that a former singer had died after a long, expensive battle with AIDS.

**TRIBUTE** | Former artistic director Tim Seelig remembers the tradition of poinsettias that began with just one placed on the piano. It has grown to one for each member lost placed on stage. (File photo)



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Join in the tradition of the poinsettia tribute by dedicating a poinsettia of your own in memory of a loved one. Purchase a remembrance poinsettia ornament to hang on the trees of the holiday set.

Remembrance poinsettia ornaments are \$20 each and available at each of the holiday concerts or online at [TurtleCreek.org](http://TurtleCreek.org).



The Turtle Creek Chorale presents *DecemberSong*, its traditional Christmas concert, at Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 12-13 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. McKinney Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Tennessee St., McKinney. Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. *Naughty & Nice: A Very Turtle Christmas II: Liza's Wish List* at Dallas City Performance Hall. Dec. 19-21 at 8 p.m. Tickets at [TurtleCreek.org](http://TurtleCreek.org).

His family didn't have the \$800 to pay for the cremation.

"Tim said, 'We have to help with this one,'" Rawsom remembers. "We were able to collect \$1,300. I've never been a member of a church or any group that had that kind of immediate response. I knew right then and there that The Turtle Creek Chorale would remain an important part of my life whatever else I did and wherever else I might find myself."

Mitchell agrees, and his heart is tethered to the Chorale. He left in 1996 after losing 50 friends to AIDS, but he returned a few years ago.

"After 23 years, I had escaped the infection and saw that people were living with HIV," he said. "Today, I am home with my beloved chorale."

The tradition of the poinsettias, still strong, represent so many of Mitchell's friends who contributed to making the Chorale what it is today. This year, 197 poinsettias will recall members who have died.

"I sing for them," Mitchell said. "I sing for my present brothers, and I sing for the greatness that will come for generations to come." ■

## AIN moves

AIDS Interfaith Network is moving to a new location three blocks from Parkland Hospital.

The new space, at 2707 N. Stemmons Freeway, is on the west side of the the Interstate on the service road between Inwood Road and Medical District Drive.

The relocation is due to the change of ownership and re-development of the property where AIN is currently located. AIN's move will take place later this month, and the new space will be ready in phases.

"The new site will be a great location for our clients," said Steven Pace, executive director of AIN.

Distribution of AIN's bus passes will take place at the new location at the end of December and will not otherwise be affected by the move. However AIN's Daire Center and meals program will be temporarily impacted since part of the move includes dismantling and moving the current kitchen.

"We are notifying clients as we have more information about the days that will be involved," Pace said.

"We believe the new location best positions us for the future of our programs and services." ■

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**I**t's that time of year again! As with any holiday, when families tend to travel away, crime seems to find their way. Christmas is only around the corner and the Dallas County District Attorney's Office would like to offer some safety tips to keep the Grinch from stealing your Christmas holiday.

- ❖ Do not announce publicly on social media that you're about to go on this big getaway vacation with your family. You never know who's lurking at the other end of your profile. One minute you're on a cruise, the next minute a thief will probably break into your home.
- ❖ If you are traveling for an extended period of time during the holidays, advise your neighbor. Advise your relatives. Make sure that someone is keeping a watchful eye on your property.
- ❖ Make your home appear occupied. Attach timers to lights and television sets and set them to turn on and off at different times.

- ❖ When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked it! Always park in a well lit and well traveled area. Do not park in a remote dark area.
- ❖ When storing items purchased at the stores, place them out of sight. The best place is in a locked trunk.
- ❖ Don't resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Don't chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. Instead call 911.
- ❖ December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. Keep a diligent eye on fire hazards.
- ❖ Falling to the ground can hurt. Falling from a ladder can even be deadly. When putting up Christmas decorations, be sure to have a partner to assist you.
- ❖ Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it's easily visible from the street. It's too tempting for a potential criminal to smash the window and grab the wrapped packages.
- ❖ Burglars know to look for the hidden door key near the front entrance. Instead give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.



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# AIDS: Signs of progress, but worries about cuts



**NO WAITING** | President Barack Obama announced that at one time over 9,000 people were on the waiting list for AIDS medication. As of last week, the wait list is cleared. (Photo Courtesy WhiteHouse.gov)

Sequestration and other cuts may affect budgets of AIDS organizations that are seeing more clients and increased demand for services

**LISA KEEN** | Keen News Service  
editor@dallasvoice.com

More than 9,000 people with HIV were on a waiting list for federal assistance in buying their medications in August 2011. On Monday, President Obama announced that, as of this week, that number is down to zero.

"At one time, the need was so great that over 9,000 people were on the waitlist," said the president, at a White House ceremony Monday marking World AIDS Day. "We vowed to get those numbers down. And I'm proud to announce that, as of last week, we have cleared that waitlist. We are down to zero. And we're going to keep working to keep it down."

Carl Schmid, an official at the AIDS Institute who has devoted considerable voice to shining a light on that waiting list, agreed the Obama administration deserves some credit. Schmid said the administration's re-direction of \$35 million in

funding to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) two years ago "really helped" clear the waiting lists.

The vast majority of names on the waiting lists (96 percent) were in southern states. In August 2011, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) showed Florida with 3,751 names on the waiting list; Georgia with 1,718; Louisiana with 961; South Carolina with 896; Virginia with 875; North Carolina with 316; Alabama with 130; Arkansas with 51. The only other states with waiting lists were Ohio with 247, Utah with 40, Montana with 29, and Idaho with 25.

And most of these same southern states have now declined federal funding under the Affordable Care Act to expand their Medicaid programs and to set up state-run exchanges that citizens can use to find affordable health insurance options.

Schmid said the lack of state-run exchanges doesn't hurt so much because people with HIV can seek options through the national exchange. (The AIDS Institute has surveyed the options and is making its recommendations through a mainstream media outlet later this week.)

But the refusal of many states to accept Medicaid expansion does hurt many people with HIV,



said Schmid, because "most ADAP clients are low income, and the majority are below the poverty level."

So, said Schmid, it's just not clear how much money will be needed for ADAP in the future because no one can forecast yet just how many people with low incomes and HIV will be able to get medication assistance under Medicaid or through private insurance in the exchanges.

Schmid and other AIDS activists are also concerned about federal and state budget cuts generally, as well as the looming sequestration cuts that could hit as soon as January. Many analysts are predicting those cuts could be much more dramatic next year than the first round of sequestration cuts that took place this year.

Such AIDS-related funding took on renewed urgency for the LGBT community last week when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported last Friday that, among men who have sex with men (MSM), "Unprotected anal sex at least once in the past 12 months [has] increased from 48 percent in 2005 to 57 percent in 2011." Also in 2011, said the report, MSM "accounted for at least half of persons diagnosed with HIV in all but two states." The two states were Pennsylvania and South Dakota, but even in those two states, MSM still accounted for between 46 percent and 49 percent of HIV infections.

In his World AIDS Day remarks Monday, President Obama signaled he understood that urgency for the LGBT community and others particularly hard hit by HIV.

"We need to keep focusing on investments to communities that are still being hit hardest, including gay and bisexual men, African Americans and Latinos," said the president.

He also announced that the National Institutes of Health would re-direct \$100 million in funds over the next three years toward research seeking a cure for AIDS.

Meanwhile, many of the community's own AIDS organizations are struggling with loss of funding and continued federal budget cuts. A survey of 131 AIDS organizations in 29 states, released by the AIDS Institute in October, found that 85 percent of the groups experienced a drop in funding at the same time that 79 percent of them saw an increase in clients seeking help.

AIDS Institute Executive Director Michael Ruppel said his group was urging "Congress and the President to reverse the cuts caused by sequestration and adequately fund critical public health programs, including those that prevent HIV and provide for care and treatment for people living with HIV."

But it's hard to predict whether there's any chance of that happening.

A House-Senate conference committee working on a budget agreement for FY 14 missed its December 2 deadline. The House is due to leave December 13 for the holidays but leaders on both sides of the aisle have indicated they are still optimistic they can come up with a bottom line for the federal FY 14 budget by next week. From that bottom line point, lawmakers then have until January 15 to work out the details agency by agency. ■

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## What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before **and** who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called “viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA® **does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others: always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids; never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them, do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold, especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. *In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death.* Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

### Who should not take COMPLERA?

**Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines.**

**COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects.** Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

**Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:**

- **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **anti-tuberculosis medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Priftin)
- **proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems:** esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone** or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

**If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines** or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

**In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:**

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Rolaids, TUMS). **These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). **These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxafil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).



## COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

**Ask your healthcare provider if it's the one for you.**

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

**Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- Have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- Have **kidney problems**
- Have ever had a **mental health problem**
- Have **bone problems**
- Are **pregnant or planning to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are **breastfeeding**: Women with HIV should not breastfeed because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

**COMPLERA can cause additional serious side effects:**

- **New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure.** If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch> or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Additional Information about taking COMPLERA:**

- **Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Take COMPLERA with food.** Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace food. If your healthcare provider stops COMPLERA, make certain you understand how to take your new medicine and whether you need to take your new medicine with a meal.)

**Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.**

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with important warnings on the following pages.



**COMPLERA®**  
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Learn more at [www.COMPLERA.com](http://www.COMPLERA.com)



## Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

### COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

#### What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
  - who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
  - who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.

(HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).

- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

#### What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

##### COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
  - feel very weak or tired
  - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
  - have trouble breathing
  - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
  - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
  - feel dizzy or lightheaded
  - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark “tea-colored” urine
  - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
  - loss of appetite for several days or longer
  - nausea
  - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

#### Who should not take COMPLERA?

##### Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
  - **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
  - **anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
  - **proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine** for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
  - more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
  - St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- **If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:**
  - Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
  - Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, Epivir or Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
  - rilpivirine (Edurant)
  - adefovir (Hepsera)

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

##### Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
  - **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. **You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.** Do not breastfeed if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- **COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.



**Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:**

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. If you take an antacid during treatment with COMPLERA, take the antacid **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- a medicine to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). If you take one of these medicines during treatment with COMPLERA, take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines (if taken by mouth or injection):
  - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
  - erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
  - fluconazole (Diflucan)
  - itraconazole (Sporanox)
  - ketoconazole (Nizoral)
  - methadone (Dolophine)
  - posaconazole (Noxafil)
  - telithromycin (Ketek)
  - voriconazole (Vfend)
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidney, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte)

**What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?****COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure**, can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

**The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:**

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

**Additional common side effects include:**

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

**How should I take COMPLERA?**

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with food.** Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink is not a substitute for food. If your healthcare provider decides to stop COMPLERA and you are switched to new medicines to treat HIV that includes rilpivirine tablets, the rilpivirine tablets should be taken only with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA **with food** as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to [www.COMPLERA.com](http://www.COMPLERA.com)

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viewpoints

# Wedding bells ring for ex-gay star

When an ex-gay marries, the opposite-sex spouse is a victim who will get hurt when the ex-gay finally decides to come out again

One can't be an official "ex-gay" rock star until wedding bells ring.

Apparently, this happened for publicity hound Michael Glatze, who married his prop, er bride, Rebekah, recently. The victim is attractive and seems rather sweet. I hope she knows what she's getting into.

Mr. Glatze worked for XY Magazine and was the co-founder of a short-lived LGBT teenie-bopper mag, Young Gay America. Suddenly, he broke up with his boyfriend and had what appeared to be a nervous breakdown, where he had severe panic attacks about dying.

