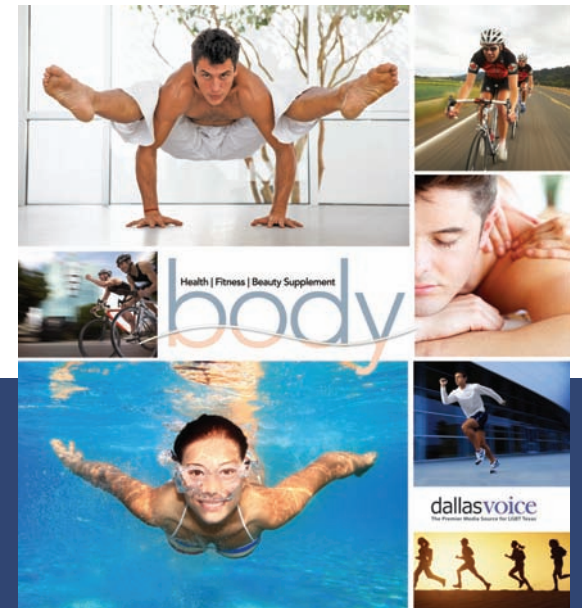


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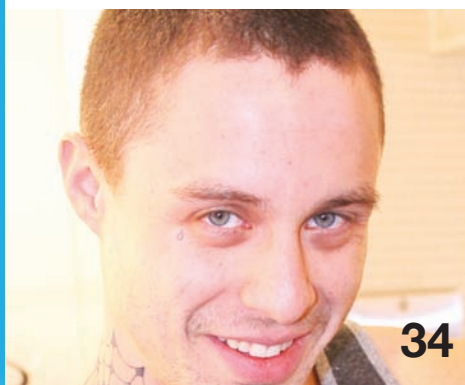
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Designed by Kevin Thomas

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 February 22, 2014 (Saturday) 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 February 23, 2014 (Sunday) 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
 February 24-28, 2014 (M-F) 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

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 Dist. 102: **George M. Clayton**
 Dist. 104: **Roberto R. Alonzo**
 Dist. 105: **Susan Motley**
 Dist. 107: **Carol Donovan**
 Dist. 108: **Leigh Bailey**
 Dist. 109: **Helen Giddings**
 Dist. 111: **Yvonne Davis**

County Probate Courts
 Court 2: **Chris Wilmoth**
 Court 3: **Michael E. Miller**

Texas State Senator:
 Dist. 9: **Gregory R. Perry**

District Judges
 Dist. 44: **Bonnie Lee Goldstein**
 Dist. 68: **Martin Jerome Hoffman**
 Dist. 101: **Marty Lowy**
 Dist. 116: **Tonya Parker**
 Dist. 193: **Carl Ginsberg**
 Dist. 204: **Lena Levario**
 Dist. 254: **James Martin**
 Dist. 255: **Lori Chrisman Hockett**
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 Dist. 282: **Andy Chatham**
 Dist. 283: **Rick Magnis**
 Dist. 291: **Susan Anderson**
 Dist. 292: **Brandon Birmingham**
 Dist. 301: **Mary Brown**
 Dist. 302: **Tena Callahan**
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 Dist. 330: **Andrea Plumlee**
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 Court 5: **Trey Bunch**
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 Court 9: **Peggy Hoffman**
 Court 10: **Rob Canas**
 Court 11: **Melodee Armstrong**

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 Pct. 4, Pl. 2: **Katy Hubener**
 Pct. 5, Pl. 1: **Sara Martinez**
 Pct. 5, Pl. 2: **Juan Jasso**

State Board of Education
 Dist. 13: **Erika Beltran**

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COMING TOGETHER | People gathered at a rally for marriage equality in Fort Worth Saturday, Feb. 8, before the hearings in San Antonio on a temporary injunction on the state's marriage ban. For more photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

Davis calls on Abbott to stop defending same-sex marriage ban

SAN ANTONIO — Sen. Wendy Davis said Thursday she supports same-sex marriage and that Attorney General Greg Abbott, her presumed general-election opponent in the race for governor, should stop defending the state's ban, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"It's my strong belief that when people love each other and are desirous of creating a committed relationship with each other that they should be allowed to marry, regardless of their sexual orientation," Davis told the Express-News editorial board.

Davis, D-Fort Worth, said she is "pleased" that the state's constitutional definition of marriage, as being between a man and a woman, is under challenge in federal court.

"I think that what we see happening at the federal level in terms of constitutional interpretations on that provide some hope that it may be found unconstitutional," she said.

The Republican attorney general's office is defending the constitutional provision.

Asked if she would call on him to stop doing so, as she earlier called on Abbott this week to reach a settlement in a state school funding lawsuit, Davis said that "makes perfect sense. We've seen that happen."

She cited such decisions by Virginia and Nevada.

"Obviously our AG has the capacity to do the same if he chooses to do so," she said. Asked if she would call on him to do so, she said yes.

Abbott spokesman Matt Hirsch scoffed at Davis' urging.

"Unlike Senator Davis' positions on the issues, the Texas constitution is not subject to change on the latest whims of the day. Senator Davis' comment suggesting the Attorney General not enforce the Constitution mimics an Obama-style approach to government, and Texans deserve better," Hirsch said.

Davis, asked if she would push to repeal the state constitutional provision on gay marriage if elected governor, said, "I would certainly open up that conversation with the Legislature."

"I think it's important, and I think that people across this country are evolving on that issue and moving in a direction that demonstrates support for it, so I think it is time to re-open that conversation and ask Texans where they are on it to see if that's something that we might change legislatively if it doesn't happen constitutionally," she said.

— Steve Ramos

Which Kardashian are Todd and Cooper Smith Koch most like?

Cooper Smith doesn't really see himself as a Kardashian, even though he found himself on a Dallas Morning News list of "16 memorable Dallas couples" with not just one, but TWO Kardashians.

"I'm as shocked as anyone when I say this — the person on that list I'm most like is probably President Bush," Smith said. "Or Kelly Clarkson, because she's such a dork who rambles on and on like me."

Smith and Koch have been together longer than all but two of the couples listed — the Bushes and the Joneses. Many of the straight couples shown have already split up.

Todd and Cooper Smith Koch are the only gay couple named and are included for the attention they received for appearing in the J.C. Penney Father's Day ad in 2012.

"If they only knew how unglamorous our life is," Smith said.

Smith said he had no idea the Morning News was doing the piece.

Other couples on the list include Cowboys' owner Jerry and Gene Jones, Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber (he doesn't live here, does he? We hope not), Sean Lowe — The Bachelor — and one of the 40 or more women he was simultaneously dating on the air, two Kardashians and their current Dallas boyfriends, Kelly Clarkson and her husband and Tony Romo and a variety of his girlfriends.

Smith described his glamorous life. He said mostly they do things like take the kids to school, feed them and put them to bed. He would have talked longer, but he had to run home to get the garbage disposal fixed. Now that's how to really become a Valentine's Day couple.

— David Taffet



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'A Jackie Robinson moment'

The revelation by Mizzou gridiron standout Michael Sam represents a sea-change in American history. So why are so many people resistant?

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

In 42, last year's film about Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman) and the decision by Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey's

(Harrison Ford) to recruit him as the first African-American player to Major League Baseball, a character named Ben Chapman (Alan Tudyk) serves as the main antagonist. Chapman was a real manager who did in life exactly what he did in the film: Mercilessly taunt Robinson with racial epithets and abusive ad hominem. The vitriol was so stark, it actually built public support for Robinson.

At the end of the film, post-scripts tell us what happened to the real people presented; the epigraph for Chapman is not kind. Despite a good career in the majors, he will forever be

remembered as a racist. Who, pray tell, would wish that for their legacy?

More people than you might imagine.

Michael Sam's decision to publicly come out as gay — before being drafted by an NFL team — was, as the Boston Globe put it, "a Jackie Robinson moment" in the tapestry of gay rights. His decision to be open and honest, and volunteer as a lightning rod for homophobia, takes courage — takes strength — far greater than he even needed to step onto a field and face off against a dozen 250-pound men out to hurt him. It required strength of character.

That kind of character that has proven sadly lacking among many in sports.

No one, certainly not Sam, should have expected reaction to be unqualifiedly supportive. Late last year, British swimmer Tom Daley, long suspected of being gay, came out and was met with a fusillade of barbed tweets ... and that was for an Englishman many Americans had not even heard of, a star in a sport usually watched only during the Olympics. In contrast, Sam was declaring himself gay barely a week

■ MOMENT, From Page 11

ALLIES

I don't think anyone in my family knew.

HE'S MADE HISTORY.

He really has made history and I'm really proud of him. ... I tell people all the time, *if anyone has anything to say negative about him, come see me. I have a word for you.* That's my nephew and I do have his back.

— Aunt Geraldine

I applaud Missouri DE @MichaelSamfootball for his **bravery & honesty** about who he is. I pray he gets a opportunity 2 play the game he loves!

— Deion Sanders

Congratulations on leading the way, @MikeSamFootball. That's real sportsmanship.

— President Barack Obama

We will evaluate Michael just like any other draft prospect: on the basis of his ability, character and NFL potential.

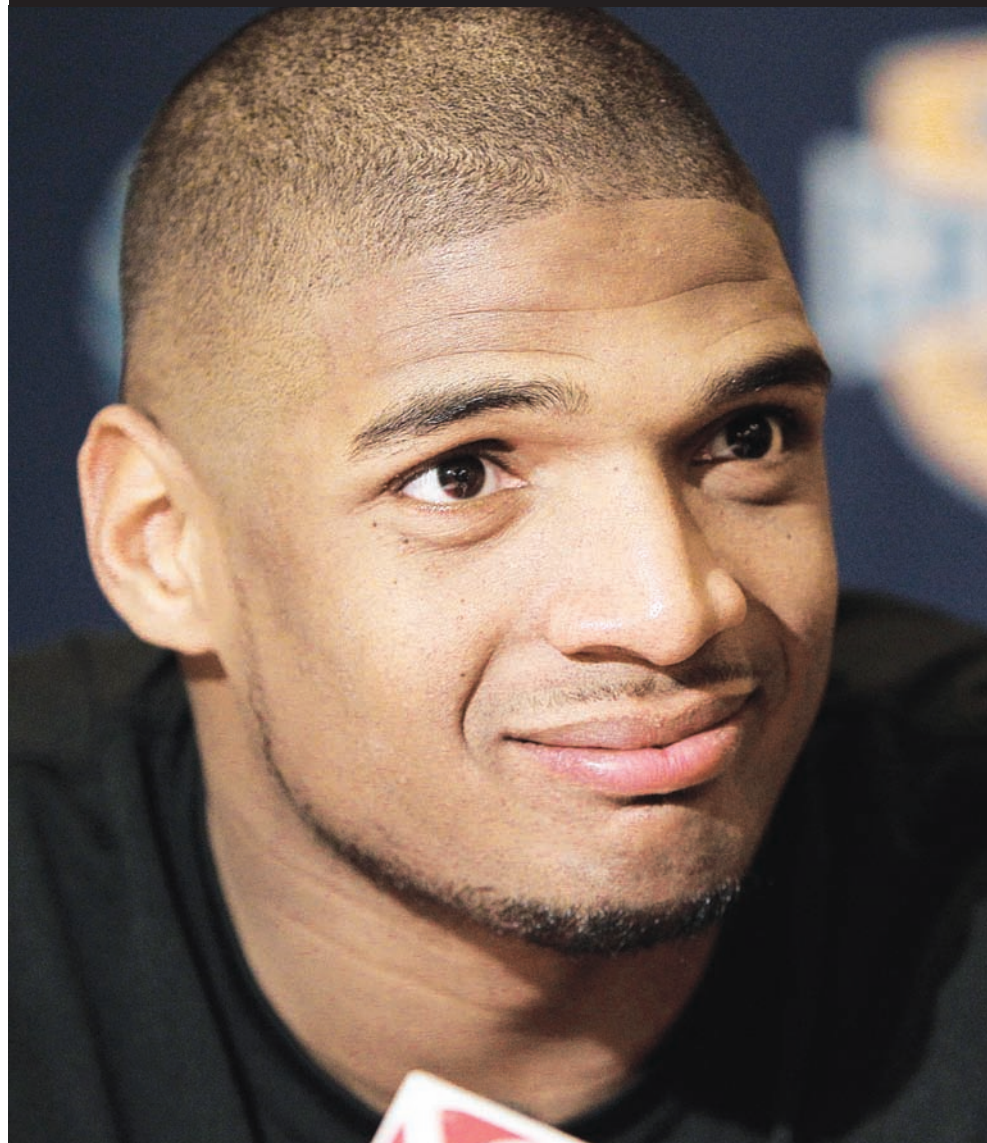
His announcement will have no effect on how we see him as a football player.

— John Elway

Michael Sam's announcement is a **significant step** in sports and I respect the choice that he made publicly.

— Miami Dolphins Owner Stephen Ross

Are pro sports ready for an out, gay athlete? Haters and Allies weigh in



HOMOPHOBES

"I don't think football is ready for [an openly gay player]

just yet. In the coming decade or two, it's going to be acceptable, but at this point in time it's still a **MAN'S-MAN** game. To call somebody a [gay slur] is still so commonplace. It'd chemically imbalance an NFL locker room and meeting room."

— An unnamed NFL personnel assistant, quoted in Sports Illustrated

"I can't even watch *sportscenter* today cause all there [sic] talking about is **MARCUS SMART OR THAT FAG FROM MIZZOU...**"

— One of several derisive tweets from Kent State University wrestler Sam Wheeler. The administration suspended him from the team.

"I don't do the **GAY GUYS**, man. I o don't do that. No, we don't go no **GAY PEOPLE** on the team, **they gotta get up out of here if they do.**"

— S.F. 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver on Jan. 29, before Michael Sam came out.

"YOW!!!!!"

Mr/MSam you scare to rub on **titties** and **ass** and **coochie** you **GAY [sic]**. **Man up** ... and get on your **knew** and submit to God fully."

— Instagram post from Canadian Football League player Arland Bruce III. The CFL fined Bruce for the statement.

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localbriefs

Navigators at Resource Center

Resource Center teams with Planned Parenthood and Get Covered America to provide healthcare insurance assistance on Saturday at the Resource Center.

Navigators will help anyone needing help find a policy that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act.

Andrew Greenberg, coordinating the event for Get Covered America, said the navigators will help find insurance through the marketplace or direct people to Medicare or Medicaid, if they qualify.

Those covered at work who do not qualify for federal subsidies for their insurance, but have a partner taking advantage of DP benefits may qualify for a subsidy and receive comparable benefits at a lower out-of-pocket price.

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- Social Security card
- Proof of income (paystub, income tax return, letters from Social Security)
- Employer insurance information (if applicable)

The event takes place at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. on Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Anyone who can't attend or has additional questions about the event may contact Andrew Greenberg at 972-345-4591 or by email at AGreenberg@EnrollAmerica.org

HER HRC

Human Rights Campaign presents an afternoon of sexy transcendental fun at Sue Ellen's. The 2014 DFW HerHRC event is a fun-filled day of performers and entertainment. Cassie Nova and Jenna Skyy return as the hostesses.

Doors open at 1 p.m. Trivia registration begins. The trivia competition takes place from 2-3:30 p.m. with cash prizes for the top three teams. The bachelorette auction begins at 4 p.m. followed by a performance by Hey, Gurl at 5:30 p.m.

Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. Feb. 16. 1-6 p.m. \$10 online. \$15 at the door includes annual HRC membership.

My Furry Valentine

Since Santa Paws was canceled, the event was rescheduled as My Furry Valentine.

Downtown Dallas Inc., The Petropolitan, and DogFit Dallas present dog adoptions, featuring a number of rescue organizations, free pet photos, a pet costume contest and pet vendors at Main Street Garden, 1902 Main St. on Feb. 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

pet of the week / JIM

Jim is a Shepherd/Lab mix who came to Operation Kindness after a staff member found him wandering the streets looking for food. If we were handing out class awards to our canine friends, Jim would be the Class Clown. This handsome fellow gets along with all dogs and also loves toys. If he's not wrestling with his roommate, he is playing with the toys in the yard. While he has a lot of energy, he is also easy going and does well with other dogs. He will need a home with people willing to keep up with his youthful energy and has a back yard for him to play in everyday. If you feel that you are the right fit, come in today and meet the Bill Murray of Operation Kindness!



