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Cover story by Steve Ramos

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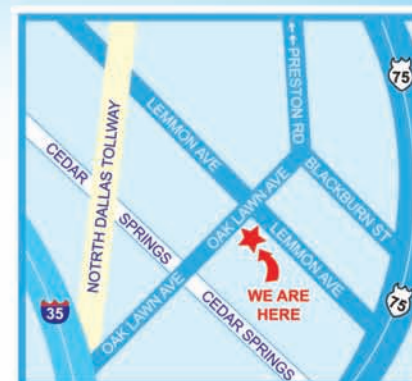
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Student Senate at Houston university introduces bill to help trans community

Students at the University of Houston are considering a bill to help transgender students and staff better identify themselves as their gender identity on campus.

The bill, the Josephine Tittsworth Act, was introduced by the student Senate Wednesday and calls upon the university to “fulfill its existing nondiscrimination policy (of the UH Student Handbook)” in regards to LGBT students, the student newspaper The Daily Cougar reports.

The bill seeks to acknowledge that “gender expression is the external characteristics presented by an individual such as masculine or feminine features displayed in mannerisms, speech, social environments or attire,” and to formally acknowledge “the terms, gender identity and gender expression represented trans, transgender and gender-nonconforming students, faculty and staff” on all University documentation.

It would allow students to have their preferred name on rosters and other university documents.

“Honestly, this is a freedom of speech issue. It allows people to choose which box to check. Over the past few weeks, people had unfortunately misinterpreted (the bill). This bill is about respect and tolerance on this campus,” newly elected student body President Charles Haston told the paper.

The bill comes a few months after the student government at the University of Houston-Downtown approved gender-neutral restrooms.

UH students at the meeting Wednesday explained the bill would help address students who go by a name associated with their gender identity only to be outed as trans when the professor calls roll, revealing their legal name.

The bill cites “high rates of harassment, physical violence and sexual assaults” as a result of failing to acknowledge trans and gender-nonconforming identities.

“This bill will translate into people being open with their identity,” said Tanzeem Chowdhury, former undergraduate-at-large senator.

“I think it would create a safer campus. Currently, UH is the second-most diverse campus in the nation. We’re always making progress in acceptance, and this would be a strong move forward — it would create a safer campus not only for members of the LGBT community, but for the entire student body.”

A town hall meeting to discuss the act will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

—Anna Waugh

Houston couple wins ACLU same-sex wedding contest

A Texas couple is among the five winners of the national American Civil Liberties Union’s Big Gay (!) Legal Wedding contest.

Jeff Robertson and Jeremiah Pyant of Houston were one of 23 same-sex couples from the



WORKIN’ IT | A model struts her stuff on the runway for the DIFFA show on Saturday, March 29. To view more photos, visit DallasVoice.com/category/photos.

Lone Star State vying for the chance to win \$5,000 toward their dream wedding. Contestants had to live in state like Texas where same-sex marriage is prohibited to be eligible to enter.

Pyant, a flight attendant, and Robertson, an ad executive, met four years ago aboard a plane that Pyant was working on. They got engaged in December and want to marry aboard a hot air balloon taking off from Texas and flying over New Mexico, where the marriage will be legal.

Winners were chosen out of the top 25 couples that received the most votes. ACLU told The Associated Press nearly 200,000 votes were cast for the 400 entries since the contest’s December launch.

After the contest began, more court rulings in favor of same-sex marriage started coming out of states, including a decision in Texas back in February.

“As soon as we entered the contest, the court decisions started coming out,” said Jeff Robertson. “We’re living a civil rights movement right before our eyes.”

James Esseks, director of the ACLU’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project, said the wedding contest highlights the type of problems faced by gay couples in the nearly 30 states where marriage-equality lawsuits have been filed.

“We live in this crazy time, with a patchwork of protections, where you can go across the border and get married,” he said. “The problem is that when you turn around and go back, you’re not going to be considered married by your home states. That’s not the way it should work in America.”

—Anna Waugh

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Federal funding not enough to tackle soaring HIV infections in the South

The South is hard hit with HIV infection, but Ryan White funding hasn't kept up with the shift

STEVE RAMOS | Senior Editor
ramos@dallasvoice.com

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on Ryan White funding.

When Antonio Rivera moved to Sherman from Los Angeles five years ago, he thought he had escaped a life he described as "harrowing." He's been HIV-positive for over a decade, but he says limited accessibility to HIV specialists, counseling and nutritional programs is forcing him to return to California.

"I'll be moving to Oxnard where my two sisters live," he said. "I don't want to go back, but I don't have a car, and it's not easy for me to get to the places I need to go. A lot of times, I miss doctor appointments because I can't get there. That's not good."

According to Tim Boyd, director of domestic policy with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, California has 411 physicians who are HIV specialists. Compare that to 243 physicians who specialize in HIV in nine Southern states combined, including Texas.

"There are 275 physicians in New York state who are HIV specialists," Boyd said. "You can see where Texas and the other Southern states are having a problem."

Rivera's access to physicians in California won't be as restricted as what he's experienced in Sherman, but it isn't a move he wants to make.

"I'm poor," he said. "I was raised in Los Angeles, and I lived in a really bad part of the city. Gang violence was high. It won't be so bad this time in Oxnard, but I hate it that I have to go back there just because Texas doesn't have the doctors California has."

The shortage of HIV specialist physicians in the South is further burdened by a hefty rise in HIV infections. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, both the number of people diagnosed with AIDS and the rate of AIDS diagnoses (number of diagnoses per 100,000 people) is highest in the South (15,855 diagnoses or 13.7 per 100,000 people). These are the figures for 2011, the latest statistic the CDC lists.

"HIV infections have shifted to the South," Boyd said. "Earlier prevention efforts were focused in urban and gay communities, but HIV is stepping outside those areas. HIV is now hitting a

population that didn't get prevention messages before."

So, has federal funding of agencies who provide HIV services followed that shift?

"No," Boyd said, "Right now, the South doesn't receive an equitable share of Ryan White funds. As an average, New York gets \$800 person, but Dallas and Houston get less than \$600."

The Ryan White CARE Act was enacted in 1990 and is the largest federally funded program in the U.S. for people living with HIV/AIDS. The act sought funding to improve availability of care for low-income, uninsured and under-insured victims of AIDS and their families. Those funds, \$2.3 billion, contribute significantly to many of the agencies who provide services to people living with HIV, but the federal government hasn't adjusted the allocation of Ryan White funds to address the increase of HIV infections in the South.

"New York gets a lot because the way Ryan White funding is allocated is based on HIV cases in a metropolitan area," Boyd said. "It's tried to move away from that, but it hasn't caught up with how HIV is shifting."

AHF is nudging the federal government to address the disparity in how Ryan White funds are doled out. In March, the agency announced the introduction of the Ryan White Patient Equity and Choice Act, a bill to make needed improvements to how the funds are allocated. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, is one of the co-sponsors for the bill.

"This bill will help begin to ensure funding follows the HIV epidemic where it is growing and that Ryan White is better focused on ensuring more people get the care they need to stay healthy and become noninfectious to others."

In a press release that addressed the bill, Boyd said, "Providers such as Medicaid and private insurance do not cover services like HIV care retention services, HIV medical case management and treatment adherence services — things that are essential to saving lives and stopping the spread of HIV. Moreover, these providers do not have the HIV expertise of the CARE act."

Rivera agrees.

"The South is in the dark ages when it comes to HIV," he said. "I think that's part of why it's become the center for new HIV infections in the country. I know this is the Bible Belt, and there's a prejudice against gays, which is one of the groups so affected by HIV."

Half of all new infections in the United States are in the South, although the region has only a little more than a third of the country's population, accord to the CDC. The South also has the highest

rate due to HIV.

Dallas is No. 1 in HIV infection per capita in the state, Boyd said, and there are many factors that contribute to that, including drug abuse, homelessness and using sex for survival.

"But we're eliminating barriers and making HIV testing more accessible," Boyd said.

If the federal government would shift more of the Ryan White funding to the hard-hit South, Boyd and others say they would be able to provide more services.

"Oh, my God," said AIDS Services of Dallas CEO Don Maison. "We'd be able to pay for food. We'd be able to pay for transportation for medical services. We'd be able to pay for medical case management."

About 48 percent of Resource Center's budget comes from Ryan White funding, according to CEO Cece Cox. If the South were to receive a more equitable share of the funds, she also would be in a position to offer more services to their clients.

Patients in the South, like Rivera, often live far from physicians who specialize in HIV. They can't afford a vehicle and have trouble getting to their appointments, which might be up to 100 miles away. Once infected, poor people face hurdles that keep them from getting adequate care.

They often have no health insurance and little money for medication and tests. Blacks have been hit the hardest. They account for half of the men and nearly three-quarters of women in the South with newly diagnosed HIV infections, according to the CDC.

"A lot of gay black men in Dallas live on the 'down low,'" Rodney Thompson said. "They live so-called 'straight lives' with their girlfriends and wives, but they're having sex with men. In our community, a lot of people see being gay as immoral. It's too bad because that's one of the reasons the HIV infection rate is so high in Dallas."

Thompson said he gets tested at least twice a year, but his family doesn't want to know about it.

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PREVENTION | AIDS Healthcare Foundation is releasing educational posters they hope will get people to test regularly for HIV.

As an out black man, he said he battles the prejudice against gays in his community.

"It's about religion, I guess," he said. "They're just stuck on that. In the meantime, people are getting sick."

With increased Ryan White funding, Boyd said AHF and other agencies can reach more people and offer more services.

"We've got to resolve this disparity in how the funds are allocated," he said. "With increased funding, Texas and Dallas and Fort Worth can better meet the need of people with HIV. It's hard enough for an area like Tarrant County to meet the existing needs of people with HIV with the funds they do have."

Right now, though, Rivera thinks it's too late for him.

"Not so," said a Dallas AIDS activist. "While increased Ryan White funding would provide additional services, there are already many services available to him in North Texas, including free medical care, clinics and transportation that he needs to access. Even with their current budgets that don't get the share of Ryan White funds we should receive, Dallas area agencies are doing a great job serving people with HIV." ■



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There will be a best retro costume contest, performers, music and food. The dance will be April 12 from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the El Centro cashier window on the second floor of the A building.

QueerBomb Dallas organizes

QueerBomb Dallas holds an organizing meeting on April 12 at 1 p.m. at Resource Center to create its June celebration that will include a march.

This is the first time QueerBomb will be held in Dallas. It's modeled after Austin's QueerBomb that was created when the capital city moved its Pride to September.

"It is our desire to take pride back to its radical, transgressive roots, challenging the status quo and sewing the seeds of individual and community change," organizers wrote on their website.

The June event will be community funded and the group is taking donations to pay the costs.

Anyone interested in helping create QueerBomb Dallas is encouraged to attend the meeting. Information is available at QueerBombDallas.org.

El Centro College holds Equality Ball

The Gay Prom held by El Centro College's Lambda Club has been renamed the Equality Ball.

"To open the event for more and not just gay people we decided to change the name," said organizer Max Ramirez.

Bring Back Studio 54 is this year's theme.

The El Centro Lambda Club has been around since the 1980s, helping LGBT students come together, share their experiences and meet other LGBT students on campus.

Lambda is open to everyone and is not just restricted to the LGBT community.