During these disturbing episodes, he renounced his sexual orientation and temporarily converted to Mormonism. Though he had dived into the Mormon faith with gusto, he just as quixotically abandoned this faith to become an outspoken fundamentalist Christian. According to the New York Times magazine:

Michael didn't begin to question his life path, he told me, until a health scare in 2004 that led to what he calls his "spiritual awakening."

That year, when Michael was 29, he experienced a series of heart palpitations and became convinced that he suffered from the same congenital heart defect that killed his father when Michael was 13. (Michael lost both his parents

young; his mother died of breast cancer when he was 19.) After tests eventually ruled out his father's illness, Michael felt that he had escaped death and found himself staring "into the face of God."

In a published interview with Joseph Nicolosi, a leader in the controversial field of reparative therapy, which seeks to help people overcome unwanted homosexual attractions, Michael said that he became "born again" in that moment and that "every concept that my mind had ever entertained — my whole existence — was completely re-evaluated."

It did not take long for Glatze to opportunistically angle to become an "ex-gay" poster boy. He began writing incendiary op-eds for World Net Daily where he claimed to be "repulsed by homosexuality."

He appeared on Porno Pete LaBarbera's radio show. However, his time on the "ex-gay" circuit was short-lived, and he proved to be an incompetent spokesperson. His columns were so beyond the pale, that he alienated long-time "ex-gay" activists.

Eventually, Glatze was drummed out of the "ex-gay" industry after a meltdown. His demise came after he wrote a racist rant against President Barack Obama on his blog.

"Have I mentioned lately how utterly 'disgusting' Obama is? And, yes, it's because he's black. God, help us all," wrote Glatze.

On Nov. 20, 2009, Glatze sent out a bizarre e-

mail saying that he would no longer be a spokesperson. According to Glatze's goodbye e-mail:

"After a lot of praying, I have decided I am NOT meant to be a spokesperson for the cause of healing from homosexuality ... God has given me deliverance from the homosexual sin — but, He is not asking me to stand on a platform, as an ac-

tivist, against my former lifestyle."

After this professional humiliation, Glatze retreated to a small Bible school in Wyoming to become a fundamentalist preacher. His latest anti-gay screed occurred in a May 30, 2013 World Net Daily column, "Homosexuality — the Way God Sees It." Here is what Glatze said:

"To be strong, as men, Christian men must understand that homosexuality is a direct raping of the relationship between Man and God — NOT, as some have

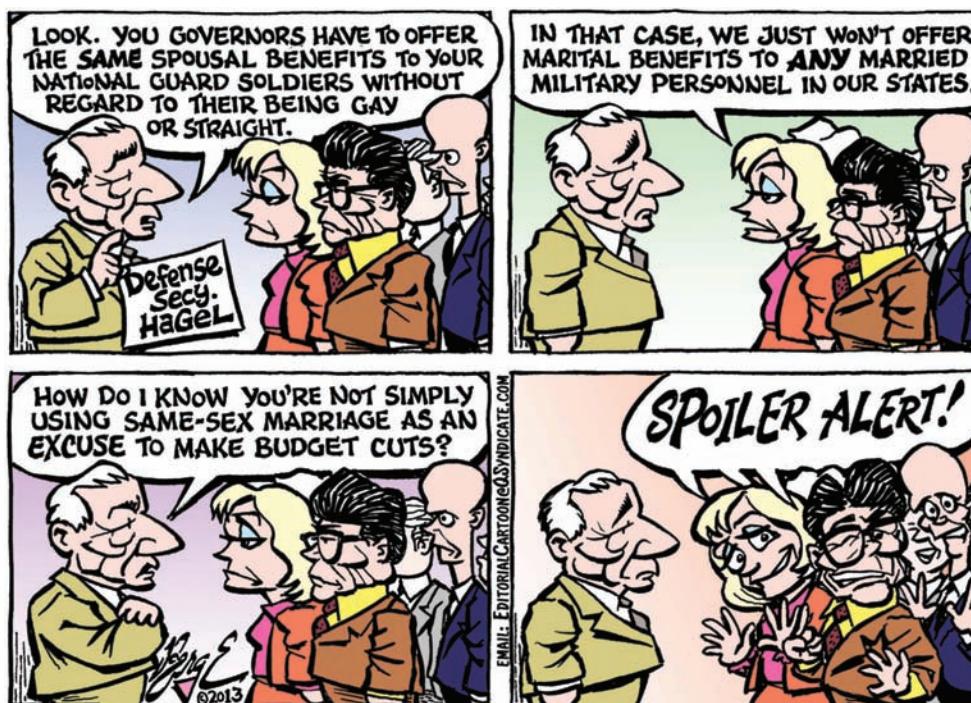
suggested, a perfectly viable sexual 'choice' open to the same freedoms that any other 'consensual choice' seems to have in our relativistic society.

"Sure, Christian truth may not become the law of our land any time soon (though it certainly could), but Christian truth can certainly become the law of our lives — and it should, if we hope to make an impact on our world! God gifted me with a personal walk through homosexuality to the other side. Now, today, I'm happy and living a good, God-honoring life."

It now appears his phony "transformation" has moved on to recruiting an innocent victim as a prop to give credence to his lie. My heart truly breaks for poor Rebekah.



Wayne Besen  
Contributing Columnist



## Speak Out poll

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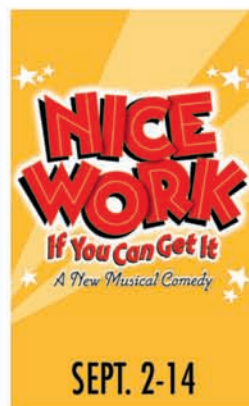
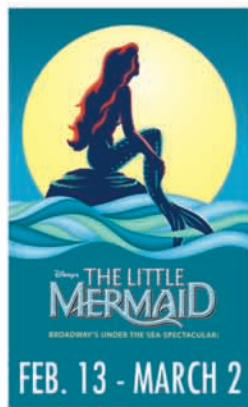
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# Girls on a wire

LIFE+STYLE

music

Dallasite Zilpha Starnes and her partner Dania Abu-Shaheen make beautiful music together — in life and in career

JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer

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This lesbian hook-up story begins, as many do, at Sarah Lawrence College. It was there, in 2005, that a Dallas-bred choirgirl named Zilpha Starnes met a raven-haired, Lebanese poet/songwriter named Dania Abu-Shaheen. At first, the pair made literal music together, as they found an almost-instant chemistry when it came to coming up with unusual, inventive harmony.

The romantic chemistry came later, but come it did. They have now evolved both as a couple and as a duo ever since. As Starnes & Shah, they've produced an acoustic EP and three full-length albums over the years and gathered a large following of music lovers who love the pair's unique blend of folk pop (or is it poppy folk?).

Their most recent disc, *Shilling for Dreamtown*, takes the duo's Indigo Girls-like vibe and blends it with updated touches — Starnes' bubbling synths bob around Shaheen's smart guitar chords, as the pair's voices curl around each other.

Although Starnes and Shaheen now live in upstate New York, the Lake Highland's High School grad says her Texas upbringing has always had an influence on her music.

"There were so many musicians, just in my high school and junior high, and I got to perform with them in a lot of their bands, and that gave me a taste for performing," she said recently in a telephone interview. "The other big element was the opportunities I had to perform at church."

Starnes learned much of her craft, she says, during her time at Lake Highland United Methodist, where she learned to play bass as well as sing. "Religion aside, it was a really great way to remain structured."

Like many North Texans growing up in the '80s and '90s, Starnes was half choirgirl, half Deep Ellum hipster denizen. She and her early bandmates played at The Door, and she also joined other bands at Trees on occasion. She also played in Denton, "at this crazy place called Mabel Peabody's Chainsaw Repair and Beauty Salon and that's where I got my first exposure to the Texas LGBTQ scene."

With a background like that (never let it be said that Texas life isn't diverse), it's no wonder that Starnes & Shah's music is difficult to pigeonhole. The pair, often compared to Tegan and Sara as well as the aforementioned Indigo Girls, doesn't quite fit. To start with, *Shilling for Dreamtown* is no lovesick lady album; rather, it's a thoughtful critique of the musician's conundrum: how to balance creativity (which comes naturally), with the overhyped hustle that comes with trying to achieve "success" (which is so artificial). It's a complicated theme, which is reflected in the pair's approach to music. Their songs are tight, yet expansive, emotional yet cerebral, with a smart pop sensibility and harmonies that come out of nowhere.

While Shaheen writes all the music, the duo has found a collaborative balance that clearly has progressed and changed over the years.

"Once I have the song down as far as lyric and melody, I bring it to Zilpha, and we work out harmonies," Shaheen says, "and a lot of time I may have some ideas for harmonies, or other times Zilpha will have a great idea. And sometimes my ideas for harmonies work out, but more often than not, it's Zilpha's that are better and that trump mine. She has a very unique ear, and she thinks of harmonies that I would never, ever think of."

In some ways, that musical chemistry is even less common than a romantic one, so Starnes and Shah's overlapping connections prove that they are much more rare of a phenomenon: that couple who literally makes great music together.

Even over the phone, their affection for each other is palpable, but Starnes is sweetly pragmatic when she explains how that works: "We're both sort of Type-A," she laughs. "It's so great to have someone else that you're doing something with and you feel like, 'OK, wow! I can do this crazy thing that I set out to do, and I have this other person who's going to help me.'"

She might just very well be talking about music, here, of course, but she might also be speaking of her relationship. Of course, knowing how intricately these two are intertwined, one suspects she's talking about both. ■



COLLEGE SWEETHEARTS | Dallas girl Zilpha Starnes, left, met her partner in life and music, Dania Abu-Shaheen, as all good lesbians do, at Sarah Lawrence College.



# A Glee-ful Sondheim

Doc tries (and succeeds) at summarizing composer in a half-dozen songs



**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Life+Style Editor  
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Theaterfolk know how to showcase a musical number in the best possible way — typically, they don't have the burden of changing settings and special effects like filmmakers do. What you see onstage is what you get.

That's something James Lapine, one of the most acclaimed of all theater directors, knows inherently well. He's the man who directed *Sunday in the Park with George*, re-creating George Seurat's *Afternoon on La Grand Jatte* in a human tableau. The man knows The Wow Factor that a musical number can make if presented in uninterrupted takes with smart, smooth transitions.

Which made him the perfect choice to direct **Six by Sondheim**, a new documentary about Stephen Sondheim, premiering Monday on HBO. Looking back on the history of Sondheim — the most acclaimed and influential composer for the musical theater that the world will probably ever see — Lapine culls together interviews over a 60-year career, eventually boiling down what you need to know about him to six songs from six shows: "Something's Coming" from *West Side Story*; "Sunday" from *Sunday in the Park with George*; "I'm Still Here" from *Follies*; "Being Alive" from *Company*; "Opening Doors" from *Merrily We Roll Along* (which Sondheim declares is his only autobiographical song) and "Send in the Clowns" from *A Little Night Music* (his only hit single as a composer).

So, is it possible to express the totality of a musical career in six four-minute vignettes?

Well, there's more to the film than just that.

Lapine's first smart move is to allow the songs to play out longer than you expect in movies of this kind. We first encounter "Something's Coming" in a Kinescope black-and-white recording of Larry Kert from the original Broadway production. There's no drama to the shot, no movie magic that transports us, like the film would try a few years later. No, instead the power comes from hearing the poignancy behind the lyrics, as Sondheim narrates the fascinating backstory about how he and Leonard Bernstein composed the song in order to set the tone for the rest of the show.