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

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Appeals court rules in favor of Houston trans widow

In Nikki Araguz case, Texas court rules trans people have a right to marry, can wed opposite-sex partners if they have a sex change

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

CORPUS CHRISTI — In a landmark decision this week, a Texas appeals court ruled that transgender people have a right to marry.

The decision came in the case of Houston widow Nikki Araguz Loyd, who was fighting to have her marriage to late husband, Thomas Araguz III, recognized by the state in order to receive his death benefits. Thomas Araguz was a volunteer firefighter in Wharton and was killed in the line of duty in 2010.

Thomas Araguz's ex-wife, Heather Delgado, later sued to have the marriage declared void so she would receive widow's benefits instead of Araguz Loyd. Delgado claimed that she needed the benefits to provide for her two children with Thomas Araguz.

The 13th District Court of Appeals in Corpus Christi ruled Thursday that the marriage was valid because Araguz Loyd, declared male at birth, had a sex change and her original California birth certificate amended to reflect the change.

The ruling is the first time a Texas court has ruled that transgender people have a right to marry.

Araguz Loyd, who is now married to William Loyd, told Dallas Voice the ruling was historic and came just in time for Valentine's Day.

"It's without a doubt a landmark ruling for transgender people in Texas," she said.

"I felt relieved and vindicated and excited," she said about when she read the decision. "I couldn't be more happy the day before Valentine's Day to receive this news that my love has been recognized by the Texas court."

The appellate court opinion voided the 2011 state district court judge's summary judgment in favor of Thomas Araguz's parents and ordered the case returned to the original courtroom for further litigation.

That ruling by Houston state district Judge Randy Clapp found that Araguz Loyd was born male and Texas' 2005 marriage amendment prevented the state from recognizing her marriage to a man. Her 2008 marriage to her Thomas Araguz III then became invalid.

But Clapp's ruling hinged on the 1999 Texas Court of Appeals decision in Littleton v. Prange, which found that since a male who transitioned to female was born male, she was therefore still

male. Her marriage to a male was therefore invalid because same-sex marriages are invalid under state law.

The Texas Legislature opened the door for transgender marriage in 2009 when it added affidavit of a sex change to the identification documents people can present to obtain a marriage license. Legislation was filed in the state Legislature in 2011 in response to Araguz Loyd's case and again in 2013 to prevent the affidavit from being used to obtain a marriage license, but the bills failed.

Araguz Loyd said her joy Thursday also came from knowing that the Littleton case was overturned, and it couldn't be used to invalidate her or other people's marriages.

"It legitimizes my relationship with my late husband and only further protects my current marriage," she said of the ruling, adding that she expects success in further proceedings for the death benefits. "We are going to fight all the way to victory."

Houston attorney Kent Rutter, the lead attorney for the appeal, said the opinion means trans people in Texas who've had a sex change can marry someone of the opposite sex.

"I think it's a significant victory for trans people in Texas because it recognizes that the law is the opposite of what it was back in 1999," he said. "The law used to be if you were born with male anatomy, you were considered male your entire life and could never marry someone who is born male. And now that's different today."

Rutter said there will be more court proceedings for Araguz Loyd in the matter of her late husband's death benefits, but he said her win in court this week is a victory for the entire Texas trans community.

"This is the first time a Texas court has recognized that trans people have a right to marry, so that's a very big deal," Rutter said. "I think it's a significant victory for trans people in Texas."

Despite the win and the recognition on a state level, the ruling brings into question whether same-sex couples where one person is trans can marry or will face legal issues in the future if their spouse dies. Under the Littleton ruling, trans people in a same-sex relationship could marry because the state viewed the trans person as the birth sex and therefore the opposite sex.

Katy Stewart, executive director of the Transgender Education Network of Texas, said the decision seemed to make things more complicated for trans marriage in Texas.

"It would mean that more heterosexual transgender people can marry," she said. "We're still dealing with the whole same-sex thing. That leaves part of the community out there. ... It's



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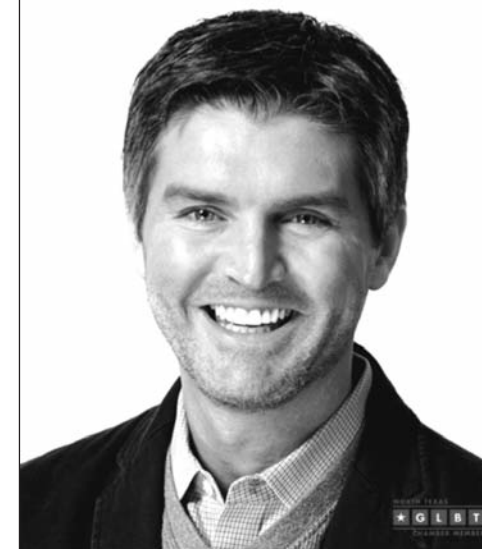
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■ texasnews

5 unknown Democrats line up to challenge Cornyn for U.S. Senate



COMPETITORS | Maxey Scherr, center and Michael Fjetland, right, support LGBT equality, while Sen. Wendy Davis' choice, David Alameel's, center, support is questionable.

Three candidates support LGBT rights, but the positions of the other two candidates on community issues are ambiguous

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Three of the five candidates vying for the Democratic nomination to run for the Senate seat currently held by Sen. John Cornyn support LGBT equality. Whether a fourth does is uncertain, and the fifth is running on a platform of impeaching President Obama.

Kesha Rogers touts herself as a Larouche Democrat, a movement known for trying to quarantine HIV-positive people in the 1980s. The focus of Rogers' campaign is impeaching the president. She won the Democratic Primary for U.S. House District 22 in 2010 and 2012, but the Texas Democratic Party refused to recognize her, and she received no state party funding or assistance, losing both elections.

David Alameel, who Sen. Wendy Davis endorsed, is the best funded of the five.

Alameel came in fourth in the 2012 District 33 U.S. House race that put Marc Veasey into office. On his website Alameel makes no mention of LGBT issues. In an email to supporters on Jan. 21, he sent a list of his priorities, among them, was "Fighting for marriage equality." That priority, however, isn't on his website. A campaign volunteer said the omission was an oversight, and he would have the campaign communications chair contact Dallas Voice. He didn't.

In 2012, Alameel was one of the few candidates not to return a questionnaire sent to candidates in that race by Dallas Voice. He also did not participate in the debate between candidates held by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Over the years, Alameel has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republicans, including Sen. John Cornyn, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, Texas

Attorney General Greg Abbott and others, according to the Texas Ethics Commission.

The remaining three candidates — Michael Fjetland, Maxey Marie Scherr and Harry Kim — support LGBT equality.

Fjetland was the only one of the candidates to screen with Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, although Harry Kim met with members after the screening. The organization did not endorse the race.

Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio, Austin, Denton County and Southeast Texas endorsed Scherr.

Fjetland is an international attorney, founder and CEO of Armor Glass International Inc. and author of the book *Better Times Ahead April Fool*. In a previous race, he ran as a Republican, challenging former House Majority Leader Tom Delay for his seat.

"Marriage equality should be a given," he said at the Stonewall Dallas endorsement meeting.

On his website, he wrote, "The LGBT community should have equal rights and opportunities and not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. They should be able to work in the jobs they are qualified to perform. They should be able to marry the person they love."

Harry Kim is a physician from Midland. "Regardless of one's Race, Background, Gender or Orientation, everyone deserves a fair chance," Kim wrote on his website. "That is how we become even a greater country."

Maxey Scherr describes herself as a single mom and a lawyer from El Paso.

She described herself as a lifelong Democrat and stands by her progressive values and believes marriage equality is coming to Texas sooner rather than later.

"When it comes to issues related to human rights — such as the rights of immigrants, children, women and the LGBT community — Cruz and Cornyn support absolute government control, not individual rights," she wrote on her website. "Maxey fully supports marriage equality and will support legislation to protect gays and lesbians in the workplace." ■

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■ **MOMENT**, From Page 6

after the Super Bowl in a team sport that, MLB's assertions aside, truly is the Great American Pastime. Some folks were going to be harshly critical.

But anonymous tweets from armchair quarterbacks are one thing — there will always be racists, homophobes, bigots. The more surprising critics are the ones who don't hide their closed-mindedness, who seem incapable of recognizing this moment for what it is: A historic advancement in civil rights.

Prior to Sam's announcement, Jonathan Vilma, a 31-year-old, 230-pound linebacker for the New Orleans Saints, embarrassingly opined that he would quake in his shower shoes at the thought of a gay man in the locker room seeing him naked. Meanwhile, Brett Favre tweets obscene selfies of his genitals throughout the ether, and players routinely walk around bare-assed in locker rooms while female reporters (and all-seeing TV cameras) capture them in all their sweaty glory. If modesty were Vilma's motivation, he should have probably steered clear of pro sports.



But of course it wasn't. His concern, barely disguised, is what used to be called "gay panic," and which is now known more accurately as "appalling ignorance." How can a man who has lived 31 heterosexual years possibly be intimidated by the mere idea that another man might check him out? I can assure Vilma: Gay men do that all the time when watching football already. Do you feel dirty? How can that thought turn you into a quivering ball of stress? Will you run through the locker room yelling "stranger danger" and seek comfort in mommy's arms?

What's perhaps most offensive is that Vilma, like Sam, is African-American — the direct beneficiary of Jackie Robinson crossing the race line. There was a time, not long ago, when we were assured sports "weren't ready" for black players, that the armed services "weren't ready" for mixed-race troops, that America "wasn't ready" for a black president, or a gay movie star or a married lesbian couple. Guess what? We're as ready as we'll ever be. The only thing holding us back is people like Vilma, people who think of everyone as "other" without seeing that themselves were once "other," too.

Out gay people are, simply put, a reality. They are hiring you, feeding you dinner, driving your limo, shining your shoes and voting on your legislation. Ignoring reality doesn't protect you from it. It just puts you on the wrong side of history.

It has to stop, for their own goods. One day, Michael Sam may well be considered the great sports pioneer of the early millennium. But if people like Vilma, even though talented on the field, continue to allow bigotry to write their biographies, those career achievements will become footnotes. They will be relegated to the dust heap of history with the Ben Chapmans, the Orval Faubuses, the Bull Connors. The tide of culture will leave them behind — indeed, it already has. ■

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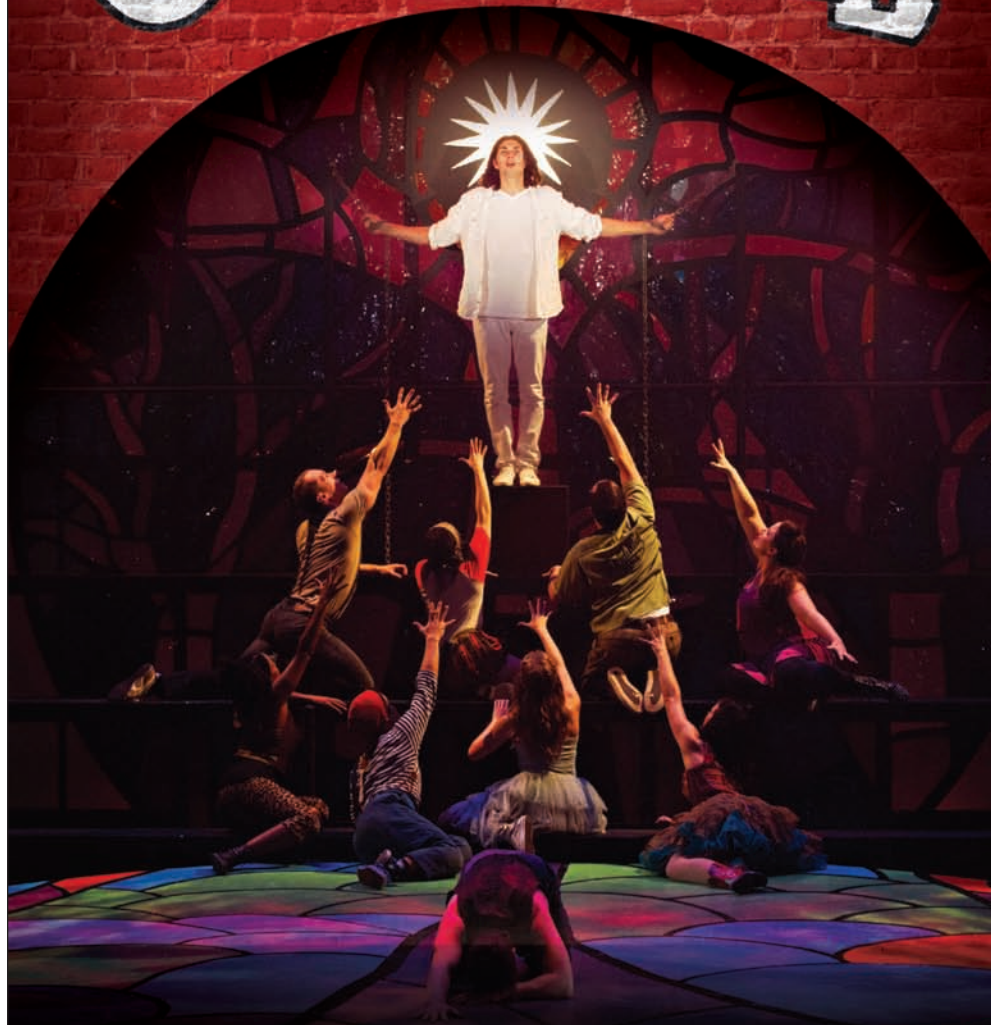
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■ nationalnews

Cornhuskers had an out gay player a decade before Michael Sam came out



GROUNDBREAKER | Eric Lueshen and his niece, Aubryn, share a moment on the backyard swing. Lueshen was an out football player at the University of Nebraska from 2003-2006. (Photos Courtesy of Eric Lueshen)

From 2003 to 2006, Eric Lueshen played for the University of Nebraska under head coach Bill Callahan, now the Cowboys' offensive coordinator

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CHICAGO — ZEric Lueshen walked into his Chicago apartment a few days ago, and his roommate asked him, "Did you see that thing about Michael Sam?"

Lueshen didn't know what his roommate was talking about, so he logged onto Facebook and read the news that was captivating the country. Sam, a University of Missouri defensive lineman, first-team All-American, Missouri's most valuable player and a likely NFL draft choice, had come out.

"I saw that HRC had posted an ad about it, so I read that and did a little Google search,"

Lueshen said. "I shared that HRC status on my Facebook page, congratulating Michael and how cool I thought it was that he came out."

"This is great news and I am very happy for him," Lueshen wrote. "I was an openly gay football player from 2003-2006 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, although my career wasn't as glamorous due to reasons such as a back surgery."

More than a decade before Sam came out, after his college football career was over, Lueshen had been out — while playing football for another powerhouse university. But the media didn't swing its spotlights on Lueshen and make him a household name, as they have Sam.

"Maybe the culture wasn't ready at that time," Lueshen said about the absence of media coverage of an out college football player. "Maybe we weren't ready at that time to have a story about being out and playing football."

There was talk about him, although the broadcast and print journalists never mentioned

his name as a gay football player at Nebraska.

"I do know that when I was a freshman or sophomore, I can't remember which," Lueshen said, "my dad called me and said, 'You'll never guess what I heard. In Lincoln, they're talking about whether Nebraska is ready for an openly gay football player. Your name was never mentioned, though.'"

And to this day, it hasn't been.

Lueshen grew up in Pierce, a town of about 1,700 in Northeast Nebraska, and when he was 17 he did something most young people in a rural conservative town wouldn't have the courage to do — he came out.

"My mom was amazing," he said. "She accepted me and said she had always known. My dad was very homophobic at the time, and we had a rocky relationship, but he has completely changed and is very supportive now. There's not even an ounce of homophobia in him now."

In high school, Lueshen excelled in football and track, but there had been rough years before that. He had been picked on for being gay, years before he had even begun to deal with the issue.

Fortitude, a trait he says he inherited from his mother and grandmother, not only got him through those difficulties, they shored up a backbone that was already strong.

"I never thought I wished I wasn't gay," he said. "I was happy with who I was and comfortable in my skin. I know it's cliché, but it is true that whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. The hardships only made me stronger."