The Equality Ball is Lambda's fourth annual spring dance.

pet of the week / Sissy

Sissy is a 1-year-old female brown and white tiny chihuahua. She's been at the shelter since Feb. 25, so her adoption fee has been waived. She's been vaccinated, microchipped and spayed. She's very gentle and sweet but a little frightened in the shelter environment. She will blossom in a home of her own. Please visit her at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Roa, and ask for A826304.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years old, to any senior citizen who adopts a pet and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit www.DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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Food server sues Houston Rockets, company for anti-gay discrimination



Toyota Arena, where the Houston Rockets play.

Federal lawsuit seeks \$150K in damages after Brooklyn worker complained of homophobic taunts, was placed on unpaid leave

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

HOUSTON — Players of the Houston Rockets came under fire this week when a federal lawsuit accused several of the team's staff and talent of hurling anti-gay slurs at a game in New York last year.

Rasean Tate, a food service work at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, filed the lawsuit Tuesday in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York. The suit alleges players laughed at him and called him a "faggot" while he catered the teams' locker room at the center on Feb. 22, 2013.

The suit also alleges the catering company, Levy Restaurant Holdings, LLC, banned him from locker and dressing room assignments after he complained about the incident. It cites the New

■ ROCKETS, Page 14



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■ texasnews

BSA affirms ban on gay leaders, removes Seattle Scoutmaster



Geoff McGrath

In 1st removal since the National Council voted to allow gay Scouts, advocates expect similar stories to change adult ban in 5 years

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

IRVING — The Boy Scouts of America has reaffirmed the organization's firm stance on banning openly gay Scout leaders this week.

The Irving-based organization sent a letter Monday informing Geoff McGrath that it "has no choice" but to revoke his registration as Scoutmaster from his Seattle troop after he made his sexuality an issue by mentioning it during an interview with NBC News.

"Your statement is in direct violation of the BSA's leadership qualification," read the letter.

McGrath, 49, told The Associated Press this week that he was "stunned."

"Our hope is that they'll rethink their decision," he said.

McGrath, an Eagle Scout, has been leading the Seattle troop since its formation last fall.

The pastor of Rainier Beach United Methodist Church, the chartering organization, asked him to lead the troop, and they submitted an application that was approved by the Chief Seattle Council and the national headquarters. The church's leadership has said they stand by him.

"We were transparent," McGrath said. "If they didn't want us to be a troop, they shouldn't have accepted our application. To hear claims that this is surprising to them is confusing. We've been transparent from day one."

The Boy Scouts' National Council voted last year to allow gay members, but the ban on gay leaders remained. Opinions from LGBT advocates and religious leaders fueled a heated debate around the change. Many members broke off into other organizations when the policy change went into effect Jan. 1.

McGrath worried about being rejected from the Scouts when he came out to his family and friends in 1988 at age 23. He eventually lost connection with the organization but became more engaged when his brother, Dave McGrath and his son, also Eagle Scouts, biked 1,800 miles last year from Idaho to Grapevine, where the vote on the change took place.

BSA spokesman Deron Smith said this week the exclusion of gay adults would continue despite the welcoming of gay youth.

"The Boy Scouts of America does not proactively inquire about the sexual orientation of our members," Smith said in a statement. "We don't believe the topic of sexual orientation has a role in Scouting, and it is not discussed unless it is deliberately injected into Scouting."

The BSA's ban on gay Scouts and leaders began in 1991 when the organization determined open homosexuals went against the part of the Scout Oath that mandates members be "morally straight."

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ban in a 2000 case when justices ruled that the private organization could choose its membership.

While gay leaders have been removed for being gay — like Ohio den mother Jennifer Tyrrell whose petition to reinstate her led two board members to push for the change in 2012 — many still continued to serve with the approval of their local troop.

Zach Wahls, founder of Scouts for Equality and who has two moms, said he remembers back when Tyrrell and other out leaders who'd been removed from BSA positions delivered petitions to the Irving headquarters in the summer of 2012. The organization released the results of a two-year study affirming the gay ban days before Tyrrell's visit. But the vote followed in May 2013.

"Obviously we've heard this 'We're never going to change' line before," Wahls said, recalling the study. "And then literally not even six months later, they were announcing this vote on the policy."

He said the news of McGrath, who is believed to be the first out leader removed since the gay youth ban was lifted, is sad, but his and more stories will help the BSA eventually become completely inclusive.

"We're disappointed that they've chosen to revoke Geoff McGrath's membership, especially because he was growing Scouting," he said. "But we remain optimistic about the long-term future of the discriminatory policy."

"In terms of when we're going to see an actual change in policy, my sense is that should be within five years," Wahls added. "I don't think that should surprise anybody. I think that there's still a lot of work to do, and we're going to need stories about people like Geoff McGrath, about people who have grown Scouting."

Another story, that of gay Scout Pascal Tessier, helped sway the public last year when he revealed that his Maryland troop wouldn't give him his Eagle Scout award if the council voted down the



Pascal Tessier

change. Tessier became the first openly gay Scout to receive the rank in February. But he'll turn 18 in August and will then be barred from the organization.

"And then the Boy Scouts are going to be telling this young man that he can't participate in an organization that made him the man he is," Wahls said. "I think the more stories we hear, the faster we'll see the policy change."

Tessier has started an online Change.org petitioning Amazon to pull its BSA funding. Before the vote last year, companies like UPS, Caterpillar Inc. and Merck cut funds to the organization. Since the vote, Lockheed Martin cut ties with Scouting.

The Amazon petition, "Suspend your support of the Boy Scouts until they end their ban on gay adults," had more than 24,000 signatures as of press time.

To view the Amazon petition, visit TinyURL.com/BSAamazon.

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■ texasnews

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Entertainment throughout the afternoon and animals from a wallaby to a blind rescued lamb highlight this year's event

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In Oak Cliff, the gays plan the events, friends and neighbors pitch in, and the whole community shows up. That's the story behind Run for the Beads. It's how the Mardi Gras parade happens. And that's how they do Earth Day.

Event chair Roger Bolen called Earth Day, "a community-based, volunteer-driven, shoe-string-budget, laid back event in the heart of Historic Oak Cliff."

As many as 5,000 people attended last year, he said.

Earth Day committee member Stan Aten said people attend the event because it's just fun. It was created by a small group of Oak Cliff resi-

dent concerned with preserving the livability of their community, but it has grown and now draws people from all over the area to get ideas on conservation, preservation and landscaping with plants that are more adaptable to North Texas' climate.

Fair Park will have a more corporate Earth Day the following week. Aten said he saw some Home Depot remodeling projects in the Fair Park event, but he's not sure what they have to do with conservation. At Oak Cliff's Earth Day, he said, people will get advice that's geared more toward conserving the environment and less about supporting big box stores.

Many animal exhibits and demonstrations take place throughout the afternoon from bees in their hives, native reptiles from the John Bunker Sands Wetlands in Seagoville to two raptor shows.

"We'll have an expanded Gentle Zoo with a lemur, a blind lamb and bunny rabbits you can have your picture taken with," Aten said. "If you've got pets, dress 'em up, and they can be in the Mutt Strutt."



BIRDS OF PREY | Oak Cliff Earth Day features two raptor shows. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

This is casual Oak Cliff, Aten reminded. Purebreds aren't expected, but they're certainly welcome. Thinking about getting a pet? Rescue organizations will be in the park during the afternoon.

The zoo travels from Forney and is made up of rescue animals like a blind lamb, bunnies and ducks. Also on hand will be a baby wallaby, a coatimundi and a large but docile snake, Bolen said.

Among the more environmental projects will be electronic recycling at the park that day. People can use this as an opportunity to discard their unwanted electronics, but Bolen adds they won't be able to take any item with a broken glass screen.

Oak Cliff's TECO theater organization helped organize entertainment that will be offered throughout the afternoon. Something new comes on stage every 15 minutes, Aten said.

"We look forward to having a wide range of entertainers this year," Bolen said. "I am looking forward to reconnecting with Bandom Koro African Drummers and hearing the seductive sounds of the drums inviting all to participate. St. Elizabeth's choir will be making their annual appearance, doing their Motown tribute."

Even politicians will be part of the entertainment. Dallas pro-development Mayor Mike Rawlings goes on stage at 3 p.m. Bolen said if the mayor's usual message doesn't resonate on Earth Day, "Oak Cliff Mayor" Scott Griggs, who champions bike lanes, speaks at 3:15 p.m.

Bikes are welcome at the park. Bike racks installed for last year's Earth Day are now a permanent fixture at Lake Cliff Park.

Aten said the event has something for everyone. Oil & Cotton will be demonstrating weaving projects, and every child who participates will go home with a small loom. North Oak Cliff librarian Ray Sablack will hold an art contest for children.

For the LGBT community, there are plenty of gay and lesbian vendors.

Looking for a home? One of the city's top agents, Susan Melnick, will be on hand to talk about the area's best gay neighborhoods.

Hungry? Hunky's provides the food for Earth Day. Spiral Diner, the city's best known vegan restaurant located a few blocks from the park, will also be on hand.

And if Earth Day isn't gay enough for everyone, Human Right Campaign will have a booth promoting marriage equality and other equal rights issues. How does HRC fare at such a mixed event? This is Oak Cliff. Diversity's welcome.

Demonstration Rose Garden in Lake Cliff Park, Zang and Colorado boulevards. April 12 from noon-5 p.m. Free. Free parking is available at 1400 N. Beckley Ave. across from Methodist Hospital. Oak Cliff residents will probably walk the one block to the park.

A shuttle bus is available for visitors from north of the Trinity. From The Crescent, Victory or Downtown, DART's new free D-Link service runs every 15 minutes and drops off at the corner of Colorado and Zang boulevards. Racks available for bike parking. OakCliffEarthDay.com.

