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Our annual guide to celebrating same-sex love!
From wedding cakes to rings to where getting married is legal (Texas might be next!)

■ WEDDINGS, Starting on Page 39



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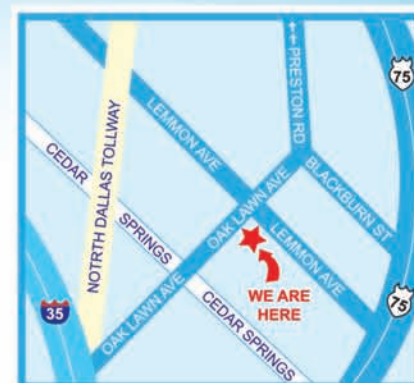
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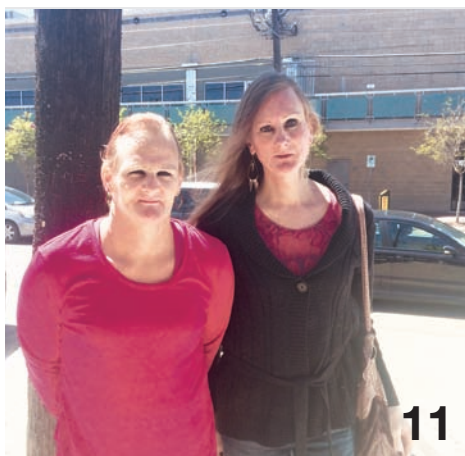
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REPRESENTIN' | Dallas Councilmen Philip Kingston and Adam Medrano, who represent Oak Lawn, released NoH8 photos this week they took during a photo shoot in Dallas back in January.

**Former U.S. Senate candidate
Craig James goes to work for
anti-gay hate group FRC**

Former SMU football player and candidate for U.S. Senate Craig James has taken a job with Family Research Council, listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. He will become assistant to the hate group's President Tony Perkins.

In his Senate campaign, James was best known for his attacks on fellow candidate former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, who rode on a float with the Dallas City Council in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. Leppert participated in Pride until he decided to run for the Senate seat.

Leppert came in third in his Senate bid, ahead of James, who came in fourth. Sen. Ted Cruz won the election.

At a campaign debate at Dallas Country Club attended by Dallas Voice, James made this homophobic comment:

"You have to make that choice, absolutely. ... Same-sex marriage, if someone chooses to do that, then that's them, and God's going to judge each one of us in this room for our actions, but in that case right there, they're going to have to answer to the Lord for their actions. We should not give benefits to those civil unions. It should not occur. We have to stay strong on this. This is important, man. I tell you what, we have a fiscal issue in this county, but

we also have a moral issue in this country, and as Christians we better stand up."

After the campaign, Fox Sports hired James, but fired him a week later for comments made during the campaign.

"We just asked ourselves how Craig's statements would play in our human resources department. He couldn't say those things here," Fox told Dallas Morning News at the time.

James is currently suing Fox for religious discrimination based on preserving his right to discriminate.

— David Taffet

USA Film Fest reveals lineup

The Dallas International Film Festival is still underway, but Thursday the USA Film Festival announced its own lineup of screenings, which arrive later this month.

The 44-year-old festival, which takes place April 22-27, will include several tributes, including ones for soap stars Linda Gray (*Dallas*) and Morgan Fairchild (*Flamingo Road*), Irish actress Fionnula Flanagan, John Turturro, Ed Harris and Carol Kane.

Among some gay-interest screenings are the feature *Finding Neighbors*, a quirky comedy from Oscar winner and SMU alum Ron Judkins. It screens April 26. And out actor Paul Marcarelli (the Verizon's "Can You Hear Me Now" spokesman) returns to the fest as a juror for the short films competition.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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SMU may revote on LGBT Senate seat

Two-third of students voting must support the special-interest seat, and Spectrum students believe they'll prevail in a second election

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Southern Methodist University students are collecting signatures, hoping to get a revote on adding an LGBT Student Senate seat after the measure failed on April 3.

The Student Senate had voted a week earlier, 34-3, to add a special interest seat for LGBT students. The issue has come up every year since 2009 when then-student Tom Elliott proposed the addition. This is the first year the proposal passed.

To comply with the student constitution, the student body must pass a Senate-approved resolution by a two-thirds vote to amend the constitution. Only 53 percent of students participating in the election to add an LGBT seat voted for it.

David Chard, dean of the school of education, called the vote disappointing. He said he thought most faculty members and the administration supported the idea of adding the seat, but creating the seat was a process the undergraduate student body needed to work through without interference.

"It's an undergraduate issue," Chard said. "They need to work on it themselves."

Shelbi Smith, co-president of Spectrum, SMU's undergraduate LGBT group, said she and others were scrambling to get 1,053 student signatures, or 10 percent of undergraduates, on a petition by Monday to get a revote. She said she thought a number of things contributed to the measure failing.

The student body voted just days after the Senate passed the resolution, which gave Spectrum and its allies little time to get word out to vote.

Also, the issue was at the end of a ballot to elect student government representatives, so many who did vote didn't care about the issue and just voted against it.

Then there was the issue of special interest seats. Others include an African American, Hispanic, Asian and foreign student positions. Smith said some students oppose all special interest seats. Others, for religious or other reasons, oppose just the LGBT seat.

While Smith was at an SMU diversity fair to collect more signatures, she was disappointed to find that some students who were taking part in the event are opposed to adding an LGBT seat in the Senate.

Harvey Luna, a former Spectrum president now runs YWCA, an on-campus group that focuses on social justice issues.



REVOTE | Harvey Luna, Shelbi Smith and Kathrina Macalanda, outside Dallas Hall on the SMU campus, collected signatures this week for their petition to add an LGBT Student Senate seat. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

"I feel a little down," he said, referring to the April 3 vote, "but this has us fired up to do more and get more people involved."

He said about 15 people are collecting signatures, but he would like an additional 10 working around campus. If each gathered 50 signatures, he said, they'll have the number needed by the Monday deadline.

Another student, Kathrina Macalanda, who served on the Student Senate last year, also was disappointed the measure didn't pass.

"I'm shocked by the difference in how the Senate voted and how the student body voted," Macalanda said.

She pointed out that the vote shows the difference between student leadership and the student body. As Smith works to eliminate that disparity

she said she believes increased LGBT visibility on campus would help. That way, she said, people would say, "Oh, I do know gay people. They're not that different."

She said if more people would come out and be visible on campus, that would encourage even more people to come out.

Spectrum and its allies have until noon on April 21 to turn in the signatures to the Senate. The signatures will be verified, and they'll know by that evening if a revote will occur. If it does, it will take place Wednesday and Thursday, and the proposal will appear on a ballot by itself. That doesn't give Smith and other supporters much time to get the word out, but she said people interested in this particular issue will be the only ones who will vote. She thought that would favor passage.

Former SMU student Elliott, who now lives in Chicago, said there's a lack of understanding why the Senate LGBT seat is important.

"LGBT students are still facing discrimination," he said.

He cited an incident he heard of this semester where anti-gay slurs were shouted out of windows at a gay student.

Other gay students, however, don't report negative experiences.

Oscar Cetina said he has no problem being out at SMU and is most comfortable in his Latino fraternity where he serves as president.

"I can be myself — out in my sexuality and out in my ethnicity," he said. "I don't have to choose."

He said he's getting signatures on the petition from his entire fraternity. ■

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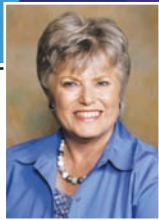
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Deaths



Kenneth "Drew" Haynes was born on May 5, 1958, in Amarillo, Texas, and passed away on Tuesday evening, April 8, at St. Paul University Hospital where he was diagnosed with liver cancer. Drew was surrounded by many of his loved ones. His passing was peaceful.

He is survived by his partner of 8 1/2 years, John Bosch; his mother, Dorothy Jane Haynes; his sisters, Nikki Bora and Dorothy Kay Sullivan; brother-in-law, Berry Sullivan; nephews, Brian Gray and Clint Gray and their wives, Christen and Julie; and niece, Brandy Bora. He was preceded in death by his father, Lovell Haynes. Drew was an avid participant in the geocaching community, spending many weekends with John and other hobbyist friends enjoying the outdoors. On Saturday, May 3, family and friends will gather in Round Rock, Texas, to celebrate Drew's life. ■



Kevin A Moyer of Dallas passed away on April 3 near Beaumont, Texas. Kevin was from Reading, Penn., and was a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York. He moved to Dallas in 1981 where he worked for Sanger Harris. His career took him to various cities, including metro New York City, Philadelphia, Orlando and then back to Dallas where he had lived for more than 10 years prior to his death. He had been the Regional Sales Executive for Royal Crown Derby prior to his passing.

Kevin is survived by his parents and a brother, all of Reading, and a host of friends considered to be his Dallas family. He was a kind and gentle man who inspired others to be the best they could be. He had a positive impact on the lives of many people as they trudge the road of happy destiny. He will be greatly missed by everyone. ■

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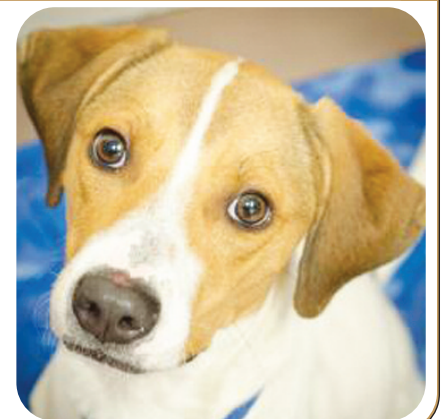
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Police arrest 2 men in brutal murder of gay Dallas man



SUSPECTS | Arthur Christopher Harmon, left, and Yiannis Nikolaos Mihail, middle, are in custody. Cody Jamar Lewis is still on the loose.

Kevin Moyer was killed near Beaumont while on business; authorities are still searching for third suspect, motive

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Friends of Kevin Moyer will remember his gentle, kind and calming presence and how his friendship forever touched their lives.

Moyer, 53, was identified this week as the man found dead on Saturday, April 5, near a creek bed on South China Road near Highway 365 about 10 miles southwest of Beaumont. It's a rural area where people go fishing, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office spokesman Rod Carroll said. A man alerted authorities around 10:30 a.m. after observing a man asleep in a 2013 Volkswagen Jetta. Deputies found him naked and wrapped in a sheet.

Carroll said the cause of death isn't being released yet, but Moyer suffered "traumatic injuries" that required dental records be used to identify him.

"It was obviously trauma, and so there was obviously disfigurement, and that's one reason we had to go with dental records," he said. "It was a sign of suspicious death, which was confirmed by the autopsy."

Two Beaumont men were arrested and charged with the murder on Monday. Arthur Christopher Harmon, 21, and Yiannis Nikolaos Mihail, 31, are being held on \$1 million bonds. Authorities are still searching for a third man involved, Cody Jamar Lewis, 27, who they believe tampered with evidence. Carroll said Lewis should be considered armed and dangerous.

As to whether to brutal murder was an anti-gay hate crime, Carroll said that doesn't appear to be the case since the two men already in custody are openly gay and in a relationship with each other. Possible motives aren't being released, he said, because they want the third suspect to confirm what the other two have told authorities.

"Once we get the third person in custody, it'll confirm some stuff," Carroll said. "We're waiting on the third to see how the story changes."

Jim Mallory, a close friend of Moyer who's known him for 33 years, said Moyer was in South Texas on business for a luxury linen company he'd recently started working for after the fine china company he'd previously worked with closed its U.S. offices.

He first moved to Dallas in 1981 and later met Mallory at a gay social group. The two became close friends and remained close when Moyer's work took him on various work travels and even out of the state. Moyer returned to Dallas about 10 years ago.

Mallory said he and Moyer met for lunch almost every Saturday, often at Lucky's Cafe on Oak Lawn Avenue, which was Moyer's favorite restaurant. In his spare time, he loved baking, reading and science fiction.

"He was a very kind, gentle, thoughtful man and always calm," Mallory said. "I think that's what makes the manner of his death so hard to imagine."