Lueshen needed that strength at the University of Nebraska. He had an academic scholarship, not an athletic one. The coaches who had recruited him were forced into retirement, and the scholarship talks went with them. Lueshen entered Nebraska's football program as a walk-on, shouldering not only the burden of proving himself as a kicker but doing it as an out gay man.

"I wasn't going to jump in the closet in college," he said. "I'm not the type of person to parade around with rainbow flags, but if someone asks me if I'm gay, I'm going to say yes."

And he was asked.

"I'd see the guys talk and whisper, and I assumed they were talking about me. Then one day I was eating with a couple of my teammates, and they didn't have a filter. They said, 'So, pretty boy. Are you gay?' I looked up and smiled at them and said, 'Yeah. Is there a problem?' They said, 'No. Just wanted to check.' They were two of the most popular guys, and the word got out through them. But because they accepted me, pretty much everyone else did, too."

Those who accepted him included head coach Bill Callahan who today is the Dallas Cowboys' offensive coordinator.

"He was really nice to me," Lueshen said. "When my college football career was over because of back surgery, and I had to tell him, I was choking up, and so was he. He was very supportive of me." Callahan didn't respond to requests for an interview by press time.

Some of the coaches, though, didn't share Callahan's open mind, and a few of them made it difficult for Lueshen on the field.

"That only made me more motivated to work

my ass off," Lueshen said. "I was in the position not only to prove myself as a walk-on but being openly gay. I set out to prove those coaches wrong. I'd work my butt off in the weight room. I would show them I deserved a chance to play."

For two seasons, Lueshen did work his "ass off," and he was noticed. In 2005, he was one of the favorites for a starting position.

"But then during the spring, I was accidentally roughed by a teammate during a field goal. I was out for about 14 practices with a damaged hamstring. They wrote me off and replaced me. Right after that season I had a spinal fusion."

Because of those injuries, Lueshen didn't get to show the scoffing coaches, or the world, how much he had honed his athletic abilities. But he did something more powerful. He changed the mental landscape at the University of Nebraska.

"I opened up so many minds and saw so many people change," he said. "I admit that sometimes it is hard to watch the NFL and see some of my teammates playing and thinking that could be me, but my life took another path, and that's OK. There were a lot of positive outcomes from being openly gay and changing people's lives."

But the memories of those days linger, one of them still intense after 13 years. While in high school, Lueshen attended a kicking camp where kickers from the Division I schools were assisting. Among those who were coaching the hopefuls was Jan Stenerud, the only placekicker to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"Jan came over to me" Lueshen said, "put his Hall of Fame ring on my finger and said, 'You will have one of these one day.' I still get choked up when I remember that."

When asked about the comments from NFL players who said they would feel uncomfortable showering with a gay teammate, Lueshen said those statements "are ignorant."

"I had the same question asked when I was at Nebraska," he said. "I would say, 'I'm here to get clean. There's nothing sexual about this. We're a family. You're going through hell in the trenches of the workouts. You become so close as a family, why would you want to jeopardize that by doing something stupid in the locker room?'"

Today, Lueshen is completing his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, and he hopes his story and Sam's story will instill courage in other people.

"I'm sure there are others who have similar stories of being an openly gay college football player," he wrote on Facebook, "however their stories (like mine) were never publicized ... which really doesn't bother me at all. I was just being me."

"Hopefully more gay college football players (and other collegiate athletes) will take this example and have enough pride and courage to come out themselves."

To the people who are fearful of coming out, Lueshen says, "Life is so much happier on the other side of fear. Never be ashamed of who you are. Live life as 100 percent of your authentic self. There will be hardships no matter if you're gay or straight. Don't let that push you down the wrong path." ■



FAN DAY | No. 91 Eric Lueshen was a walk-on kicker with the University of Nebraska. He came out when he was 17, and he said he wasn't going to go back into the closet in college. Pictured above, Lueshen, signs autographs during Fan Day.

Burns steps down from Fort Worth council



OUT OF THE SADDLE | Openly gay Fort Worth councilman Joel Burns resigned from the Cowtown council this week in order to pursue a mid-career master's in public administration at the Harvard Kennedy School. But he didn't rule out returning to office one day. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Gay councilman to leave post after 6 years to attend mid-career program at Kennedy School, but says he's not done with public service

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FORT WORTH — Councilman Joel Burns will leave the Fort Worth City Council this summer and head to Massachusetts for a year to pursue a mid-career master's in public administration at the Harvard Kennedy School.

He announced his resignation Tuesday during a City Council meeting with family members, friends and former council staff in the audience.

"It has been a life-changing honor to serve my constituents, to serve my friends on the Fort Worth City Council," Burns said. "It has been an experience beyond any I would have imagined."

Burns was first elected in 2007 to replace Wendy Davis in District 9 when she resigned to run for the state Senate. He won his third full two-year term last year, becoming the city's first official to run unopposed in an election three times in a row since the city moved to single-member districts in the 1970s.

The seat will be added to the May ballot to fill Burns' term, which expires next June. He said he'll continue to serve with pride until his replacement is elected and will focus on passing

the bond package to bring parks and street improvements to the district.

Choking back tears, Burns said the decision to step down wasn't an easy one and he hoped he'd be remembered for his work on economic development, safer neighborhoods and transportation initiatives.

Mayor Betsy Price said he'd be "greatly missed" on the council.

"You have been an advocate for everyone in your district, but more than that, you're an advocate for all of the citizens of Fort Worth and a great example of what it means to have a service heart and a passion," Price told him Tuesday. "You will be remembered for all the good that you have done and the people that you have touched in Fort Worth."

His emotional resignation speech echoed the tune of his famous 2010 "It Gets Better" speech, where he addressed the council on the impact of anti-gay bullying he experienced attending Crowley High School, and he admitted that many people outside of Fort Worth may only remember him for that video. The YouTube video went viral, gaining national media attention and millions of views.

"I could have never guessed the impact and the way it would change my life, and it would change others' lives by taking the mike that night and being honest and doing something bold that people didn't expect of me," he said.

In the three years since that speech, Burns said he's received 20,000 emails and Facebook messages from people who were inspired by his

words, "many of whom were hurting and wanted an adult or someone to assure them that there is reason not to lose hope."

He's also received mail, and he brought an example Tuesday. It was a piece of paper mailed to him at his council P.O. Box without a name or return address. In the corner is written "P.S. I burned the other part of this piece of paper. No one will have to read it now."

"And on it, this is what remains of their suicide note, and they chose not to go through with it," Burns said, his voice cracking. "There are a lot of kids in a world of hurt, and they are looking to the adults in this room and elsewhere to give them that hope. There is a lot more work to be done to make this the world that we want."

Burns has become a national anti-bullying advocate, attending White House panels and lobbying in Austin for legislation that went into effect in 2012, requiring Texas school districts to track bullying and find solutions to address it. He was also a big supporter of Fort Worth Independent School District's It's Not Okay (INOK) program to combat bullying.

David Mack Henderson, president of LGBT advocacy group Fairness Fort Worth, said Burns' work with the LGBT community will be remembered by those who will lead by his example.

"There's a symbiotic relationship between a community and its members. Not only does Joel know this, he has nourished it," Henderson said. "Coupled with profound gratitude for his work on behalf of our LGBT Community, perhaps his greatest local legacy will be seen through those

he has inspired, and who now realize it's time to also step forward in the leadership of our city. Joel is growing and preparing for new challenges. We must, and will honor him by following his example."

Burns said it was the encouragement to do bold things at a three-week Kennedy School course he attended that, also with the rash of LGBT suicides in 2010, led him to make that speech. Since then, he's returned to the school as a guest lecturer in the summer. Now he'll head back there as a student again for the prestigious program. He said he'll work alongside 200 public service leaders from around the world to help grow and nurture his passion for service.

As to what he'll do once he returns is unclear. "I don't know what will happen," he said. "I know that I'll come back, and I know that I'll be committed to seeing Fort Worth grow and become an even more fantastic place than it already is."

Burns said politics may not be in his future again. He was a favorite to run for Davis' Senate District 10 seat when she announced her gubernatorial bid. But he opted not to run because he'd have to leave the City Council and because of the time commitment on his family. His long-time partner J.D. Angle is a political consultant working with Davis' campaign. However, public service will always be a part of Burns' life.

"I don't know whether I will hold public office again. It's not up to me. It's up to voters," he said. "I do know that serving my community will always be at the center of my life." ■



LEGAL WIN | Nikki Araguz Loyd married William Loyd after the appeals court hearing on Sept. 18. The court ruled that marriages of trans people who've had a sex change can marry people of the opposite sex.

■ **APPEALS**, From Page 9

going to put more pressure on people to have surgery to be with the person they love."

But Stewart said the ruling is still a win even with the possible ramifications for some trans people married in Texas or planning on marrying in the future.

"It's a bittersweet victory," Stewart said. "It's a step, it's a victory. But with that comes my con-

cerns and the realization of the work we have to do to make sure everyone else is equal."

Stewart added that Araguz Loyd has been a leader in the trans community for pursuing her case, and she was glad to see it resolved in her favor.

"She has really come through this and has really been a shining example for our community of perseverance and of social justice," Stewart said. ■

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■ texasnews

Gonzalez poised to win re-election



STRONG SUPPORTER | Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, addresses the crowd at Equality Texas' Lobby Day in March. She expected to have a challenger in the March 4 Democratic Primary after emerging as a vocal supporter of LGBT and women's rights last session. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

After a stellar freshman year in the House, queer state Rep. Mary Gonzalez says her social justice advocacy drew primary challenger

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EL PASO — Out state Rep. Mary Gonzalez finished the legislative session last summer with four passed bills and a reputation as an outspoken supporter on LGBT and women's issues.

But Gonzalez said despite the gains for District 75 in El Paso, her advocacy brought the threat of two primary challengers. Now she'll face Rey Sepulveda, president of the Fabens school board, in the March 4 Democratic Primary. No Republican has filed for the seat.

"I think when you're vocal, and I think we're outspoken, especially about issues that are somewhat controversial or sensitive to individuals ... I think it makes you an easier target," Gonzalez said about drawing a challenger. "I know the reason I have an opponent in the primary is because I was so vocal on so many social justice issues and even though we did have what I would say a phenomenal first year, first session, that doesn't take away from the fact that being a leader in this area is still considered a vulnerability."

Gonzalez passed four bills in the session that were signed into law. The bills provided safe water and improved infrastructure for the impoverished colonias in her district, adjusted testing requirements for recently immigrated students and created avenues to bring dairy farming back

to her district.

She said she's proud of the legislation she passed because the bills will "literally make a difference in the daily lives of my constituents."

But Gonzalez, who is pansexual, also said her being open about her sexuality helped create an understanding among legislators about LGBT issues and identities. Her work in the Legislature won her Mexican American Legislative Caucus' Freshman of the Year.

"My personal accomplishment that I'm proud of is the ways in which we started to change people's understanding and the professional [accomplishment] is the bills that we know will change people's lives in the district," she said.

The Washington D.C.-based political PAC Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund endorsed Gonzalez for re-election. Victory Fund Press Secretary Steven Thai said Gonzalez's work in the Legislature was vital last session, and she's "emerged as a champion for her constituents."

"Mary Gonzalez shattered a glass ceiling by becoming the first LGBT woman to serve in the Texas State Legislature, and we are proud to have endorsed her in both of her races," Thai said. "Texans cannot afford to lose Mary's important voice in the House."

After being gay-baited and targeted for supporting marriage equality in the Democratic Primary in 2012, Gonzalez went on to win without an opponent in the general election. Later that summer, she came out as pansexual in an interview with Dallas Voice, and is the only out pansexual lawmaker in the country. She said the experience of working in the Capitol after all the

■ GONZALEZ, Page 18

LGBT advocates question 'gay panic' defense in TCU murder



Stewart Trese

Police liaison says there's no indication of a hate crime; TCU GSA calls on university's police to have policy for bias-motivated crimes

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FORT WORTH — The validity of the "gay panic" defense in the murder of Texas Christian University student Stewart Trese was called into question this week.

Trese died Feb. 4 in his residence at the Grandmarc Apartments on TCU's campus. His friend David Hidalgo, 21, later admitted to killing Trese and was charged with murder.

But in a jailhouse interview with WFFA/Channel 8 last week, Hidalgo claimed Trese came on to him. When he refused the sexual advances, Trese allegedly threatened him with a knife. In the jailhouse interview, Hidalgo admitted to stabbing Trese about five times in the chest and throat.

Trese, a Fort Worth native, was a senior marketing major and minored in Japanese. He was active in the Brothers Under Christ Fraternity. He was 23.

Hidalgo is in jail under a \$100,000 bond, according to jail records. He is scheduled to appear in court Feb. 26.

But the arrest warrant affidavit released Wednesday doesn't mention sexual advances. Hi-

dalgo allegedly told his mother that Trese attacked him in the bathroom with a knife, so he took the knife and stabbed him. She then called police, who arrested Hidalgo, the affidavit states.

Trese's brother, Steve Trese, disputed Hidalgo's story of self-defense, telling the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Stewart Trese "was not that guy," and someone in Hidalgo's situation "would do anything to save his skin."

LGBT advocacy group Fairness Fort Worth issued a statement Wednesday challenging the "gay panic" defense, when a person commits a violent act and then justifies it as a dismissal of sexual advances. The group is working with Fort Worth police and the FBI to ensure that the investigation is handled properly.

"Our homicide detectives know how to fully investigate a crime and not be distracted by blind-alley diversions," FFW Vice President James McAlister said. "In addition, representations, in the same breath, of Hidalgo's Christian faith, as if to suggest the victim had none, are completely outside the scope of facts in this crime.

"Sadly, Mr. Hidalgo may have attempted to steal more than Mr. Trese's life; now he is also trying to steal Trese's self-identity in his death," he added. "We all have the right to define our sexuality and our lives, it is egregious that Hidalgo would usurp that right."

Cpl. Tracey Knight, LGBT liaison for the Fort Worth Police Department, said the case is being

■ TCU, Next Page

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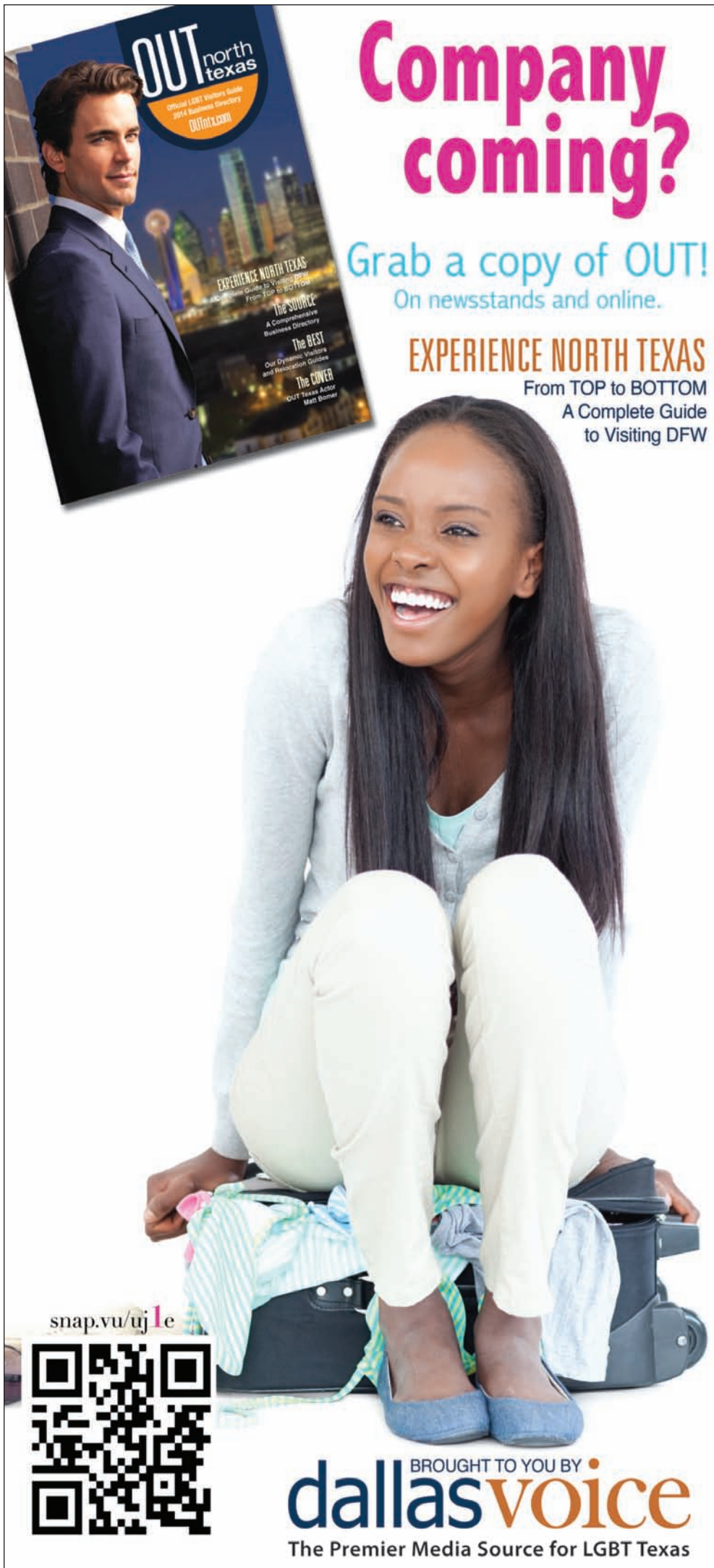


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■ **GONZALEZ**, From Page 16

news of her sexuality was a struggle because fellow lawmakers thought they already knew her. But she proved them wrong.