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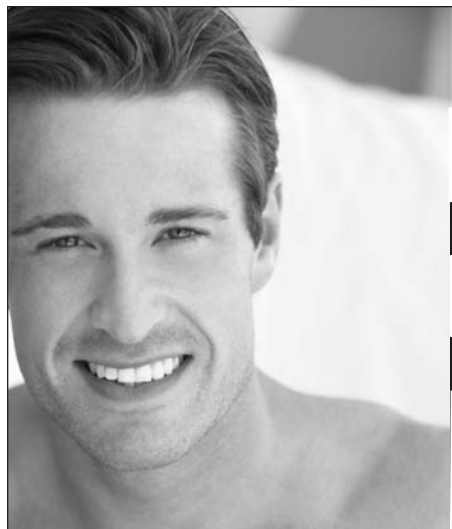
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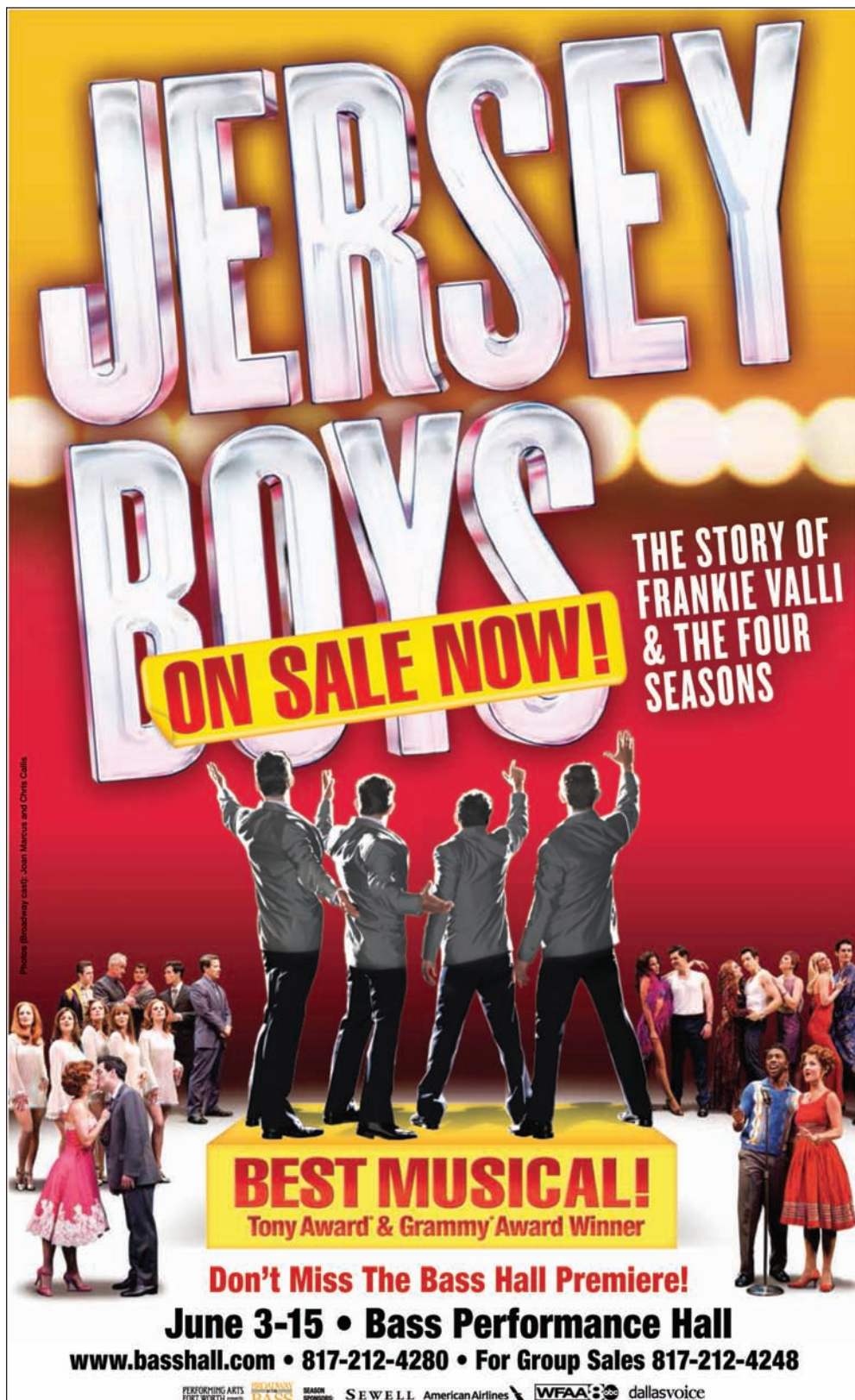
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This month in marriage equality

Appeals Courts to hear Utah, Oklahoma and Virginia cases while new cases continue to be filed

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The U.S. Supreme Court won't hear a marriage case this session, but many cases are moving through the system, and new cases are quickly filling court dockets.

This week, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals announced the three-judge panel that will hear the Utah marriage appeal on April 10. The same panel is likely to hear Oklahoma's appeal April 17.

Judge Robert Shelby declared Utah's marriage law unconstitutional in December. He refused to put a stay on his decision. Tenth Circuit Judge Jerome Holmes also refused to stay the decision, allowing more than 1,000 same-sex couples to marry until the U.S. Supreme Court halted marriage during the appeals process.

Holmes, a George W. Bush appointee, is one of the three judges appointed to the panel that will hear the case. Bill Clinton appointee Carlos Lucero also is on the panel along with George H.W. Bush

appointee Paul Kelly.

Lucero has had gay clerks and is described as liberal on social issues, according to Think Progress. Kelly, however, is among the court's most conservative judges and voted on the side of Hobby Lobby, in a case recently heard by the Supreme Court. In that case, the retailer doesn't want to pay for employee health insurance that covers contraception.

The same panel also is expected to hear the Oklahoma case. That state's marriage law was overturned in January in a case that had been dragging through the court for 10 years.

Utah is expected to argue the "institution of marriage would suffer" if same-sex couples marry. To counter that argument, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson wrote an editorial entitled "Equality made marriage stronger in our states," in the Salt Lake Tribune last week.

"The existing data simply does not support the position that same sex marriage erodes the institution of marriage," Coakley and Ferguson wrote.

They quote Centers for Disease Control statistics from 2011, showing that six of the seven states with marriage equality at that time had divorce rates below the national average, including four

■ **ROCKETS**, From Page 9

York City Human Rights Law, which prohibits discrimination or retaliation based on "actual or perceived" sexual orientation.

Tate, who is gay, is seeking \$150,000 in damages and lost wages after being suspended without pay since late January.

Tracey Hughes, senior manager of media and player relations, said the team wasn't commenting on the case. Representatives from Levy did not respond to requests for comment.

The lawsuit appears to be the first instance of a complaint against the Houston team for anti-gay remarks, and the Nets recently became the first NBA team to sign an openly gay player when Jason Collins joined the team last month.

Tate, 28, was hired in December 2012 by Levy to work at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. His primary responsibilities included providing "catering service to the referees, the visiting teams, the talent, and/or the dancers' dressing and/or locker rooms."

But on Feb. 22, Tate was finalizing the buffet while Houston Rockets players were in the locker room.

He then "began to hear laughter and taunting voices saying, 'Get this faggot out of here!' and 'He's trying to catch a sneaky peaky!'"

"These series of comments were repeated a number of times" by players and staff, according to the lawsuit. A Brooklyn Nets representative, known only as Matt to Tate, was in charge of the visiting team's locker room and told Tate to leave and he'd "take care of it."

Two days later, Tate informed Darcy Tapia, Levy's senior catering manager, of the incident and filed a report with Human Resources.

A Nets Human Resources employee later apologized to Tate and assured him the incident would be investigated and resolved, the suit states. He was later told in March that the Nets players attended "tolerance and sensitivity training" in light of the incident.

The Nets and Barclays Center aren't part of the lawsuit.

But while the Nets seemed to address the concerns the incident raised, Tate stopped being assigned to his regular locations, "including private VIP areas, dressing rooms, locker rooms or any other shift that accrued overtime."

"This was solely in retaliation for his complaints about the harassment and discrimination he faced," the lawsuit states.

From events in the spring like the Jordan Brand Classic and the NBA Draft, Tate worked in other areas of the center. The suit lists about a dozen instances where Tate was reassigned and pulled from locker and dressing rooms assignments, with less experienced employees favored over him.

In August he catered the Video Music Awards and "was removed from the VIP Event Section and moved upstairs."

Being banned from locker and dressing rooms decreased Tate's hours and his pay, the suit alleges.

In one instance, three heterosexual employees with less seniority were placed in those areas, working more hours and even earning overtime. And a female employee was once assigned to the

of the 10 lowest divorce rates in the country. States without marriage equality had the highest divorce rates.

But the attorneys general believe just quoting statistics is a simplistic approach.

"Statistics aside, we believe marriage equality has re-invigorated the institution by highlighting the core values of love and commitment that form the foundation of all marriages," they wrote. "What has held strong is the power of the institution itself — even in the face of change."

The same day that the 10th Circuit takes up the Oklahoma case, a U.S. District Judge in Arkansas will hear a challenge to that state's marriage law.

The 4th Circuit will hear the appeal of the Virginia decision on May 13 that overturned the state's marriage law. Ted Olson and David Boies, the attorneys on the winning side of the Proposition 8 case that reinstated marriage equality in California, will argue the case against the current marriage ban.

Oral arguments for the Kentucky marriage case have not been set yet, but the first filings are due in the 6th Circuit on May 7.

The conservative 5th Circuit that will hear the Texas marriage case has not shown the same interest in pushing the case forward as rapidly as the Utah, Oklahoma and Virginia cases. Texas' marriage amendment was found unconstitutional by a federal court in San Antonio in February.

On April 4, the U.S. Supreme Court will an-

nounce if it will hear a New Mexico case in which a photography business refused to photograph a gay couple's wedding. The court has considered taking the case on two previous dates but has not made a decision.

Oregon United for Marriage announced this week it will withdraw its petition drive to get marriage equality on the November ballot if a federal judge rules by May 23 that the state ban is unconstitutional. The attorney general has already announced she would not appeal that favorable ruling. The organization has collected more than enough signatures to get the issue on the ballot.

Nike, Intel and Starbucks along with 33 other Oregon businesses filed an amicus brief in the pending case on the side of marriage equality. Oregon is the only west coast state without marriage equality.

The Nevada case challenging the state's marriage ban was scheduled for an April 9 hearing but has been delayed by the 9th Circuit. That court found in favor of marriage equality in California. Nevada currently offers domestic partnerships and has pending legislation to repeal its marriage amendment.

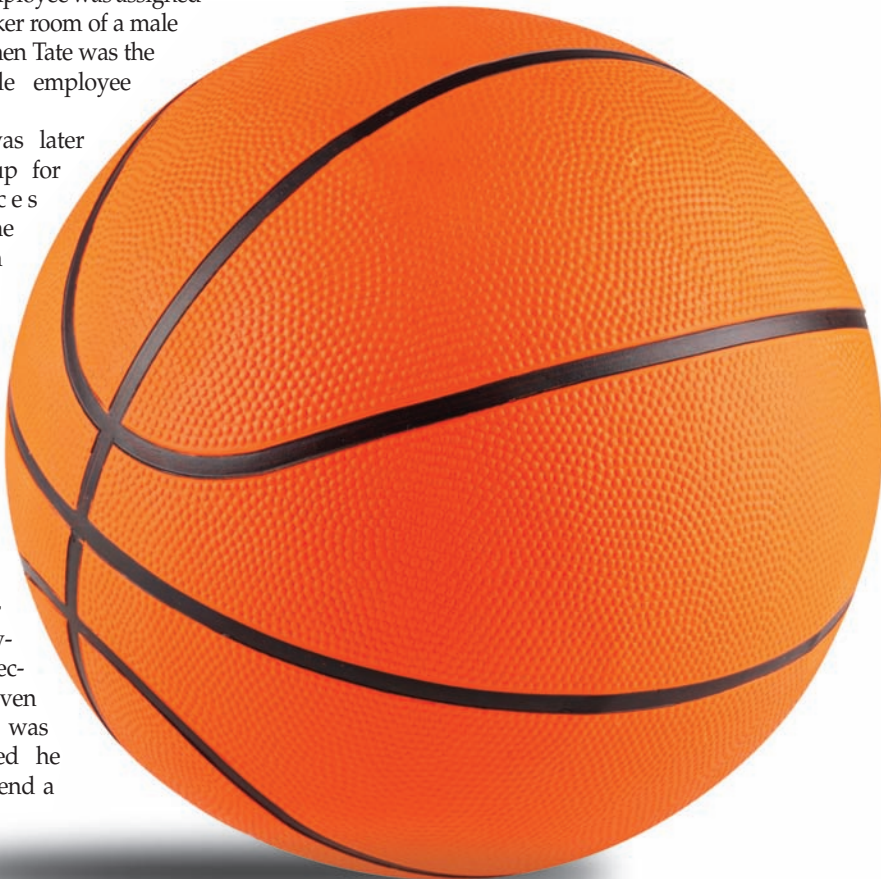
In Florida, a gay Key West couple filed a lawsuit this week after the Monroe County Clerk refused to issue them a marriage license.