And that's what makes *Six by Sondheim* deliciously consumable for theater queens. Sondheim chokes up recounting the influence Oscar Hammerstein had not just on his career, but his life; he relives the successes as well as the failures; he confesses that, until he met his boyfriend around age 60,

he led a sadly solitary life. It even gives us a rare opportunity to hear Sondheim sing a Sondheim song.

There are compelling clips — Ethel Merman performing "Rose's Turn" onstage, for instance — but the heart of the show is young stars of today re-creating musical numbers in full scenes made for the camera: *Glee*'s Darren Chris, *Ugly Betty*'s America Ferrera, Tony Award fave Audra McDonald and more. (Lapine directs most of the sequences, but filmmaker Todd Haynes takes on an especially quirky version of "I'm Still Here.")

If you thought it was impossible to see these songs afresh, well, that's kinda what *Six by Sondheim* sets out to do. Mission accomplished. ■



**EVEN STEPHEN** | James Lapine, left, directs stars performing the songs of Sondheim, second from left.

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# Hot mess

We got to talk with Britney Spears for 8 crazy minutes. Guess how well it went

CHRIS AZZOPARDI | Contributing Writer  
chris@pridesource.com

It's Britney, bitch.

No, really, it is. She's on the phone. And Britney Spears — the meek, reserved, media-shy entertainer — doesn't get on the phone with press very often these days. For good reason, it turns out.

She's speaking to me from L.A. on a busy day full of frenzied promo leading up to her eighth CD, *Britney Jean*, when she drops the word that elicited eye rolls from some in the gay community.

The word is "adorable," and Spears — who, in a radio interview with San Francisco radio station 99.7 NOW FM, used it to describe her beauty team (they're also "hilarious," she said at the time) — mentions it to me when I ask her how wild the gay boys go when they're in the midst of their pop princess.

"They're adorable," says the 32-year-old pop princess. "Absolutely adorable."

It seems an appropriate time to tell her how that "adorable and hilarious" comment went viral — in the wrong way.

"Wait, what? Who felt the other way?" she asks, sincerely concerned she's offended people, and even a little lost. You get the impression Britney Spears doesn't Google herself. So, I fill her in.

"I would never say anything to be mean to them. I love my gay fans. Gay people are always usually my best friends in the whole world," she says. "I completely adore them."

Considering the pop star's clout in the queermunity, it's obviously mutual. From the then-17-year-old's sexually suggestive breakout hit "... Baby One More Time" (when the once-Mouseketeer, dressed in that iconic Catholic schoolgirl getup, merged childhood innocence with the onset of sexual desire) to "Toxic," easily one of the great gay club jams of the Aughts, Spears has influenced queens of the dancefloor as much as they've influenced her.

"I get inspiration from them on almost all of my songs," Spears says of her gay fans. "They're somewhat girls, so it's so inspiring to do stuff that they like to hear, like the cool 'in' stuff. Whatever I

do for each record is definitely inspired by them."

If you've heard 2007's defiant *Blackout* and its pop-dance follow-up *Circus*, then *Femme Fatale*, you know Britney isn't full of it. These are *really* gay albums. But her gayest? Is it *Britney Jean*?

"I would say so, yes," Spears says, sounding almost unsure, as if the gayness reaches an equilibrium on all her releases (and, really, it does). "I just feel like it has that feeling. You can't really put your finger on it. It just really has that feeling of ... that."

"Work Bitch" has the feeling of "that" — of gay — so much so that Spears herself has said it's a salute to her queer fans. The title is "a term of endearment" and was inspired by gay patter among her pals. What other queer street slang has she picked up from them? She snickers, letting her Louisiana drawl fully flex.

"I don't really know that much. I mean, I hang out with gays all the time. They always surprise me. It changes weekly, you know?" "The slang you learn?" I ask, just to be clear.

"Yeah."

So, maybe Britney *doesn't* watch *RuPaul's Drag Race* on the regular, maybe she isn't out getting all crazy at the gay clubs (she tells me that being a mom doesn't allow for nights out with her friends at queer bars, but before children: "Yeah, always"), but part of her — a part she's not really addressed until now — can empathize with the plight of growing up gay.

"Alien," one of the more self-reflective tracks on *Britney Jean*, al-

ludes to her own feelings of being outcast, of being alone, of being Britney: *Had to get used to the world I was on / While yet still unsure if I knew where I belong / That was then, like an alien.*

"The song is basically about when you're all alone and you feel like you're alienated from the world," Spears says. "I think it's human nature; we all innately do that sometimes and keep to ourselves, and that's what the song is about."

It was with her second album, 2000's *Oops! ... I Did It Again*, with its self-empowerment mantra "Stronger," that she recognized a big gay following. "I really started noticing more coming to the shows," she recalls. "People were emulating my clothes and wearing the same outfits, and it was just really fun."

Through the years, she's met many of these gay boys after shows, where, she says, "a couple of them have told me about their heartbreaks and shared stories about their boyfriends, which has been really kind of sweet."

I tell her we relate to people who fall down and get back up. Britney has seen the bottom on her way to the top. Between 2006 and 2008, she divorced Kevin Federline, fought tirelessly for custody of her two boys and sobered up in rehab. There was the panty-less partying, the British accent, the head-shaving and the time she attacked a paparazzo with an umbrella. Life was bleak for Britney then, and she knew it. (On "Piece of Me," a track off *Blackout*, Spears called herself "Miss Bad Media Karma.")



**OOPS SHE DID IT AGAIN** | You'd think Britney Spears — she of the 55 hours marriage — would welcome the term gay icon and be a vocal advocate for marriage equality. You'd be sort of wrong.





But when she talks about the time she felt alienated, there's no mention of this recent regrettable history. It's clear — not just from our chat, but the rare times she's chatted with a journalist in the last five years — that she doesn't care to look back. For the most part, anyway.

"Since I was in high school, I've been kind of a shy person," Spears admits to me. "Would you say you felt like an outsider then?" I ask back. Her voice drops. "A little bit, yeah."

Because she felt different as a kid (but also, of course, musically) Spears, despite her public ups and downs, has been a mainstay in the queer scene for the last 15 years. I wonder if Britney considers herself what many call her: a gay icon.

"I don't know about that," she says, surprisingly frank. "But I know I do have gay fans."

I remind her that a large part of the community sees her as an icon, an encomium we confer often on trouble straight women: Cher, Judy, Liza, etc. Her response?

"That's nice. I don't know about that."

But surely she's thought about her status in the gay community, right?

"Not really, no."

What about marriage equality? Would Britney like to see her gay friends get married?

"Yeah," she says. Then silence. (I give her the opportunity to elaborate over email after our

phone chat: "Yeah, it would be a special moment." She also writes that she has an "amazing" relationship with them, many of which are her dancers.)

"So you believe gay people deserve equal rights?"

"Yeah," she assures. (Via email: "I think everyone should be treated equally.")

At this point, seven minutes into the conversation, a publicist grabs Britney's attention. Brit needs to be whisked away for a listening session so, "This has to be the last question."

I ask about Las Vegas, where she's launching her two-year residency, *Britney: Piece of Me*, at Planet Hollywood.

"Expect half-naked men," she says, and "look forward to a really good time. They're gonna definitely feel like they're a part of a show."

Milking every second of my scheduled 10 minutes with her by sneaking in one final question, I ask her which girl kiss she preferred: the cheek peck Rihanna gave her during the 2011 Billboard Awards, or the legendary Madonna lip-lock at the Video Music Awards?

There's brief silence, a "thank-you," then a sudden *click*. That's it — our eight minutes together are over.

And just like that, Britney Spears gives exactly what she promised: a piece of her. ■



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**'Rudolph' hosts gay-family matinee**

Rainbow Roundup — a Facebook-based network of gay and mixed families — is always on the lookout for events enjoyable by the whole family, and they've found one in *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical*. Based on the beloved television Christmas special, this stage adaptation (performed weekends at the Majestic as part of the ATPAC series) gives life to Hermy, Yukon Cornelius, Sam the Snow Man and of course that reflective ninth reindeer.

Gay families are invited to join Rainbow Roundup on Facebook and join other members for a Gay Day with Rudolph on Sunday, Dec. 15 for the 2 p.m. matinee.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

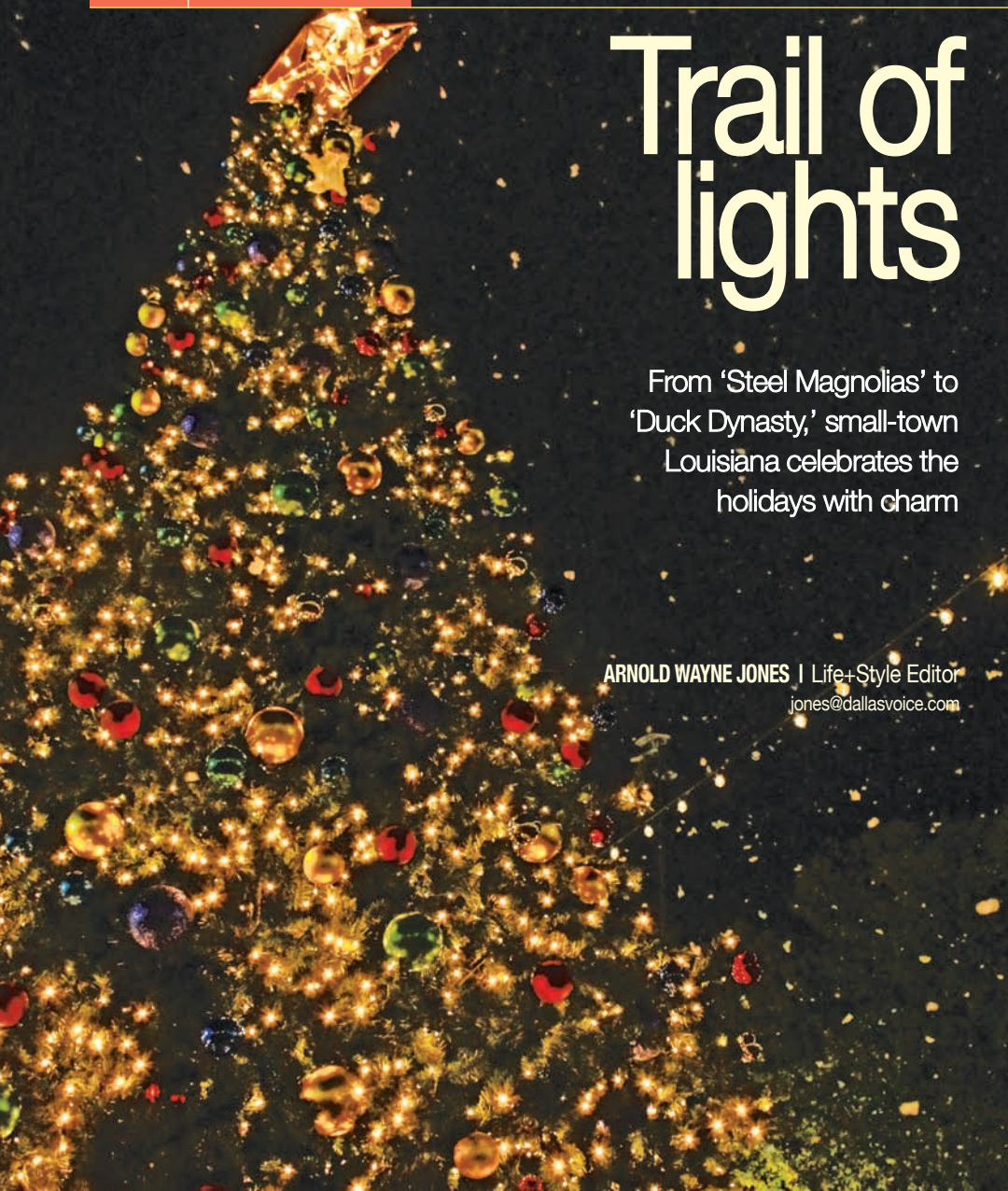




# Trail of lights

From 'Steel Magnolias' to 'Duck Dynasty,' small-town Louisiana celebrates the holidays with charm

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



Texas likes to brag about its size, but truth is, Louisiana has it beat in terms of history. It's not unusual to find homes in the Sportsman's Paradise that predate the siege of the Alamo; the state's oldest city, Natchitoches, is even celebrating its tricentennial in 2014.