"So people had an impression of me, unlike other freshman state reps," Gonzales said. "Other freshman colleagues, they could come in and introduce themselves to their colleagues or to other people in politics.

"My impression was already there. We were able to overcome that and by March people just really knew I was here to work, that I was really effective and that I was actually really smart. And I would hear that, 'I didn't know what to think of you,' 'I was really confused by you,' 'Now I realize.' You would hear that over and over again.

"So, that to me is a really big accomplishment, to help people A: gain a greater awareness and B: challenge their stereotypes and C: create a different understanding of identity. That's huge. That's a culture shift. And so I think that's one of the things I'm most proud of."

As the first openly LGBT woman elected to the state House, and only the second out legislator after Texas was without an out representative for more than a decade, Gonzales was an advocate for pro-LGBT legislation.

Her work on pro-equality legislation included

anti-bullying legislation, the "Romeo and Juliet" defense bill, which made it out of committee, and would've provided legal protections for same-sex minors in intimate relationships under the defense.

She also co-authored a freedom to marry bill and joint authored a workplace protections bill and the accurate birth certificate bill, which would allow both same-sex parents to put their names on a supplementary birth certificate. Her work earned her an A-plus on Equality Texas' Legislative Scorecard, and she was one of the organization's Top 10 legislators.

Chuck Smith, executive director at Equality Texas, said Gonzales was the first legislator the statewide organization endorsed in the 2014 political cycle because of the expectation of a primary opponent. He said her work in the Legislature speaks of her hard work for her district and as an LGBT advocate.

"I think Rep. Gonzales has done a fabulous job for her district. Many of the bills that she passed are especially helpful to economic development and education in her district," Smith said. "Rep. Gonzales has done an awesome job of helping to break down stereotypes and to establish herself as a human being who's elected there by people to do a good job and she's been very effective at doing that." ■



David Hidalgo

■ **TCU**, From Previous Page

investigated as a homicide because there is no indication the incident was a hate crime.

Texas' hate crime statute is an enhancement law. It requires bias-motivated crimes, which protect "sexual preference," to be enhanced to a higher charge.

Knight said she can't address Hidalgo's defense, only the police investigation.

"I can assure the LGBT community that Chief Halstead and I are following this case closely, and we are in direct contact with the homicide investigators," she said. "I cannot reveal the details of an ongoing homicide investigation, but if there is any indication that the victim was a member or perceived to be a member of the LGBT community and/or he was targeted due

to this perception, the prosecutorial enhancement of hate crime will be added to the charge of murder."

FFW's McAlister, a non-practicing attorney, said it's a possibility the case could be prosecuted as a hate crime in light of the "gay panic" defense. But whether prosecutors will seek the enhancement is yet to be seen.

"If he proceeds with a gay defense, that sort of opens the door to the fact that the orientation of the victim had something to do with the murder," McAlister said.

Shelbie Rosenblum, president of TCU's Gay-Straight Alliance, said Trese's murder was "a tragedy that struck the TCU community."

She added that the university's LGBT community plans to work with the administration to implement policies to handle hate crimes "so the likelihood that a death like this decreases in the future." TCU police currently don't have procedures for handling a hate crime.

"The police of TCU need to have these protocols so they are able to protect 100 percent of the TCU population," Rosenblum said.

TCU spokeswoman Lisa Albert said she would look into the university's police procedures. She did not respond by press time.

Knight said she plans to speak to TCU's LGBT community next week to address any concerns students or staff may have.

"Even though there are no indications that this was a hate crime, incidents like this remind us that there are those out there that mean to do us harm simply for whom we love," Knight said. "We cannot let the fear consume us. We must continue to live our lives and be true to ourselves, but always remember, what we do individually reflects upon all of us as a community." ■

DHA signs agreement with neighborhood association

Oak Lawn activists are happy with the good neighbor agreement and changes the housing authority made to new planned complex

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

An Oak Lawn neighborhood group and the Dallas Housing Authority recently came to an agreement on a proposed public housing development on Kings Road.

DHA agreed to scale down the property, give preference to people who are employed and provide additional security to ensure the property becomes a good neighbor.

When plans for the complex were announced last summer, area resident Mike Harper put together a neighborhood group to negotiate with DHA.

"They've taken most of the concerns of the neighborhood into consideration," Harper said.

Among those concerns was the density of the complex, a variance requested for fewer parking spaces and crime in the area.

Previously, 222 units stood on the property. DHA proposed 410 new apartments on the land. In addition, another DHA property with 182 units stands across the street. Once the new property is built, this would become the highest concentration of public housing in the city.

DHA was requesting a zoning variance to build four-story buildings on the property. After discussions with Harper's group, DHA agreed to limit the height to three stories, which is within current zoning, and build only 366 units.

The housing authority continues to request a waiver of the number of parking spaces. Neighborhood groups objected to that provision because they worried guests would fill the limited parking area and on weekends overflow onto the surrounding streets.

"At one point in time, that was a contentious issue," Harper said.

Recent surveys of its other properties show the need for less than one space per unit. The agreement calls for one space per apartment plus an additional 50 to 60 visitor spaces.

DHA agreed to realign the property so its entrance will be on Hawthorne Avenue facing the existing public housing property.

An exit on Kings Road would be for emergency vehicles only. DHA would like that to be an exit-only for all cars. Dallas City Council will decide that issue when the proposal is discussed at its March 26 meeting.

One of the concerns is the amount of traffic on Kings Road if residents use this as an exit. Since the old property was torn down in 2012, most of



Mike Harper

the opposite side of the street from Maple Avenue to Cedar Springs Road has been redeveloped with high-density, four-story condos and apartments.

Crime was the most contentious issue.

When the older complex on the site closed two years ago, crime in the area dropped from 953 criminal offenses in 2011 to 303 criminal offenses in 2013, according to the Dallas Police Department.

DHA and the neighborhood association came up with a number of creative ways to address the issue.

Preference will be given to families with members who have been working full-time at least nine months.

"They'd move up the list ahead of someone who doesn't have a job," Harper said.

All one-bedroom apartments will go to the elderly or disabled.

One apartment would be set aside for a Dallas police officer to live in rent-free. Office space would be set aside as a Dallas police office. Security cameras will be monitored by police.

A number of amenities would be added to the property including a dog park, playgrounds, landscaping and a clubhouse with library and fitness center.

The property is in Councilman Adam Medrano's district. He said this has been the most contentious issue in his district since he took office last May. He likes the good neighbor agreement between the DHA and neighborhood group.

"The Dallas Housing Authority and community have been working together for months to make it right," he said. "Both partners are responsible for certain areas to make the project right for the community."

He said he was concerned about traffic on Kings Road as well because of all of the new properties. He suggested that even if the Kings Road exit is initially used as an exit only from the complex, it could be closed after several months if it contributes too much traffic to the neighborhood and all parking along Kings Road will be banned.



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Dallas couple marries on Valentine's Day



Danielle Pellett and JJ Larson

A lesbian couple will marry in Carl Ginsberg's courtroom in the Allen Courts building in Dallas on Friday

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Danielle Pellett and her partner JJ Larson will be legally married in the court of 193rd District Court Judge Carl Ginsberg on Valentine's Day morning. Larson was born a woman, and Pellett is a trans woman. They'll be married together with another cis/trans lesbian couple.

Pellett said the other couple made the arrangements and were turned down by 17 other judges before they found Ginsberg. Once they did, Pellett and Larson decided to join them.

"It's a legal heterosexual marriage in the eyes of the law," Pellett said.

A 1999 lawsuit called Littleton v. Prange voided the marriage between Christie Littleton, a trans woman, to a man. All of Littleton's identification had been changed to match her female identity, but the appeals court ruled that for purposes of Texas law, Littleton was a man.

Since Texas doesn't recognize same-sex marriage, the couple's marriage was ruled invalid. But that decision also made it legal for a trans woman to marry another woman.

That's the ruling that allowed the Dallas County Clerk's office to issue the couple a marriage license, while denying licenses to other same-sex couples that have applied for them. And it's the ruling that allows Ginsberg to officiate.

A Texas ruling Thursday in the Nikki Araguz case found that a sex change allows trans people to marry opposite-sex partners. Pellett has not had a sex change, so can still marry Larson under that rul-

ing.

Pellett and Larson met at University of North Texas when Pellett was still presenting as male.

"It was a cold day and I was wearing a long denim coat," Pellett said. "I offered to open my coat and put my arms around her."

She said Larson thought she was a cute gay boy. "I should have told her I'm trans and going full time," she said.

The next time they met was the following semester at a meeting of GLAD, UNT's LGBT social organization. Larson was with someone who came with her for moral support.

Pellett was presenting as female by then. Larson had a trans friend in high school, so she was very comfortable dating Pellett. Her only worry was that her attraction to Pellett made her straight.

Pellett finished her degree in forensic chemistry and works as a chemist. Larson got her degree in metal smithing and works for a jeweler, and the couple has been together for eight years. They had a handfasting ceremony two years ago.

Pellett and Larson first applied for their marriage license in Grand Prairie where they were turned down even though they presented proper ID that showed they were an opposite-sex couple. The clerk wasn't looking at the ID and didn't know the Littleton case.

"They told me they'd let me get married to a man," Pellett said.

After Dallas County issued the license at the County Records Building in Downtown Dallas, she went back to the Grand Prairie office to show them.

Pellett travels for business and for the couple's eighth anniversary in November, she was scheduled to be in Taiwan. When her employer heard she'd be away for her anniversary, he let Pellett take Larson on the trip with her to celebrate eight years together. ■

Couples challenge gay marriage ban in court

Attorneys for 2 couples argued their cases this week with no ruling issued, but the judge said he'd issue decision soon

CHRIS TOMLINSON | Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A lawyer representing Texas asked a federal judge Wednesday to reject pleas from two gay couples to suspend the state constitution's definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, calling the legalization of same-sex marriages "a more recent innovation than Facebook."

Mike Murphy, an assistant Texas solicitor general, told District Judge Orlando Garcia if he lifted the state's voter-approved ban on gay marriage he would be injecting himself into a social and political debate that should be left to lawmakers.

"These questions are political questions, not constitutional rights," he told the court. "Same-sex marriage is not included in the fundamental right of marriage ... it is a more recent innovation than Facebook."

Garcia scheduled Wednesday's hearing, which he noted was on President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, to consider a motion by two couples for a preliminary injunction immediately lifting the Texas gay marriage ban pending a trial later this year. Garcia did not immediately rule or give an indication when he might release a written decision but predicted this case, or one of 22 similar ones in other states, "will make its way to the Supreme Court."

The case before Garcia is the first of its kind in Texas, and in the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano filed a federal civil rights lawsuit complaining that Texas' ban unconstitutionally denies them the fundamental right to marry because of their sexual orientation.

The other lawsuit was filed by Austin couple Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman, who argue that Texas officials are violating their rights and those of their 2-year-old child by not recognizing their marriage license from Massachusetts.

Holmes and De Leon are both U.S. Air Force veterans who served in San Antonio, though both couples have since moved away.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican running for governor, opposes legalizing gay marriage and has vowed to defend the law. But civil rights groups recently won injunctions against similar bans in Utah and Oklahoma relying on the same argument being cited in the Texas case — that banning gay marriage violates the equal protection



THEIR DAY IN COURT | Plano couple Vic Holmes, far left, and Mark Phariss and Austin couple Cleopatra DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman in court Wednesday. (Photo courtesy of Randy Bear)

clause of the 14th Amendment.

Neel Lane, an attorney for the two couples, dismissed the state's argument that their rights were not violated because they are free to marry members of the opposite sex. He said that's like holding someone's head underwater and saying the person is free to breathe, just not air.

He also rejected Murphy's argument that lawmakers did not exclude homosexuals by passing the ban but were trying to promote responsible procreation.

"If marriage is good for children, then it is irrational to prohibit homosexual couples who could have children from being married," he said, pointing out that gays may adopt children in Texas.

While Garcia listened to arguments, another federal judge decided Wednesday that Kentucky must recognize gay marriages performed in other states. In a 23-page ruling, U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II concluded that the government may define marriage and attach benefits to it, but cannot "impose a traditional or faith-based limitation" without a sufficient justification for it.

In his comments from the bench, Garcia mentioned key civil rights laws passed after the end of the Civil War and pointed out that racial segregation and bans on interracial marriage were part of American tradition until federal judges declared them unconstitutional.

Attorneys general in other states have taken mixed approaches to court challenges to bans on gay marriage. Utah and Oklahoma are fighting rulings lifting their bans. In Nevada and Virginia, attorneys general have chosen not to defend them.

The couples denied that they are trying to redefine marriage or carve out a new constitutional right.

"Marriage is something when two people who are committed to each other, who love each other and who want to demonstrate that commitment," Holmes said. "I think that is what the tradition is about and that tradition should apply to us." ■

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■ nationalnews

How to invite 700,000 of your closest friends to your wedding



MAZEL TOV | Danny Leclair, center, and Aubrey Loots, right, kiss after the Rev. Alfreda Lanoix married them on a Rose Bowl float.

Even in the LGBT community, some thought Danny Leclair and Aubrey Loots' wedding on a float in the Rose Parade was too in-your-face

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

CALIFORNIA — Danny Leclair and Aubrey Loots saved a fortune on flowers for their wed-

ding, yet they managed to have 700,000 people attend, while millions of others watched their ceremony on TV. That's because they married on a float on New Year's Day in the Rose Bowl Parade.

The couple wasn't surprised when they became the center of controversy, but what did surprise them was the criticism from the LGBT community.

Leclair called it internalized homophobia.

"This is too much, too soon," Leclair said he heard people say. "You're shoving it down people's throats."

Others said the float would embolden the detractors.

The Los Angeles Times suggested those who didn't want to see the scheduled, un-miked 15 seconds that would be broadcast should go duck hunting instead.

"Gay 'marriage' is still illegal in over 30 states," wrote detractor Karen Grube on her Facebook protest page created especially for the wedding. "Why would the Tournament of Roses promote something illegal like that?"

In California, where Grube lives, where Leclair and Loots live and where the Rose Parade takes place, marriage is legal. The Legislature said so twice. A district court said so. So did the appeals court. Twice. Then the U.S. Supreme Court had the final say last year.

Leclair said parade officials wanted to celebrate the overturning of Prop 8 by the Supreme Court last June and restoration of marriage equality to the state. Farmers Insurance was originally going to host a wedding on its float. When that company decided to change its theme to honor teachers, the parade turned to American Healthcare Foundation and asked if it would like to pick up the idea and use it on its float. The organization ran with it.

First AHF had to find the perfect couple.

Leclair said his first contact with AHF was at a gay wedding expo he attended with a friend of his who's a wedding planner.

"A girl popped up and said, 'Do you want to be married on a Rose Bowl float?'" Leclair said.