The latest count of cases is 60 pending in 30 states, according to the group Freedom to Marry which tracks marriage litigation. ■

dressing room of a male artist, which the suit explains is against the company's policy of allowing only same-gender employees to work in dressing and locker rooms. During an event in October, a female employee was assigned to the locker room of a male player when Tate was the only male employee available.

Tate was later written up for instances where he was given contradictory orders from managers, and on Jan. 28, he was suspended without pay for not following directions, even though it was determined he didn't attend a

pre-work meeting, the suit states. Although the suspension was disputed as a disciplinary action by Levy, Tate hasn't been called back to work since then. ■



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viewpoints

But you don't look like a lesbian

Really? Wow! Just what does a lesbian look like, anyway?

“Hey,” I said to the woman who sat on the bar stool next to mine at NoNo’s in San Juan, Puerto Rico. “Hey,” she replied. “Are you on the Carnival Cruise?”

“No,” I said, shaking my head. “We’re on the Olivia cruise with you.”

“Really? Wow.” I recognize that “really” and that “wow.” It’s the one I get all too often when someone discovers I’m a lesbian.

It makes me want to cut my hair or stop wearing heels or give up lipstick and mascara. Kind of. For a second. Well, not really.

It really just makes me grumpy. And it happened more than once on that recent cruise.

“Are you even a lesbian?” asked one of the woman I was talking to. I said I was.

“Really? Wow.” I had had too much rum punch that afternoon and got up in her face and said, “What’s a girl gotta do to prove she’s a dyke these days?”

I wasn’t exactly proud of that smart-ass remark the next day, remembering what I had done. But I wasn’t exactly surprised that I had done it, either. Just like I’m sure it’s no fun when you’re a woman and people call you “sir” or

you aren’t gay and people assume you are or you are and people seem to notice that about you before they notice anything else. It’s still no fun, especially within the group itself.

When a lesbian doesn’t think I’m a lesbian because of how I look, it feels counter-productive and cruel to promote the very stereotypes we should be eschewing and bucking.

I have long hair. I rarely leave the house without at least a little lipstick and mascara, and my shoe collection is definitely more platforms than performance gear. But I prefer tattoos over pearls, ponytails over blow-outs, hoodies over sweater sets, and purple Converse are de rigueur for me these days. Regardless, the only real qualification for being a lesbian is identifying as one, right?

We want more women to feel welcome in our ranks. More welcome — not less. More diversity. More inclusion. Power in numbers and all. And I can be my brand of lesbian, and you can be yours and no harm, no foul. So, where is this

stuff coming from?

Some of it, I imagine is rooted in the age-old issue about passing. I will be the first to admit that no one has ever bullied me for being a tomboy or looking like a boy or anything of the kind. (Although I have gotten my share of mean-girl shit and frat-boy crap for other reasons.)

Just because you envision someone having it easier than you is no reason to be hateful or distrusting of that person. The truth is, it’s not easier. It’s different. And we have no idea just how different or hard or easy it might be because we haven’t walked in that person’s shoes.

Passing also means being groped in bars and being the subject of catcalls on the street and being called a bitch for rejecting unwanted advances. It’s no fun being looked at as prey. Interestingly, gay men have the unfortunate reputation of being terribly catty and mean to one another. I’m not sure the same can be said of lesbians, and the behavior may be different. But it’s similar and equally harmful.

We still have so far to go in the equality game. There’s so much hard work left to do. The load would be significantly lighter if we were to do it together.

Call me a dork but I love all my lesbian sisters, butch and femme. Top and bottom. Girly and tomboy. And I cherish my gay friends, too. Seems to me we have a much better chance against the haters if we put an end to the hate amongst our ranks.

I’m a lesbian because I love women. The rest should be moot. So, give a girl a break, huh? Just because I might not look like you doesn’t make me any less of a lesbian.

As time goes by, the hope is that it will be easier for people to be themselves, to express their gender and their sexuality freely. We’re asking straight people to heed that call.

But change has to start at home. Jenny Block is a Dallas-based writer and Lambda Literary Award winner for her memoir ‘Open.’



Jenny Block
Contributing Writer



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Keep on Trockin'

Tory Dobrin with the cross-dressing Trocks, keeps the 'balls' in ballets

From their roots in the gay underground, where some gay men gathered their skills for what was probably thought at the time as being a one-shot season, to their position as one of the most popular troupes in dance for nearly 40 years, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has made the ballet world just a little gayer — and a whole lot funnier.

It took guts, all those years ago, for men to dance *Swan Lake* as both the male and female roles, achieving both elegant movement and humor in pointe shoes and tutus. Indeed, at the time, dance wasn't the overriding emphasis.

"In the beginning, there were dancers with *some* training, but they were more actors than dancers," says Tory Dobrin, artistic director of the troupe, affectionately known as The Trocks. "Of the 10 original members, only three or four true dancers."

That's simply not the case anymore — and hasn't been for a while. When Dobrin joined the company in 1980, he was an experienced dancer with training in ballet, jazz and modern dance. Now, the cast is populated entirely by gifted "ballerinas."

"From the start, we did not have the respect of the dance world but were always popular with audiences. Now in 2014, it's a completely different story. We get dancers who would fit into any company around the world," Dobrin crows. "We have one Cuban dancer who has won two gold medals in international competition and one who left to join the Pacific Northwest Ballet."

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO

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ATTPAC.org.

The Trocks, in other words, are here to stay ... and they merit your respect.

It wasn't always that way. In 1974, when the first performances were given, no one expected The Trocks to survive four years, let alone 40. And in the first season or two, the style of the company was evolving.

"In the first show, we had women doing the male roles, but it was not really comedic because the women wore slacks, and they couldn't lift the men," Dobrin says. "So if quickly fell into an all-male comedic ballet."

That might be good for an occasional performance in Greenwich Village, The Castro or West Hollywood, but how did they survive? Pure determination, it seems.

"Drag was not popular nor considered 'normal' back then — it was still thought of as weird," Dobrin says. "There was lots of pressure from my colleagues in dance *not* to join; they said I would be ruining my career."

Dobrin, and dozens of others, rejected the naysayers. By the time he joined in 1980 — as an incoming class of six — The Trocks were a popular touring act, and all the dancers had superior skill levels. (They are based in New York City.) The men who join The

Trocks (almost exclusively gay men, though in the early 1980s there were one or two straight dancers in the company) do so not just because they love to dance, but because they have a desire to show a different, comedic side to their talents.

"It's not that they want to dance in a dress, though there are benefits to that," Dobrin laughs, "but they are also comedians."

The comedy probably stems from The Trocks affiliation (slightly tangential) to the famous gay absurdist playwright and impresario Charles Ludlam. Ludlam initially named his troupe The Trockadero Company of Thrills and Spills, before changing it to The Ridiculous Theatrical Company. One of his company members decided to form his own company, and some members of *that* troupe branched out to form The Trocks with the express desire to satirize "those old, dusty Russian ballet companies that used to tour the world," Dobrin says.

Since the 1930s, in the post-Diaghilev era, being Russian was considered a necessity in order to be taken seriously as a ballet dancer — men and women would even change their Anglo names to something more Cyrillic to gain entrée into the best companies. The Trocks continue that tradition, with the dancers

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Collar him happy

7 questions for Don Neubauer, the ASD's No Tie Dinner outreach chair

Don Neubauer loves to throw a dinner party (who doesn't?), but like a lot of area residents, every April he holds one that's more special than all the others. As outreach chair for the No Tie Dinner and Dessert Party — the annual fundraiser for AIDS Services of Dallas, designed as a less formal take on the Black Tie Dinner — Neubauer and his team are responsible for getting folks to host benefit dinners on a Saturday, then encouraging them all to attend a gala dessert party afterward at the Frontiers of Flight Museum.

We sat down with Neubauer to ask him a few questions about the most successful dinners, the growth in the event over the years, and who would be guests at his dream dinner party.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: How did you get involved in No Tie?

Don Neubauer: A good friend of mine, who is on staff with AIDS Services of Dallas, asked me to host a dinner party at our lake home at Cedar Creek. It was a week before the event, but because of the location, it was a huge success. I have been involved with No Tie and ASD ever since.

Since you started, the number of dinner hosts has increased by 150 percent. What is the secret of the success? There is no secret, but the success is totally attributable to my staff. They are professionals in every sense of the word, and it has been through their endless and tireless efforts that this event has generated so much excitement and so much involvement from so many dinner hosts and their guests.

NO TIE DINNER

Frontiers of Flight Museum,
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Each year, more and more people want to become involved.

What makes for a successful dinner? Good food, good friends, good wine ... and a good cause.

Does any kind of cuisine get you in the mood for the event more than any other? Italian, of course — *la dolce vita!*

What are some of the more unique dinners that people have hosted? If you can think of it, someone has done it. Everything and anything you can possibly imagine, from a formal sit-down for 30 guests to a luau, to a wild, wild west party, complete with a mechanical bull. [We've seen] a party starting lakeside with a late morning brunch, [followed by] an afternoon on the water and culminating with chateaubriand on a searing hot grill. Over the past the years, [event co-



PARTY PLANNERS | No Tie's Don Neubauer and his partner, event co-chair David Nelson.

chair and Neubauer's partner] David Nelson has created a particular theme for the main event, which assists our dinner hosts in developing their own to coincide with the No Tie Gala.

If you could invite anyone, alive or dead, to your dinner, which six people would it be? Well, I don't know that I would want to invite anyone dead to dinner! But I would have to say my father, Richard Neubauer; Truman Capote; Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; Mother Teresa; Anthony Hopkins; and my partner David Nelson. These are all outstanding people who have had a significant impact on my life. To have them all in the same place at the same time for one dinner would be, as they say in Italy, *fantastico*.

What would be your last meal request? David is an absolutely incredible chef. It would have to be whatever he chose to prepare.

Just desserts (and dinner, too)

While it's best-known as the No Tie Dinner, it's the *Dessert Party* in its official name that's likely to get foodies excited. That's where you get to choose from among nearly two dozen dessert sponsors, who will prepare everything from mini-cupcakes to tarts to pies, candies, cookies and frozen desserts to get folks over to the Frontiers of Flight Museum. Among those offering up their pastries: **Baby Cakes, Cabot, Cheesecake Royale, Gregario's, Kessler Cookie Company, Market Street, Dallas Affaires Cake Company, Jim Lee Events, Komali, Daryl's By Design, Nothing Bundt Cakes, La Madeleine, Cafe Gourmet, Val's, Bread Winners, Two Sisters Catering, Parigi, Hillstone and Tiff's Treats.**

And if you want to attend a dinner but can't host (and don't know anyone who is), ASD can take care of that, too: Just call Ben Monroe at 214-941-4411, ext. 512, and he can assign you to a dinner party (and take your credit card registration for payment and the silent auction).

— A.W.J.





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Clay, achin'

Lucretia Waggoner's on a mission to gain respect for pottery as an art form

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

As a long-standing supporter of DIFFA, Mexican-born, Dallas-based artist Lucretia Waggoner was disappointed that she couldn't attend last weekend's gala. It was a disappointment for the former member of DIFFA's Style Council, but a family obligation demanded her absence.