You might think this part of the state — or the nation — is more *Duck Dynasty* than *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and you'd be right. But for antiquing and exploring Southern history, Northwest and Central Louisiana, with its gay-friendly bed-and-breakfasts, is a charming weekend jaunt. And there's no better time to get away than the holidays. Now in its eighth year, the Trail of Lights is a circuit of Louisiana burghs — Shreveport-Bossier, Minden, Monroe-West Monroe, Alexandria-Pineville and Natchitoches — that highlight the genteel appeal along this historic triangle. Give yourself two or three nights, and you can cover a lot of ground.

## Friday: Shreveport-Bossier City

For most Dallasites, S-BC is a popular destination for a few days' gambling, but there's more to enjoy there than just the casinos. If you head out from Dallas on a Friday afternoon along I-20

(about a three-hour drive), you can encircle the entire route over a long weekend, starting the tour at the Louisiana Boardwalk, where the city recently inaugurated its Trail of Lights with a 20-foot tree and even a little fake snow. (You can even head over to the newest casino, Margaritaville, which opened in June, or enjoy shopping at the outlet stores just in time for your Christmas list.)

## Friday night/Saturday morning: Natchitoches

Leave early enough, and you'll have time to drive the hour east along I-49 to this impossible-to-pronounce ("nack-a-tdish") colonial town to settle in for the night.

Natchitoches is flush with B&Bs, many of the best and oldest within walking distance of each other. But let's face it: the *best* place for a gay guy to stay is at the Steel Magnolia House, where M'Lynn helped Shelby prepare for her wedding of blush and bashful. (Say it with me: "Pink is ma signature color.") Long a B&B, the building was recently sold, and the new owner will not just continue to operate it as such, but is adding home tours to the menu in case it's booked and

you can't sleep there. We love that more'n our luggage.

Front Street is its main waterside drag, dotted with bars and businesses and views of the light set-pieces along the lake. (They've been doing the holiday lighting ceremony for 87 years; the whole town turns out.) Along the strip, poke your head into Kaffie-Frederick — the oldest general store in America (its celebrating 150 years of continuous operation ... the last 121 in the same location). You can get everything from classic toys (marbles! pick-up sticks!) to a faucet to elegant tree decorations.

For comparison's sake, turn the corner, and you'll see the newest resident along Front: The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, which opened in July. The exterior is immediately identifiable as *not* what you'd expect; the architecture is controversial, but intriguing, and worth a look inside especially.

## Saturday night/Sunday morning: Alexandria-Pineville

After browsing Natchitoches' downtown, continue southeast on I-49 about an hour toward the Alexandria-Pineville area, and you'll encounter more historic homes (most converted to museums) than you can imagine. About halfway there is Creole Country, and its gem, Melrose Plantation. Run for years by a pioneering freedman of color (who, nevertheless, owned slaves), it's dominated by a huge live oak and the legacy of primitive artist Clementine Hunter, whose depictions of plantation life are famous the world over.

Keep going, and grab a bit of lunch at Atwood's Bakery, which serves not only gelati, cookies and pastries but hearty lunches like shrimp and grits, and steak and eggs. From there, drive a few miles to poke into Kent Plantation to see the oldest free-standing structure in Central Louisiana — it was built in 1800. The grounds, which once covered hundreds of acres,

are now concentrated around a courtyard of period buildings including slave quarters, a barn and a sugar cane kitchen. Also nearby is Epps House, the home owned by the notorious slave-owner now best known as the brutal owner of Solomon Northrup, portrayed in *12 Years a Slave*.

For dinner, hit downtown Alexandria, where the Diamond Grill (in a former jewelry store) serves up elegant cuisine, like turtle soup, ribeye Oscar and Aubergine ravioli, plus excellent cocktails. After dinner, despite the darkness, the Alexandria Zoo — one of the most impressive small zoos (just 20 acres) in the region — is a great idea. Boasting white tigers and a new "Land of the Jaguar" South American exhibit (it opened about two months ago), this small but lovely zoo delights guests at night with animal-themed lights displays.

You'll be tired, but it's time to enjoy one of the true highlights of the area: a stay at Loyd Hall Plantation in nearby Meeker. A 650-acre plantation when it was founded in the early 1800s, this manor home has two huge suites in the main house and five more cabins, all with beautiful appointments like china tea cups and rich linens. Miss Beulah Davis oversees the property, and will happily give you a tour and tell you about the ghosts, which will make after-life converts out of diehard skeptics.

## Sunday: Monroe-West Monroe

After gorging on the breakfast spread at Loyd Hall and wandering the grounds, take Route 165 north about two hours to Monroe-West Monroe, another lazy town dense with charm. This is the area where *Duck Dynasty* is filmed (and where its stars live), and discussion about the redneck hit is inescapable (and kitschy fun even if you don't watch it).

Check out the Biedenharn Museum to learn about the man who first bottled Coca-Cola, thereby revolutionizing pop culture. It's a fun little tour, especially for fans of the iconographic



**LIGHT IT UP** | Shreveport-Bossier City recently lit its Christmas tree at the Louisiana Boardwalk to kick off its Trail of Lights, left; while Natchitoches' Steel Magnolia House is a gay Mecca. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas)





here since 2005. Broadway is a divided thoroughfare lit with colorful set-pieces. The trail continues along Main Street, where the local arts center features creative project by local artists and artisans.

A few blocks down, and you're at Second Hand Rose Antiques, curated by west Louisiana's most entertaining living collectible, Miss Milly Rose, who may greet you with a song, stories about locals and Hollywood celebs or even her attention-grabbing Boston terriers. Walk next door for karaoke and damn good Mexican food at Habacu's, with its huge burrito (free if you can finish it — trust me, you can't) and lush, oversized margaritas.

### Sunday night: Back in Shreveport

Minden is only a half-hour from Shreveport, and you'll want to settle in the Shreve for the night with a stay at 2439 Fairfield, a gay-friendly bed-and-breakfast in the historic Fairfield District of the town. Build in 1905, for the past 26 years the house has been owned and operated by Jimmy Harris, a former Dallasite with a flair for Laura Ashley-ish decor. Each room has its own balcony and water-jet bathtub, and the "breakfast" part is an elaborate spread that ends with fried pies (the lemon and the coconut cream are decadently good).

Monday morning after breakfast, say goodbye to Mr. Jimmy, and wander the adorable homes in the area or drive over to Tony's Liquors for his famous frozen eggnog daiquiris. Then head back to Dallas to sort through your trove of antiques, photographs and memories. ■

beverage and its associated paraphernalia.

The neighboring Biedenbarn house — now a garden and museum, known as the prettiest home in Monroe — has the Old Southern gentility of a city like Savannah (it even abuts a park called Forsyth). The home is lovely, and even houses a Bible museum that's actually very interesting. Nearby Chennault Aviation Museum is surprisingly interesting, tributing the Commerce, Texas-born aviation pioneer Claire Chennault, as well as the origins of Delta Air Lines; you can even see a real moon rock.

For lunch, Big Momma's Fine Foods serves soul food with classic fried chicken and a hot water cornbread that's as awesomely addictive as a dessert. Afterward, head over to West Monroe's Antique Alley for more of the Trail of Lights. This five-block stretch contains numerous collectible and curio shops (my favorite, Southern Style Antiques, has great prices and a humorous take on *Duck Dynasty* with a window that rivals Barney's). The Spice & Tea Exchange creates and sells all manner of curries, flavored sugars, artisan salts and more.

At one end of the alley is Hamilton House Inn, a recently renovated town-home B&B with four rooms, one designed by the owners son; it's gay-friendly and reasonably priced.

### Sunday: Minden

After a stint in Monroe, drive west along I-20 to Minden. If the town looks familiar, it might be because this collection of Queen Anne-style homes — founded in 1836 — has had 23 movies filmed



**HOME SWEET HOME** | Biedenbarn House in Monroe boasts lovely grounds, above; stunning B&B Loyd Hall Plantation near Alexandria offers gorgeous appointments, top. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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# Going off on a Lark

Trendy newcomer Lark on the Park lack point of view

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



You could probably start a cottage industry coming up with trendy ways to describe current food themes. “Raw vegan organic.” “Seasonal modern.” “Farm-inspired food.” And the most dreaded, “New American cuisine.” But here’s a secret truth: Nobody really knows what these terms mean. They use them anyway, because they sound like something people will gladly wash down with a \$14 glass of wine.

Lark on the Park falls, more or less, into that trap. “Contemporary urban with global influences” is how it describes its style on the website, but that’s just another meaningless term masking a flibbertigibbet of styles. Whereas other restaurants have successfully turned the idea of farm-to-fire ingredients into unique and interesting dishes with a fresh flourish — chef-driven, buzzy places like FT33 or Oak — Lark feels like

an orphan in search of its parental figure, craving acceptance but not knowing what it wants.

Deciphering what chefs Melody Bishop and Dennis Kelley are trying to accomplish with this room is like reading hieroglyphs in a dark chamber of a musty pyramid. Assigning Lark a catchall “global cuisine” sobriquet doesn’t sufficiently explain anything — not the decor, not the ambiance, not the food.

Let’s start with its look, which is pleasant but unimpressive. The entrance takes you past a beer wall that suggests a gastropub (another squishy generic that’s been woefully overused). The placement subtly suggests the food is secondary to the beverage program, but that hasn’t been my experience.

The bar area opens up into a large, nondescript dining room where tables are bivouacked into neatly aligned rows that suggest a military



**WHAT’S SO SPECIAL** | A meaningless mesclun salad encroaches on the tough, chewy cut of steak with a banal chimichurri and woefully over-salted French fries. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

mess hall more than a fine-dining option near Klyde Warren Park. (Including in its name “on the park” is a generous extravagance — it’s located on the ground level of the north side of the Woodall Rodgers access road and views of the grassy deck are fleeting, especially if you’re seated in one of the inward-facing seats.) The walls are covered in blackboards on which are sketched both menu items and original art — all of it in grade-school white chalk, as if color might distract us from the food.

And that’s simply not going to happen. Lark reflects the Balthazar-ization of bistro dining: Throw some French words like *steak frites* and *salad Nicoise*, add an onion tart and maybe a soufflé or cheese board to the dessert list, take a puckish approach to décor and *boom!* Declare yourself *Café Nouvelle Américain en Provence*. But it doesn’t feel authentic, and there’s no sense of follow-through. Everything seems arrested mid-concept.