He applied, and they were called around Thanksgiving to come for an on-camera interview along with about 10 other finalists.

Once they were chosen, the couple probably had the simplest planning of an elaborate wedding in history.

"Our responsibility was to look good," Loots said. "They took care of the other details."

"They were incredibly gracious," Leclair said. "What they were out to accomplish was to celebrate gay marriage, but they recognized it was our wedding."

He said they were very considerate about making it personal and making sure the couple's family and friends could participate.

That included a reception held several days before the parade.

Extra security before and during the parade included guards at the hangar where the float was stored because of threats to destroy it before it could enter the parade. During the parade, sheriff's deputies walked up and down the route as well as alongside the float.

No incidents took place, and the couple saw little protest. They said they saw a few of the regular religious protesters with their signs and heard boos about a dozen times along the route. But every time the boos began, Leclair said something happened.

"The crowd around the boos got louder, cheering," he said.

He said it was very emotional seeing 700,000 people cheering for their marriage and holding babies up to see the couple as they passed.

The theme of the float was "Love is the best

protection."

AHF, the largest provider of medical services to persons living with AIDS, was referring to healthy, monogamous relationships as the best protection from contracting HIV.

Leclair said he took the theme further to include love at school to protect kids from bullying and love at home to help gay and lesbian kids grow up healthy.

Leclair and Loots have been together 12 years and met after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2011.

"I was so impacted by the senselessness of the event," Leclair said. "I decided to do something."

He began to raise money to participate in the Tanquaray African AIDS Trek. He called that a life-affirming trip.

"I met people who should have been angry," he said. "Instead, I met people who were positive and did so much with so little."

After the ride, he flew back to Los Angeles. That first day back, he was jet lagged and woke up at 11 p.m., so he went out to one of the clubs to go dancing. The dance floor was pumped with dry ice.

"Just as the smoke parted, there stood my husband," Leclair said.

They introduced themselves, and Leclair immediately recognized Loots' South African accent.

"I was goo-goo-eyed over him and impressed he knew I was from South Africa," Loots said.

They exchanged numbers and didn't go home with each other that first night.

"We knew this wasn't going to be a one-night stand," Leclair said.

Two years later, the couple had a wedding ceremony and registered as a California domestic partnership. When same-sex marriage was legal for the six months in 2008 before Proposition 8 shut it down, they didn't bother upgrading their relationship status from domestic partner to spouse.

They said they were business owners and weren't sure of the tax and other implications. The looming ballot proposition added to the uncertainty, they said.

Not until the Supreme Court rendered the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and overturned Prop 8 did they begin to think about getting married.

"That's when we realized we wanted to start a family, so we were ready," Leclair said.

Talking about the marriage equality fight across the country, Leclair said, "It's frustrating how much time and energy each state is spending on what's inevitable."

The couple also is amazed at the idea that what they did was controversial.

The float was only on camera for about 15 seconds, and the ceremony wasn't miked.

The TV announcer was Bob Eubanks, longtime host of *The Newlywed Game*.

"Congratulations and our best wishes to Aubrey and Danny on their wedding day!" Eubanks said as the wedding float passed.

Even that was cut by many stations covering the parade. ■



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In addition, we will explore what financial planning looks like for the LGBT community.

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■ **viewpoints**

It's time for us all to celebrate Michael Sam

On Monday night, WFAA's Dale Hansen delivered a commentary about Michael Sam that quickly became a sensation. We reproduce his editorial below

It was quite a weekend. On Sunday, Missouri's All-American defensive end Michael Sam — the SEC's defensive player of the year and expected to be a third- to fifth-round pick in the NFL draft — tells the world he's gay.

The best defensive player in college football's best conference only a third to fifth round NFL pick? Really? That is shocking, and I guess that other thing is, too.

Michael Sam would be the first openly gay player in the NFL; he says he knows there will be problems ... and they've already started.

Several NFL officials are telling Sports Illustrated it will hurt him on draft day because a gay player wouldn't be welcome in an NFL locker room. It would be uncomfortable, because that's a man's world.

You beat a woman and drag her down a flight of stairs, pulling her hair out by the roots? You're the fourth guy taken in the NFL draft.

You kill people while driving drunk? That guy's welcome.

Players caught in hotel rooms with illegal drugs and prostitutes? We know they're welcome.

Players accused of rape and pay the woman to go away? You lie to police trying to cover up a murder? We're comfortable with that.

You love another man? Well, now you've gone too far!

It wasn't that long ago when we were being told that black players couldn't play in "our" games because it would be "uncomfortable." And even when they finally could, it took several more years before a black man played quarterback. Because we weren't "comfortable" with that, either.

So many of the same people who used to make that argument (and the many who still do) are the same people who say government should stay out of our lives. But then want government in our bedrooms.

I've never understood how they feel "comfortable" laying claim to both sides of that argument. I'm not always comfortable when a man tells me he's gay; I don't understand his world. But I do understand that he's part of mine.

Civil rights activist Audre Lord said: "It is not our differences that divide us. It's our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."



We've always been able to recognize 'em. Some of us accept 'em. And I want to believe that there will be a day when we do celebrate 'em. I don't know if that day's here yet. I guess we're about to find out.

But when I listen to Michael Sam, I do think it's time to celebrate him now.

Dale Hansen is sports director for WFAA, where he has worked for more than 30 years. This commentary originally aired on Feb. 10.



spea**o**ut poll

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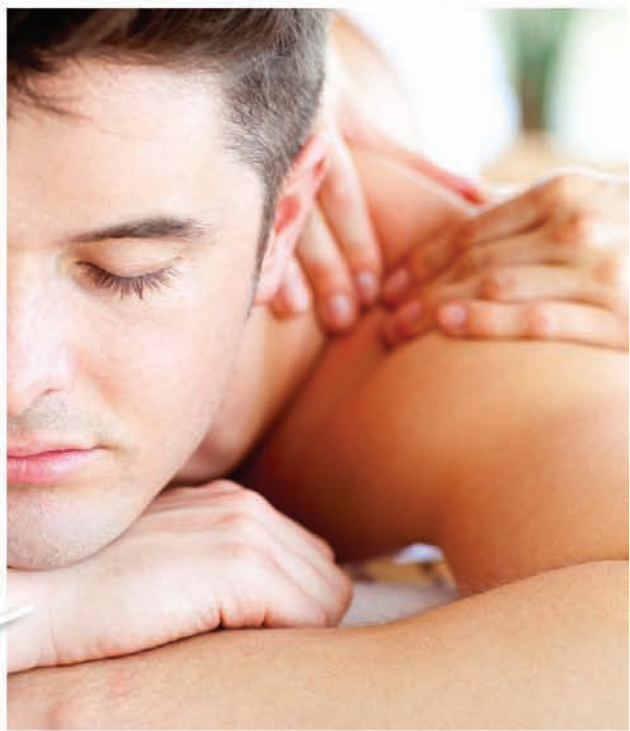
Do you think the Cowboys or Texans will draft Texas native Michael Sam?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Are gays and lesbians guilty of marginalizing trans people?

- Some: 57 percent
- Very: 32 percent
- Not at all: 11 percent

125 votes cast



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Drop and give me 40

For Wil Turner, fitness is less about looking hot than feeling great — mentally and physically

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

Wil Turner has been a personal trainer since age 16, so whatever clever excuse you think you can come up with to justify why you cannot workout will not fly with him.

"You don't have any excuses I haven't heard for why you're not working out," he says with a sympathetic but knowing glance. "I've heard them all."

Indeed, the two bugaboos that drive Turner are people's inherent resistance to staying fit *and* their decision to do it, but for the wrong reasons.

"I don't teach a lot of weight-training," Turner says with take-it-or-leave-it directness. "I teach people how to be healthy by giving them the support to do workouts anywhere, anytime. I'm not [fond of calling myself] a trainer — that's a four-letter word in my book. I'm a health educator, interested in mind body and spirit. That's what's important to me."

If he sounds more spiritual than physical, more cheerleader than drill sergeant, well, that's almost the point. Turner's approach to fitness is holistic, even psychological. He wants people to get healthy more than he wants them to get ripped — which can be an uphill battle in the gay community.

"I think we need to save the LGBT community," he says. "We need to dispel the myths about what fitness looks like."

Many in the gay community, for example, have as their "fitness goals" looking good in a Speedo. But while Turner himself sports a lean, muscular frame, he's interested in different parts of the body than most gay men are — like the ankle.

"In the gay population we are fit because we are trying to hook up with the hottest guys. Most of us don't train our ankles or wrists or shoulders, which are all parts that we *need* to have strengthened," he says. "They are the stabilizer muscles. We need them to brace ourselves first, so that we can work on the aesthetic muscles [safely]."

He takes a similarly frank stance on fad diets, asking his clients one question when counseling them:

Wil Turner, who works out of the gym at the ilume, stresses that true fitness isn't just about aesthetics — it's about psychological health as well. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)





“Are you going to do this for the rest of your life? If the answer is no, it’s probably not healthy.”

Turner stresses the importance of being comfortable in one’s body. He works with several transgender clients who, despite their orientation and hormone treatments, still have physical characteristics of their birth-sex they need to be aware of when planning an exercise regimen.

His zeal comes from a position of extensive knowledge. He started his physical fitness career while still a teenager at local gyms. Eventually he started a program that involved “fitness in the park” meet-ups; those would become a springboard to a long-term position with Equinox gyms. In 2005, he branched out on his own, developing programs for Gold’s and the YMCA. Last year, he moved back to Texas to start his current business, Fusion 40 Fitness.

“The name is derived from four sets of 10-minute exercises,” he explains: “We do 10 minutes of cardio, 10 of strength, 10 of core, and 10 minutes of flexibility. They all come together to make a physically fit person.”

Not all sessions are the same, however — he tailors every class to meet the needs of his clients, from beginners to the already toned. And he keeps the process as simple as possible. “It’s all about arming yourself with the resources you

need to [exercise] in any situation.” Remember, he accepts *no* excuses.

If he sounds like a softie, he’s not. Turner’s classes are exhausting but revitalizing, combining a peaceful, yoga-like approach with a boot-camp zeal. And although he pushes his clients, his style is more encouraging than demanding.

Fitness “is a combination of factors, including caring and nurturing. It’s about psychological health as well. The difference between me and other personal trainers is, I focus on behaviors. If you don’t change the behavior you’re not going to be motivated. *Why* do we do that? It’s not going to work to do it.”

In other words, it’s not enough merely to stop binge eating, it’s important to know why you’re doing it in the first place. “With overeating, it’s not the food that the problem — it’s the will,” he says. “It’s not just about losing weight — a big component is mental clarity and endurance.” His watchwords are: Moderation, discipline and accountability.

Which brings us back to why Turner thinks “personal trainer” is a dirty word — there’s so much more to health than that. It’s about education.

“The more we know about our bodies, the healthier we are.”

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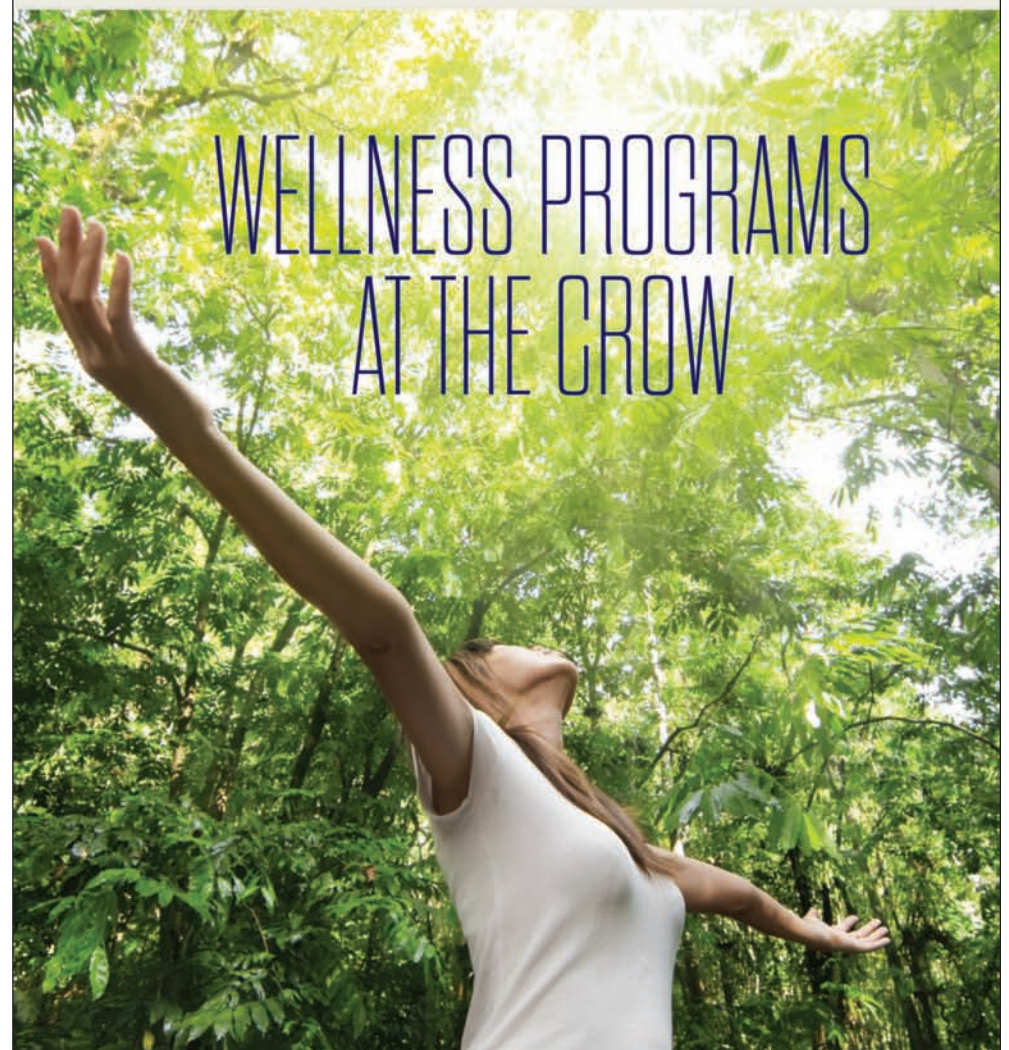
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Skin in the game

Dallas bath-and-body
magnate Niven Morgan
has finally developed
a line of beauty products
for men. If only women
won't stop buying it up



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
Life+Style Editor

The last 12 months have been busy for Niven Morgan in the best possible way. In 2013, he was named one of the most fashionable men in Dallas by DFWStyleDaily.com, owing to his stylish way of dressing. But it's what's under the clothes he's most proud of.

We're talking about his skin.

Niven Morgan — his eponymous, Dallas-based skincare company, now 15 years old — has taken off in ways that surprise even him. Not only have his products been in demand (both retail and with private-label formulations), but he's finally expanding into a market he's long hoped to: a men's program.

"We're progressing so quickly," he says with a hint of amazement. "The momentum this year has been great. We have to start now to get the products through their testing and stay focused on the new products."

The new products include his Rue 1807 fragrance line, developed particularly for men, which collectively go by the tagline "Man Made."

It may seem like a no-brainer — a gay male skincare maven doing a men's line — but the process took longer than you (or even Morgan) would imagine. What really triggered it was his own self-interest: He wanted a product for some-

It only took Niven Morgan, above, 14 years to develop a skincare line, including the products pictured opposite, exclusively for men like himself. (Photo courtesy of Sylvia Elzafon/DFWStyleDaily)

one just like him.

"That was it exactly," he laughs. "I had done this for 14 years and didn't have any men's products, and I thought, 'I run a bath and body company! Why not?' We didn't do market research — it was [just me deciding to do it]."

It's less simple than it sounds. As with fashion, the majority of body products are more tailored to females than males. But as a fashionista himself, Morgan knew there was a place for it. In less than a year, it has shown great growth.

"It takes a good bit longer to launch a men's product," he says. "But there are times I want things for myself — it's just a question [whether] I want them bad enough. We try to do things we are interested in and really like. It's a lot more fun and makes it easier to sell. We've had thousands of requests for reed diffusers, and we've never done them because it's not something that interests me."

So what's the difference between men's products and those for women? In part, it's the fragrance — or so you'd think.