But just because *she* wasn't there physically doesn't mean she wasn't represented. Among the masks designed for the masquerade-themed fashion event was one by Waggoner. Look closely at it: The material isn't just papier mache and colored paint. Like all of her works, the devil is in the details: That mask is made of ceramic, the coloring the result of gold- and platinum-leaf appliqué. It's not just a mask — it's art.

And therein has laid a conundrum for Waggoner.

"I used to call myself a potter, but I don't anymore," she says from her University Park home studio. "Pottery doesn't get respect as art. So I say I am a ceramic artist."

Waggoner has certainly come a long way since that time in high school in Mexico City, when she threw her first pot — a tall, bulky, cobalt-colored vase she keeps on her mantelpiece to this day. Waggoner has traveled extensively since then, throughout the U.S. and Europe, learning something new in every locale.

"Everywhere I go, I've taken ceramics with me," she says. "And everywhere I go, I learn different styles."

Nowhere, though, did she learn more than in Santa Fe, where she wandered by chance into Heidi Loewen's gallery and immediately realized the true potential of her medium. Loewen became her mentor; she divides most of her work into pre- and post-Heidi phases.

It is the post-Heidi that will be on display at the Laura Rathe Fine Art gallery for the next month in the two-artist exhibit Spring Eternal, beginning with an artists' reception Saturday.

"It's a growing process," Waggoner says of her developing art. She's no longer satisfied with



THE EYES HAVE IT | The ceramic mask Waggoner made for DIFFA is one of the few recent instances of her utilitarian pottery — though with gold- and platinum-leaf accents, it's hardly meant as daywear.

single pieces, opting lately for elaborate installations. The upcoming show will include multi-piece arrangements of tiny discs, hand-crafted and so delicate looking you imagine they might fly away like capricious hummingbirds. One work will even mount hundreds of small ceramics on tree branches, echoing the migratory monarch butterflies that return to her home country every year and cover vast forests with their bodies. She's even taken to incorporating acrylics into her art.

There will still be the small vessels and large platters Waggoner has perfected over her career, and while finished so that you could eat food off them, that's the one thing she asks you *not* to do. It's the old utilitarian bugaboo again.

"I have fought that battle [of having ceramics treated as fine art]," she says. "I might not be around when that war is won."

But art it is, if only for the commitment Wag-

■ CLAY, Page 26



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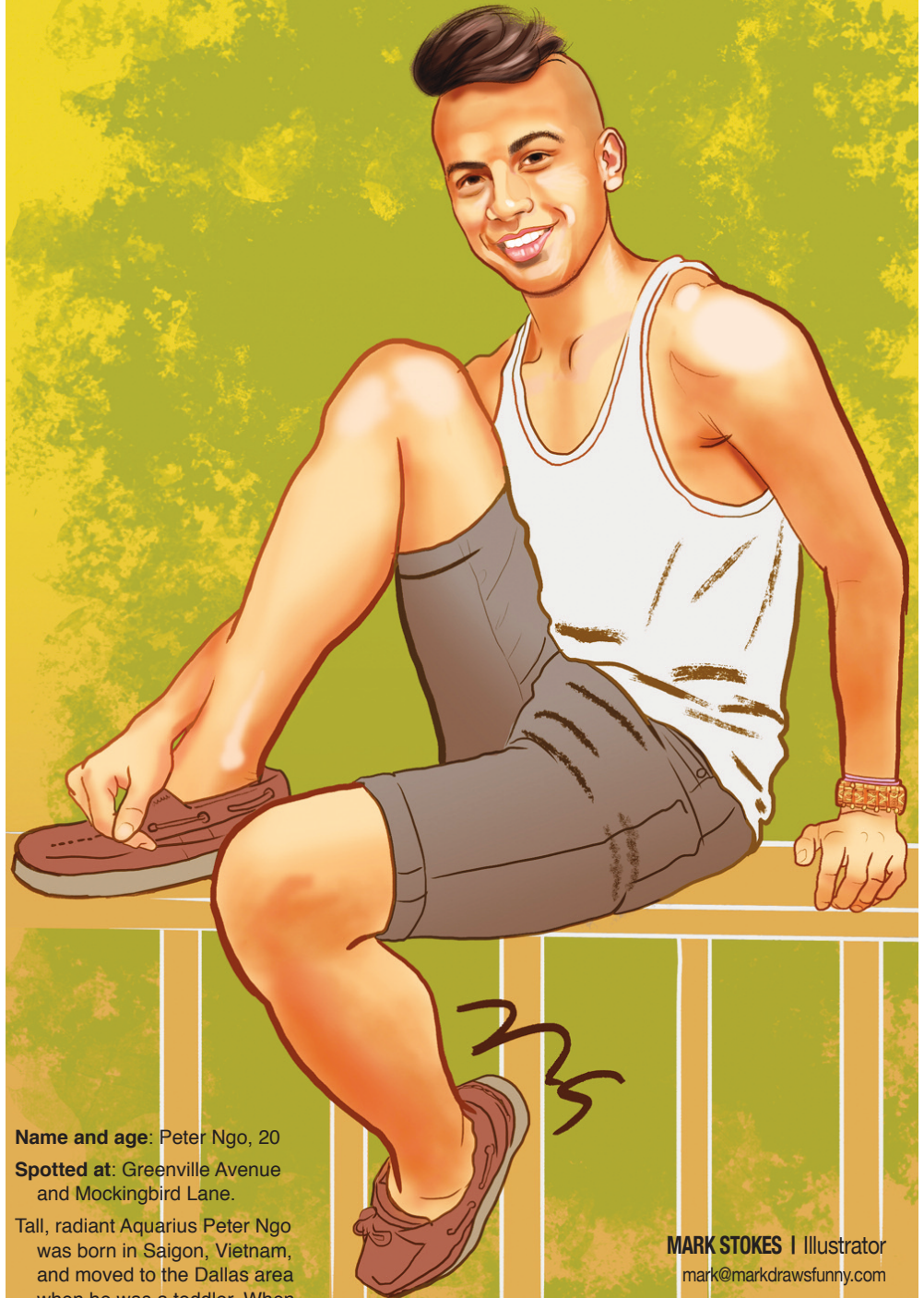
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L+S sketches

Drawing Dallas

SMU sophomore Peter Ngo calls Dallas home — for now



Name and age: Peter Ngo, 20

Spotted at: Greenville Avenue and Mockingbird Lane.

Tall, radiant Aquarius Peter Ngo was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and moved to the Dallas area when he was a toddler. When people first meet him, they usually think he is Hispanic, he says ... but that's OK. "It's always a great icebreaker to talk about my ethnicity with someone I haven't met yet!"

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

The SMU sophomore is majoring in creative advertising and biology. "I don't intend to do anything with the advertising degree. It's a creative outlet, and it gives me an excuse to have fun with Photoshop!"

Mind and body: His dream is to go to medical school — he's passionate about physical and mental health. "I believe that natural and holistic healing is the way to go!" In his free time, he enjoys yoga and running on Katy Trail and around White Rock Lake, and is a certified turbo kickboxing instructor.

Peter came out just a year ago. He worried his parents might disown him because he thought they were conservative. "It turned out that they are far from it. They love me just as much, if not more!"

Enjoy him while you can: Peter plans to relocate before too long. "I plan to move to Seattle because I love rain and fresh seafood."



Catwalk strut

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

'Pageant' gender-bends the runway

Shameful as it can be to admit, part of us — especially gay men — secretly enjoy beauty pageants. We can make fun of them, and YouTube can get millions of hits watching Carolina rubes stumble awkwardly through the question session, and the talents can be ... well ... “specialized,” but all of that is what makes the pageant truly an American art form. (Miss America started around the same time as jazz and modern musical theater. Coincidence?) We only mock the things we love. Well, that, and Michele Bachman.

Pageant taps into that train-wreck fascination with the bizarre subculture of tiaras and satin sashes in the expression of the Miss Glamouresse beauty contest. Six eligible young ladies — played by men in dresses (though they are treated as “genuine girls”) — representing six regions (and six “types”), sashay, saunter, strut and smile across a stage for two hours, waiting anxiously for the judges to declare a winner. (Select audience members at every performance are tapped to serve as judges, and their votes are binding on the girls, meaning the outcome can differ every time.)

Uptown Players’ current production is a rare revival for the company (now in its 13th season), echoing a version from 2006. Aside from the script and music, the versions share little in common: All new cast and director, all new costumes, and a new venue (the Kalita more conducive to an actual pageant stage than the black box of the old KD Studios Theater). Accordingly, even if you saw the last one, there’s something fresh in this staging.

What hasn’t changed much is the appeal of Miss Great Plains. The guileless Midwesterner,

so memorably previously played by Cameron McElyea as a flat-chested prairie bride, is turned into a cluelessly perky Junior Leaguer with a Dorothy Hamill hair flip. It may be the best role in the show.

Except that in Dallas, it’s Miss Texas (Walter Cunningham) who gets most of the love ... and why shouldn’t she? We all know Miss Texas is always a pageant powerhouse, the steely-eyed beauty who had to duke it out across 10 percent of the contiguous landmass for a shot at glory, and Cunningham’s plastered-on grin makes the determination all the funnier (as does her talent, a patriotic number involving guns and the splits).

All the actors tap into a distinctive characteristic of their character, from Peter DiCesare’s genteel Miss Deep South to Ashton Shower’s amble-bosomed scold Miss Bible Belt to Sergio Garcia’s shit-kicking Latina, the prison receptionist Miss Industrial Northeast. Even Drew Kelly (unrecognizable as a woman) makes the most of the least rewarding role, that of the New Age-y scatterbrain Miss West Coast. (All are exquisitely costumed by Suzi Cranford and brilliantly be-wigged by Coy Covington.)

Holding it all together is B.J. Cleveland, appropriately sleazy as the sweaty master of ceremonies Frankie Cavalier, a man you just know was fired from his role on a sitcom in 1979 and has been clawing his way into the limelight ever since. His throwaway business (leering at Miss Texas, doing double-takes at the girls’ responses) are the interstitials that give *Pageant* its ineffable quality — subtlety might not be its strong suit, but commitment to the bit is. There are no first- and second-runners-up in comedy. ■

PAGEANT

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through
April 13. UptownPlayers.org.

WHO WILL IT BE? | A sleazy master of ceremonies (B.J. Cleveland) navigates six contestants through the Miss Glamouresse contest in Uptown Players’ campy ‘Pageant.’ (Photo by Mike Morgan)

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L+S screen

Steers and queers

The Dallas International Film Fest includes some gay films in its lineup, two with Texas ties

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

Last year's Dallas International Film Festival was an orgy of gay content, and while this year's version — which started this week and runs through April 13 — isn't quite so flush with fairy dust, there are still several gay-interest films screening over the week. And two of them, both feature-length documentaries, have substantial Texas ties.

Queens & Cowboys: A Straight Year on the Gay Rodeo. You might expect that a movie about gay rodeo would not have too much to teach the gay community in a city that boasts the Round-Up Saloon ... and you'd be wrong. While much of *Queens & Cowboys* looks familiar, it packs plenty of surprises as well.

I once asked a gay cowboy why his culture got along so well with drag queens, considering that they seemed on the opposite spectrum of gay culture. "It's just a different kind of drag," he drawled.