Of course, cheesy marketing and banal interiors don’t automatically equate to a lack of competence in the kitchen, but they are symptomatic of a muddled point of view which is evident in the dishes. That Lark Nicoise salad (\$17), for example — with its grilled rare tuna and flavorful tapenade — is certainly a more-than-adequate iteration of a familiar, protein-rich entrée salad. But it never approaches the level of “signature dish” that would get me coming back, and when you have a fairly limited menu like Lark does, not at least trying to make every dish a highlight manifests a lack of personality, not to say of vision.

The steak frites (\$18) was another unambitious misfire. Order a steak, and you expect beef to be the centerpiece of the plate; not so here. Dominating my dish was the modern equivalent of that ‘70s-era omnipresent parsley: the mesclun salad. Tossed with a pedestrian vinaigrette, this messy pile of greenery in no way incorporates itself into the entrée, crowding out the meat and encroaches on the criminally over-salted French fries like kudzu over Georgia farmlands. If the idea was to give the plate a blast of color, the steak itself already had some from the

chimichurri — a blast of color yes, though not a blast of taste. The chimichurri was a pallid, under-developed sauce that couldn’t hide much about this surprisingly tough preparation.

On another visit, my dining companion ordered the hanger steak, also known as “the butcher’s cut” for its combination of tender muscle and light marbling, but even though he ordered it medium, it came out medium rare; the seasoning was spot-on, however. But at \$29, it should arrive to the table as ordered. Another dining companion enjoyed, but refused to rave over, the diver scallops (\$29).

Lunch and dinner menus are quite different, though they have cognates. Both offer antipasti boards (\$13), where the burrata is always the star. At lunch, the queso fundito (\$10) is addictive, as all queso fundito should be.

The moo krob (\$24) may have been the best item I’ve tried at Lark. Yes, pork belly — even luscious cuts brushed with a spice-sweet glaze — have passed their trendy-dining shelf-life, but this thick, fatty and perfectly seasoned slab retained its juicy flavor and was an ideal autumn-eve cockle-warmer. A side of coleslaw, though slightly spicier (think kimchi-lite), didn’t meld as well as did the sticky rice.

Service doesn’t stand out at Lark, either. While everyone on staff was pleasant, at one visit it seemed like five different people were waiting on us, and no one ever introduced themselves as our server. Maybe that’s not part of the ethos with New American cuisine. Or a park-adjacent Euro-kitchen. Or contempo-global food. Who knows? Nobody, that’s for sure.

## TangoTab helps feed those in need — and you save!

It’s that time of year when having a hot meal seems even more important. That’s a concern of Dallas-based TangoTab, too. The smartphone app has done something clever: Bridging the gap between giving diners deals and feeding the needy.

Here’s how it works: Download to app (it’s free) and the next time you’re interested in eating out, simply open it and choose from a variety of deals offered by local restaurants (among them **Salum** and **Komali**): Maybe it’s \$10 off lunch, or half-price appetizers on a Tuesday. Click on the deal you want and voila! Just show your phone to the server when you order and you save some bucks. That’s when TangoTab goes to work, donating a meal to the less fortunate. Since its inception, TangoTab has already provided more than 200,000 meals to the North Texas Food Bank. It’s a win-win-win for diners, restaurants and the hungry: When you eat, they eat. It’s like Tom’s Shoes for the tastebuds. And just by downloading the app now until the end of the year, the company will feed two people. That’s something to be thankful for.

— A.W.J.



## OVERALL RATING ★★☆☆☆

**Lark on the Park**, 2015 Woodall Rodgers. Open daily for lunch and dinner. 214-855-LARK. [LarkOnThePark.com](http://LarkOnThePark.com).

The best item (pork belly) is a throwback to contemporary dining five years ago, and that summarizes what’s wrong here: Competent, derivative, unremarkable.

**Food:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Atmosphere:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Service:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Price:** Moderate to expensive



# Buckin' Buick



Forget the celebrity pitchman — the Verano Turbo has mad road skills

**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
crvauto@aol.com

Just because Shaq and Peyton Manning are getting to know Buick, doesn't mean anybody else wants to. I mean, do we *really* think Shaq and Manning are really going out to their big circle drives and hopping behind the wheels of \$30,000 entry-luxury American sedans? I'm saying, "No."

But drivers looking for authentic luxury *should* get to know the Buick Verano Turbo, the sportiest Buick this side of a Grand National.

Approach it and you may think you've been with it. If the point was to give the smallest Buick the cachet of the larger ones, it worked. From the front, Buick's waterfall grille, blue light rings, and chrome ventiports on the hood connect it to more expensive siblings. Side swooshes come from the Regal, but the rear chrome eyebrows over the taillamps are unique to Verano. I like the cool little front side windows, but the rear upturn took a few more minutes to adore (not sure I do yet). A subtle rear spoiler, chrome exhaust tip, and 18-in. alloys give the Turbo attitude.

Plop inside and it becomes clear Buick is not about to become the next Volkswagen. It's comfortably American. Authenticity comes in the details like the heated leather-wrapped steering wheel, thick heated leather seats and French stitching on the dash. Ice blue-lit gauges and controls convey contemporary Buick style, as do woodgrain and aluminum finishes on the dash and doors. The available "Choccachino" theme, with contrasting cocoa brown leather, lighter beige trim, and aqua stitching in the seats is delicious. Everything gives the sense it was knitted on *Project Runway*.

Technology entices all persuasions. Bose audio

sounds crisp and clear; Bluetooth connects phones and music. Dual-zone automatic climate control and a tilt/telescoping steering column spoil. Buick's IntelliLink system enables voice recognition for calling and access to Pandora Internet Radio, Stitcher SmartRadio, SiriusXM and MP3 players through the USB port.

Take a closer look at the interior and you'll find a surprise under the driver's dashboard: A third pedal for clutching the six-speed manual transmission. It's all connected to a 250-horsepower 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine from the awesome-cool Buick Regal GS.

You have to rev it hard to get power out of it, and the rev limiter is a tough master, but with practice, you can get a real thrill. Greenies will enjoy the 20/31-MPG fuel economy ratings.

Verano is fast, but it's not really a sport sedan. The suspension is tuned for comfort over carving twisties, but it coasts over rough pavement unflustered. Shifter action is a little clunky and I'm not sure who thought it was a good idea to put the reverse release right where your fingers want to flick the stick. It's cumbersome, but works well once you become acclimated.

Not everybody wants a stiff ride and most aren't looking for a German sport sedan. It comes up against the Volkswagen Jetta GLI, Acura ILS, Chrysler 200 and the new Mercedes CLA. Buick carved a place by not pretending to be anything other than what it is — a stylish American sedan, sized and tuned for the times. Whether that will be enough has yet to be determined, but Buick definitely put its best wheels forward. Get to know the Verano Turbo. All in, expect to pay \$30,795. ■

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# Sapphic in the South

Gay photographer Carolyn Sherer explores gender identity in new exhibit 'Living in Limbo'

LIFE+STYLE

fine art

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer  
stevencraiglindsey@me.com



For much of her professional career, fine art photographer Carolyn Sherer turned her camera lens on portraiture, often addressing issues of identity of the people she shot. But she often kept her own lesbian community at a distance.

That changed last year when she created an exhibition of portraits, now at the African American Museum, called *Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South* is an intimate showing of studio portraits of 40 lesbian families with roots in the Birmingham, Ala., area — Sherer's base of operations.

It was a shocking personal experience that triggered Sherer's decision to pursue the project.

"The collection was created in response to a friend's mistreatment when her long time partner died, and straight friends expressed surprise that the women were a couple and that as such they had no legal rights as a family," Sherer says. "Our community had been living in a 'don't ask, don't tell' atmosphere, and I realized that our silence made us complicit. The challenge was to put a face on our community in a way that respected the fact that many still risked loss of jobs, family acceptance and child custody if their sexual identity was revealed."

Her process was straightforward: Couples (and their children, if they had any) were given the choice of facing the camera or turning their backs to it (either to maintain their anonymity or to signify something else, such as their invisibility to the heterosexual world). Sherer then told them to focus their feelings on three words — lesbian, Pride and prejudice — while she snapped the shot.

"They dressed as they wished, and although given a target mark in the studio, decided for themselves how to stand and interact with each other," Sherer explains.

Reaction to the exhibit was quickly favorable, even in Red State Central.

"Remarkably, the collection was already on the walls of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute when the NAACP and President Obama endorsed the right for same gender marriage," Sherer says. "Although LGBTQ families still lack a single legal right in Alabama, the business community supported *Living in Limbo* and the very existence of the portraits in public space provided transformative social conversation in the community at large."

The traveling exhibition is hosted by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as part of their mission to promote human and civil rights

worldwide through education, which is how the photographs ended up at the African American Museum in Dallas.

"They intentionally present visual art forms that help people understand the diverse African American experience," Sherer says.

Turning a critical eye to her own work, Sherer is able to pick her favorite photos.

"*The Anonymous Family* with four children with their backs to the camera wearing green and gray, and *Hassan, Cadesia, Lee, Joette and Toni* are my two favorites because they represent the most frequently occurring LGBT family in Alabama: black lesbian couples with children from previous heterosexual relationships," she says. "Couples that struggle with discrimination due to their race, gender, and sexual identity, and frequently poverty. I also love the image of the young military couple embracing. It was created after the repeal of the military policy of 'don't



**WOMEN IN LIMBO** | Among the favorite shots of Sherer, above, are the one portraying a 'typical' lesbian family, far left, and that of a soldier who, even after repeal of DADT, feared showing her face.

ask, don't tell," yet the soldier still did not feel safe revealing her identity."

Another nuance uncovered during her interaction with the subjects was the difference in perception of identity based on age.

"Older women like myself were generally more fearful and raw about their experiences of discrimination. The younger group seemed to demonstrate a healthy entitlement to family life as they imagined it," she says.

But no matter the age, race, gender or sexual identity of the exhibition's viewers, Sherer has one goal that underlies it all: "I hope that people will see that love and family looks the same for everyone, and be motivated to treat all families with respect and dignity." ■

## LIVING IN LIMBO

African American Museum,  
3536 Grand Ave. in Fair Park.  
Through Feb 28.  
LivingInLimbo.org.  
AAMDallas.org.

## ASK HOWARD: How to do what's wrong right

Dear Howard,

Would you mind please revealing what the *most* given reason is that you, personally, receive from people who justify *not* coming out voluntarily as gay in this day and age, especially now that we're well past those HIV "automatic" death-sentence, dark ages of the '80s and '90s? — Frank

Dear Frank,

I do not mind at all: The No. 1 reason I get for anyone not come out of the closet voluntarily is, quixotically, the very same reason that it has always been throughout human history: "I do not want my mother to find out I'm gay — it would 'kill' her" — despite the fact that such revelation has never "killed" a single loving mother, nor even left a loving mother mortally wounded.

Your mom loves you; she'll get over it.

— Howard Lewis Russell





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Friday 12.06

Late night gets campy with 'The Rocky Horror Show: Christmas Edition' in Grapevine

Ohlook Performing Arts in Grapevine specializes in a mix of family-friendly shows and edgy stuff aimed often at a gayish audience. This month, the company revives its hit production about the sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania, *The Rocky Horror Show*, with a Christmas twist. It plays weekends late-night, costumes are encouraged and it's BYOB. A toast!

**DEETS:** Ohlook's Black Box, 1631 Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Dec. 6-21. OhlookPerform.com.



Friday 12.06

DTC brings 'Christmas Carol' back to Arts District

For years, theatergoers would trek to a gravel parking lot and step inside a makeshift theater space to see Dallas Theater Center's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* in the old Arts District Theater. That structure was razed nearly 10 years ago to make way for the Winspear and the Wylie while *Carol* settled in at the Kalita in Uptown. Well, the show is finally back Downtown, with a new adaptation from DTC's gay artistic director, Kevin Moriarty. But not everything is different — it still stars Liz Mikel.