Mallory said he was told Moyer died on April 3, two days before his body was discovered, and deputies think the murder happened somewhere else before his body was moved. He said since Moyer was found in his car without any of his belongings, deputies think the original intent was robbery.

But for such a seasoned traveler like Moyer, Mallory said it would be rare for him to be into a dangerous situation.

"I'm just baffled, absolutely baffled by this," he said.

He remembered how excited Moyer was about his new job in luxury linen after years in fine china. Moyer was excited about staying in the luxury market while still learning new things and being able to travel.

"He said it was just moving from the dining room to the bedroom," Mallory recalled.

Moyer's death has shaken his intimate group of friends and the many people whose lives he touched with his gentle spirit. Mallory said the kind of friendship he had with Moyer was rare and the kind that few people find.

"Friends like that are hard to find, hard to cultivate and hard to keep. And 33 years of friendship ... is a long time," Mallory said. "A large number of people admired, loved and respected him. This has been very, very difficult on all of us."

Anyone with information about the third suspect's location should contact Crime Stoppers at 833-8477. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to the location and his arrest.

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City Council approves Oak Lawn DHA complex

A good-neighbor agreement that could chart a new course for how it works with neighborhood groups is a first for the housing authority

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas City Council on March 26 approved plans for Cedar Springs Place, a complex it plans to build to replace a housing project torn down in 2012. The Dallas Housing Authority agreed to make several changes to its original proposal, which included concessions from both sides.

One of the neighborhood's concerns focused on the number of parking spaces planned for Cedar Springs Place, a DHA property in Oak Lawn. In

the negotiated agreement, the council will allow the housing agency to build less parking than zoning requires. The agency believes the parking spaces will be enough based on studies of its other properties and proximity to public transportation.

The complex will include 366 units — more than the 220 that once stood on the site, at Kings Road and Hawthorne Avenue, but fewer than the 410 originally proposed.

Access from Kings Road to the housing complex will be restricted. Neighborhood advocate Mike Harper said the amount of additional traffic on that street is a major concern. The council voted to allow only an exit gate from the complex to Kings Road. The entrance will be on Hawthorne Avenue.

A good-neighbor agreement was a first for DHA, and some of the items included in that pact are more specific than others and address issues from security to landscaping.

Residents currently living in that area said they're concerned about safety and want the drop in crime they've experienced to continue. After a former DHA housing complex was torn down in 2012 on the site, crime dropped. In 2011, the last full year that complex was occupied, 953 criminal offenses were reported in the police beat. In 2013, the first full year after the apartments were gone, only 303 offenses were reported.

Dallas Police Department has agreed to monitor the security cameras that will be installed throughout the property. One unit at the complex will be reserved for an officer to live in rent-free.

The neighborhood and DHA, with Councilman Adam Medrano as mediator, negotiated the good-neighbor agreement that includes guidelines for who will be approved to live in the complex. Working applicants will be given preference, and the elderly and people with disabilities will be given priority for all one-bedroom units.

"Councilman Medrano did an outstanding job representing the views of the entire neighborhood," Harper said. "He assisted in representing the community and opening a dialogue with Dallas Housing."

Medrano said working with both sides has been the most challenging, yet rewarding, project he's faced since taking office last June.

"This is a good example of sitting down with both sides and how Dallas Housing Authority and the neighborhood can come up with a compromise," Medrano said.

He praised the community group for tackling the issue of development and called the resolution a good example of what can happen when two sides work together. With the agreement in writing, he believes DHA will deliver what it promised.

"The good neighbor agreement is a good tool to make it happen," Medrano said.

A fight between the neighborhood and DHA about the housing complex began last August when DHA announced plans to replace the Cedar Springs Place property. At that time, neighborhood residents believed the housing authority originally planned to sell the property. Instead, they found that DHA had picked Oak Lawn as the site for its largest housing project. When added to another DHA property across the street on Hawthorne Avenue, the entire complex would be more than twice the size of any other low-income housing project in Dallas.

In October, DHA began working with the

■ DHA, Page 12

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TRIAL RUN | Jodielynn Wiley, left, would love to be the first person placed under a new shared housing program Trans Pride Initiative President Nell Gaither, right, is trying to get off the ground. Gaither is collecting applications from people who have housing to help pair them with transgender people who need temporary or long-term housing. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Shared housing project aims to curb trans homelessness

New Trans Pride Initiative program allows people to host or room with others who don't have a place to live

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

After years of harassment and death threats for living as a transgender woman in Paris, Texas, Jodielynn Wiley finally escaped that environment when she came to Dallas in February.

Wiley, who lived in the conservative town about 100 miles northeast of Dallas for 23 years, said she couldn't take the death threats anymore.

She transitioned in 2009, and after living in Paris for so long, she said many people like her landlord accepted her transition. But others stopped letting her care for their horses and some took their distaste for trans people to deadly measures by leaving dead animals on her front porch.

When Wiley was a year into her transition, some teens approached her and one of them raised his hands toward her. She said she pushed him away to prevent him from hitting her. When she called police the officer told her "being the way you are you should expect that" treatment. From then on, she didn't feel safe and didn't trust

police to handle the death threats that later followed.

"That's the typical redneck bigotry," Wiley said. "They don't care to understand [about being transgender]."

Now at the Salvation Army in Dallas, Wiley said she feels safer, but her time at the shelter is running out. Her 30-day stay at the shelter was extended, and she now has until April 21 to find housing.

Blake Fetterman, operations director at Carr P. Collins Social Service Center, said the Salvation Army shelter is an emergency shelter, so the 30-day limit allows time for people to come in and either be referred to another shelter or find a housing program. She said extensions are given to people who feel comfortable at the shelter and would prefer not to go somewhere else while they make other arrangements.

Wiley is hoping to be one of the first people to benefit from a new program of Trans Pride Initiative, the Dallas Trans* Shared Housing Project. Under the project, people can open their homes to trans and gender-nonconforming people who need temporary or long-term housing, TPI President Nell Gaither said.

"I don't know how many people are going to

■ **HOUSING**, Next Page

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■ HOUSING, From Previous Page

want to take someone in for fear of getting in a desperate or venerable situation, but I'm hoping we can overcome that hesitancy," Gaither said.

She called the program an experiment because she's testing how it would work. She's looking for people who have housing available and would offer a rent that someone can afford. She also is looking for trans people who are looking for roommates so they can find places together and share the cost.

Gaither has been helping Wiley find housing or transitional funding. She said she's found it difficult to help trans people find housing because programs are so specific and can be tricky to navigate if you're not on the inside and know how the programs work. She said many have waiting lists for nine to 18 months, during which people can move from shelter to shelter. But some shelters have priority for domestic violence victims or other situations.

"It's so frustrating with 'Well, you don't quite fit the qualifications' or somebody doesn't give you a call back, which may just be that they're busy," Gaither said. "But some of it could be transphobia. I think there are a lot of other reasons. That's totally not the single reason that people are not getting in a shelter."

The difficulty in finding housing options where trans people feel comfortable and safe led Gaither to launch the Shared Housing Project this month.

"It always seems really daunting to call different places and say 'Would this person fit in here?'" she said. "I kind of thought let's provide a different type of opportunity if we can, which would secure housing if people would be willing to share where they're living or are looking for roommates to offer them a pathway to that."

Shelters in Dallas, like the Salvation Army, are welcoming of trans people, but some don't provide a comfortable atmosphere where all gender nonconforming people would feel accepted.

Charlotte Baker, marketing coordinator at the Austin Street Center, said the shelter doesn't have a nondiscrimination or trans policy, but it is open to trans people. She said the staff often goes by the gender people self-identify as, adding that since the showers are open, it could make trans people uncomfortable.

"It's one of those things that we haven't addressed yet, but we want to," Baker said. "Everyone is welcome here."

Jay Dunn, president and CEO of The Bridge, said transgender people have been covered under the shelter's nondiscrimination policy since the shelter opened in 2008.

"We do include them in our protections and anti-discrimination sections," Dunn said. "And with regard to the shelter sections, people stay with the gender based on self-identification."

Gaither eventually wants to open the program to the whole LGBT community, but she said the focus is on trans people because they have a

higher rate of homelessness.

One in five trans people have experienced homelessness at some time in their lives because of discrimination and family rejection, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality. Of those, 29 percent of homeless trans people have been turned away from a shelter because they are trans, and 42 percent reported having to reside with the wrong gender while at a shelter.

The Dallas program would provide Wiley with a roof over her head where she could contribute to a household and not have to go to different shelters or ask for an extension at the Salvation Army.

Any home would be a blessing, she said, but since she's worked with horses in the past, she said she'd like to stay at a place where she could care for the horses to help the person who's offering her a home.

Gaither said she knows one person who's thinking about offering housing for the program and another handful of trans people who would eventually use the program.

For Wiley, who would do anything not to go back to Paris, she said she'd exhaust all of her options before returning to a place that no longer feels like home.

"I sure don't want to go back," she said. "It'd be like going back to hell."

Applications for people needing housing and people offering housing can be found online at tpride.org/sharedhousing.



Luxury apartments are going up across the street from Cedar Springs Place. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice.)

■ DHA, From Page 10

neighborhood, and Medrano mediated to come up with the best solution. After a few months, both sides began coming together to develop an agreeable plan.

Harper said neighborhood residents want to continue having a say in how the area develops.

They met at the Lure Apartments on Kings Road on April 10 to organize a neighborhood association. The area includes all blocks from Cedar Springs Road to Maple Avenue and from Maple Springs to the Tollway. Harper said he hopes homeowners, renters, business owners and developers will be part of the neighborhood association.

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AHF to open Out of the Closet on Cedar Springs



TOUCH UPS | A contractor paints a door at Out of the Closet, which is set to open April 16. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

The thrift store will also have a full-service pharmacy and an HIV testing center

STEVE RAMOS | Senior Writer
ramos@dallasvoice.com

The Out of the Closet Thrift Store that will be operated by the largest AIDS research and treatment nonprofit in the U.S. is set to open April 19 on Cedar Springs Road.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation took the recently closed Union Jack store and has been converting it into a building that will house not only a thrift store but a pharmacy and an HIV testing center as well. It's a business model AHF uses in Florida, California and Ohio, but it's the first in Texas.

"We have been operating thrift stores for 20-plus years," said AHF Regional Director Bret Camp. "They're very successful, and they have become icons and hubs in those cities' gay neighborhoods."

While the community has convenient access to other thrift stores, pharmacies and HIV testing centers, Out of the Closet is the

first to offer what some might call an unusual amalgam of all those services.

"I've never gone to a thrift store that has a pharmacy and HIV testing," Warren Wells said. "I kind of like it because I know there are people who don't want to go to other places to get tested. They're afraid someone will see them going in there."

Camp said the model is unique and is designed to build community and unity and to expand access to HIV testing.

"Someone saying they don't want to go into a clinic to be tested for HIV speaks to the amount of stigma that is still associated with HIV," Camp said. "AHF is providing multiple options, which include clinical, mobile or the thrift stores. We need all those options to eliminate the gaps in the service delivery system."