"We developed the Rule 1807 fragrance based on New Orleans as more masculine-scented. We did the facial product fragrance-free but, other products contain scent representing the mahogany and voodoo and aromas of the bars in New Orleans," Morgan says. But that doesn't mean only men like those aromas.

"The women are wanting the men's line! The customer base is 50-50," he says. "Women ask, 'Why can't I use the cleanser and moisturizer?' I say you can, but not the shave cream. It was formulated for [the tougher beard of] men."

In addition to women, gay men (and those reliable allies, the straight "metrosexual") are a target market. Morgan says they continue to seek out quality products and care about their appearances.

"I was standing in Sephora recently, and I no-



ticed a couple guys go directly to the men's product, and they were reading about it — not just picking it up and taking to the counter," he says. That inspired him to provide more information about the product on the outer packaging (and to make it more readable). "I also like to give

a little quote about each product we created for the men's section — it gives us more credibility. For [the hair care products], I actually created an entire story that's always been in the back of my head."

Body products are more about stories and grooming, though, and are essential to overall health. Especially during cold months like now, a regimen for men is essential to preserving your skin's vitality.

"Moisturizing the face is so important," Morgan says, especially considering men shave almost daily. "Every time I take a blade I think, 'It's a piece of metal scraping something off my face.' Why would you skip good maintenance? It helps to maintain and your skin looks better without that dry flaky look."

Men also tend to forget their hands — a key area to preserve health and youthfulness.

"I love our hand cream. I noticed over the [recent period of winter weather] that I cannot do without my hand cream. We're actually working on a new version that is hydromoisurizing. Any water-based products [have changed to aloe vera-based]. The moisturizing effect is so much better." And he hopes to see more on the way.

"I want to see the men's line expand," Morgan says. "We have a collection of lavender-mint men's products — candles, room sprays, bath salts — coming [soon]. I think it's gonna be big."

And all men who look for more choices without browsing through the women's section will be forever grateful.

Visit NivenMorgan.com.

LAFCO LAUNCHES HOMEOPATHIC SOAP LINE

For 22 years, Jon Bresler has been, as he calls it, "chief bottle washer" for LAFCO, a homeopathic skincare company known most for importing fine European bath products. But after Bresler and his partner, Vincent LaRouche (who is the creative director for LAFCO) launched a popular line of scented candles a few years ago, Bresler developed "an expertise in fragrance." And now, LAFCO has combined those skills to produce its own line of homeopathic soaps and lotions.

"What makes our candles unique is the quality of perfumed oils we use," Bresler explains from his boutique in Highland Park Village. With his contacts in Europe, he was able to develop equally good products for his skincare line.

The liquid soaps and lotions, which launched just two weeks ago (the bar soaps arrived last year), are made with high-quality olive oil and palm oil, and is milled with almond oil, "a superfood the body needs," he says. The high pH in the formulation is ideal for eczema and dry skin, which a quarter of Americans suffer from. Likewise, the liquid soaps are virtually free of sulfates (a petroleum-based detergent) and are ideal for the skin. But don't expect LAFCO soaps to froth like a bubble bath: "Soaps lather," he explains. "Bubbles are the enemy."

—A.W.J.



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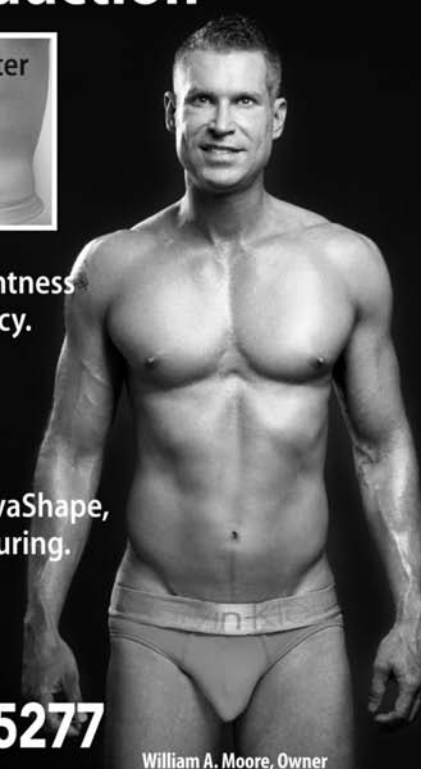
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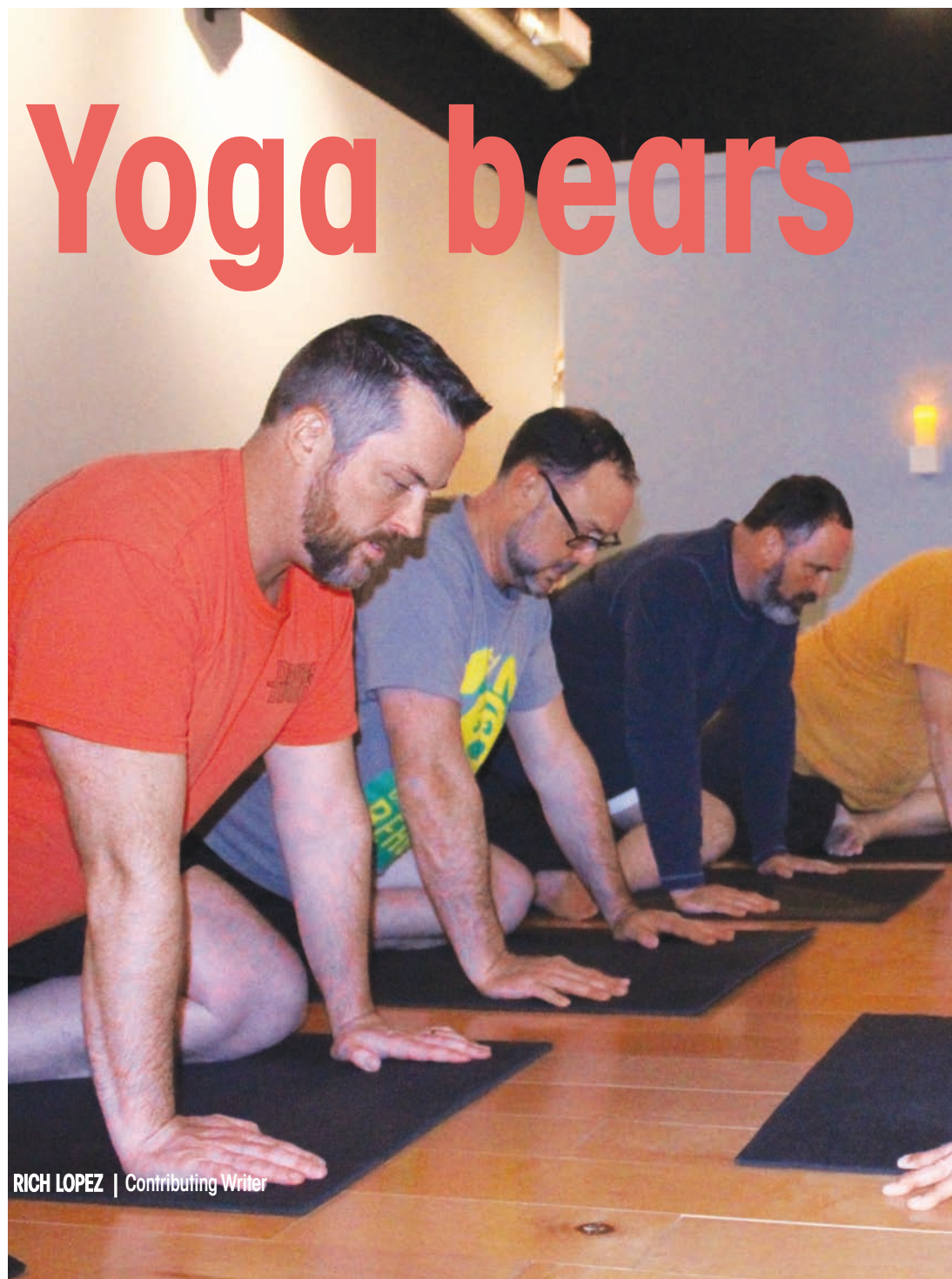



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They may not be smarter, but the gay men who meet weekly in

Yoga and its practitioners suffer from many misconceptions, not the least of which is: To be good, you are required to twist your body into seemingly impossible contortions.

Tom Boyd-Lloyd knew that didn't describe him. Still, the bearish gent was on a search for a fitness regime that suited his needs. He disliked gyms and wasn't built to be a long-distance runner, and yoga, it seemed, was the answer — even if he wasn't as flexible as those rubber-bone yogis he'd seen in National Geographic.

"It was something I'd wanted to do for a while, but a lot of guys don't wanna do yoga because they can't bend over and touch their toes," he says. "They're not flexible. I know I wasn't."

Wasn't. He can touch his toes now — and a lot more.

Boyd-Lloyd, 48 years old, was always fine with being a bigger guy, but he wanted to be a *healthy* bigger guy. He opened Studio 4 in Oak Cliff eight months ago, and every Tuesday night

he's hosted Bear Yoga. An introductory class with a comfortable, encouraging atmosphere, it's been a success in the bear community.

"It took off right away," he beams. "We have up to 15 guys on a regular basis, and we continue to grow."

Boyd-Lloyd says the camaraderie that has been created there has been crucial to his students. Bear Yoga isn't just a class, but a group of guys hanging out and supporting each other's fitness goals. With a focus on basics, the class is learning about the body and the breathing with an emphasis on meditation. Those basics then become building blocks to a higher-level practice.

"This is an introductory class, and so while practicing simple yoga, we're building a solid base of knowledge and getting people to pay attention to their bodies," he says.

Tom and his partner Patrick Lloyd-Boyd have both become yoga fans while maintaining their bear status. But within that community, there tends to be a lack of conversation on health and



Mark Bruhn-Tackett, Brian Walker, Patrick Lloyd-Boyd, and Tom Boyd-Lloyd practice yoga poses with class leader Trey Bartosh at their Oak Cliff studio. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Oak Cliff to practice yoga are definitely more flexible than your average bears

weight. Boyd-Lloyd hopes that Bear Yoga can push some of that dialogue to a more prominent place.

"We both like bigger guys, but we also like bigger guys to be healthy — they need to be," he explains. "There are some guys who purposely gain weight, and sometimes we should ask them about that. Perhaps it's a conversation closer friends can have, but we should make sure that our guys are heart-healthy and have a low risk for diabetes. Being big can be great, but let's make healthy decisions."

People underestimate yoga as a demanding form of fitness because there is no heavy weight-lifting or cardio overload. Don't expect to build huge muscles worthy of A-list attention on Scruff, but Boyd-Lloyd stresses that his class is no less of a workout — just of a different kind.

"I'd gone to gyms for years, and I hated it. I hate running. I hate lifting weights," he says. "Since doing yoga, I've just had a great feeling about myself, and I have energy, and it feels very goal-directed."

That's not to say it isn't strenuous. The focus isn't on burning calories, but that happens along with increasing the heart rate. The process involves focusing inward, but in doing so, the body nonetheless sweats. But intention is important to practicing yoga.

"When you move your body in yoga, you set that intention," he says. "I have to do that the night before. I tell myself I'm going to wake up, throw on my yoga clothes and go to my 6 a.m. class. But also, it's just focusing on yourself and your life. I never felt that way about going to the gym."

Ummm ... about "yoga clothes:" What's a bear to wear? Don't fret. Lululemon see-through pants are not required.

"Oh, it's easy," he laughs. "All people need to wear are T-shirts and gym shorts and bring a sweat rag. We have all the supplies like mats, bolsters and blocks. And everything is bare-foot."

Boyd-Lloyd stresses that Bear Yoga is a com-

■ **YOGA** Page 39

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Tats entertainment!

The actors' ink in DTC's 'Oedipus el Rey' is fake (except what isn't)

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

If you've seen Dallas Theater Center's edgy, raw production *Oedipus el Rey* — and if you haven't, you definitely should (it runs 'til March 2) — you may have wondered, as I briefly did, whether any (all?) of the many prison tattoos sported by the mostly male cast were real.

"Though I love the idea of conducting auditions for *Oedipus* by asking each actor to show me their tattoos, and then cast them accordingly, nonetheless, the vast majority were created and designed for the production," jokes Kevin Moriarty, the DTC's artistic director and the director of this production.

A modern drama that adapts Sophocles' iconic ancient Greek play and moves it to the present-day barrios of Southern California — where a gang led by Creon (David Lugo) is brought down when his biological son Oedipus (Philippe Bowgen) kills him according to prophecy, then marries his own mother Jocasta (Sabina Zuniga Varela) before the tragedy of his fate reveals itself — is a bloody, violent expiation of criminal recidivism and the cultural conditions that control us — gains much of its power from the muscled men whose tattoos tell as much about their story as words do.

Jen Ables, DTC's costume shop manager and the costume designer on the show, was tasked with designing the tattoos, sometimes in conjunction with the cast (see sidebar, Page 35). Her first step was to research different ways to apply tattoos.

"We worked with outside support on *Fly* [at DTC] last season, and figured it out for ourselves this time," Ables says. "We knew there would be a lot of tattoos, they would get blood on them, and there was an Actors Equity rule that it could not take more

than half an hour [to apply them]." She ended up with a cross-section of alcohol- and water-based temporary tattoos from two suppliers — some customized, some that amounted to "clip art."

From there, she tailored each design to suit the characters.

"I told the actors, if you get any ideas from the text, tell me," she says. In the case of Oedipus, Bowgen observed that he is still a comparative innocent when the play begins, so he doesn't have much ink. His tattoos, therefore, had to be minimal but striking.

Ables elected to give him a spider-web on the neck, a spider on the wrist and a portrait of Oedipus' mother on his bicep — actually the face of DTC company member Christina Vela. He also gets a teardrop near the eye. Nicole Alvarez, a hair and makeup technician, applies Bowgen's tats before most performances, which includes the alcohol and water types, as well as a tattoo pen for filling in gaps and drawing on the tear.

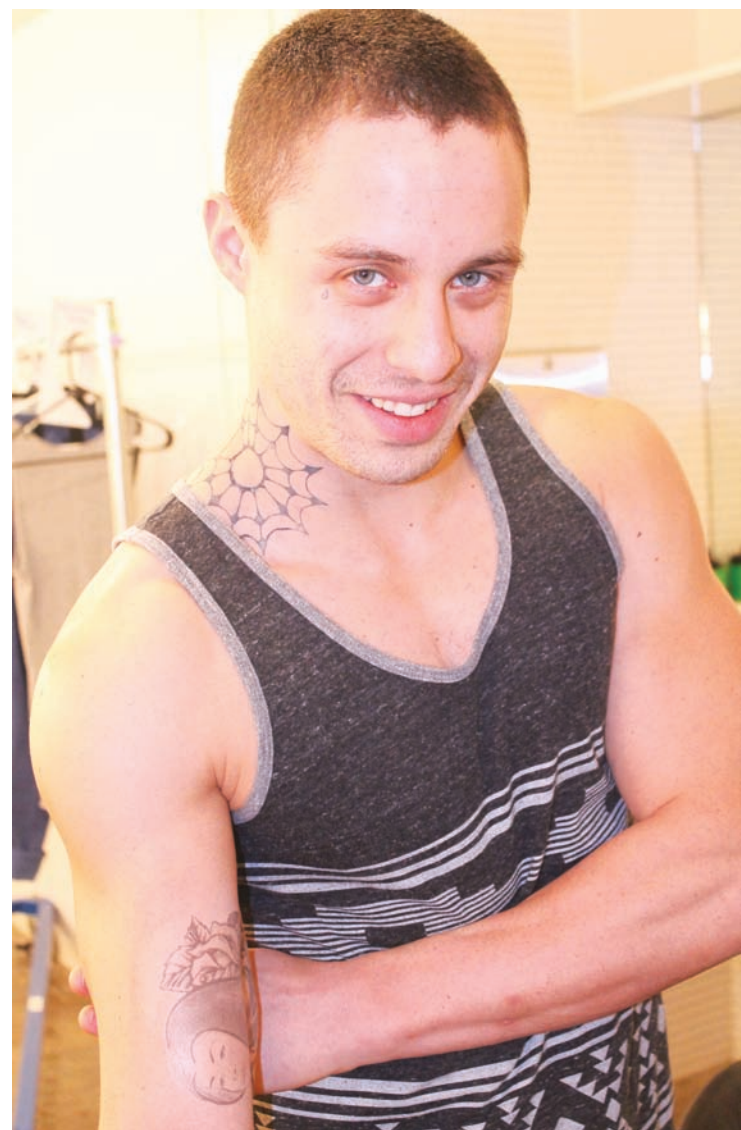
But keep looking. Some of the actors did have their own real tattoos before rehearsals started. Ables says Varela, the lone woman, has the most real ones, and Lugo sports off one on his arm — an unthreatening chicken, which, he jokes, could be made to look like an aggressive cockfighter if he took a mind to it.