**DEETS:** Wylie Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.



Saturday 12.07

'Normal Heart' gets staged reading in honor of World AIDS Day

It was just two weeks ago that the Cathedral of Hope performed its version of Larry Kramer's acclaimed, angry play about the fight for rights for the HIV-positive, *The Normal Heart*. But who would complain about another version coming this weekend, especially with World AIDS Day taking place earlier this week. This production, a fundraiser for AIDS Arms, takes place at Theatre 3 with a Saturday matinee.

**DEETS:** Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. 2 p.m. Contributions requested. Theatre3Dallas.com.



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## calendar



**SUMMERTIME AT CHRISTMASTIME** | The recent hit Broadway revival of 'Porgy and Bess' — which in New York featured Dallasite Cedric Neal — opens at the Winspear.

## ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

### THEATER

**The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told.** B.J. Cleveland directs Paul Rudnick's sassy retelling of the Bible with a gay twist. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 15. UptownPlayers.org.

**A Tuna Christmas.** Theatre Arlington presents this cross-dressing comedy about small-town Texas during the holidays. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Dec. 22. TheatreArlington.org.

**Race.** David Mamet's controversial play gets its local premiere from Kitchen Dog. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through Dec. 14. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**Other Desert Cities.** Gay playwright Jon Robin Baitz's domestic comedy-drama gets its regional premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. Through Dec. 15. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Many Faces of Women: The Monologues.** A new local play about women. Margo Jones Theater at Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. *Final weekend.* \$15-\$20. StylingDivaProductions.com.

**Romeo and Julieta.** Cara Mia presents Shakespeare's tragedy in its original English, with contemporary Spanish added. The Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Dec. 6-21. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

**A Christmas Carol.** For the first time since moving into the Wyly, the Dallas Theater Center returns to the Arts District with an all-new production of their seasonal staple, adapted and directed by Kevin Moriarty. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**It was the Night Before Christmas.** A new musical from Dallas Children's Theater, based on the Clement Moore poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 22. DCT.org.

**The Nutcracker.** Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts performs this marionette show at Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 22. DCT.org.

**The Beulaville Baptists Book Club Presents a Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!** MBS Productions' annual comedy about a small-town *Nutcracker* that's racier than expected. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 29. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

**Three Little Pigs.** Theatre Britain's annual Christmas

panto, a beloved holiday tradition in England, always with a campy, cross-dressing twist for adults. The Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 29. Theatre-Britain.com.

**Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical.** Stage adaptation of the classic carol. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Through Dec. 29. ATPAC.org.

**The Rocky Horror Show: Christmas Edition.** Edgy Ohlook revives its hit cross-dressing camp musical, with a holiday twist, with late-night performances; coming in costume is encouraged. And it's BYOB. That's something we can toast! Ohlook's Black Box 1631 W. Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Fridays and Saturdays at 11 p.m. \$15. Through Dec. 21. OhlookPerform.com.

**Jubilation: The Christmas Musical.** Jubilee Theatre presents this holiday production. 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 29. JubileeTheatre.org.

### BALLET

**Ben Stevenson's The Nutcracker.** Texas Ballet Theater presents this timeless classic from Tchaikovsky, with performances in Dallas and Fort Worth. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Dec. 8. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 14-27. TexasBalletTheater.org.

### FINE ART

**Jim Hodges: Give More Than You Take.** A living retrospective of the gay artist's eclectic work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 12. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**Hopper Drawing: A Painter's Process.** The towering 20th century painter Edward Hopper is revealed in a collection of pencil drawings and sketches that inform his creative choices. Includes several finished paintings, including the iconic *Summertime*. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 16. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals.** The controversial Chinese artist re-imagines zodiac figures of the Chang Dynasty. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through March 2. Free. CrowCollection.org.

**The Jerry Lee Musslewhite Collection of Korean Art.** The late docent at the Crow, also a devoted collector of Korean art, left behind this exquisite collection of pottery, stoneware and furnishings from Korea's storied past. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Aug. 24. Free. CrowCollection.org.



**Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South.** Photographs portraying same-sex couples and often their children. African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. Through Feb. 28. AAMDallas.org.

**Angels in DeGolyer.** The Arboretum presents this collection of 400 works focusing on angels for its Holiday at the Arboretum. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through Dec. 31. DallasArboretum.org.

**Out of the Shadows: Gay America from Kinsey to Stonewall.** A first-of-its-kind show from the Stonewall Museum. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107. *Final weekend.* ilumeGallerie.com.

**JFK/The '60s.** Featured artist Kat will have 25 paintings on display in time to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Assassination. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107. Through Dec. 14. ilumeGallerie.com.

## SATURDAY 12.07

### COMEDY

**Bob Newhart.** Performing Fort Worth presents the legendary comedian in concert. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$27.50. BassHall.com.

### THEATER

**The Normal Heart.** A one-time-only staged reading of Larry Kramer's Tony Award-winning play about the early days of the AIDS crisis, presented in conjunction with World AIDS Day and benefiting AIDS Arms. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. 2 p.m. Theatre3Dallas.com.

## MONDAY 12.09

### COMMUNITY

**Are You Smarter Than a Drag Queen?** The sassy game show is back, with more games and a cash prize. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY 12.11

### THEATER

**The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess.** The national tour of the recent Tony Award-winning Broadway revival of the American operatic classic. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 11–22. ATTPAC.org.

## THURSDAY 12.12

### THEATER

**Sweater Curse: A Yarn About Love.** Dallas Observer theater critic Elaine Limer heads to the other side of the footlights for her one-woman show about knitting. MCL Grand Theater, 110 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Dec. 12–15. \$15. OurProductionsTheatreCo.org.

### CONCERTS

**Turtle Creek Choral: December Song.** Dallas' gay men's chorus performs its concert of tradition holiday music and two venues around the Metroplex. (The campy Naughty & Nice concert arrives soon with separate performances.) City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. McKinney Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Tennessee St., McKinney. Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. TurtleCreek.org.

 **browse**

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

 **submit**

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit](http://Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit).

## REVIEW: 'Three Little Pigs'

Around this time every year, I check my adult sensibilities at the door, walk into the Cox Building Playhouse in Plano and allow myself to be distracted by the childlike appeal of one of The-



atre Britain's traditional Christmas pantos: A Kids' show (constructed around a familiar fairy tale) that is surprisingly jam-packed with gay humor. (OK, so maybe I don't leave my adult side *completely* behind.)

A panto always has its share of cross-dressing, with the young male lead played by a woman (*a la Peter Pan*) and the main comic character, called The Dame, portrayed by a man in outrageous drag. This year's entry, **Three Little Pigs**, gives the Dame (here, Miss Slightly Dotty, played by Bill Betsill, pictured) an especially saucy costume and a much bigger role — she's less comic relief than comic engine, flirting with men in the audience with the kinds of double entendres that go over the heads of all kids and give the parents something racy to laugh at.

And laugh you will, from 4 to 74. This *musical*, set in the Old West, casts the pigs boot-scootin' slob-kicked out by Miss Dotty and forced to apply for land grants to build their homes. It's silly stuff, with lots of audience participation; this year's villain, the Big Bad Wolf, is played listlessly, without much villainy or charm. Eh. They expect you to boo at the baddies anyway, and plot is hardly the point; family fun is.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H. Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 29. Theatre-Britain.com.

## this week's solution

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**AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK** — 501 N. Stemmons, #200, Dallas 75207; 214-943-4444 (Programs), 214-941-7696 (Administration); aidsinterfaithnetwork.org.  
**AIDS OUTREACH CENTER** — 400 North Beach Street; Fort Worth, 76111; www.aoc.org; 817-335-1994.  
**AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT** — 400 S. Zang, Dallas 75208; 214-645-7300, 214-645-7301.

**\*AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS** — 400 S Zang Blvd, Dallas 75208; 214-941-0523; aidsdallas.org

**AIDS SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS** — 4210 Mesa, Denton 76207, 940-381-1501; 2540 Ave. K, Ste 500, Plano 75074, 972-424-1480; 3506 Texas, Greenville 75401, 903-450-4018; 102 S. First, Rockwall 75087; 800-974-2437; aidsntx.org.

**EXHALE SERVICES** — 405 S. Elm, Denton 75201; 940-484-2516.

**GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND, INC.** — P.O. Box 29091, Dallas 75229; 972-423-9093; gdmfaf.org.

**\*LEGACY COUNSELING CENTER & LEGACY FOUNDERS COTTAGE** — 4054 McKinney, #102, Dallas 75204; 214-520-6308; legacycares.org.

**\*LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS** — 1825 Market Center Blvd. #550, Dallas 75207; 214-521-6622; legalhospice.org

**\*NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER** — 4012 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219; 214-528-2336; rcdallas.org/nthrchr.html.

**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS HIV PLANNING COUNCIL** — 1101 S. Main, #2500; Fort Worth 76104; 817-321-4743 (Office), 817-321-4741 (Fax); notexasaids.com.

**POSITIVE VOICES COALITION** — 8099 Pennsylvania Ave., Ft. Worth; 817-321-4742; notexasaids.com.

**PROJECT ESPERANZA** — 5415 Maple, #422, Dallas 75235; 214-630-0114.

**\*RESOURCE CENTER** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5124; resourcecenter-dallas.org.

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**TURTLE CREEK CHORALE AIDS FUND** — P.O. Box 190409, Dallas 75219; 214-394-9064; tccadfsfund.org

**WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY** — 9353 Garland Rd., Dallas 75218; 214-320-0043; whiterockchurch.org.

## ■ EDUCATION

**ALLIES** — 3140 Dyer #313, Dallas 75205; 214-768-4796; smu.edu/womenscenter/allies.

**\*DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY** — 1515 Young, Dallas 75201; 214-670-1400; dallaslibrary2.org.

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**SPECTRUM** — 3140 Dyer Suite 313, Dallas 75275; 214-768-4792; people.smu.edu/spectrum.

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS ALLY PROGRAM** — 940-565-2000; ally@unt.edu; ally.unt.edu.

## ■ MEDIA

**\*DALLAS VOICE** — 4145 Travis, 3rd Floor, Dallas 75204; 214-754-8710; dallasvoice.com.

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## ■ POLITICAL

**DALLAS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS** — 4145 Travis St.; #204; DallasSYD.org

**LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF DALLAS COUNTY** — P.O. Box 541712; DALLAS 75354-1719; lpdallas.org.

**LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS** — P.O. Box 191033, Dallas 75219; 214-346-2115; robschlein@aol.com; dallas.logcabin.org.

**STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS** — P.O. Box 192305, Dallas 75219; 214-506-DEMS(3367); stonewalldemocrat-sofdallas.org.

**STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON COUNTY** — P.O. Box 3086, Denton, 76202; 972-890-3834; info@stonewalldemocratsofdentoncounty.org; stonewalldemocratsofdentoncounty.org.

**TARRANT COUNTY STONEWALL DEMOCRATS** — P.O. Box 11956, Fort Worth 76110; 817-913-8743; info@tarrantcountystonewalldemocrats.org; tarrantcountystonewalldemocrats.org.