The thrift store will be open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. Camp said six employees have been hired, and they have a truck that will be used to pick up large donations. The store will sell clothing, furniture and household goods. Camp said 96 cents of every dol-

■ AHF, Page 23



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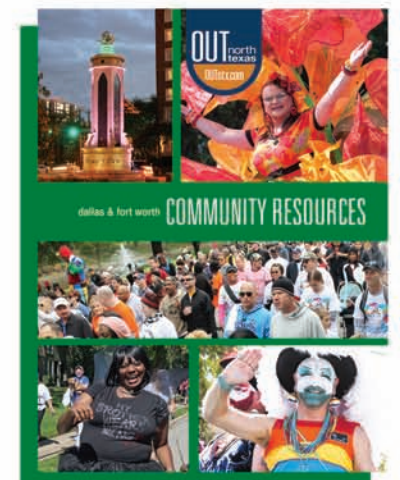
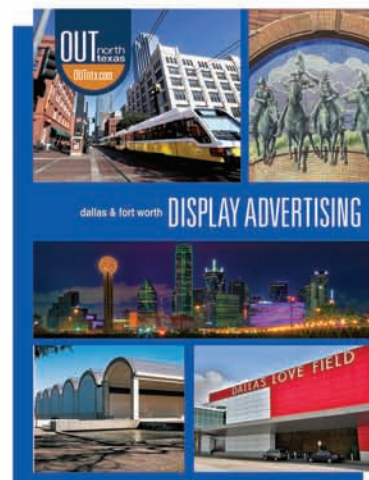
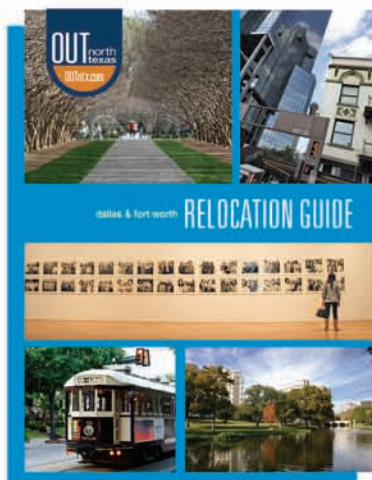
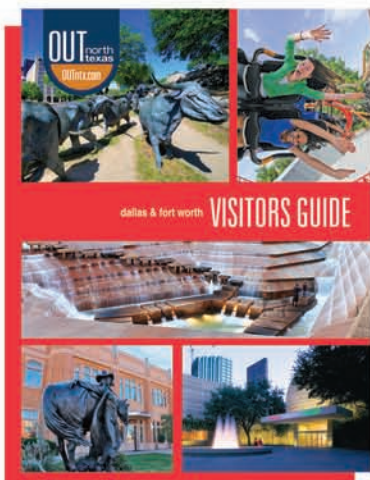
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All over but the shoutin’

The insanity of infighting in our community weakens in the battle against our real enemies

EMERSON COLLINS | Contributing Writer

The biggest blowup fights often happen with the family and friends you love the most. You know each other’s strengths and weaknesses, all of the buttons to push, and you have the greatest vested interest in the outcome.

There are going to be times within the great LGBTQIA family that we don’t all agree. The very thing that makes our giant tent so strong — welcoming anyone and everyone who wants to make a home with us — is also the thing that leads us inevitably to internal conflicts. There are smaller groups within the big group, and our priorities, concerns, opinions, experiences and aspirations are not always going to match up. On occasion, they are even going to come into direct conflict.

There is nothing wrong with that. Celebrating the great variety of individuality that can be ex-

pressed in gender identity and sexuality means that strong voices with strong opinions will sometimes clash as we work to define ourselves as individuals, larger groups and one giant community and create our place in the world and society-at-large.

And that’s OK. Or it should be. In fact, it’s ultimately necessary and vital to our continued growth as a community. Challenging each other and learning from each other is how we continue to grow and ensure that everyone remains welcome and included.

Conflict isn’t a bad thing, but how we operate and conduct ourselves and the words we use in a conflict is another matter. Those can all be truly terrible things. It’s happening again right now.

There is an ongoing dialogue on the use of the

word “tranny,” with many voices contributing to the conversation. (I’m being generous in the use of the words “dialogue” and “conversation” here out of respect for the minority who are managing to engage in intelligent discussions.)

We’ve done this before on other subjects as well: The validity of bisexuality. The use of racial preferences in dating profiles. The lack of representation of LGBT people of color in gay media and advertising. The perceived preference for or celebration of masculinity over femininity in gay men or vice versa in lesbians.

The problem is not the subjects of these discussions, but the nature of the back-and-forth jabs in the arguments. In entirely too many instances across various social media, it has devolved into a screaming match more appropriate to the dregs of a Duck Dynasty forum or YouTube (in case you didn’t know, YouTube commenters might be the worst people on the planet).

One of the silver linings of growing up, coming out and standing up as a member of a persecuted minority is many of us learned early we could arm

ourselves against opposition by learning to articulate ourselves quickly and incisively. We might not be in a position to win a physical altercation, but we can probably make someone cry. We wield words like swords with a skill honed in the harsh reality of being dismissed, disowned or bullied. Therefore, it can rapidly escalate to a truly terrifying place when we turn that defense-mechanism-turned-talent on each other.

With our collective experience at being shut out, shut down and shut up for too long, when we have a problem with each other it should be a given that, at the very least, we can listen to what the other is saying and acknowledge the opposing party’s experience. There often seems to be so little of that. The leap to dismissing, belittling, mocking and generalizing each other’s opinions and experiences happens so quickly, and the conversation is over before it has started — everyone determined to be the “winner.” As a result, no one is — we all lose.

History demonstrates that nothing unites a people like a common threat from an external enemy. Our rainbow is built from that very thing. Persecution for being anything “other” brought us together. What people forget is that, in victory, the coalitions and alliances built to survive the external threats often collapse under their own weight as differing priorities break down the unity that allowed them to succeed in the first place.

When we need to fight with each other, we have to remember there are valid experience-based opinions on all sides, even if we disagree.

One of the things we as a community usually do best is understand that someone else’s experience can lead him or her to a completely different perspective we may not have seen before. We can do this because most of us have spent our lives attempting to show a new perspective to so many in the communities we grew up and live in. It’s a shame when we refuse to do it with each other. Conflict doesn’t make us weaker. How we engage that conflict, and the damage we do in looking to win the argument rather than reach an understanding — that does make us weaker.

The main reason it matters is not because all of us have to agree on everything. It’s not even necessary for us to all like each other all of the time. Or even some of the time. We know that our varied sexualities and gender identities are just one small part of who each of us is, and they are no guarantees we will have anything else in common. For as long as discrimination exists, however, we should all be on the same side.

It seems clear we will eventually win this war, but we haven’t won it yet. Until we win it for everyone in the rainbow, when we need to call each other out, it’s important we do so when we are not respecting or championing each other. It should not look, sound or feel like the way we argue with those who are truly against us. Save the greatest vitriol and the biggest guns in the intellectual, argumentative arsenal for the real enemies. They’re still out there, and it would be a tragedy if we brought our community down with friendly fire before we defeat the adversaries completely.



GAYS BEHAVING BADLY | Emerson Collins, pictured left (with Matthew Scott Montgomery in a still from the film ‘Southern Baptist Sissies’), thinks the LGBT community needs to show unity, even when we have disagreements.

Red Foundation Reveal Party

Dallas Red Foundation presents The Reveal Party to announce its main event entertainment and venue.

Pride Pharmacy was announced as the presenting sponsor for the season.

Red Foundation supports the work of Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage.

The party takes place at ilume on April 11 at 8 p.m. \$20 is the suggested donation at the door. The after-party takes place at BJ's NXS! with featured gues DJ Sarah Battle.

On April 17, William Belli is the special guest. He appears later that night in the Rose Room.

On April 18, Leslie Jordan appears. Jordan is also in town for a fundraiser on April 17 at the Round-Up Saloon for gay Oklahoma state Rep. Al McAffree, who is running for Congress.

The April 19 guest is screenwriter Del Shores and composer Joe Patrick Ward talks about the film.

Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Southern Baptist Sissies in Oak Cliff

Emerson Collins' film *Southern Baptist Sissies* plays for three nights at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. in Oak Cliff.

"The film is a unique hybrid of theater and film," Collins said. "It is a film of the play, on-stage. We filmed four live performances in two days with three cameras at each performance. Then we shot for eight days like a film, with closeups and coverage, scene by scene to hopefully create the feeling of being in the theatre for a single live performance, with the enhancement of being able to capture a new level of intimacy with the benefits of film."

Three guests appear during the run for a Q&A after the film.

Rainbow LULAC holds dinner

Dallas City Councilman Adam Medrano will induct LULAC 4871's new officers at a dinner to raise money for the group's scholarship fund. Last year, the LGBT LULAC chapter was able to provide scholarship money for three students. The dinner takes place at Mesa Veracruz Cuisine, 118 W. Jefferson Blvd., in Oak Cliff on April 17 at 7:30 p.m.



SEEING RED | The Red Party, which takes place in September, benefits the programs of Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage.

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Dallas pension board butts heads with staff over equitable treatment



voters.

Under the current plan, opposite-sex spouses receive lifetime benefits when their spouse dies. But same-sex spouses are treated as designees, and their benefits run out after 10 years.

The Dallas City Council passed a comprehensive equality resolution last month directing the city manager to evaluate areas in city employment where disparities for LGBT employees existed. Among them, were the pension plans.

A timeline wasn't established for the research to be presented to the board, but representatives with the city manager's office are expected to make the first quarterly report to the council's Budget, Finance and Audit Committee in June, so the pension board should have a recommended action plan by then.

John Jenkins, the board's vice chair, said he wants staff to examine all the possible options for changing the policy to be more inclusive, which, based on the resolution, city staff and council members want to see hap-

BACK AND FORTH | John Jenkins, above, vice chair of the Employees' Retirement Fund board of trustees, said changing the pension plan was important for LGBT employees. But the fund's staff attorney, Gary Lawson, right, seemed to refute the board's suggestions for making the plan equal for same-sex spouses.

Board's vice chair calls changes important, but attorney seems skeptical of every avenue to treat same-sex spouses equally

pen.

"I just want us to look at all the options to keep this process moving forward," Jenkins said. "I know there are some legal hurdles. ... It's obvious that this is important that we extend these rights to the lesbian and gay community."

In addition to discussing the resolution, the board was briefed by staff on the state's constitutional marriage amendment and the Texas Family Code, both of which prevent the state from recognizing same-sex marriages or unions.

The board also was brought up to speed on the recent ruling by a federal San Antonio judge in February, who declared the state's marriage amendment unconstitutional in *DeLeon v. Perry*. The case is now headed to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year found Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, requiring the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages. But the high court didn't rule on Section 2, which deals with state government recognition.

The board was presented with three options for moving the issue forward: wait until the courts issue a final ruling, change the language in the

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policy for the council and city voters to approve or change the policy under IRS standards.

According to the Dallas City Code retirement chapter, beneficiary is defined as "a person who is entitled to payment of benefits under this chapter upon the death of a member, inactive member, or retiree." Spouse is defined as a "the husband or wife of a member, inactive member, or retiree" and designee is "an estate, a person, or an entity" selected to receive funds.

Theresa O'Donnell, openly gay interim assistant city manager, said LGBT employees have argued that no change is necessary since the definitions don't mention that spouses must be legally married under state law.

"I have read the entire plan very carefully and discussed it with my colleagues," O'Donnell said. "The language and definitions are broad and very general in nature. Our position is that no change is necessary, other than the attitudes and beliefs of the pension staff.

"The trustees clearly have the desire to do the right thing. However, the staff seems intent on finding impediments to make this as difficult as possible and protect the status quo."

Whether the board would need to bring the item to the council and leave it up to city voters is questionable. The equality resolution directed the pension board "to take action as necessary to address the disparate treatment."

"The board has the authority to "make a final determination of the eligibility of a member, inactive member, retiree or beneficiary," according to the Dallas City Code.

Gary Lawson, the board's attorney, said the option to amend the policy to IRS standards isn't possible, as the regulations aren't for government pensions. The city code has a section about complying with federal laws regarding benefit limits. However, the section of the IRS code mentions spouse, which was determined in August to apply to same-sex spouses of legally married couples.

Lawson said waiting for the courts would take longer than some people want to wait, adding that it'd be "terrific if the state Legislature would address this sooner."

He also brought up the risk of lawsuits from people "who disagree with this as matter of philosophy or religion." He mentioned that anyone can request an opinion from the Texas Attorney General's office on the matter, and the opinion would ultimately side with state law.

But according to the attorney general's website, that office is "prohibited by statute from giving a written opinion to anyone other than an authorized requestor." Those who qualify as an

authorized requestor are: the governor, the head of a department of state government, the head or board of a penal institution, the head or board of a charitable organization, the head of a state board, a regent or trustee of a state educational institution, a committee of a house of the Texas Legislature, a county auditor authorized by law, the chairman of the governing board of a river authority and a district or county attorney.