And Oedipus himself? Yep.

Bowgen actually got his own real tattoo "after a drunken night when I was 18," as he puts it. Don't see it? It's on his upper thigh, he says. Whether you can see it during his nude scene may depend on your seats.

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through March 2. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Philippe Bowgen, right, shows off the fake tattoos applied for his role in 'Oedipus el Rey.' If you want to see his one *real* tat, get good seats during the show's nude extended scene. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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ANATOMY OF A PRISON TATTOO (THEATRICAL VERSION)



Rodney Garza, who plays both Tiersia and Coro in DTC's *Oedipus el Rey*, doesn't have any real tattoos himself, but was deeply involved in mapping out some for his characters. The one he was most proud of? A line in the text where someone said they'd seen his character kill a man with acid inspired the chest tattoo he sports in the show: A skull and crossbones with

the addition of the chemical formula for sulfuric acid. Unlike most of the cast members in the show, Garza applies this one himself, which he walked us through.

Garza starts (Photo 1) with a clean slate: He swabs 99 percent alcohol solution on his chest to remove the remnants of the old tattoo (like the other cast members, he replaces his tats

every few days as they begin to wear off or become cracked, destroying the illusion of ink and skin.

Next, Garza preps his chest (Photo 2) by placing the decal over a dry surface. He then slowly moistens the back of the paper with water, making sure every corner is wet. Then comes the technical part: Removing the paper backing. He tried to pull

it off in one clean sweep (Photo 3), though the process involves continually checking to make sure the temp tat has adhered to his skin and is still moist. He will rewet it if he has to.

The final step (Photo 4) is simply making sure it reads "cholo." And a half-hour later, it's time to start the play.

—A.W.J.

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— Mikey Rox

LIFE+STYLE

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2(X)IST Tartan

Whether you call them thermal underwear or long johns (which get their nickname from the late-19th century heavyweight boxer John L. Sullivan because he wore similar looking garments in the ring), there are days when you need a double layer of protection against the elements on super-cold days. When they arrive, you can be ready with the 2(s)ist Tartan collection of separates (in red, black, or white) that include well-fitted long johns and long-sleeve henleys. (\$25.50; available at Shop.2xist.com)

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Pictured, from left, 2(X)ist Tartan, Frank Dandy Cavaleras, Proskins Active and C-IN2 Prime.

face with too many munchies. (\$59; available at MensUnderwearStore.com)

C-IN2 Prime

For long johns that perform as well on the slopes as they do under the sheets, C-IN2 has the market on lock. Its Prime collection is composed of soft cotton-modal fabric, providing a lightweight, body-warming, breathable undergarment that maintains its shape and support no matter your extra-curricular activities. C-IN2 Prime long johns also features a slim-fitting leg, allowing them to be worn under pants without adding extra bulk. Colors: violet, navy, hemp, grey and red. (\$50; available at MensUnderwearStore.com)

Proskins Active Compression

Proskins Active Compression leggings and long-sleeve crew tops aren't long underwear in the traditional sense — no easy-access flap in the front and they're *not* made of cotton — but what they lack in old-school style is compensated for in high-performance design. Made from an innovative tech



yarn, Proskins are light, smooth and aerodynamic, which reduces muscle fatigue during those cold-weather workouts and enables quicker muscle recovery after sports. These skin-tight suits also help enhance blood flow and suppress lactic acid to help muscles perform at their peak. Whether you're flying down a double black diamond on the slopes or going for a jog around the gayborhood, Proskins will keep you covered and cozy. (\$75-\$80; available at ProskinsUS.com)

N2N Bodywear Campfire Cropped

For guys who like to stand out in style even in their long underwear, N2N delivers the Bodywear Campfire Cropped long john, which offers a comfortable athletic fit with a short leg that stops just below the knee. This collection is designed specifically for warmer weather — like those chilly nights in the desert — but the lightweight waffle-weave cotton stays breathable and absorbent to keep you dry as the temperature rises. This cropped long john also features a low rise, perfect for studs packin' heat, and a small N2N logo tab on the front waistband. (\$30; available at MensUnderwearStore.com)





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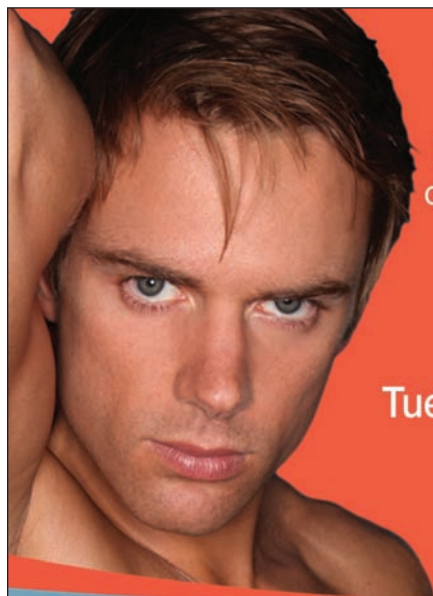
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Drawing Dallas



Singer Carlos Saenz doesn't just work at Fit Foods — he lives for a healthy lifestyle

MARK STOKES | Illustrator

Name: Carlos Saenz III

Occupation: Nutritional coach at My Fit Foods

Spotted: Oak Lawn and Lemmon avenues

Tennis, anyone? A native of Brownsville, this exquisitely handsome and talented Scorpio has made Dallas his home for the last six years. During his high school years, his mother married a Pentecostal preacher who moved the family to Durham, N.C., and then to Jackson, Miss. Carlos earned a tennis scholarship at Mississippi State University, where he majored in business administration. He came out of the musical closet at MSU, where, between tennis practices, he slipped away to audition for *Little Shop of Horrors*. His singing talent was immediately apparent.

His actual coming out at age 20 was not so smooth. His deeply religious mother insisted that they “pray out the demon of homosexuality.” (They have slowly rebuilt a relationship.)

With a song in his heart: Carlos' journey to Dallas began when he followed a boyfriend here by way of New Orleans, where he was hired to open the Bourbon Street Extravaganza during Southern Decadence. A finalist in the last four Voice of Pride singing competitions, Carlos' musical inspirations include Mariah Carey, Sam Cooke and gospel music. “I'm an old soul,” he says. Future plans include the release of two singles and a CD in the fall, and a possible collaboration with DJ Tony Moran.

Fitness freak: Carlos works out Monday through Friday, “come hell or high water,” and he has committed to one yoga class a week. He eats five meals a day, seven days a week and allows himself one “cheat meal” per week. He drinks a minimum of 100 oz. of water daily.

■ **YOGA** From Page 33

forting environment for everyone whether an experienced yogi or a novice, a muscle bear, teddy bear, otter or wolf ... or even a straight guy! (That's happened, too.) Although instructors and leaders are there, classmates have come to help each other. As its base continues to expand, he's considered adding a second session.

"I'd love to see it grow to two classes," he says. "You know, I've seen people really encourage others, and feedback has been amazing. I think people come out of curiosity but come back for the camaraderie. And there's no reason to be self-conscious. We're hugging each other, being friends and supporters. Sometimes we'll even go out after to Hunky's."

Huh?

"We get salads, of course," he chuckles. *Bear Yoga, Studio 4, 518 Davis St. Suite 4. Tuesdays at 6:30. \$12-\$15 (first class free).*

WHERE TO WORK OUT

Club Dallas

Exclusively serving gay men for more than 30 years, this institution actually has one of the largest gyms in the city, and is open 24 hours, 365 days a year. 2616 Swiss Ave., 214-821-1990, TheClubs.com.



Diesel Fitness

Located on the third floor of the Centrum, it's right in the heart of the gayborhood. 3102 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 300, 214-219-6400, DieselFitness214.com.

Energy Fitness

This gym in the West Village has a reputation for affordable memberships and solid service. 2901 Cityplace West Blvd., Suite 100, 214-219-1900, UptownEnergyFitness.com.

Equinox

Located in the old Park Place Motorcars location, it offers a full range of fitness services, and a Greenz location. 4023 Oak Lawn Ave., 214-443-9009, Equinox.com.

Gold's Gym

Locations are throughout the city, but the one in Uptown serves a fit, very gay customer base. 2425 McKinney Ave., 214-306-9000, GoldsGym.com.

LA Fitness

Multiple locations, but the ones on Lemmon and a new Signature on Haskell are popular with gay clientele. 4540 W. Mockingbird Lane and 2690 N. Haskell Ave., LAFitness.com.

Trophy Fitness Club

With five locations, one can be found in the downtown Mosaic and in one Uptown. 300 N. Akard St. and 2812 Vine St., Suite 300, TrophyFitnessClub.com.

24 Hour Fitness

Popular locations include one Downtown and one at Mockingbird and Greenville. 700 N. Harwood St. and 5706 E. Mockingbird Lane, 24HourFitness.com.

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Caddy shock

Tired of bad news coming out of Detroit? Here's the good news: Cadillac

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com



THE TRIFECTA | Cadillac's one-two-three punch of the CTS, above, ELR, top right, and XTS, below, give GM a brand platform it can be proud of.

At a breakfast last year with Ed Welburn, the vice president of global design for General Motors, you could palpably feel the pride he takes in the re-birth of Cadillac. The iconic American luxury brand had doubled the size of the Cadillac studio to craft

its future.

He has a right to be a proud papa. These three sexy Caddys lift the skirt.

2014 CTS

During breakfast, Welburn mentioned how excited he was at seeing the new CTS on the street for the first time. Risking a word that's too butch for my partner, the design is pretty *sweet!* It has a swaggering stance, broad eggcrate grille and headlamps that flow into the hood. Vertical LEDs add character to the front and rump.

Muscular lines betray the available 420-horsepower Twin-Turbo V6 underhood. It connects through a paddle-shifted 8-speed automatic transmission to fast romp from 0-60 mph in 4.6s. The less athletic may opt for the standard 321-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 or 272-horsepower 2.0-liter turbo-four. AWD is available. Brembo brakes, 19-inch wheels, and driver-selectable Magnetic Ride Control keep it pointed mostly straight.

Interiors are orgasmic. Cadillac's CUE infotainment system, including Bose audio, is controlled with an iPad-like 8-inch touchscreen. A



full-color heads-up display, heated/cooled front seats, heated steering wheel, and motorized cup holder lid spoil like brunch on Sunday. The car will even park itself! Sensors, radar and cameras underline adaptive cruise control, forward collision alert, lane departure warning, blind zone alert and automatic emergency braking systems. Any queen would be beside herself.

2014 ELR

Imagine a Chevy Volt with a swingin' two-door body, 20-inch alloys, fancy grillework and edgy fins. All-LED exterior lighting conserves energy while looking blingilicious.

Under the sharp attire is a range-extending powertrain that enables the plug-in coupe to travel 35 miles on electricity, then another 260 miles with the four-cylinder engine running. Charge on 120v overnight or with 240v in 4.5 hours. Progress can be monitored via smartphone. More torque than Cadillac's 3.6-liter V6 puts jet-smooth scoot into its boogie.

Quite intelligent, the system has four modes: Sport, Tour, Mountain and Hold, which lets drivers decide when to use electricity or gas. Steering wheel paddles activate the "Regen on Demand" function that stores energy from the car's momentum. Active suspension provides athletic moves.

Inside, cut-and-sewn leather with suede, chrome, wood and available carbonfibre raise the luxury quotient. There's also Cadillac's gesture-recognition CUE infotainment system,





Bose audio, active noise cancellation and a full suite of crash avoidance systems. Most surprising, she's built in Detroit — perhaps the last thing in that city that is.

2014 XTS

How is it that the largest, most traditional of all current Cadillacs is also the sexiest? A tall eggcrate grille, stacked headlamps, fastback roofline, available 20-inch alloy wheels and little red fins with LEDs hit all of the style buttons. He's big, but sleek.

Nobody should grump about the standard 305 horsepower V6, but inserting a 410 horsepower variant of the CTS' new Twin-Turbo V6 makes me wet. Real-time adjusting Magnetic Ride Control with rear air springs and Brembo disc brakes give the XTS masterful footwork.

XTS flaunts more technology and luxury. Automatic Parking Assist, CUE infotainment and rear seat entertainment with twin DVD screens top the options list. Back seat drivers can demand an armrest with wood trim and radio controls. Bose audio and Soleil Keisel leather seating are divine. All of Cadillac's active safety systems can be fitted to the XTS. This may not be the range-topping sedan Cadillac needs (and is officially on the way), but should still serve the Germans some spicy American hell.

If these cars are an indication, whatever else Welburn is working up in his studios should give them ulcers. ■



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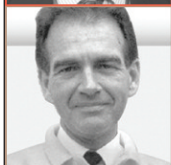
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Friday 02.14

Friday 02.14

Lookin' fer love ... or just lookin'

Ah, Valentine's Day. A time for couples and cuddling and chocolate-covered strawberries by a roaring fire. ... or not. Who needs romance when you can enjoy getting a bit hot-and-bothered at Club Stallions' Valentine's Night party. Sexy dancers will be sharin' the love for the members-only event (you can sign up at the door as a member) which promises to be a hot time where you can wear your heart on your sleeve. Yeah, sleeve.

DEETS: Club Stallions, 11311 Harry Hines Blvd., Suite 203. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. 214-791-3585.



Durang's Tony-winning 'Vanya' gets area premiere

Christopher Durang has been the patron saint of intellectual screwball comedies for decades (*Beyond Therapy* still triggers guffaws) but he finally hit the big-time last year, winning a Tony Award for his saucy comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, a contemporary riff on Chekhov's classic about sexy goings-on in the countryside. Uptown Players scored a coup getting it, giving North Texas the play's regional premiere.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Feb. 14–March 2. UptownPlayers.org.

Thursday 02.20

Denise and Gary, together again

It's not enough that Denise Lee and Gary Lynn Floyd are just about the best singers in North Texas (at least when Lee isn't headlining in China and Floyd in SoCal) — they're also best friends whose voices meld together more harmoniously than PB&J. So of course their new show *Duets* — part of the Sammons Center's Cabaret Series — will be a not-to-miss musical extravaganza for fans of everyone from Martina McBride to Billie Holiday. See you there.

DEETS: Sammons Center for the Arts, 3930 Harry Hines Blvd. 8 p.m. \$40 (includes beverages and appetizers). SammonsCenter.org.