In the case of some folks (men and women) on the gay rodeo circuit, though, it's much more than just playing dress-up and pretending to be something you're not. Most of the participants in the International Gay Rodeo Association (and it's Texas expression, TGRA), are actual working cowboys and cowgirls — ranch hands who grew up on horses and always loved the cowboy life. They just happen to be gay.

The case for Wade Earp, a North Texas native and descendant of lawman Wyatt. "It's not a sport, it's a lifestyle," says Earp, who's won every kind of award in a career of nearly 20 years. But the most elusive — the title of IGRA's season winning rider — has eluded him. *Q&C* starts here in Dallas with Earp and follows him and others across the U.S. and Canada until the

finals in Fort Worth.

Gay culture takes many forms, and rodeo is simply one of them, from riding broncs and bulls to barrel racing to roping calves to, of course, more camp events, like putting panties on a goat. ("We are homosexuals," notes one participant dryly.) But the demands physically, financially and emotionally can make you wonder why these people do this ... until you experience the familiar humanity they do.

Even after *Brokeback Mountain*, there are many in the straight rodeo circuit who don't respect gay rodeo, or even consider them "real" cowboys. But gay rodeos are all about raising money for charities, and the wherewithal it takes to be out and work in a field where many encounter homophobia should cause many heteros to rethink their concept of manliness. If you don't tear up at a buckle auction to raise money for a sick rider, you must be sleeping.

That probably won't be the only lump-in-your-throat moment (it wasn't for me), but the direct, unsentimental tone of this doc provides keen insights into the men, women and trans (bet you can't tell which one) — and even straight riders — who make the gay rodeo a tradition worth preserving.

Screens April 5 at 2:30 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Tomato Republic. Jacksonville in East Texas is the kind of small town that the 2012 feature film *Bernie* was about: Slow-paced, neighborly ... and crazy as all hell. The town, best known for its tomatoes (the way Tyler is known for its roses) is proud that it's not like the rest of America, where liberalism and diversity threaten old-fashioned Bible Belt bigotry. OK, maybe that's not how they'd put it (though one resident resignedly calls

DALLAS INT'L FILM FEST

Screenings at the **Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station**,
5307 E. Mockingbird Lane.
Through April 13. DallasFilm.org.

DOCU-DRAMA | 'Queens & Cowboys,' pictured above, profiles a year in the gay rodeo and screens Saturday and Sunday; 'Tomato Republic,' pictured right, about politics in an East Texas small town with a gay man running for mayor, screens Wednesday and Thursday.



Q Cinema debuts lesbian film fest

Q Cinema, Fort Worth's gay and lesbian film fest, moved its major multi-day festival event to the fall last year (it'll return Oct. 9–12), but that doesn't mean it has given up on a spring fling. The first-ever Lesbian Film Festival will play all Saturday (with two "manly" films thrown in at the beginning and end of the program). Among the offerings:

Truth. A suspense thriller about two gay men who meet online, where one becomes obsessed with the other. *Screens at noon; 94 mins.*

She: tHEIR Love Story. A woman with a life-threatening disease gets a final chance at love, while a journalist researches lesbian love in Bangkok in this romantic drama. *Screens at 2 p.m.; in Thai with English titles; 93 mins.*

Reaching for the Moon (pictured). American poet Elizabeth Bishop discovers love in Rio in the 1950s in director Bruno Baretto's romance starring Miranda Otto (*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy). *Screens at 4 p.m.; 116 mins.*

Heterosexual Jill. A "former" lesbian returns to her past lover to prove she is "recovered" in this romantic comedy from director-star Michelle Ehlen. *Screens at 7 p.m.; 93 mins.*

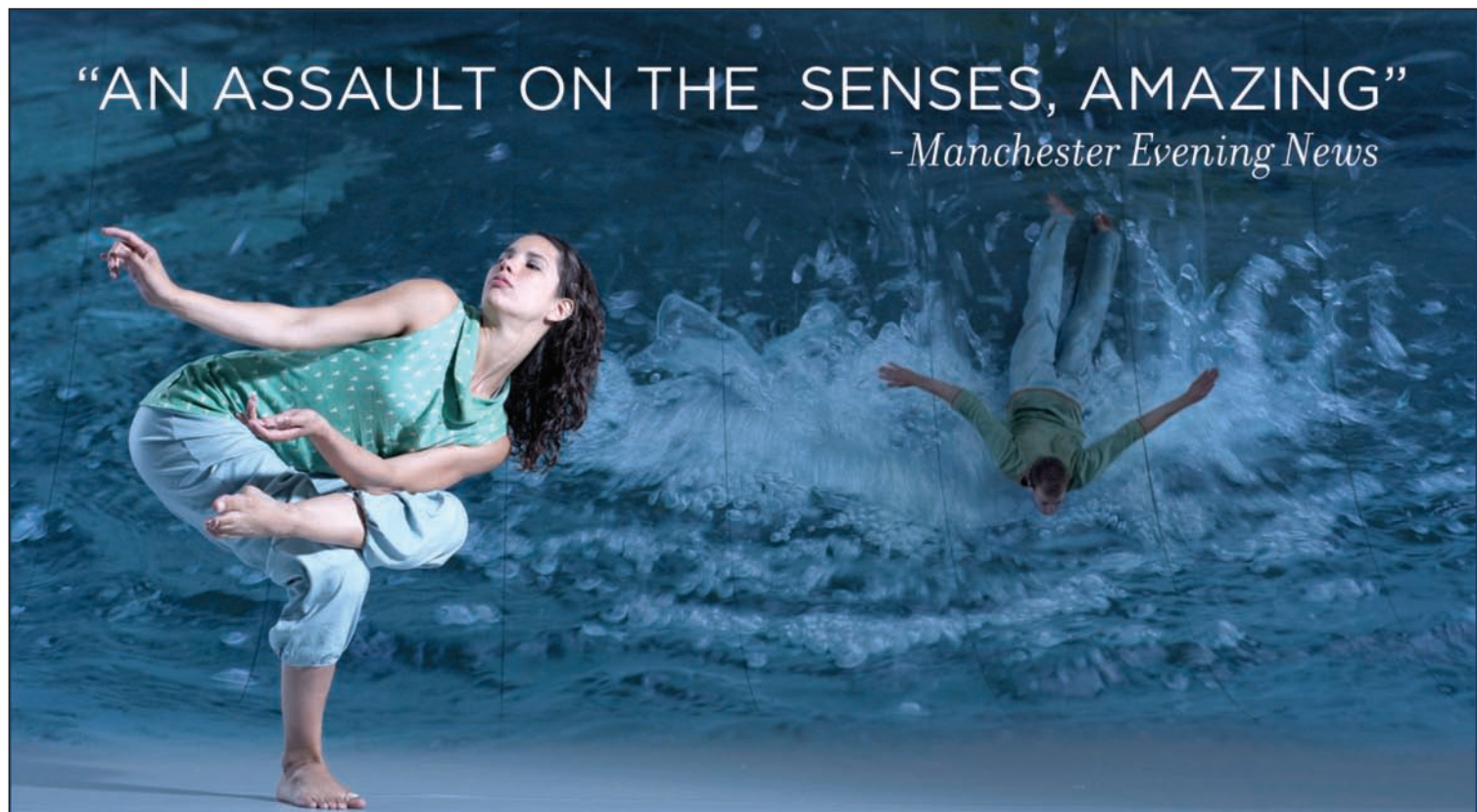
I'm a Stripper, Too! Festival favorite Charlie David directs this sequel to the *I'm a Stripper* TV series about male dancers on the striptease circuit. The film gets its world premiere here. *Screens at 9 p.m., preceded by the short Narcissist; 42 mins.*

— A.W.J.

Rose Marine Theater, 1440 N. Main St., Fort Worth. April 5. For tickets, visit QCinema.org.



"AN ASSAULT ON THE SENSES, AMAZING"
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the region "to the right of Attila the Hun").

But their beliefs are put to the test when an openly gay restaurateur named Rob Gowin, dissatisfied by the city council's inaction to beautify and preserve the town, decides to run for mayor.

Gowin isn't some nobody — he's well-known throughout the community as the man who hosts One Dollar Pie Day at his restaurant, and is an outspoken booster of the city who looks and sounds like a Southern version of Michael Kors. But will the town ignore his "alternative lifestyle" and vote for him, or will it cleave to the old-line current mayor? Or will the 23-year-old African-American upstart surprise everyone?

Tomato Republic is as quirky as the people it profiles, a fast-moving and sharply edited film that gives screentime not just to Gowin, but to his cousin with Down's syndrome, a supporting wig-shop owner, a local county judge (proud of the city's place in the Guinness Book of World Records for its salsa-making extravaganza) and other amusing denizens that make Texas ... well, Texas-y.

Screens April 9 at 7:15 p.m. and April 10 at 5:30 p.m.



■ CLAY, From Page 21

goner shows in realizing each piece. She covers the foot of a tiny dish — about the size of a soy sauce container at a sushi restaurant — with layer after layer of platinum filigree. And then what does she do? Mount the dish with the foot facing the wall. No one will even see the hard work she put in. But *she'll* know.

“Even if they look on the side, and it seems unfinished,” it would diminish the piece, she ex-

plains.

Another sign that an artist is at work is that even Waggoner is not sure what the final product will be. Less than a week before the show, she still isn't sure whether every piece will be used. Like Coco Chanel, she prefers to remove something before declaring the look complete.

“My work is never done until I see a person's reaction to it,” she says.

And that reaction will certainly warrant some “wows.” ■

SPRING ETERNAL

Laura Rathe Fine Art, 1130 Dragon St. April 5–May 10. Artists' reception April 5, 5–8 p.m. LauraRathe.com.



FLY ON THE WALL | Lucretia Waggoner's ceramic installations give porcelain a sense of weightlessness. (Photo by Erin Burroughs)

■ TROCKIN, From Page 18

adopting campy names like Euphenia Repulski.

Incorporating humor into traditional (and well-executed) ballet techniques is the constant challenge for Dobrin, who says he likes to take a collaborative approach to creating works for the company.

“The program is really strong, and we keep the rehearsals kind of fun. The process is sort of like a comedian trying out new jokes on the road,” he says. To fill a two-hour performance that people will want to come back to see demanding different kinds of comedy, different styles of ballet, of music and of costuming so “you're not seeing the same thing all night long. My chief objective is to set the tone we want to project to the public,” Dobrin says.

Although they bring in new ballets all the time, there are some recurring standards.

“*Swan Lake*, which we do in Act 2, is very campy, but it changes around. We take jokes out, put them in ... and the last piece is always a big Russian ballet with great 19th century music.”

So what has the reaction been to drag ballet in Red States and smaller markets? Over the years, The Trocks have developed a hide.

“We've been in 600 cities worldwide, in all lots of tiny towns in Montana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Siberia, villages in Italy, Spain, France,” Dobrin says. “Early on, sometimes we were not received so well by the local population. Once in Mexico City, someone said we were responsible for Mount St. Helens blowing up. But our audiences have always been very friendly, and we've been popular.”

And anyway, a little resistance helps you keep on your toes — and that's always a good thing for a ballet dancer. ■

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Friday 04.04

Do we smell 'Tuna' in Dallas? Yup, at Theatre 3

It's Texas' most iconic comedy (if you don't count the "dream" seasons on *Dallas*). *Greater Tuna*, a delight with two actors playing all the residents of a sleepy West Texas town, deserves its place in the pantheon on regional humor. Terry Dobson (usually behind the scene playing music) and Dwight Sandell take on the roles made famous by Joe Sears and Jaston Williams.