The attorney general's office came out against domestic partner benefits last year, but the decision was not legally binding. Some governmental agencies then amended their healthcare plans to include a plus-one option.

The option of changing the definition of a beneficiary also was discussed by board members. Lawson suggested that could help prevent redefining a spouse or marriage, but he cautioned that things like not having the option of divorcing in the state needed to be considered and raise "really sound family law reasons that this be-



comes difficult." The Texas Supreme Court heard two same-sex divorces cases last fall, but justices have yet to release their ruling.

O'Donnell said the discussion this week was disappointing when the change seems to simply be to treat same-sex spouses equally.

"I'm disappointed that both the ERF staff and attorney focused only on obstacles and unreasonable approaches that would continue the current discrimination against LGBT employees," O'Donnell said. "It saddens me to know that today, on the 50th anniversary of the country's Civil Rights legislation, we are still fighting for equal treatment.

"I applaud the board's leadership and willingness to challenge the staff to explore viable options for eliminating the disparate treatment of legally married same-sex couples," she added. ■

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■ texasnews

Parker proposes nondiscrimination ordinance for Houston

After voters repealed a similar ordinance in 1986, Texas' largest city has been without any employment, housing and public accommodation protections

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

HOUSTON — In her State of the City address on April 3, Houston Mayor Annise Parker said she would introduce a Human Rights ordinance, but a city council committee hasn't seen it yet.

"The Houston I know is accepting, tolerant, diverse, inclusive," Parker said in her speech. "We simply don't care where you come from, the color of your skin, your age, gender, what physical limitations you may have or who you choose to love."

Houston is the largest city in the U.S. and the only major city in Texas without some form of local nondiscrimination law.

"It's time to change that," Parker said.

Parker said she would send a proposal to committee this month and hoped to have it before the city council by May 7.

While the language is still being finalized, the ordinance would prohibit discrimination based on all federally protected categories plus sexual orientation and gender identity for employment with the city and city contractors, housing and public accommodations.

This week, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus released information from the screening questionnaires for mayor and city council from the November city election. It included responses to a question about support for a nondiscrimination ordinance. Parker said she would propose an ordinance that included sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations with appropriate religious and small business exemptions. Of 16 city council members, 11 said they would vote for the ordinance.

Houston was the first city in the state to pass a nondiscrimination ordinance in 1985 that was later repealed by a popular vote in 1986. The city's charter allows citizens to put binding resolutions on the ballot to repeal laws passed by the city council.

In 1999, city leaders discussed offering domestic partner benefits. That attempt was blocked by the passage of a city charter amendment requiring Houston only to pay benefits for those legally married.

Earlier this year, Houston's city attorney based an opinion that the city must offer benefits to same-sex couples who are legally married as defined by that charter amendment requirement. It was also based on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year that declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and the subsequent rulings from

the U.S. attorney general.

Parker spokeswoman Darian Ward said no changes to the city charter would need to be made as a result of the 1986 recall or 1999 charter amendment.



Houston Mayor Annise Parker

"What is being proposed has nothing to do with the previous actions," Ward said.

According to Equality Texas Field Organizer Daniel Williams, the ordinance would be similar to those in El Paso and San Antonio, which covers only city employees. The Dallas ordinance covers anyone who works in the city, whether for a public or private employer.

He said Houston's Human Rights Commission, which this ordinance will create and will oversee its enforcement, would be similar to Austin's. In Dallas, the city's Fair Housing Office hears those cases.

Williams said Houston has a housing office that currently hears housing discrimination cases, but other types of complaints go through federal agencies such as EEOC or HUD.

Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth and El Paso have had nondiscrimination ordinances in place for more than a decade. San Antonio put those protections in place last year. According to Human Rights Campaign, 195 cities around the U.S. have nondiscrimination ordinances that include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Houston has had some protection through executive orders written by former Mayor Bill White and strengthened in 2010 after Parker was sworn into office.

Parker made her case that Houston was long overdue for a law comparable to those in place in most major cities across the country, including Texas.

"A young African-American should not be turned away from a club on Washington Avenue," Parker said. "A returning veteran with a service dog should not be denied service at a local restaurant. An elderly woman should not be denied a job with the city. And, yes, a gay or transgender individual should not be denied the same rights enjoyed by all other Houstonians. It's long past time that we ensure equal protection for all of our residents."



PREP WORK | Contractors are finishing up at Out of the Closet, a thrift store that AHF is opening in the former Union Jack store on Cedar Springs. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

■ **AHF**, From Page 13

lar earned goes back into AHF services. The pharmacy, set to open at a later date, will be a full-service one.

"Opening the store where Union Jack used to be is part of the rebirth of Cedar Springs," Camp said. "There's new movement coming in there and new energy. We as a community are re-establishing our epicenter."

A few doors down from Out of the Closet, renovation continues on other stores. A juice bar and a florist are expected to open soon.

"Any kind of movement is positive," said Tony Vedda, president and CEO of North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce. "The fact that Out of the Closet got in there so soon after Union Jack closed is pretty amazing."

Vedda also supports the idea of an HIV testing center inside the retail store.

"People who have a phobia might not want to go in a clinic," he said. "The fact that they have this thrift store model to fund and support their organization is good and smart. It'll add some new life to the street."

One block away, the Nelson Tebedo Com-

munity Clinic, operated by Resource Center, also offers HIV testing. Is it competition?

"We are anticipating that the people who are accessing testing in Out of the Closet are not the same population this is accessing testing at other locations," Camp said. "We [agencies] all have different populations that want to get tested. We're trying to make testing more mainstream. By putting it on The Strip, we can eliminate the stigma."

Resource Center Cece Cox agrees that people should have choices about where to be tested for HIV.

"Given our 30-year track record and our highly qualified staff, people will still have a positive experience with Resource Center," Cox said. "There are a lot of people who need to be tested. I know Resource Center does it in a very efficient, productive and compassionate way and has been doing that for many years."

Cox added that having another place to get tested, such as Out of the Closet, might appeal to some people.

"It's always a good thing when more people get tested," she said. ■



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viewpoints

Fired up

We should stand taller and prouder in the face of homophobia and know it has nothing to do with us

A friend of mine — I'll call him Thomas — was just fired from a large, prominent Dallas corporation for being gay. He was told that the people he worked with were uncomfortable with him being gay. They were. Uncomfortable.

It's ridiculous and unacceptable — and totally legal in Texas to discharge someone based on sexual orientation. Which is why as awful as it is that it happened, it's also an excellent reminder that everything and nothing is changing.

I think what's the most sickening is that this isn't about him. It's about the people around him. They were uncomfortable. How and why, I don't know. Clearly some sort of self-loathing must be at work there.

Perhaps he reminds them of how they don't live authentically. Or he reminds them that they are gay and closeted. Or maybe he just reminds them that not everyone is like them, not everyone fits into their mold or vision of a one man and one woman, heterosexual, monogamous, one-size-fits-all, march-to-the-beat-of-just-one-drummer way of life.

All I know is that it was about them, not about

him. Even his manager said so. Though the paperwork will look like his job was eliminated, it was he who was eliminated, his existence that was erased because it didn't fit into the tidy universe of the homophobes with whom he worked.

And as if things couldn't get any worse, the whole experience has left him not angry, not empowered, not on the path to retribution. Instead, it has left him sad and ashamed. He's edited his resume to erase anything that might hint of him being gay. Of course, even if your gaydar is woe-



Jenny Block
Contributing Writer

fully on the blink, you would no doubt know he's gay the moment you meet him. Though I understand the urge to straight-wash yourself in the face of such discrimination, it undermines us all. We are who we are.

And that's the part that I had hoped we were all learning by now.

It's a reminder to me not to take anything for granted and that while I long to see the best in people, I have to remind myself there are still plenty of people out there mired in self-loathing

and fear who will do anything to remain in their hate-filled bubbles.

It's a reminder to me that people can be thoughtless. When Thomas was fired, it couldn't have been any more personal. The message was "there's something inherently wrong with you. You are broken, bad, unacceptable." The person who fired him forgot to be a human being.

It's a reminder to me that "passing" bugs me sometimes. It protects me, yes. But I feel guilty and ashamed and wrongfully privileged because of that. It's a "you-can't-win-for-losing" situation. If you wear who you are on your sleeve, you can get punished for it. If who you are isn't readily apparent, you suffer as well. How can it be that the playground bullying still plagues our adult lives, but now with dire consequences?

I don't know how I would respond if I was fired for being gay. So it's unfair for me to say how Thomas should or shouldn't respond. I will say, however, that I do know how I would like to respond. I'd like to use it as a tool, a weapon even. I'd like to stomp around and yell and make an example of the people who hide behind the law to do the wrong thing.

I'd like to stand taller, prouder, knowing that what happened had nothing to do with me and everything to do with the person who fired me and the company that supported the decision. I'd like to make an example of the wrongdoers, and I'd like to be an example of how we can shame those behaving shamefully.

I recently attended a panel on the Olivia Leadership and Equality Cruise on which Prop 8 plaintiffs Kris Perry and Sandy Stier were sitting. Perry said something that keeps ringing in my ears as I write this: "We don't know when our day will come. And this was ours."

We don't know when our day will come, the day when we have the chance to say, "No more." But when it does, and it will, I hope to have the chance to use it for change, to use it for good, to use it to protect people like Thomas, people who were failed by the system and who felt powerless and betrayed as a result, to use it to move us forward to a place where hate and fear no longer reign. ■

Jenny Block is a Dallas-based writer and Lambda Literary Award winner for her memoir 'Open'.



"BLESS HIS EVER-LOVIN' HEART, GRAN'PAW ALWAYS SAID THAT SIGN WOULD COME BACK INTO FASHION AGAIN SOMEDAY."

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Now 'Sissy' dat walk

Del Shores unites
Leslie Jordan, Willam
Belli and others for
his film
version of
'Southern
Baptist
Sissies'

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

MEN ON FILM | Del Shores, center rear, and the cast of his film version of 'Southern Baptist Sissies,' which is set in Dallas and refers to many gay landmarks and institutions. (Photo courtesy Paul Boulon)

The last time Leslie Jordan was in the Round-Up Saloon, he wasn't actually *in* the Round-Up Saloon.

"They wouldn't let me in because I had a man-purse — they said, 'I'm sorry, Mr. Jordan, that's our policy.' That was more than 17 years ago, back when I was still drinkin'. [Next week], I think I'm gonna show up with a great big bag and say, 'Remember me? You have to let me in this time — I'm hosting.'"

What Jordan will be hosting is a fundraiser on Thursday for openly gay Oklahoma state Sen. Al McCaffrey, who is running for a congressional House seat. And with Jordan at the helm, it's likely to be quite a hoot ... even though he stopped

years ago. Knowing what sober Leslie Jordan is like, it's nearly impossible to conceive of him wired up.

But his history with a cocktail or 12 is one of the reasons he's so good — brilliant, even — in *Southern Baptist Sissies*. For those unlucky enough to miss his performance as the tipsy barfly Peanut in The MAC's production of *Sissies* 13 years ago, you finally have an opportunity to see Jordan in all his glory next weekend.

That's when he'll be in town (along with co-stars Emerson Collins and Willam Belli) for the nonfestival Texas premiere of the film version of Del Shores' withering yet hilarious play about growing

up gay in the church ... and in Dallas.

SBS is littered with references to Big D, and Shores — who also directed the film — adapted screenplay to update the landmarks and make it all the more relevant.

"The [Dallas audiences] always love it, because they hear about the Rose Room and local things," Shores says (full disclosure: It even mentions Dallas Voice). "When I originally opened the play, Andrew hung out at the Village Station; now I call it S4. And Peanut has a line about, 'Those evil queens who hang out at Moby Dick,' though Leslie now adds, 'It ain't there no more.'"