## ■ PROFESSIONAL

**ALLIANCE OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS** — 214-526-2085.

**CATHEDRAL BUSINESS NETWORK** — 214-351-1901 (x304); cbn.info@cathedraiofhope.com; cathedralofhope.com/cbn.

**DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN BAR ASSN.** — 214-540-4460; adamseidel@aol.com; dgjba.org.

**GLOBE** — P.O. Box 50961, Dallas 75250; 972-308-7233; marie.garza@irs.gov; fedglobe.org.

**IBM EAGLE** — eagleibm@earthlink.net.

**LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS** — 2701 Reagan 75219; 214-957-2011; lambdapride@freetoasthost.us; http://reports.toastmasters.org/finderclub.

**LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS** — info@leadershiplambda.freetoasthost.com; http://leadershiplambda.toastmastersclubs.org.

**LGBT LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS** — www.lgbtlawtx.com, 800-204-2222 x 1420.

**NORTH TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** — 3824 Cedar Springs Rd., Suite 101-429, Dallas, 75219, 214-821-GLBT; http://glbtchamber.org.

**OUT & EQUAL DFW** — www.outandequal.org/dallas-fort-worth, DFW@outandequal.org.

**TI PRIDE NETWORK** — 12500 TI Blvd., MS 8683, Dallas, 75243, 214-480-2800, tipridenetwork-officers@list.ti.com.

## ■ SERVICES

**BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.** — 3878 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 100-B #321, Dallas 75219; 972-733-9200; blacktie.org.

**COLLIN COUNTY GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE** — P.O. Box 860030 Plano, TX 75086-0030; 214-521-5342 (x1715); info@ccgla.org; ccgla.org.

**DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE** — 3100 Main, #208, Dallas 75226; 214-734-8007; dallassouthernpride.com.

**DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB** — P.O. Box 191153, Dallas 75219; 214-428-3332; dfwfederalclub.org.

**DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE** — P.O. Box 190712, Dallas 75219, 214-528-0144; info@dglja.com; dglja.com.

**DALLAS TAVERN GUILD** — 214-571-1073; michaeldoughman@sbqglobal.net; dallastavernguild.org.

**\*JOHN THOMAS GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-528-9254; Phil Johnson Historical Archives and Library; 214-540-4451.

**GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS** — 3818 Cedar Springs Rd. 101, #371, Dallas 75219; glfd.org; 214-421-8177; volunteers@glfd.org.

**GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD** — 214-528-0022; rcdallas.org/glc.c.html.

**HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF NORTH TEXAS** — 214-855-0520; info@hrionline.org; hrionline.org.

**LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, SOUTHWEST REGION** — 3500 Oak Lawn, #500, Dallas 75219; 214-219-8585; lambdalegal.org.

**LEGACY OF SUCCESS FOUNDATION, INC.** — P.O. Box 700072, Dallas 75370; heritagcelebrationdfw.org.

**TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK ASSOCIATION** — P.O. Box 3459, Fort Worth 76113; info@tcgpwa.org; tcgpwa.org.

**TRIANGLE FOUNDATION** — P.O. Box 306, Frisco 75034; 972-200-9411 (Phone), 501-643-0327 (Fax); collinequality.org.

## ■ SOCIAL

**BATTALION MOTORCYCLE CORPS** — P.O. Box 190603, Dallas 75219; command@battalionmcc.com; battalionmcc.com.

**BITCHBRUNCH** — bitchnbrunch.org; bitchnbrunch@yahoo.com.

**CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB** — P.O. Box 225463, Dallas 75222; 214-446-0606; information@classicchassis.com; classicchassis.com.

**COUPLES METRO DALLAS** — P.O. Box 192116, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1764); couplesmetroallas.com.

**DAMN** — DAMNmen.org; P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1739); oaklwguy@hotmail.com.

**DALLAS BEARS** — P.O. Box 191223, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x2943); dallasbears.org.

**DFW FUSE** — 214-540-4435; dfwfuse.com; fuse@rcdallas.org.

**DISCIPLINE CORPS** — P.O. Box 190838, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1731); webmaster@disciplinecorps.com; disciplinecorps.com.

**FIRE DANCERS** — mikejkeith@cs.com; fire dancers.org.

**FRISCO PRIDE** — P.O. Box 1533, Frisco 75034; 469-324-4123; friscopride.com.

**GAYMSTERS BRIDGE CLUB** — P.O. Box 190856, Dallas 75219; 214-946-6464; gaymasters@yahoo.com; gaymasters.org.

**GRAY PRIDE** — (At Resource Center Dallas); GLBT Aging Interest Network, educational & social organization for GLBT seniors; 2701 Reagan St., Dallas; 214-528-0144; RCDallas.org.

**GROUP SOCIAL LATINO** — 2701 Reagan; 214-540-4446.

**JEWEL** — 214-540-GIRL; jewel@rcdallas.org; rcdallas.org.

**KHUSH TEXAS** — http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khush.texas.

**LATE BLOOMERS** — La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon; 903-887-7371.

**LEATHER KNIGHTS** — P.O. Box 190334, Dallas 75219; 214-395-8460; leatherknights.org.

**LVL/PWA CAMPOUT** — Rick; campout@lvpwa.com; lvpwa.com.

**MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER** — P.O. Box 190611, Dallas 75219; 214-521-4765; groups.yahoo.com/group/mactdallas.

**NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION-DALLAS** — P.O. Box 190432, Dallas 75219; info@nla-dallas.org; nla-dallas.org.

**NORTH TEXAS RADICAL FAERIES** — groups.yahoo.com/group/ntrradfae.

**ONCE IN A BLUE MOON** — 10675 East Northwest Hwy., #2600B, Dallas 75238; 972-244-3381; cschep@sbcglobal.net; once-in-a-blue-moon.org.

**ORANGE CLUB** — groups.yahoo.com/group/orange-club.

**OUT TAKES DALLAS** — 3818 Cedar Springs #101-405 Dallas 75219; 972-988-6333 (Phone), 866-753-9431 (Fax); outtakesdallas.org.

**POZ DALLAS** — pozdallas@gmail.com; pozdallas.org.

**PROJECT TAG (TYLER AREA GAYS)** — 5701 Old Bullard Rd. #96; Tyler 75703; 903-372-7753; tylerareagays.com.

**PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH** — PO Box 191101, Dallas 75219; 972-504-8866; information@primetimers-dfw.org; primetimers-dfw.org.

**RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB** — P.O. Box 226811, Dallas 75222; 214-941-8114; info@rainbowgardenclub.com; rainbowgardenclub.com.

**SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW** — http://singles.meetup.com/2049.

**STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DALLAS/FORT WORTH** — groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasfortworth; dalmusl@yahoo.com.

**UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE** — PO Box 190865, Dallas 75219; dallascourt.org.

**WOMEN OF DISTINCTION** — dallasfamily.org.

## ■ SPIRITUALITY

**AGAPE MCC** — 4615 E. California Pkwy., (SE Loop 820), Fort Worth 76119; 817-535-5002; agapemcc.com.

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH** — 4230 Buckingham Rd., Garland 75042; 972-276-0023; alc1@airmail.net; ascensiontexas.org.

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**CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT** — 2040 N. Denton Dr., Carrollton 75006; 972-245-6520; info@colight.org; colight.org.

**\*CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH** — 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth 76104; 817-335-3222; celebration@celebrationtexas.com; celebration-community-church.com.

**CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE** — 9120 S Hwy. 198; Maybank TX, 75147; 903-451-2302; cotlchurch.org.

**CHURCH IN THE CLIFF** — Kessler Theatre 1230 W. Davis St., Dallas, 75208; 214-233-4605; www.churchintheciff.org.

**\*COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH** — 2875 E. Parker Rd., Plano 75074; 972-424-8989; uuplano.org.

**CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 191188, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1784); diane@bethelbinah.org; bethelbinah.org.

**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH** — 2800 Routh at Howell, Dallas 75201; 214-520-9090; info@crossroadscommunitychurch.us; crossroadscommunitychurch.us.

**EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** — P.O. Box 710329, Dallas 75371 (Mailing); 629 North Peak, Dallas 75246 (Physical); 214-824-8185; info@edcc.org; edcc.org.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE** — 6525 Inwood Rd., Dallas 75209; 214-352-0410 (Phone), 214-352-3103 (Fax); doubtertome@aol.com; thedoubter.org.

**FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH CHURCH** — 901 Bonnie Brae, Fort Worth 76111; 817-921-5683; folochurch.org.

**FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS** — 9120 Ferguson Rd., Dallas 75228; 214-823-2117; office@firstcommunity-ucc-dallas.org; firstcommunity-ucc-dallas.org.

**\*FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS** — 4015 Normandy Ave., Dallas 75205; 214-528-3990; dallasuu.org.

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**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** — 4105 Junius at Haskell, Dallas 75246; 214-824-2533 (Phone), 214-824-2279 (Fax); gumc@graceumcdallas.org; graceumcdallas.org.

**GREENLAND HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** — 5835 Penrose ave., Dallas 75206; 214-826-2020; greenlandhills.org.

**HARVEST MCC** — 725 North Elm St Ste 18, Denton, TX 76201; 940-484-6159 (Phone), 940-484-6159 (Fax); harvest@harvestmcc.org; harvestmcc.org.

**HORIZON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH** — 1641 W. Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton 75010; 972-492-4940; horizon@horizonuu.org; horizonuu.org.

**INTEGRITY** — 214-521-5342 (x1742).

**INTERFAITH MINDFUL MINISTRIES** — P.O. Box 863961, Plano 75086; chising@intermindful.com; intermindful.com/about.htm.

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**LIFE CENTER, THE** — 509 Green Oaks Ct, Arlington 76006; 817-633-3766.

**LUTHERANS CONCERNED** — 6411 LBJ Fwy; 214-855-4998; lknorthtexas@lcna.org; lcna.org; reconcilingworks.org.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GREATER DALLAS** — 1840 Hutton Dr., #100, Carrollton, TX 75006; 972-243-0761 (Phone), 972-243-6024 (Fax); mcccgd.org.

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**NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP** — 1440 Regal Row, Ste. 320; Dallas 75235; 214-905-8082; nhfcdallas.org.

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**OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** — 3014 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5197 (Phone), 214-521-5050 (Fax); journeys@olumc.org; oaklawn@olumc.org.

**PATHWAYS CHURCH - UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST** — 101 W. Glade Rd Suite 102, Euless 76039; 817-251-5555 (Phone); info@pathwaysuu.org; pathwaysuu.org.

**\*PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd., Dallas 75211; 214-623-8400; promiscmc@peoplepc.com; promiscmc.org.

**ST. MARY, THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH** — 780 Abrams Rd., #103-224, Dallas 75231; 214-373-8770; stmaryocca@aol.com; netministries.org/see/churches.exe/ch03022.