DEETS: Theatre 3's downstairs space, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through April 27. Theatre3Dallas.com.



Saturday 04.05

Big Texas Beer Fest returns to Fair Park

We've been hot on craft breweries for a while now, especially since the boom in local beers in the last two years. So the return of the Big Texas Beer Fest to Fair Park this Saturday is reason to lift a glass. More than 85 breweries will pour hundreds of beers, including specialties from local favorites like Lakewood (its Till & Toil is excellent!), Peticolas, Community and more, as well as national and international brands like Stella Artois and Corona. You can't buy tickets at the door, so order online now. And let the suds flow!

DEETS: Fair Park Automotive Building, 1010 First Ave. 2-6:30 p.m. (VIP admission at 1 p.m.). BigTexasBeerFest.com.



Friday 04.04

Jillian Michaels wants you to maximize your life

Although she's best known as the fitness guru on *The Biggest Loser*, the qualities that Jillian Michaels uses to motivate weight loss transfer over into all parts of one's life, as the out lesbian wife and mom will demonstrate with her touring show at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium.

DEETS: McFarlin Auditorium, 6405 Boaz Lane. April 4. 7 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Pageant. Uptown Players revives its 2006 hit musical comedy, set in the world of beauty pageants. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 13. UptownPlayers.org.

Ain't Misbehavin'. The musical of the songs of Fats Waller; directed by Akin Babatunde, and featuring Cedric Neal. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through April 20. \$15–\$25. JubileeTheatre.org.

Doubt, A Parable. John Patrick Shanley's controversial play about suspicions cast on a priest and his relationship with a young student. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through April 13. \$22. TheatreArlington.org.

The Fortress of Solitude. A world premiere new musical about racial tension, from gay composer Michael Friedman. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Gidion's Knot. A regional premiere about bullying. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through April 26. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Greater Tuna. The Texas comedy classic opens at Theatre 3. Theatre 3, 280 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through April 27. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Marianela. Readers Voice Award winner Mark-Brian Sonna adapts this "play with songs" about an illiterate woman with a joy for singing. Addison Theatre Centre's Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 26. MBSProductions.net.

Nocturne. The second show of Second Thought Theatre's 10th anniversary season, written by Adam Rapp (who was a staff writer on *The L Word*). Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle

Creek Blvd. Through April 26. STT.co.

The Solid Gold Cadillac. George S. Kaufman's comedy, presented by ICT MainStage. *Final weekend.* Irving Arts Center's Dupree Theater, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. \$16–\$21. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

We Are Proud to Present a Presentation ..., a regional premiere. 3200 Main St. Through April 19. \$15–\$30. Undermain.org.

OPERA

The Barber of Seville. Rossini's enduring opera buffa, presented by Dallas Opera. Performed in rep with *Die Tote Stadt*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through April 13. DallasOpera.org.

Die Tote Stadt. Dallas Opera stages this under-known work from composer Erich Korngold, best known for his Hollywood film scores. Performed in rep with *The Barber of Seville*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. DallasOpera.org.

DANCE

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. The world-famous all-male cross-dressing gay comic ballet troupe performs its signature style. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. April 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

FILM

Dallas International Film Festival. The annual clearinghouse of movies continues through two weekends, with numerous events and screenings, including some gay-interest films. Most films screen at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through April 13. For a complete schedule, visit DallasFilm.org.

COMEDY

Dysfunctional Divas. Steven Jay Crabtree performs. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. April 4 and 5 at 11:15 p.m.

SATURDAY 04.05

FILM

Q Cinema's Lesbian Film Festival. The Cowtown outs the L in its LGBT mission, with three lesbian-themed films screening Saturday (and two with gay male themes, including the world premiere of Charlie David's *I'm a Stripper Too*). Rose Marin Theater, 1440 N. Main St., Fort Worth. Screenings start at noon. QCinema.org.

DINING

It's in the Sauce. A fundraiser benefiting four Dallas charities pits four local chefs in a competition to create the best dish using Sonny Bryan's barbecue sauce. In the lot at The Cedar Social and South Side on Lamar on Lamar Street. 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. \$20.

Big Texas Beer Fest. Local brewers share their craft with beer lovers. Fair Park Automotive Building, 1010 First Ave. 2–6:30 p.m. \$35. BigTexasBeerFest.com.

FESTIVALS

Scarborough Faire. The Renaissance festival returns



ART AND FASHION | Artist JD Miller teams with DIFFA fashion designer Edo Popken for an exhibit exploring the intersection of the arts at Samuel Lynne Galleries on Saturday.

for a 34th season, with new attractions. Faire Grounds, FM 66 in Waxahachie. April 5–May 26 (open weekends and Memorial Day). SRFestival.com.

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FINE ARTS

Art & Fashion Exhibit. Menswear designer Edo Popken and artist JD Miller unite for a show at Samuel Lynne Galleries., 1105 Dragon St. 5–8 p.m. SamuelLynne.com.

Spring Eternal. DIFFA designer Lucreita Waggoner displays her ceramics at Laura Rathe Fine Art, 1130 Dragon St. April 5–May 10; artists' reception 5–8 p.m. LauraRathe.com.

Guinn Powell. A collection of 20 works by the Texas artist. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. April 5–26.

third season. TNT at 8 p.m.

FINE ARTS

Artsetters' Master Class. The inaugural program, focussing on a member of Dallas' arts community who has made a significant contribution to the city's cultural life, opens with a conversation with Jac Alder, founder of Theatre 3. Presented as part of Dallas Art Week. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Doors at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY 04.06

BROADCAST

Game of Thrones. The fourth season of the monster hit returns. HBO at 8 p.m.

MONDAY 04.07

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race. The sixth season continues, with the two "premiere" groups of six queens each merging into one group. Logo at 8 p.m.

Dallas. The Texas-set nighttime soap continues its

this week's solution

C	E	S	T	W	E	E	P	D	I	S	K		
A	S	T	I	A	L	M	A	A	N	T	E		
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L	A	L	O	R	I	O	T	H	E	L	L		
E	L	L	S	E	A	T	S	A	N	D	S		

browse

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

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Pageant

The Musical Comedy
Beauty Contest

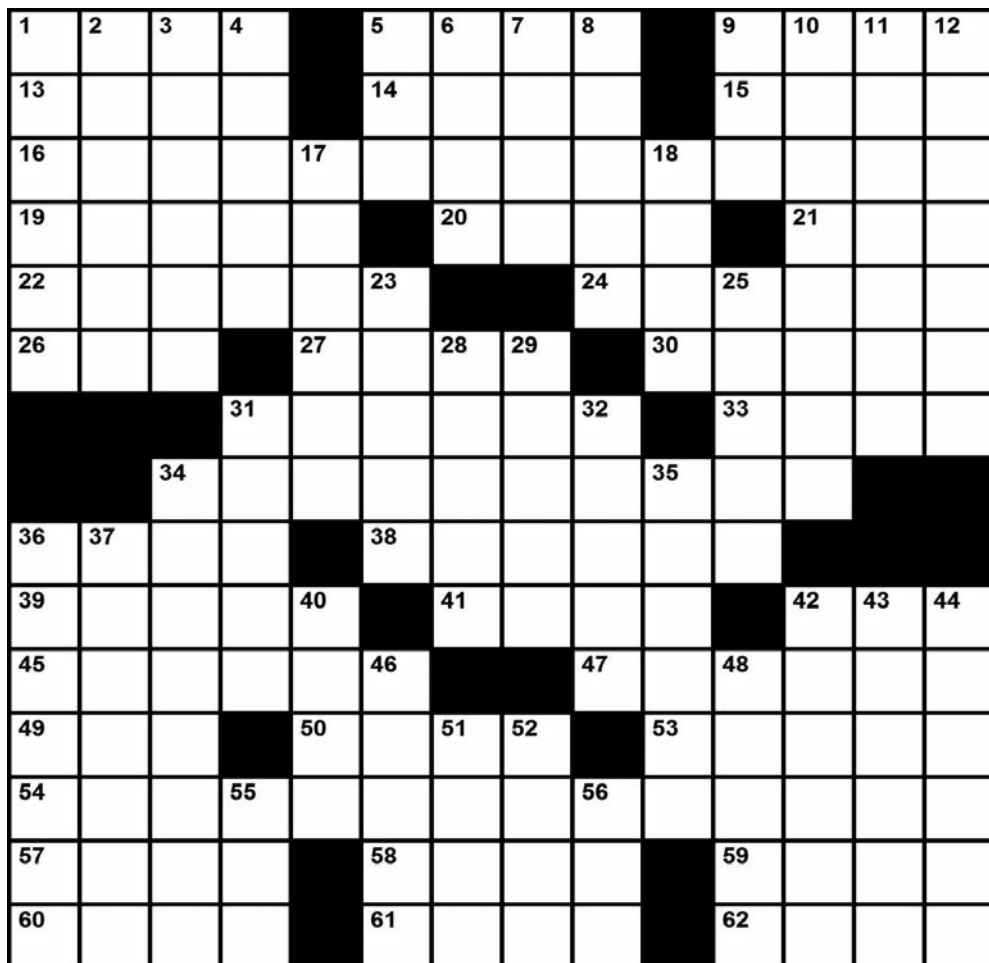
March 28
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April 13

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One Crown...
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Turn the Other Cheek

Solution on page 29

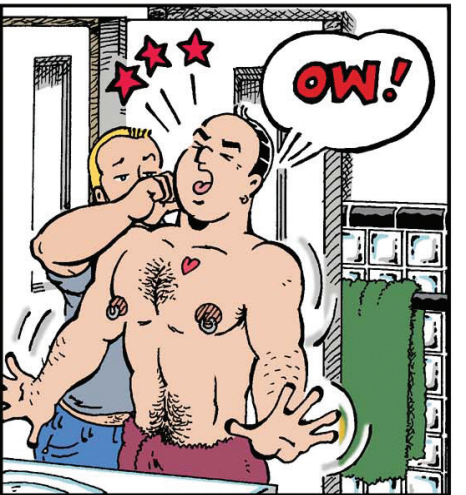
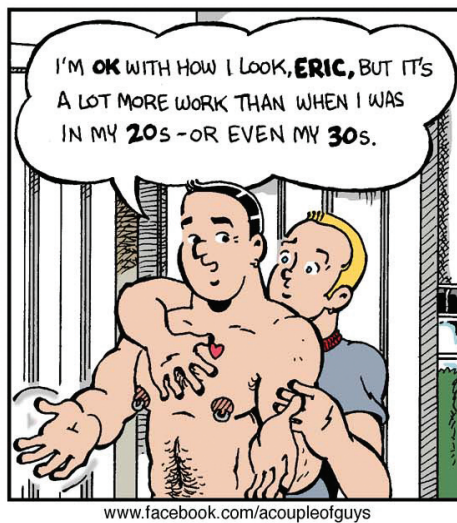
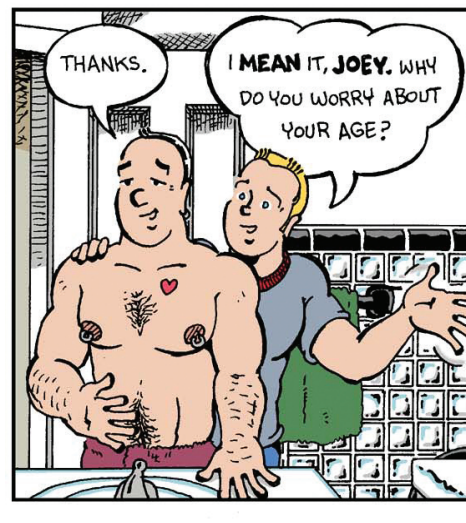
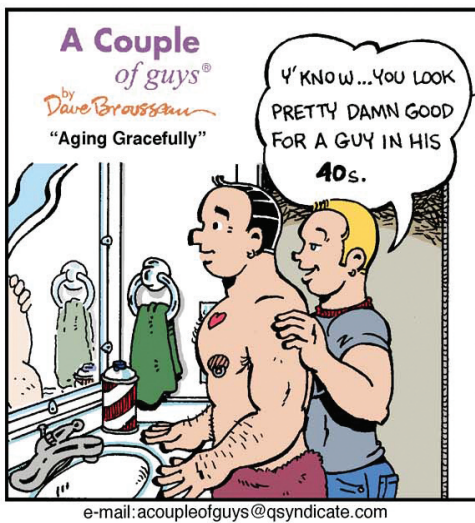
Across