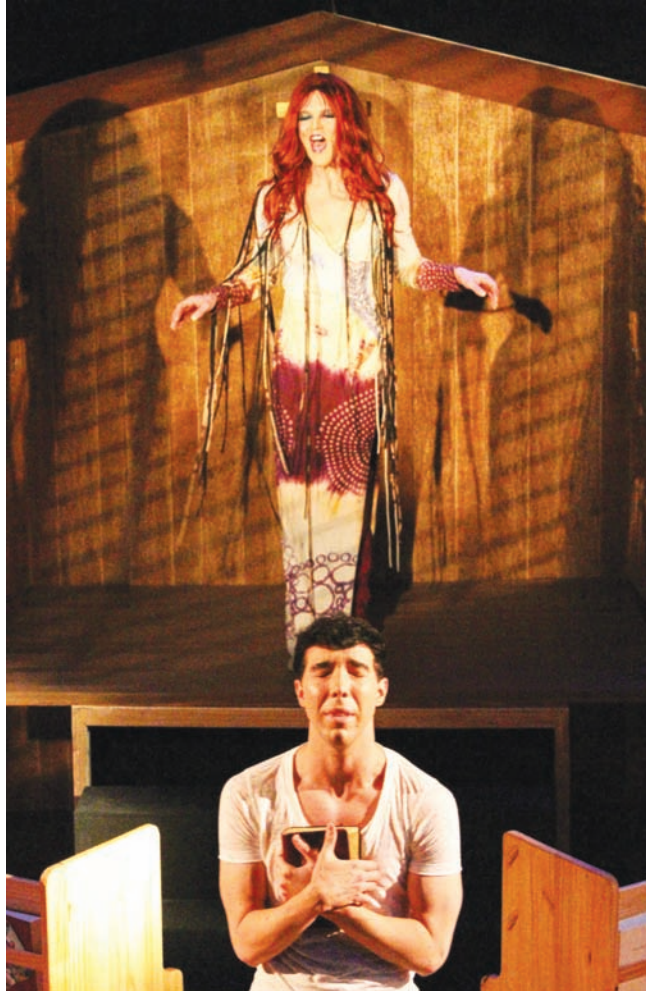
Shores — a native of Winters, Texas — has been an honorary

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Dallasite for years. He performs his standup here regularly, and his plays are frequently performed here; last year, Uptown Players' staged the regional premiere of his latest, *Yellow*. And it was an association with Uptown Players in 2005 that indirectly enabled the film version of *SBS* to get made.

Shores attended Uptown's production of *Sissies* and was impressed by the cast member playing the drag queen Benny: Emerson Collins. So impressed, in fact, he encouraged Collins to move to Los Angeles and pursue his career. Now, Collins is Shores' business partner, a co-star of the movie and its producer. (More disclosure: Collins is a regular opinion columnist for *Dallas Voice*.)

"It's fascinating, because this project has impacted my life repeatedly," Collins says wistfully. "It was a big deal for me to do it originally. The first time I read it was sort of terrifying. I was just coming out, but was so familiar with [what it talked about] — it references both Baylor and the old Rose Room, which was the first gay club I ever went to."

In the UP version, Collins played Benny, but when he and Shores were planning the movie version — a filmed version of the stage play, recorded in a theater in L.A. — Shores realized they needed to make a casting change. Collins would now be Mark, the protagonist. Then the issue became, who would play Benny?

"Emerson and I both had the same idea at the same time: Willam Belli," Shores says, who gained fame both for his time on *RuPaul's Drag Race* and for a series of hilarious YouTube music videos.

Still, taking on two of the characters has been one of the strangest, and most satisfying, aspects of Collins' work on *Southern Baptist Sissies*.

"Benny did [a lot] for me in Dallas," he says. "It was the 18th show I had done in three years, and until then, I was doing doe-eyed ingénues. Benny was an enormous stretch from my acting comport zone. I thought, 'I could be awful in this — it's a long way from me.' Playing Mark has sort of been like starting over at the beginning — there were several scenes I'd never actually seen while I was in it, because I was doing costume changes. Mark is much closer to me now, and I'm much better prepared to play."

Collins isn't the only cast member who learned something new by working on the movie project; for Jordan, seeing the film was an eye-opening experience.

"I'll tell ya, I always thought of that as *my* play, that I had to go out every night and hold it together. Then I saw rough-cut of the

movie early on in Del's living room, and I had tears in my eyes. I had no idea the work these boys had given in the film — I have never seen the show cuz I was in it!"

In fact, Shores says, Peanut *wasn't* in *SBS*, nor was his scene partner Odette (played in the film by the great Dale Dickey) — not originally.

"Leslie is a great friend and resource for me, and when I first wrote the play, he was the first person to read [it]. He said, 'Honey people are gonna slit their throats — it's too dark!'" Shores knew he was right — that it needed some comic relief to counterbalance the story of four teenagers, raised in the church, who feel shame for having sexual feelings for each other — with tragic consequences. The question was, what could add the stabs of humor the show so needed? That's another time where being Leslie Jordan's friend came in handy.

"He's always telling shit that he shouldn't," Shores says. "He's an open book, and a raw one, and I love him for that, but there's nothing he won't tell!" So Shores took all of Jordan's stories about his days with rent-boys, where he "sat around with a cocktail in one hand and a checkbook in the other" (as Jordan explains it), and *voilà!* Peanut was born.

"All those stories I tell as Peanut were my stories I told Del!" Jordan says. Still, there was the question of whether he'd agree to it.

"I sent it to him and he said, 'Well thanks for exposing everything I ever told you!' ... Though trust me: There are stories of his I *did not* write," Shores says. "But I told him, 'I'm sorry, but do you think you could do the role?' and he immediately said, 'Well who else will do it?'"

Who else, indeed? Like the role of Brother Boy in Shores' *Sordid Lives*, Peanut will forever be associated with Jordan.

"[In previews], Leslie said to me, 'I just wish there was a way Peanut connected with one of those boys.' So I went home that

ART IMITATING LIFE | The character Peanut, played by Leslie Jordan, below, is based on stories Jordan told author Del Shores; sensitive gay kid Andrew (Matthew Scott Montgomery, above left), gets an eye-opening experience when confronted with a drag queen (Willam Belli); Luke Stratte-McClure and Emerson Collins, above right, violating church rules.



night and wrote that short, magical scene where [Peanut] tells Andrew 'Don't become me.' It's my favorite scene. When he created that role in L.A., he won every award available — and it wasn't just for the comedy. He's a great actor."

The Dallas connection

When the film arrives in Dallas, it will run for three days exclusively at The Texas Theatre, with Shores, Collins, Jordan and Belli variously on hand for the post-screening Q&As. It will be something of a homecoming for all of them. Already in town for the Al McAffrey fundraiser (which Steve Kemble and Ron Corning will co-host), they'll be reliving fond past memories of the town that gave *Southern Baptist Sissies* life.

"I think of Dallas as home, even though I only lived there for three years," Collins says. And Dallas was significant for another cast member: Willam Belli, who took over the role of Benny in the film. Belli had his own stint in Dallas when he filmed Israel Luna's *Ticked Off Trannies with Knives*.

"I like Dallas, but I usually stay in Fort Worth — my home away from home," Jordan says. "I sit out with binoculars watching the cowboys — there are more in downtown Fort Worth than anywhere, with belt buckles you could serve a turkey on!"

Dallas has more complicated memories — refer to the Round-Up incident above, as well as another where Jordan was thrown out of the Rose Room (again, when he was still drinking).

"I was really drunk and got into an argument with Donna Day," he recalls. "She said, 'You need to lower your voice!' I said, 'It's a disco! I need to talk loud! *You* need to come out of the bathroom and stop doing meth.'" He agrees they were right to kick him out.

Dallas is also the town where Jordan first realized he had become an alcoholic after an especially notorious moment.

"Del and I got lost one night walking back from the bars. There were a bunch of straight boys on this balcony making fun of us. Del swears I yelled back at them, 'Any of you boys wanna fuck an old sissy?' They chased us — we had to hide. Those were the days."

For Shores, the Dallas homecoming is always special. The city "has always been one of my most supportive markets," he says, and it's always a dream to come back here.

And local audiences continually send the message, "The feeling is mutual." ■



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Jodo's **mojo** How 'Dune' almost never was — but coulda been better

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

If you're a gay man of a certain age, you surely have memories of Sting's appearance in the David Lynch film *Dune*, clad only in a lightning bolt-shaped codpiece, sweating his way across the galaxy in search of spice. But if Alejandro Jodorowsky had had his way, you would never have seen that. But then again, you might have seen something much, much better.

In some ways, you already have. If you've

seen *Alien*, you've seen Jodorowsky's vision for *his Dune*, a massive boondoggle of the 1970s that derailed his budding film career for decades but in the process invented out modern concept of sci-fi.

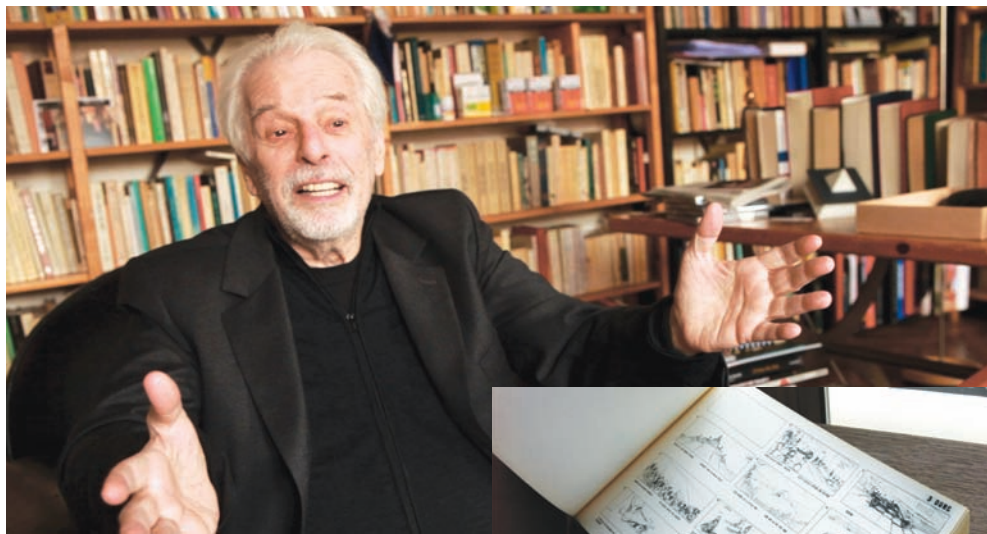
At least, that's how Frank Pavich sees it.

Pavich's new documentary, *Jodorowsky's Dune*, gives Jodo the forum he'd long sought, and perhaps the credibility (and credit) he's long deserved.

It began in the 1970s, when Jodorowsky was

★★★★★
JODOROWSKY'S DUNE
Alejandro Jodorowsky.
Rated PG-13. 90 mins. Now playing at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station.

FRANK AND SENSE | Documentarian Frank Pavich recently screened his film 'Jodorowsky's Dune' at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



THE MAN, THE BOOK | Alejandro Jodorowsky's most lasting legacy as a filmmaker may be his 'Dune' book, right, with countless storyboards and concepts often imitated by filmmakers in the decades since it arrived in Hollywood.

making weird, experimental films in Mexico, most notably *El Topo*, a Zen-like shoot-'em-up that started the midnight movie craze.

"He told me he wanted to make a Western, but ended up making an Eastern," Pavich says over dinner during a recent visit to Dallas.

The mojo that Jodo got from that film

opened doors for him, and when a producer offered Jodo carte blanche to make a movie, he blurted out, "I want to adapt Frank Herbert's novel *Dune*" ... even though he'd never even read the book. And so began a mythic journey

■ MOJO, Page 50

Magnolia's weekly 'big movie' packs queer appeal

If you haven't been to the Magnolia Theater in the West Village for the Tuesday night Big Movie presentation, then you're probably one of the few gay film buffs who hasn't. The gay-popular series, which highlights classic films from years past, has been a hit already, with its mix of artsy New Wave flicks, jaunty studio fare and edgy pop films, many with queer appeal.

The current season runs through June, with each film screening at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Next up (on April 15) is *Easter Parade*, pictured, which paired Judy Garland, for the only time, with Fred Astaire. Here's the full run-down of the season through Gay Pride Month.