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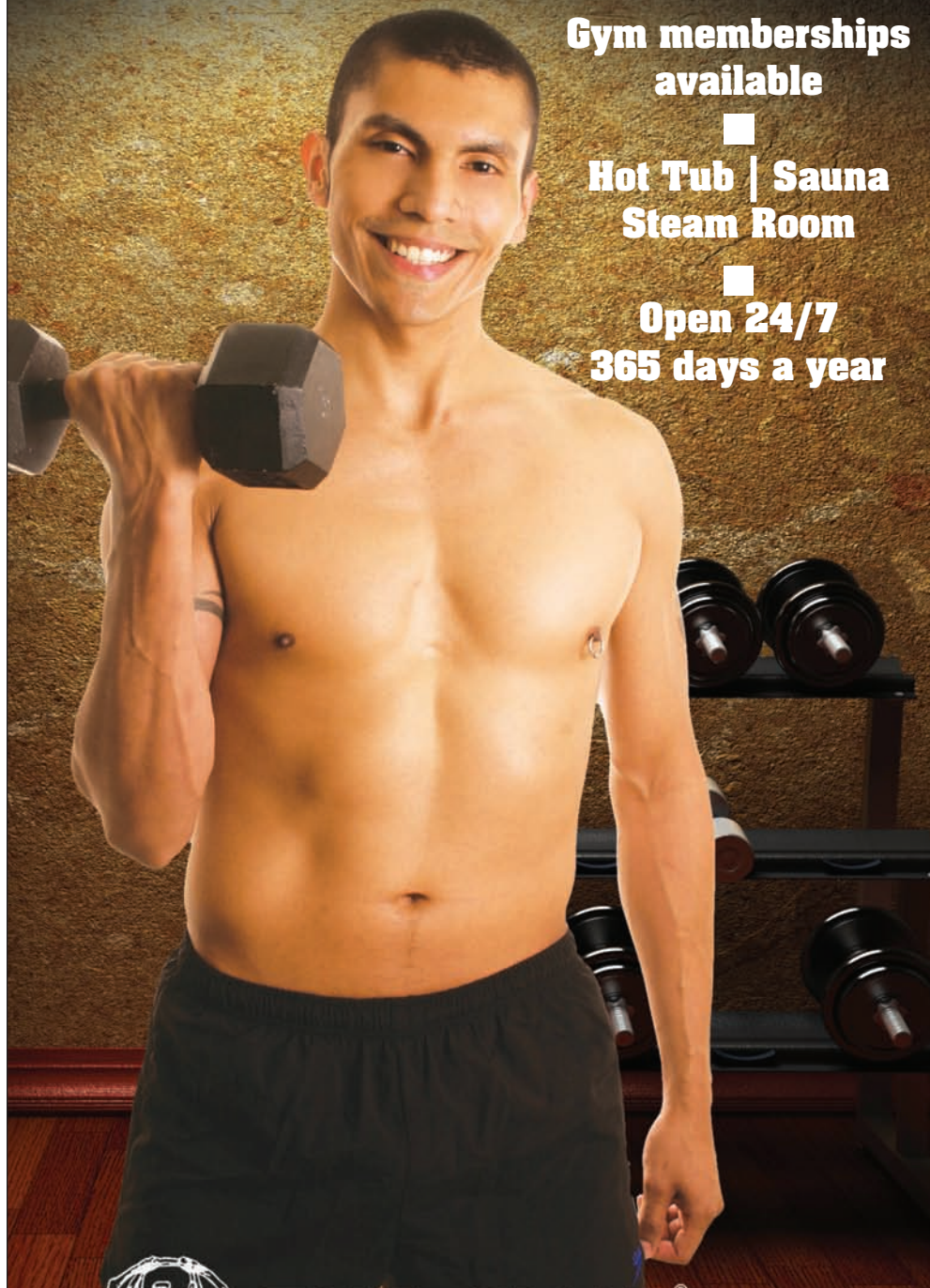
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Gay playwright Christopher Durang won the Tony Award for best play last summer for this comedy, a saucy adaptation of *Uncle Vanya*. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Feb 14–March 2. UptownPlayers.org.

Cock. The buzzy off-Broadway play about a bisexual man launches Second Thought Theatre's 10th season. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 22. 2TT.co.

Blue Roses. A world premiere musical adaptation of *The Glass Menagerie*. Reviewed this week. Dupree Theater at Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through Feb. 23. LyricStage.org.

Disney's The Little Mermaid. The stage adaptation of the fairy tale comes to life from playwright and Dallas native Doug Wright. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through March 2 (in previews through Feb. 16). DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Ghost: The Musical. The Broadway adaptation of the Oscar-winning romantic classic about love transcending death moves from Fair Park Music Hall to Cowtown for a run. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. *Final weekend*. BassHall.com.

The Motherfucker with the Hat. Kitchen Dog Theater presents the regional premiere of this racy comedy from playwright Stephen Adly Gurgis. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Feb. 14–March 15. KitchenDogTheater.org.

On the Eve. The award-winning guerrilla production gets the full treatment from Theatre 3. The rock musical — about a time-traveling Marie Antoinette and a living

statue — was one of the best shows of 2012. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. *Final weekend*. \$10–\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Avenue Q. The hit musical moves from its home at Theatre Too over to Cowtown's Stage West with the original cast. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. *Final weekend*. StageWest.org.

Go, Dog, Go! The children's book is brought to life. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Feb. 23. DCT.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. The romantic musical comedy. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. Through March 2 (extended). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Oedipus el Rey. The Dallas Theater Center continues its season with this work by Luis Alfaro, an adaptation of Sophocles' classic *Oedipus Rex*, set in the barrios of contemporary Los Angeles. Directed by Kevin Moriarty. Wyly Theatre's Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through March 2. Tickets from \$15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Persistence in Memory. The revival of a 1987 play written by and starring Mark-Brian Sonna, rewritten for a new era. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Feb. 22. MBSProductions.net.

Venus in Fur. Circle Theatre presents the regional premiere of the Tony Award-winning two-hander about a writer looking for the perfect actress to portray his heroine. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 8. \$10–\$35. CircleTheatre.com.

Working. Michael Serrecchia directs this revival of the musical adaptation of Studs Terkel's revelatory chronicle about the labor force in America. Greenville Center for Performing Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through Feb. 24. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

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Death and the Powers. Also called *The Robots Opera*, this regional premiere of the acclaimed new opera by composer Tod Machover, with a libretto by poet Robert Pinsky, combines music with technology. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

Chinese Lantern Festival. The festival, which was supposed to end right after the new year, continues with

an extension through Monday, and special discounts available. Fair Park. ChineseLanternFestival.com.

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. *Final weekend.* Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals. The controversial

Chinese artist reimagines zodiac figures of the Chang dynasty. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through March 2. 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.

FRIDAY 02.14

COMMUNITY

Dick's Happy Hour: Singles Edition. The monthly mixer takes on Valentine's Day with a special giveaway of Blue Collar Underwear at a new locale. BJ's NXS!, 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave. 6–10 p.m. No cover. RSVP at DHH14.eventbrite.com.

High Tech Happy Hour. Monthly mixer for techies and anyone else. Capitol Pub, 2401 N. Henderson Ave. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 02.15

COMEDY

Craig Ferguson. *The Late Late Show* host performs his observant comedy at McFarlin Auditorium on the SMU campus. 8 p.m. Tickmaster.com.

COMMUNITY

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

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

Gaybingo: Heart of Texas. Patti LePlae Safe returns to the Rose Room stage as the special guest for this month's fundraiser for the Resource Center. Members of Viva Dallas Burlesque will also perform. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 5 p.m., show at 6 p.m. MyResourceCenter.com/gaybingo.

Once in a Blue Moon Dance. The women-only dance mixer, started 12 years ago but which ceased in 2012, returns on the third Saturday of each month back in its original location. Dancemasters Studio, 10675 E. Northwest Highway, Suite 2600. 7 p.m. \$10 cover.

Review: "Blue Roses"

Tennessee Williams' first major work, *The Glass Menagerie*, was a memory play, a woozy dream refracted through the prism of experience. At its best, it has an otherworldly quality — something musical theater, with its artifice of breaking into song, should complement. But Shelley Butler, the director of *Blue Roses*, a world premiere adaptation of *Menagerie* now at Lyric Stage, doesn't effectively conjure that feeling; despite a minimalist set, the style has a flat, realistic affect.

That's too bad, because you can sense the promise in the show. The music (by Nancy Ford) and the book and lyrics (by Mimi Turque) capture Williams' tone, and the songs, while plagued by a charming same-ness (they all remind me of variations on Sondheim's "Finishing the Hat"), are lovely and sung well by the vocally gifted cast. But Sally Mayes is both too shrill and too slow with Amanda's lines, and Duke Anderson's Tom, a stand-in for Williams, doesn't project the needed "tortured artist" persona.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dupree Theater, 3333 N. McArthur Blvd., Irving. Through Feb. 23. LyricStage.org.



this week's solution

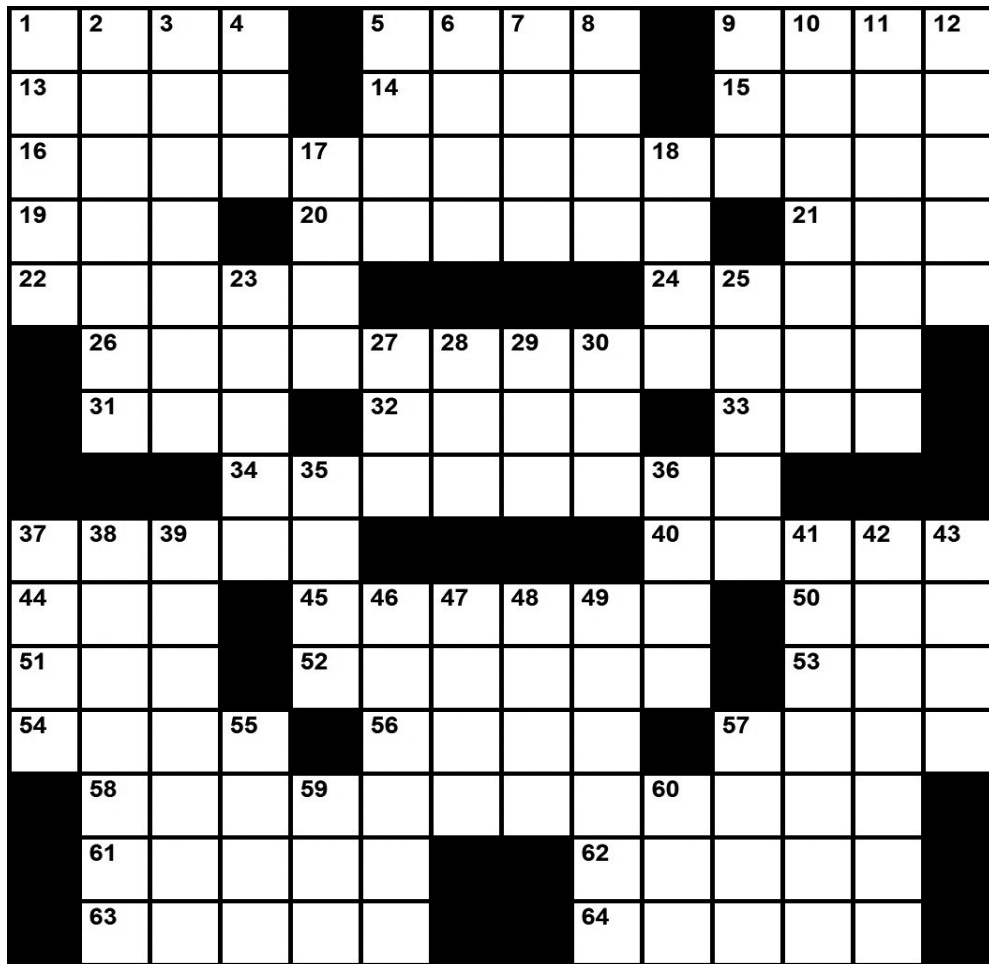
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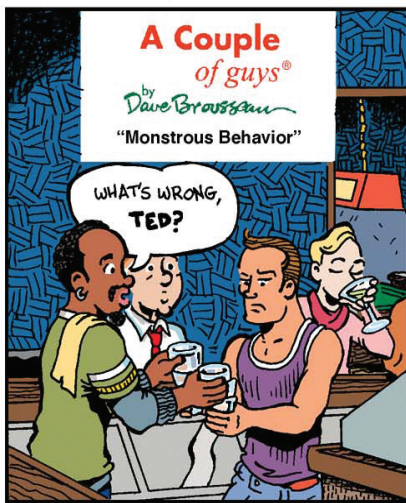
Solution on page 45

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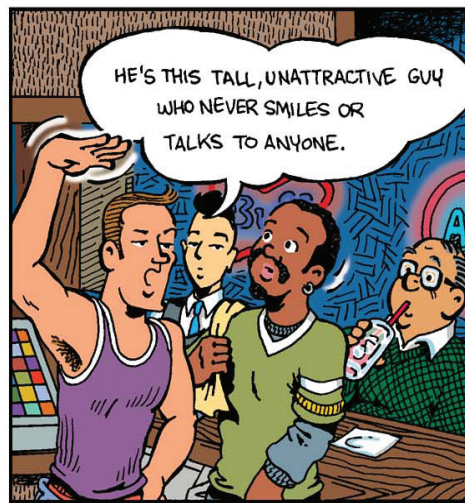
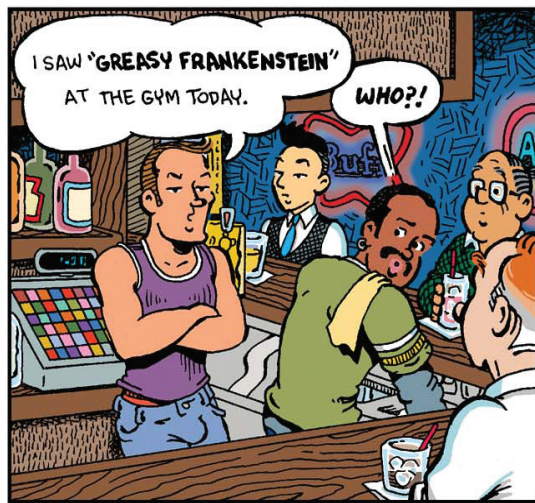
- 1 You can get a bang out of its head
- 5 "Stupid me!"
- 9 Tending to stick in one's proboscis
- 13 Fruit ___ (gay district)
- 14 He took on a pair of bears
- 15 Golden Rule word
- 16 Start of a question from Leno's "Jaywalking"
- 19 Comics outburst
- 20 Where Priscilla is queen
- 21 Vintage vehicle
- 22 Hard to penetrate
- 24 Disney's middle name
- 26 More of the question
- 31 JFK info
- 32 Sissy
- 33 Son of Aga Khan
- 34 McKellen movie *Gods and ___*
- 37 Hannah of *Steel Magnolias*
- 40 Wishful words
- 44 Didn't fast
- 45 End of the question
- 50 Way out

Down

- 1 Anaòs the diarist
- 2 Amy chaser Ben
- 3 Ziegfeld, familiarly
- 4 Hollywood canine
- 56 You might see a polar bear there
- 57 Feels poorly
- 58 Answer to the question
- 61 Too-too
- 62 Navratilova's winter home
- 63 Op-ed offering
- 64 Out



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scene



Friends at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Javier and Chris at Kaliente.



Mike and Luis at S4.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Feb. 14-20:

Alexandre's: *Mi Diva Loca* on Friday. *Three Drunk Monkeys* on Saturday. *Jason Huff* on Wednesday.

BJ's NXS! *Dick's Happy Hour Singles Edition* on Friday 6-10 p.m.

Best Friends Club: *Anton Shaw* on Friday.

Club Reflection: *Cowtown Leathermen* cookout on Sunday at 4 p.m. *Wall of Food Show* on Thursday at 8 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: *Allen Thomas* presents a show benefiting *Youth First* on Friday at 8 p.m. *DFW Leather Corps* seminar on Saturday at 2 p.m. *Anna Conda Carter* hosts the *United Court of the Lone Star Empire* show *Wicked & Wild* to benefit the *Greg Dalgner Memorial AIDS Fund* on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Eden Lounge: Valentine's Day party with DJ on Friday. *Kathy & Bella* on Sunday 4-7 p.m.

Rainbow Lounge: Valentines Day *Hearts and Hard Ons* party on Friday at 9 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: *Victoria Weston* and *Christopher Wilson* emcee *King and Queen of the Rodeo* on Sunday at 7 p.m. A six week karaoke contest with a \$500 grand prize begins Sunday at 9 p.m.

Sue Ellen's: 2014 *DFW HerHRC* event is an afternoon of transcendental fun with MCs *Cassie Nova* and *Jenna Skyy*. Play trivia, bid on bachelorettes on Sunday 1-6 p.m. \$10 online. \$15 at the door includes annual HRC membership.

Mojo Dolls on Friday. *Ciao Bella* on Saturday. *Story Taylors* on Sunday.

The Brick: *Drunk in Love* Valentine party with DJ *Unique*, DJ *Rudeboy* and MC *Meech*.

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



Alexis on The Strip.

LIFE+STYLE

scene



T.J. and Jack at the Dallas Eagle.



Ron Radwanski and Michael Broussard at the opening of ilume Park.



Drag performance at the Rose Room.



Freddy and Geoff at TMC: The Mining Company.



Brad at the Round-Up Saloon.



Anthony at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Leo at S4.



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