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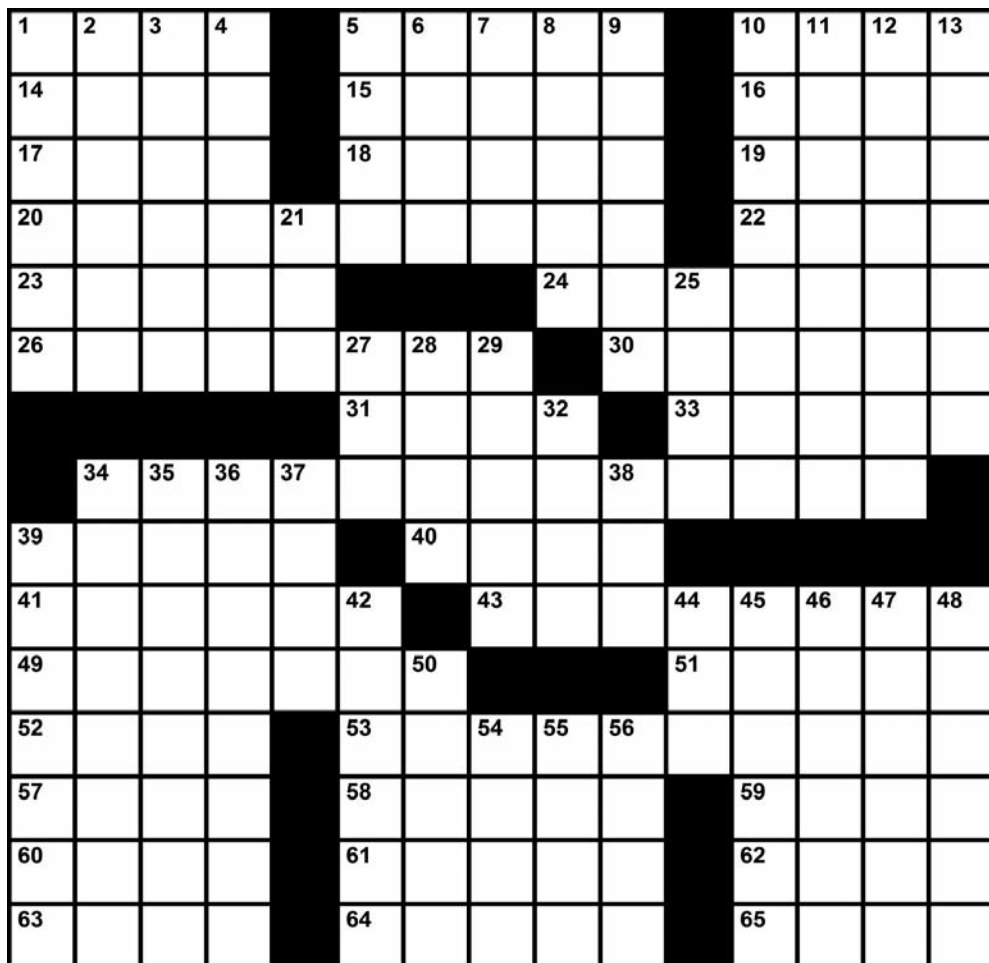
**\*SANCTUARY OF LOVE** — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd., Dallas 75219 214-520-9055; solcdallas.org.

**ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** — 2520 Oates Dr., Mesquite 75150; 972-279-3112; gbgm-umc.org/ststephen.

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST KINSHIP** — 972-416-1358; region5@sdakinship.org; sdakinship.org.

**\*TRINITY MCC** — 933 East Avenue J., Grand Prairie 75050; 817-265-5454; trinitymcc.org.





# Gee Whiz, Liz

Solution on page 45

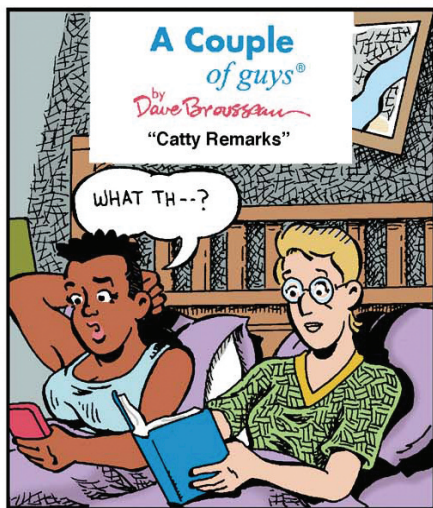
**Across**

- 1 Top
- 5 Path through leaves of grass
- 10 In need of a massage
- 14 Just one of those things
- 15 Eagle on a par five
- 16 TV's Trebek
- 17 *South Park* composer Shaiman
- 18 Lubricated
- 19 One who says, "Let us prey"
- 20 With 34-Across, where sister Liz is
- 22 \_\_\_ Hari of espionage
- 23 Part of an IRS return
- 24 Type of fluid
- 26 *Love Songs* poet Sara
- 30 Bounce on the knee
- 31 Stroke the ball gently
- 33 Rods' partners
- 34 See 20-Across
- 39 Error or erection
- 40 Short term employee
- 41 Susie Bright, to erotica
- 43 Game in which you bend over
- 49 Provides a seat for
- 51 What Garbo "vanted" to be

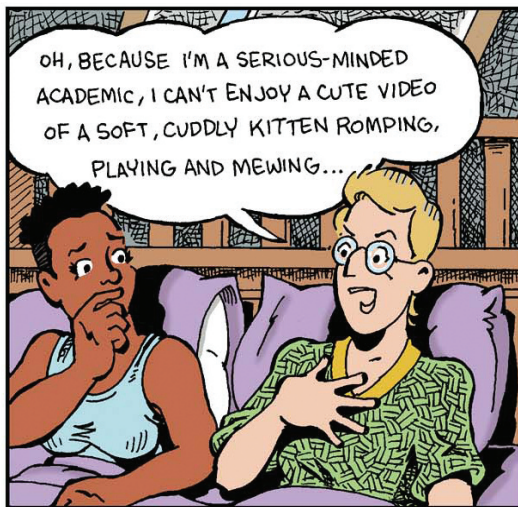
- 52 Bahrain biggie
- 53 Source of the quote
- 57 One with flaming pants?
- 58 Hurricanes of sports
- 59 Targets of men who make passes
- 60 Suffix with sermon
- 61 Banish from a flat
- 62 Buster Brown's dog
- 63 A Scout may do a good one
- 64 Piddle around
- 65 Sucker's start?

**Down**

- 1 Tops
- 2 Monopoly square
- 3 Style expert Stewart
- 4 Emulates Paul Cadmus
- 5 Unload loads
- 6 Spin like a top
- 7 Alice's Restaurant patron
- 8 Andrew Van de Camp, and others
- 9 Avoided commitment
- 10 *Giant* actor
- 11 Poisonous bush
- 12 How an a\*\*hole behaves?
- 13 Blows out
- 21 Leno's announcer Hall
- 25 Shopping area
- 27 Letters on love letters to GIs
- 28 Judy's daughter Lorna
- 29 Merman of Broadway fame
- 32 What cons do
- 34 Anal type?
- 35 New member
- 36 Put off
- 37 Boy who shoots off arrows
- 38 Sweaty place
- 39 Cut at a slope
- 42 Just missed, on the green
- 44 "Poppycock!"
- 45 Commands of admirals
- 46 Bush predecessor's nickname
- 47 Liable to blow
- 48 Yellowstone sight
- 50 Easily screwed
- 54 Train track
- 55 Village People hit
- 56 Place for Maupin's tales



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Dust off those boots and come 2-step on **Country Night** at **Eden Lounge** on Dec. 6. **Maricela The Voice** performs on Dec. 8 for a toy drive for **Children's Medical Center** benefiting kids with cancer. Bring gift cards from Walmart, Target and Toys-R-Us. ... **Mustache Envy** is on the main stage at **Sue Ellen's** on Dec. 6 collecting canned goods for the **Resource Center Food Pantry** and school supplies and unwrapped toys for the children of **Sam Houston Elementary School**. There will be raffles and door prizes for this special event. ... Join **Thelma Da Zel** for the **Charity Bachelor Auction** benefiting the **Resource Center Nutrition Program** at the **Round-Up Saloon** on Dec. 8. ... **Mr. Dallas Eagle Contest** takes place this weekend. Meet the contestants on Dec. 6 and find out who will be sashed on Dec. 7. **Leather Knights** and **Dallas Bears** hold their first Saturday club nights on Dec. 7. The **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents its **Jingle Ball Show** hosted by **Devon Devasquez** benefiting **Youth First** on Dec. 8. ... December's entertainment at **Alexandre's** begins with **Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea** on Dec. 6 and **Andrea Dawson** on Dec. 7. ... Win copies of **Talk About It**, the pop/soul single from **Erik Hassle**, while supplies last at **TMC: The Mining Company** on Dec. 8. ... **Woody's Sports and Video Bar** holds **Bear Happy Hour** on Dec. 6. Watch the **Dallas Cowboys** at the **Chicago Bears** on Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in HD. ... New for Mondays at **BJ's NXS** is **Ivana Tramp's Showcase Showdown** with cash prizes. ... **Kiana Lee** hosts the **Tuesday night strip tease contest** with cash prizes open to males and females at **Rainbow Lounge**. ... Support families impacted by HIV this holiday season by dropping off an unwrapped toy or nonperishable food item at **The Brick** by Dec. 6 to benefit the clients of **AIDS Arms**. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos).



Ladies' night out at S4.



Blondie, Mark and E.J. at BJ's NXS!



Friends at Zippers.





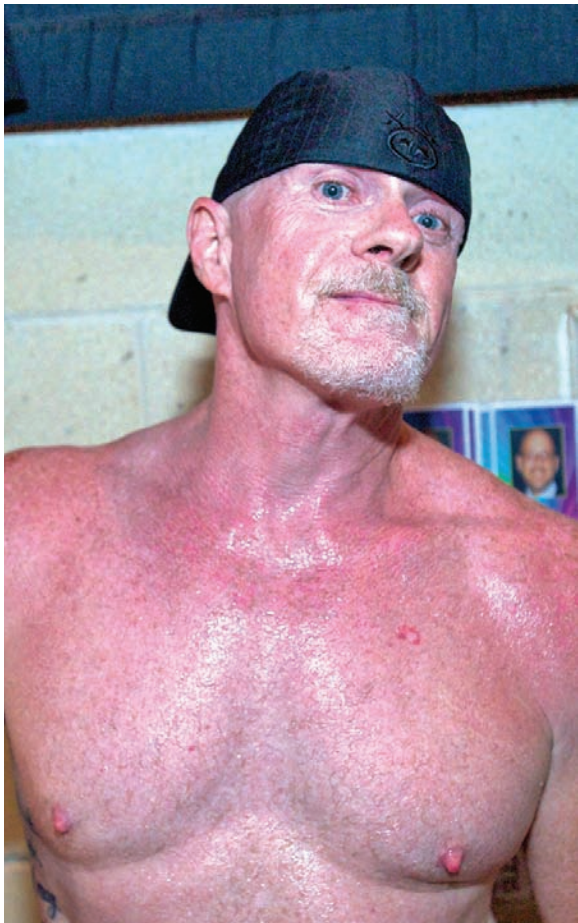
Cassie at Best Friends Club.



Renee and Max at Sue Ellen's.



Black-eyed Pea Bitches at TMC: The Mining Company.



Drew at the Dallas Eagle.



Nicole and Erica at the Rainbow Lounge.



Allan and David on the Strip.

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Contestants in 'Are You Smarter Than a Drag Queen?' played Mondays the Round-Up Saloon.



Cody at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Chance at TMC: The Mining Company.



Mason at S4.



Dax and Valerie at BJ's NXS!



Nathan, Natha, Bryan, Christopher and John at the Round-Up Saloon.



Robbie, Kevin and Hugo at The Brick.





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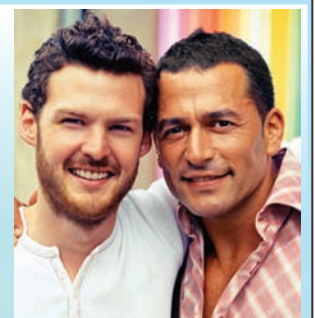


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