Last Year at Marienbad (April 22).

The director, French nouvelle vague pioneer Alais Resnais, just dies this year (fittingly, on Oscar Sunday) and this dreamy mystery-romance may be his most impenetrable film ... and most haunting.

The African Queen (April 29). Hepburn and Bogart with Huston and Agee in the jungle. Sweaty and intoxicating.

Sunset Boulevard (May 6). Gloria Swanson's campy but indelible portrait of fading Hollywood still feels as relevant and scathing as when it was released more than 60 years ago.

The French Connection (May 13). William Friedkin's follow-up to *The Boys in the Band* couldn't be more different, a testosterone-fueled cop picture with Gene Hackman in an Oscar-winning role.



Giant (May 20). Texas-set epic, with a gay triumvirate: Rock Hudson, James Dean and uber-hag Elizabeth Taylor. (7:30 p.m. showing only.)

The Public Enemy (May 27). Jimmy Cagney in his star-making role as a hoodlum.

Jaws (June 3). The forerunner of the movie blockbuster is still a summer scarer.

What's Up Doc (June 10). Barbra is perfect in this nonstop farce, a send-up of '30s screwball comedies from director Peter Bogdanovich.

Cabaret (June 17). Liza follows mom Judy in this stunning look inside the waning days of the Weimar Republic. Winner of eight Oscars.

Soylent Green (June 24). The grimmest of sci-fi fare. Eat before you see it.

— A.W.J.

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What is STRIBILD?

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

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

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

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

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

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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





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

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Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD[™] 

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

Patient Information

STRIBILD™ (STRY-bild)

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

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

What is STRIBILD?

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

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

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

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.
- 3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
 - Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

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

Who should not take STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

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

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

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

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloric (Vasacor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - bupirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegreto®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcris®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

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

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

Issued: August 2012



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'Beast' no burden

Out actor Paul Crane may not be Belle, but he's having a ball in Disney tour

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

Everyone in theater has to start out as the new guy some time. But Paul Crane never expected to be the oldest fella with the shortest resume.

A few years ago, Crane was a middle-aged Chicagoan, working in the corporate world, when something suddenly struck him: He didn't really enjoy his life as much as he felt he should.

"Chicago's a great town, but I was tired of the cold and wanted to move," he says. That's when he realized something else. "If I was in love with my job and with my career, I wouldn't have left it just because of the weather." In short, it was time to start afresh.

Crane packed up and moved to Florida without much of a plan or any new job lined up. While looking for employment, on a lark he went to an audition for a play.

"I always loved doing theater," he says, having remaining active in it even during his white-

collar businessman days. "So I went to an audition, and got my first professional job. It wasn't a premeditated mid-life change — it just sort of happened. I tell people, I'm a lot poorer, but a lot happier."

That was four years ago, and he's been working steadily ever since, most recently in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, which comes to the Winspear for a two-week run April 14. Touring is something new for Crane.

"I've got to go to places never in my life and see places I never would have seen ... and occasionally know I'll never want to see again!"

One of those is *not* Dallas, which he has been to several times, but never for such a long stint. Crane says he's looking forward to exploring it — and as a single gay man, this is the time.

"The last time I was on tour I did have a partner, which was difficult." The relationship he's currently happiest with, though, it the one he plays onstage.

"I love the relationship I have with Belle, my

daughter in the show," Crane says. "Especially at the beginning, it's all about us, going from town to town. I think it's because I love her as a character and also the lady who plays her, who is absolutely glorious, that it's such a good show. Her transformation is incredible, especially the moral where she looks beyond appearance to the person underneath."

As Belle's dad, though, Crane misses out on one of the most notable joys of *Beauty and the Beast*: The chance to wear one of the fantastical costumes.

"Some time I do think I'm missing the fun. I've [joked with the producers], 'Can't you put me in the 'Be Our Guest' number as a sugar bowl!'"

One of the downsides of being on tour this year? This winter, it meant in frigid locales like Bangor, Maine and Detroit.

"I've been freezing my butt off — this isn't supposed to be happening!" he laughs. At least Florida awaits.



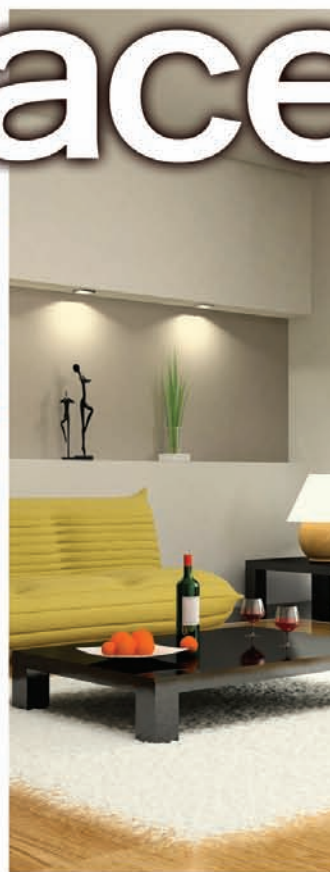
FAIRY TALE THEATER | Crane, right, loves playing Belle's father in 'Beauty and the Beast' in part because his 'daughter' is a joy.

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Old time R'n R

With its hall of fame and upcoming queerlympics, Cleveland is courting gays



WHY OH WHY OHIO | With gay B&Bs and a popular Pride Parade, Cleveland hopes to let gay travelers know that it's more than a Rust Belt flyover city. (Photos courtesy Positively Cleveland CVB)

The host city this summer of the ninth installment of the Gay Games festival, which was established in 1994 (then known as the Gay Olympics, before the lawyers stepped in), Cleveland has been the focus of an ambitious, ongoing urban renaissance in recent years. The downtown core, with its considerable stock of stately early-20th-century buildings, has seen an influx of attractions and hotels, while outlying neighborhoods have become magnets for cool indie restaurants, theaters, arts spaces and retail shops.

This working-class metropolis suffered a deep urban decline during much of the second-half of the 20th century, but is looking better than ever these days, and locals are counting on the Gay Games as a perfect opportunity to show LGBT visitors what Cleveland has to offer.

The ninth Gay Games runs Aug. 9–16, and the town is gearing up. More than 35 sports will be represented, including beach volleyball, cycling, flag football, golf, open-water swim, rock-climbing, soccer, softball and tennis. There are also two cultural events (band and chorus), and related gatherings, ceremonies and parties taking place throughout the week. (Learn more about the Gay Games at the official site, GG9Cle.com.)

Exploring Cleveland

Ironically, the abandonment of downtown Cleveland during the 1950s through 1970s helped to preserve the commercial core's bounty of Victorian and turn-of-the-century commercial and residential architecture, from warehouse

buildings that stood empty for decades to gleaming art deco towers that have undergone complete renovations in recent decades. Sports stadiums, theaters and a glitzy casino have all contributed to the current urban buzz.

Action has always and still does revolve around Public Square, a regal park of fountains and statuary over which looms the focal point of the downtown comeback, the completely restored Tower City Center, a 52-story complex housing restaurants, shops and a rail station. The adjoining Horseshoe Casino opened in 2012 inside an impressive Victorian-era department store building and contains more than 2,000 slot machines and about 90 gaming tables.

Several blocks east along Euclid Avenue lies Playhouse Square, the downtown theater district. And a short walk south are two prominent sports venues, Quicken Loans Arena (home to the NBA's Cavaliers) and Progressive Field (where baseball's Indians play).

A few blocks north, along the shores of Lake Erie, the pyramidal, I.M. Pei-designed Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is one of the seminal pop-cultural museums in the world, offering visitors an invigorating tour of music over the past 70 years — exhibits touch on the entire history of the rock genre, with special attention given to the nearly 300 artists who have been inducted into its rolls, including LGBT acts like R.E.M., Queen, David Bowie and Elton John. In 2014, the Beatles' openly gay manager Brian Epstein was among

■ OHIO, Next Page

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OHIO, From Previous Page

the inductees.

Across the marina from the hall of fame, Voinovich Bicentennial Park is a pleasant lakeside spot for a picnic, or admiring the city skyline, and it's also where Cleveland Gay Pride takes place each year in June. Abutting downtown is the Warehouse District, a tract of beautifully restored cast-iron buildings that now house several good restaurants, a handful of funky shops and dozens of gorgeous lofts.

Don't miss the Georgian-style Cleveland Museum of Art Drive in the 550-acre University Circle, which recently completed an expansion. From here, you're a quick hop to Cleveland Heights, a diverse and lively community with a sizable gay and lesbian following and a wealth of inviting shops and restaurants, most of them along bustling Coventry Road.

In the other direction, just west of downtown, the Ohio City historic neighborhood abounds with Victorian homes and has become a hot spot for trendy eateries and lounges (notably along West 25th Street) as well as one of the Midwest's great culinary attractions, West Side Market. Begun in the 1840s, it's home to 100 vendors proffering everything from fresh produce to Polish pierogis to local artisan cheeses — it's really a chance for local people-watching at its best.

Venture a short drive south to another of the city's more recently gentrified neighborhoods, Tremont, where along main drags like Starkweather Avenue and Literary Road you'll find dozens of inviting lounges and hipster eateries. Another up-and-coming neighborhood on the city's west side is Detroit-Shoreway, which contains a cluster of cafes and theaters along Detroit Avenue between West 58th and 75th streets.

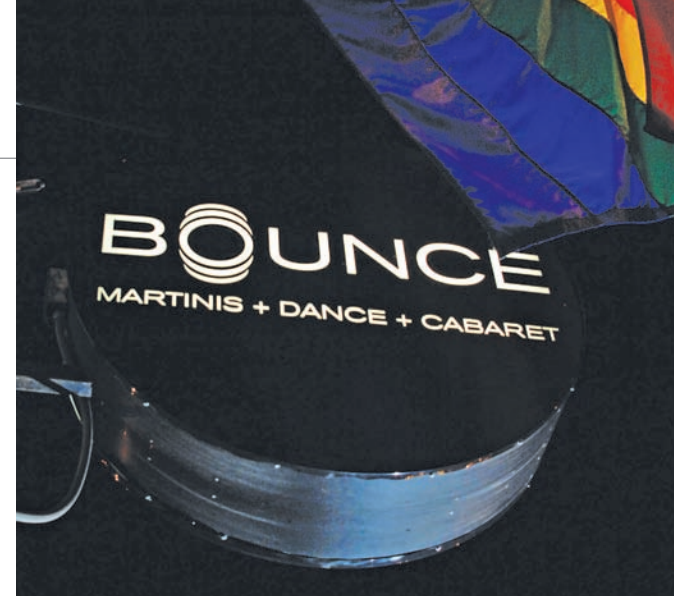
Dining and nightlife

Cleveland's dining scene has long been influenced by its sizable immigrant populations, with Eastern European, Polish, Greek and Italian food especially popular. Recently, though, sophisticated downtown restaurants and inviting neighborhood eateries have been making their mark, serving regionally sourced farm-to-table fare and ethnic foods from more far-flung cultures.

In the downtown core, Cowell & Hubbard offers a romantic, pre-theater feast, and the convivial Greenhouse Tavern is an exceptionally well-crafted gastropub. When venturing east, locally beloved Tommy's Restaurant dishes delish vegan cuisine, while swell-elegant L'Albatros deftly executes contemporary French food.

Ohio City food highlights include Bar Cento for mod Italian fare and neighboring Bier Markt for craft brews, as well as the SOHO Kitchen & Bar, which turns out superb New South cuisine, like NOLA-barbecue scallops and fried chicken with baked mac 'n' cheese.

In Tremont, critically acclaimed Lolita (helmed by celeb chef Michael Symon) and Bac Asian American Bistro wow visitors with creative cuisine, while trendy, laid-back Fat Cats is one of the coolest neighborhood restaurants in



GAYBORHOOD HAUNT | In addition to dancing, club Bounce in the Ohio City neighborhood also serves delicious tapas.

the city (its Saturday brunch is wildly popular).