- 1 What a knight takes to go clubbing?
- 5 Discombobulates
- 10 Vidal's *Visit to a ___ Planet*
- 15 Camaro model
- 16 Have the hots for
- 17 One that can be paddled at the stern
- 18 Omar in *The Mod Squad*
- 19 Capote portrayer Robert
- 20 Actress Susan
- 21 Start of a comment on the death of Fred Phelps (Matthew 5)
- 24 This, to Luis Zapata
- 25 Erotic opening
- 26 Card game with tricks
- 28 The Queen and others
- 30 Studio workers
- 32 City burned in *Gone with the Wind*
- 35 Poet who inspired *Cats*, initially
- 36 More of the comment
- 40 It may top a queen
- 42 Whys and wherefores
- 43 Deserts
- 47 Less messy
- 51 Push over

- 52 Elton John Broadway musical
- 54 Salutation for Caesar
- 55 End of the comment
- 59 Make noise in bed
- 60 Place to become wife and wife
- 61 "When ___ said and done ..."
- 62 Lurer of phallic fish
- 63 Unexpected help
- 64 Travel around
- 65 Take by force
- 66 Chat room request
- 67 A. Lincoln, e.g.

Down

- 1 *Patience and Sarah* author Isabel
- 2 Like an opera melody
- 3 Truck lineup
- 4 Homo leader to toga-wearers?
- 5 How good friends get along
- 6 Deuce follower, for Mauresmo
- 7 The Gay Blade
- 8 Tongue of Wilde's land
- 9 James Baldwin's *The Evidence of Things Not ___*
- 10 Shrimp entree
- 11 Rages
- 12 Come before
- 13 Eases up
- 14 Spy novelist Deighton
- 22 Site where Franklin, Winston, and Josef came together
- 23 NY winter hrs.
- 27 U-turn from NNW
- 29 Rhine feeder
- 30 Drag queen's leg scraper
- 31 "Nuts!"
- 33 Kinky coif
- 34 Coward of *Blithe Spirit*
- 36 Voyeur's station
- 37 Banana source
- 38 "___ at time!" (No threesomes!)
- 39 Fed. retirement agency
- 40 Guy under J. Edgar, for short?
- 41 One who shares a deed
- 44 Future ferns
- 45 Trumpet player Herb
- 46 Pee-___ Herman
- 48 AIDS activist Elizabeth
- 49 Become men, perhaps
- 50 Gets more mileage out of
- 52 Allstate rival
- 53 Impotence confession
- 56 Butts
- 57 Strip under the futon
- 58 O.K. Corral gunfighter
- 59 Work under Edith Head, perhaps



LIFE+STYLE

scene



Watching the action at Round-Up Saloon.



Colby, Alley and Paul at S4.



James and Rocky at the W.



Blair, Katie and Johnny at GEAR Awards Reception.



Jeweled body at DIFFA.



Austin and Louie at the W.



Jeremy and Scott at Turtle Creek Chorale rehearsal.



David and Valerie at S4.



Cole, Nicole and Garrett at DIFFA.

Making the **SCENE** the week of April 4-10:

Alexandre's: *Girl's Night Out with Peggy Honea* on Friday at 11 p.m. **Andrea Dawson** on Saturday at 10 p.m. **Sheran Keyton** on Wednesday at 9 p.m. **Alicia Silex** on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents **Queen of the Closet** on Saturday at 7 p.m. **Leather Knights** and **Dallas Bears** club night on Saturday. **Dallas Girls of Leather** monthly meeting on Sunday at 5 p.m.

Eden Lounge: Extended hours through the **Deep Ellum Arts Festival** on Friday-Sunday.

Garlow's: A Night of Comedy with **Miss Gay Texas State at Large 2014 Caresa Riata** and **Miss Gay Texas State 2014 Sabrina Starr** on Saturday. Benefits **AIDS Outreach Center**.

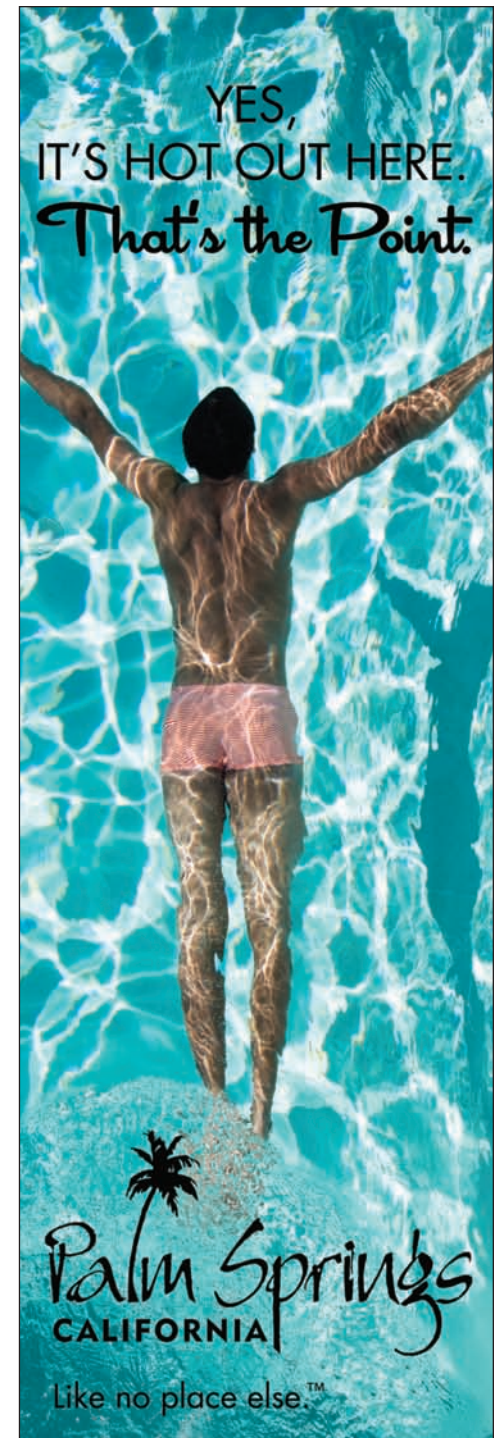
Round-Up Saloon: **Round Up Diesel Softball Team Extra Innings** presents the annual **Chili Cookoff** in the parking lot on Sunday 4-7 p.m.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: **Extra Innings** on Sunday 4-7 p.m. **DIVA Bachelor Auction** on Sunday at 7 p.m. Watch the **Final Four** on the big screen beginning Monday.

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



Antonio at Tin Room.



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Tre at DIFFA.



Friends at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Denise, Stephen and Jeremy on The Strip.

LIFE+STYLE

scene



Dancer at BJ's NXS!.



Bradley, Jade, Colby and Brett at S4.



Jesse, Jim and Josh at the Eagle.



Friends at Sue Ellen's.



Larry, Rachel and Michael at Tin Room.



Hanging out at Connection.



Martin, Jose and Fernando at Hidden Door.



Leslie at GEAR Awards Reception.



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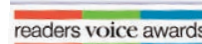
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date!
Society for Companion Animals
 invites you to
FLYING PETS
 benefiting the many homeless pets transported to new homes
 Sunday, April 6
 5-8pm
 Sambuca 360 Grill | The Shops at Legacy
 7200 Bishop Rd. | Plano, TX 75024
 Live Music, Food, 2 Free Cocktails
 \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
 Tickets can be purchased online at
 SocietyForCompanionAnimals.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents
CELEBRATION of EXCELLENCE
 North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce
 9th Annual
 Business Excellence Awards Dinner
 April 24th | 5:30pm - 9pm
 Sheraton Dallas Hotel | 400 North Olive St.,
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 Sponsorships, Tables, and Individual
 Tickets now on sale, visit:
 www.glbtcchamber.org or call 214-821-GLBT

Volunteer Needed!!
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Pegasus Squares, an LGBT North Dallas Square Dance Club, meets the first and third Sundays of each month, 3pm-5pm at the Resource Center. Lessons beginning March 9th. Contact Rob Miller at 214-320-9598 for more information.

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Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. CoDA meetings in the area meet:
 • St. Thomas Episcopal Church
 6525 Inwood Road (Inwood at Mockingbird)
 Dallas, Texas 75209
 • LAMBDA GROUP
 6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
 OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
 7:30 PM, Wed; 1 1/2 hours
 Meeting Type:
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ROAR! | Bear Party at The Eagle
May 10: RISE | Pool Party @ SISU
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THE PURPLE PARTY | Main
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May 11: REVIVAL | Tea Dance @
Push Nightclub
GLOW | Closing Party @ Le Vü
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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PETS



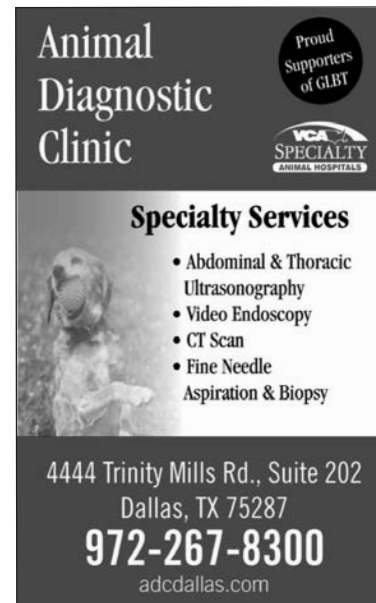
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Society for Companion Animals
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FLYING PETS
benefiting the many homeless pets transported to new homes
Sunday, April 6th
5-8 p.m.
Sambuca 360 Grill
The Shops at Legacy • 7200 Bishop Rd. • Plano 75024
Live Music | Food | 2 Free Cocktails
\$25 in advance \$30 at the door
Make check or Money Order payable to: Society for Companion Animals
Mail to: 619 Woolsey Dr., Dallas, TX 75224 and note "Flying Pets" and # of tickets
Tickets may also be purchased online at: SocietyForCompanionAnimals.com
Chairs: Lee Saba, Susan Smith and Pam Westerheide
Thank you to Kim Forsythe in recognition of his support to save animals.



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