Gypsy Beans & Bakery in Detroit-Shoreway's Gordon Square Arts District is a groovy cafe, while nearby Luxe Kitchen & Lounge can be counted on for pizzas, tapas and eclectic small plates. In the Cudell/Edgewater area, the Diner on Clifton is worth a stop for breakfast, lunch or late-night dining — it's a favorite among patrons of the area's nearby gay bars.

The top gay nightspots in Cleveland are include Ohio City's video club Bounce, which also has a good restaurant serving tapas, flatbreads and sandwiches; the popular Hawk Bar, Cocktails Cleveland and Twist dance clubs, all out west in Cudell/Edgewater; and the rough-and-tumble men's cruise bar, the Leather Stallion Saloon. Not far from the latter, you'll find Flex, one of the largest gay bathhouses in the country, which has a men's hotel, gym and bar.

Accommodations

The Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square earns high marks for its central location, friendly service and spacious rooms — book a king corner unit for stunning views of the skyline. Arguably the poshest accommodation in town, the stately Ritz-Carlton Cleveland rises high above Tower City and Public Market, its 205 rooms outfitted with such cushy comforts as marble bathrooms, iPod docks and ultra-plush linens. The hotel's restaurant, Muse, is one of the top spots in town for a special-occasion feast.

The InterContinental Suites and InterContinental Cleveland are excellent, high-end choices, while the Hilton Garden Inn, hip and contemporary Aloft and Hampton Inn are well-located, mid-priced options. (Some new hotels are currently in the works, including a boutique property by the gay-popular Kimpton brand.)

Cleveland has some wonderfully charming, gay-friendly B&Bs as well. Consider the grand Stone Gables B&B, a period-furnished, gay-owned 1883 stunner with high ceilings, numerous fireplaces and five richly appointed guest rooms; and the Wallace Manor B&B, a regal stone mansion with three spacious rooms.

Other great choices are the warmly appointed Clifford House B&B, a three-room, gay-owned inn with reasonable rates; and the handsome J. Palen House, which occupies an old brewmaster's home, and has nine stylishly romantic, light-filled rooms and suites (including a cottage and a separate guest house).

— Andrew Collins



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The seven-year itch

The journey from 'spouse' to 'husband' was more than just a matter of words for Mike Donovan and Bill Shafer — it was a victory for marriage equality

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
getrichindallas@gmail.com

Bill Shafer and Mike Donovan had visited San Francisco before, but this day, when they returned to their far North Dallas home after an extended weekend trip, everything was different. This time, they were walking into their home as husbands — not life partners, not husbands: *Husbands*. After seven years together, the couple were married legally in California. On Valentine's Day. And they knew instantly it wasn't just about having an extra piece of paper in their carry-on. They could sense it.

"It made me feel like something had been completed, our relationship been finalized. It was real," says Donovan. "It felt like we

were walking into our house as a family."

Knowing forever that they were in the relationship for the long haul, but without having proper legal documents, meant they have to jump through numerous legal hoops — drafting wills and powers of attorney to establish some legal protections. As they navigated all the legalities, Shafer says the dominos really started to fall.

"As a musician, I've sung in weddings for years, but I resigned myself that marrying someone wasn't in the cards," he says. "But we had the same reasons straight couples had to marry. We wanted to add some permanence. Then there was the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act and Prop 8 [in California]. And even though same-sex marriage isn't recognized in Texas, that could be changing soon, too."

The idea began to set in for Shafer that true equality was not beyond their grasp, just because they were gay.

"Maybe getting married could be a reality for us," he says.

Shafer's employer (Samsung) recognizes couples — straight and same-sex — and offers the benefits of marriage to both equally, so they were now doubly protected. That became the tipping point for a more serious discussion about getting hitched. They considered traveling to Hawaii after marriage equality passed there last winter; Shafer used to live there. But ultimately, they wanted to get married sooner rather than later, and the possibility of a quick trip made San Francisco the perfect choice.

"San Francisco is basically the birthplace of marriage equality, and we discovered that the city really has their act together," Shafer says. "We could apply for a license and schedule a time



with the justice of the peace all online. And our dear friends Roy and Frank are there." (They took a mini-honeymoon in Napa Valley on their wedding weekend, but recently made plans for an official one in Hawaii.)

The two have a massive collection of photos telling the story of their Feb. 14 nuptials. They fixed each other's bow ties, checked in at city hall and the justice of the peace guided them into matrimonial bliss. Donovan is even caught on film wiping away a tear. One part of their big day that wasn't planned was the news coverage they received. They told their tale to the rest of San Francisco and perhaps even the world.

"They were capturing human interest stories about gay couples and so we got a lot of face time," Shafer says.

They were flattered by all the attention, and even rushed back to their friends' apartment to watch the coverage, where they were also surprised with a cake and a "Just Married" sign.

Both men are musicians, which fed their initial attraction to each other and turned the long-distance courtship into a lifetime commitment. They met online when Shafer was in Dallas and Donovan was in Boston. After initially chatting then meeting, Donovan relocated to North Texas, where they have built their lives together.

But after all was said and done, do they feel any different after seven years together just to have a license?

"It certainly hasn't changed the day-to-day stuff, but there are other aspects of it," Donovan says. "The wedding demonstrates the level of commitment to each other. And the people who congratulated me and us, it just confirmed we had a real relationship. In a way, I'm relaxed now because now I believe it will be forever."

Shafer was a little more succinct, pondering his newlywed status at this point in his life.

"We've used 'spouse' all along the way, but now, I can call Mike my husband," he says. ■



A PICTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS | Shafer, right, and Donovan, left, extensively documented their entire journey for marriage equality, from the license, opposite, to the cake, top, to even getting to watch their own ceremony on television when the local TV station profiled them for a human interest story.



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Let 'em eat CAKE

For Bronwen Weber, chef at Frosted Art Bakery, helping same-sex couples celebrate their big day is a piece o' cake

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

When Arizona's recent anti-gay law was being defended by its supporters, one of the refrains from conservative clucks was: "What if a gay couple wants a wedding cake?! A baker should be allowed to refuse to support such a travesty on religious grounds!!!"

To which Bronwen Weber says, "Let 'em eat my cake!"

Although she doesn't look old enough, Weber has been baking cakes for more than 25 years, and for virtually the entire time — long before marriage equality became a hot topic — she has gleefully designed and delivered numerous same-sex wedding cakes.

"I've been doing same-sex commitment ceremonies since as far back as I can remember," she says. "To us, it's just as common as any wedding."

Weber — who for eight years has run the 65-year-old Frosted Art Bakery & Studio in the Design District — doesn't discriminate: She'll even do heterosexual couples' cakes. After all, newly-weds warrant their just desserts.

"We don't judge ... even if the same bride comes in twice a year. Here at Frosted Art, we say, 'The sixth one is free.' So far, no takers, though," she jokes.

Weber has supported the gay community in other ways — she once designed mini-cupcakes with Pride themes for an event — but the wedding cake is clearly a forte. And in her long career, she's definitely encountered some interesting requests.

"This one" — the one in the photograph — "has 13 tiers — that about 7 feet tall," she says. "We will have to transport it in several pieces in refrigerated trucks and assemble it on-site." Still that's no where *near* a record for her.

"The tallest I've was probably 20 feet tall. Of course, it was in Dallas. Dallas [couples] want cakes that are *significantly* bigger than [couples]

in other cities. In New York City, a 3-foot cake would be considered huge. We call them three-man cakes — with six tiers, you need three men to carry. Most are only two-man cakes."

For the record, even a three-footer would serve 400 to 500 people.

"There's a lot of cake in there," Weber says.

Since people rarely have more guests than that, the huge cakes are some smoke and mirrors — a faux show," she says. And no matter how far out she may plan it, when it comes down to it, the finished product (whatever the size) had to go out the door quickly. ("We usually only have 72 hours to get it out the door — if you start too early, it gets old, and no one wants an old cake," she says.)

But even in Texas, where everything is bigger, size isn't the only consideration. Weber usually interviews the couple about everything from color to theme to favorite flavors to bake a creation that's perfectly suited to the occasion. Whether gay or straight, the process is pretty much the same.

"We want the feel of the wedding — the colors, do they want to put a lot of personality in the cake or something traditional, how big a statement do they want to make?" she says. "Twenty years ago, you'd ask, 'Are your colors peach or pink?' And it was always a white cake. Now anything goes."



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CAKE FOR ALL | Bronwen Weber has been baking wedding cakes for same-sex commitment ceremonies for 'as far back as I can remember.' (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



That's especially true with same-sex weddings. Traditionally, the wedding cake is made to the bride's liking and the groom's cake for the groom. So what if there are *two* grooms?

"Then get *two* groom's cakes!" she says plainly. "Or two bride's cakes. The most popular groom's cake flavor right now is strawberry. Women love chocolate, so it's always seemed odd they don't get chocolate wedding cake."

Indeed, the wedding cake should be equally to the liking of both parties — tradition be damned.

"I always say it's the couple's chance to be selfish — if you worry about pleasing other people, you'll go crazy. Say you like nuts, but have a

guest who's allergic — get nuts on your cake! They can eat something else."

If you think outrageous requests bother her, you couldn't be further from the mark. Weber has a puckish sense of humor about her work, and embraces every challenge thrown at her.

"Sometimes people say, 'My grandma used to make this cake with Coca-Cola and mayonnaise,' and we do it — we do everything. If it has sugar in it, we've tried it."

But *mayo*?!

"Hey, it's just egg and oil. That's what goes into a cake. It's pretty inventive, actually," she says.

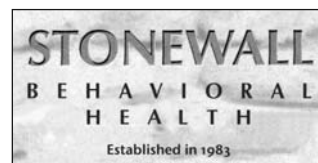
■ CAKE, Page 47

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Marriage equality now touches on more than half of the U.S.

Something happened on March 21, but you probably didn't notice. Yes, you probably heard that a Michigan court declared a ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional (it was stayed the next day). But when that happened, something was triggered: A tipping point. Although several states have since stayed their recognition of same-sex unions (either performed in their state or elsewhere), the fact is, 25 states plus the District of Columbia — half of the U.S. — had found a marriage right, even when both parties were of the same sex. That includes our own state of Texas (though of course it is being appealed). But with 17 jurisdictions recognizing marriages (another's right goes into effect June 1), the fact is: marriage is becoming an inevitability.

If you're planning your ceremony, we have a quick cheat-sheet for you — this up-to-date list of states offering marriage equality, as well as those that started, but stayed the law; those recognizing marriages performed elsewhere; and also foreign countries (18 in all) that perform or recognize. Let the honeymooning begin!

States where same-sex marriage is fully legal

Massachusetts (legal since 2004)
 Connecticut (legal since 2008)
 Iowa (legal since 2009)
 Vermont (marriage legal since 2009; previously, civil unions made it the first state to grant marriage equivalency to same-sex couples)
 New Hampshire (legal since 2010)
 District of Columbia (legal since 2010)
 New York (legal since 2011)
 Washington (legal since 2012)
 Maine (legal since 2012)
 California (legal since 2013)
 Maryland (legal since 2013)
 Rhode Island (legal since 2013)
 Delaware (legal since 2013)
 Minnesota (legal since 2013)
 New Jersey (legal since 2013)
 Hawaii (legal since 2013; marriages previously authorized, but blocked by its Legislature)
 New Mexico (legal since 2013)
 Illinois (ruling already issued, will become legal statewide on June 1, 2014; marriage has al-



ISLAND RITES | Hawaii was the first state to initiate same-sex marriages, but after being derailed for more than a decade, it finally began performing them last year. (Photo courtesy GayHawaiiWedding.com.)

ready begun in Cook and Champaign counties)

Started ... then stayed

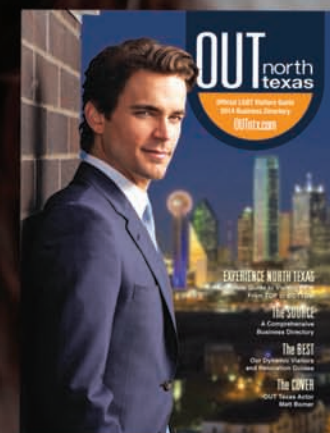
Utah (ruled legal Dec. 20, 2013; stayed Jan. 6, 2014; more than 1,300 same-sex couples married

before the stay)

Oklahoma (ruled and stayed on Jan. 14, 2014; no marriages were performed in the state as a result of the ruling, though several couple married on American Indian reservations)

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Virginia (ruled and stayed Feb. 13, 2014; commonwealth's attorney general refused to appeal)

Texas (ruled and stayed Feb. 26, 2014)

Michigan (ruled March 21, 2014, stayed March 22, 2014)

Same-sex marriage recognition

Ohio (Dec. 23, 2012 — recognizes marriage for death certificates only)

Oregon (Oct. 17, 2013; the state recognizes marriages performed elsewhere, but may not issue licenses. If the state ban falls in court, the attorney general said she will not appeal)

Kentucky (Feb. 12, 2014; recognizes marriage performed in other states)

Colorado offers civil unions with no federal recognition.

Oregon, Nevada and Wisconsin have domestic partnerships with no federal recognition.

Other countries providing marriage equality

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Mexico (marriages performed in Federal District and Quintana Roo and are recognized nationwide), Netherlands (including Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten), New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, U.K., Uruguay.

Israel recognizes same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

— David Taffet and Arnold Wayne Jones

WHERE TO WED IN DALLAS

These gay-friendly houses of worship welcome your same-sex commitment ceremony

AGAPE MCC — 4615 E. California Parkway (SE Loop 820), Fort Worth. 817-535-5002. Agapemcc.com. Revs. S. David Wynn Sr. and Robert Myers. Require pre-service counseling.

Ascension Lutheran Church — 4230 Buckingham Road, Garland. 972-276-0023. AscensionTexas.org. Pastor Kurt Friederich. Blessing service for church members; no weddings for non-members.

Cathedral of Hope/Interfaith Peace Chapel — 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 214-351-1901, ext. 109. CathedralofHope.com. Contact director of the Interfaith Peace Chapel, for information. The Sanctuary of the Cathedral of Hope, United Church of Christ features beautiful faceted glass windows and can accommodate up to 750 guests.

Celebration Community Church — 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, 817-335-3222. Celebration-Community-Church.com. Pastor Carol West; ask for wedding/holy union coordinator. Non-denominational Christian congregation.

Center for Spiritual Living — 4801 Spring Valley Road, Suite 115. 972-866-9988; CSLDallas.org. Senior minister Rev. Petra Weldes; Rev. SharonLynn Martinez. Marriage or commitment ceremony. United Centers for Spiritual Living.

Community Unitarian Universalist Church — 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano, 972-424-8989. CommunityUUChurch.org. Rev. Patrick D. Price. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

Congregation Beth El Binah — Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. BethElBinah.org. Rabbi Steve Fisch, rabbi@BethElBinah.org. Reform Judaism recognizes marriage between two Jewish men or women; however, the rabbi will perform an interfaith service.

First Unitarian Church of Dallas — 4015 Normandy Ave. 214-528-3990. DallasUU.org. Rev. Dr. Daniel Chesney Kanter; associate minister: Rev. Aaron White. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus — 411 S. Westmoreland Road. 214-333-9779. Pastor Tony Hoult. Performs holy unions.

Harvest MCC — 725 N. Elm St., Denton. 940-484-6159. HarvestMCC.org. Performs weddings or holy unions.

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas — 1840 Hutton, Suite 100, Carrollton. 972-243-0761. MCCGD.org. Lead pastor: Rev. Colleen Darraugh; pastor of congregational care, Norma Gann. Provides pre-marital counseling and performs weddings or holy unions. The church facility is available for non-members to rent. The MCC can also connect couples with musicians, photographers and caterers.

Midway Hills Christian Church — 11001 Midway Road. 214-352-4841. MidwayHills.org. Senior minister: Rev. Arthur Stewart. Performs weddings.

Promise UCC — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. 214-623-8400. PromiseUCC.org. Senior pastor Rev. Jon Haack. Performs weddings or holy unions.

Trinity MCC of Arlington and Grand Prairie — 933 E. Avenue J, Grand Prairie. 817-265-5454. TrinityMCC.org. Performs weddings or holy unions.

Unity Church of Christianity — 3425 Greenville Ave. 214-826-5683. DallasUnity.org. Rev. Steve Colladay. Weddings@DallasUnity.org. Performs holy unions, commitment ceremonies. Its gay pastor is supported by the congregation.

White Rock Community Church — 9353 Garland Road. 214-320-0043. WhiteRockChurch.org. Pastor Douglas Shaffer. Performs holy unions, commitment ceremonies or weddings — “whichever the couple is comfortable with.” Activities center available for receptions.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff — 3839 W. Kiest Blvd. 214-337-2429. OakCliffUU.org. Rev. Mark Walz. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.



— A.W.J.



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The wedding spinner

A seasoned DJ can craft a memorable reception setlist

For years, the LGBT community has been waiting in the wings for the opportunity to walk down the aisle. For some, it has been the conundrum of “always the bridesmaid, never the bride,” but for Jess McDowell, it’s more like, “Always the DJ, never the groom.” But McDowell has been OK with that.

“Everyone — gay, straight, bisexual, transgender or questioning — loves a great party,” McDowell says, and as a wedding DJ (for straight and same-sex unions), he’s spent many a Saturday helping make that special day more special — with the gift of good music.

But *what*, exactly, is good music for a wedding ... especially a gay one? That’s the task we set McDowell to. Here, then, are his tips for making your reception one that everyone, including your grumpy Aunt Ruth, will remember as being a fabulous time.

Here come the brides ... or grooms. “The couple’s first entrance to the reception should be nothing short of a spectacle,” McDowell says. “This is their first public appearance as husband and husband, or wife and wife. I love to tug at the heartstrings before everyone is too liquored up to remember it.”

It may fall to the best man to tell a short story of how the couple met that is funny and/or heartwarming, but a well-informed DJ can do the honors as well. Then a drum roll (real or virtual) to welcome Mr. and Mr. X-Y. And now the music comes into play.

“This is a golden opportunity to have one of your favorite songs play,” he says. “Make it up-tempo, as it will set the mood for the rest of the event. Think of something that you can *dance* into the room with — for instance, the chorus to Lady Gaga’s ‘Born This Way’ (*I’m beautiful in my way / ‘Cause God makes no mistakes / I’m on the right track, baby / I was born this way*).

A song you can eat to. If it’s a sit-down or buffet, dinner time is the time to play (wait for it) dinner music.

“You do not want to be playing loud club music at this time,” McDowell cautions. “This is a time when everyone is enjoying the company around them. We all know how hard it is to talk on the dance floor at 54 — don’t ask the DJ to create that mood during the meal.”

This is the time when we dance! After toasts from loved ones and once Aunt Ruth has finally taken her teeth out so she can dive into the wedding cake, start getting people out onto the dance floor. McDowell recommends *beginning* with the couple’s dance. “You did not spend eight weeks at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio to be shown up by your nephew,” so dance while everyone has to watch you. “This song will mean a lot to you, so choose it carefully.”

McDowell often spends a good deal of time before the big day consulting with couples, but in general he suggests starting with something recent and contemporary: “Make You Feel My Love” by Adele; “A Thousand Years” by Christina Perri; “Baby Now That I’ve Found You” by Alison Krauss and Union Station. Or you can keep it classy with “At Last” by Etta James, or mix the two genres and play “At Last” as covered by Beyonce.

Parent-child reunion. “Here is where it can get confusing for gay couples,” McDowell says: The “traditional” father/daughter or mother/son dance. Does your supportive but Republican pop really want to lead his son around the dancefloor? Or do both men (and women) dance with their opposite-sex parent at the same time?

“While these dances are special, they are not necessary,” McDowell says. “I have seen some couples do just mother/son dances for each respective groom at the same time, and you can also do daddy/daughter dance for each bride. If you decide to do these, remember the most important thing is choosing a song that fits for the people who dance to it. This is an acknowledgment of one of your first loves — your parents.”

Everybody cut loose! Cue Kevin Bacon from *Footloose*. It’s a party — people should get their asses movin’. There are several ways to get people out on a dance floor.

“This is where a DJ needs to be worth his weight in gold,” McDowell



MASTER OF CEREMONIES | Jess McDowell says a good DJ can set the tone for a reception and even cue guests when to leave. (Photo Hank Henley)

says. “He or she should have gotten to know the couple well enough in advance that they know what their friends and family will dance to. I tend to go towards something that everyone will know, like Whitney Houston’s ‘I Wanna Dance with Somebody’ or ‘Happy’ by Pharrell.”

Be a tosser. Your party will go on well into the night with a great DJ, who will take requests but *not* play everything that some drunken cousin shouts out. A DJ “must be a filter for good taste. The couple should provide him with a ‘do not playlist’ — the last thing you want are clichés like ‘The Chicken Dance,’ the Macarena, a conga line, ‘YMCA’ — yes, even at a gay wedding — the Hokey Pokey, ‘The Locomotion,’ or a limbo.”

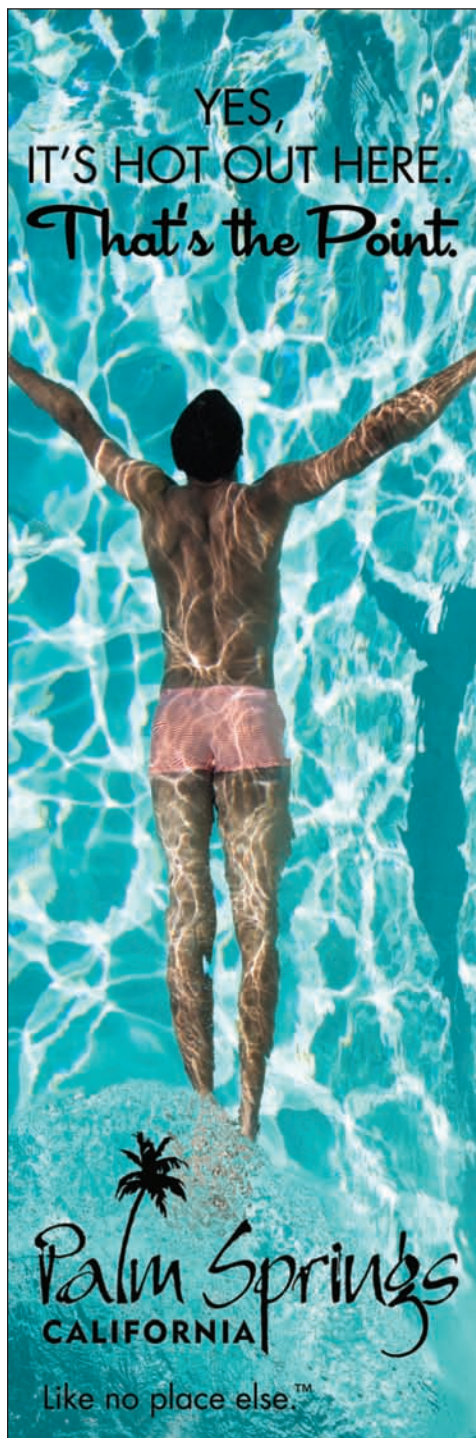
As the night moves on, if you want to do the bouquet and garter toss, *do it*. Just make sure Aunt Ruth has her glasses on. “‘Single Ladies’ by Beyonce is great to call all your single friends, gay or straight, to come vie for the prize,” McDowell says.

Finishing up. There are multiple ways to end the night (i.e., to get the guests to leave), but McDowell has a clear favorite.

“I will clear out the reception area and allow guests to be staged outside to send you on to the honeymoon. I have the lights turned down low and let the couple have one last dance by themselves in their reception hall. All staff, even the DJ, should be out and allow the couple a moment to dance to a song and reflect on the day.”

Michael Buble’s “You Look Wonderful Tonight” is a good idea, he says, as are “Your Song” by Elton John and “Unconditionally” by Katy Perry. “Make it memorable. Then make you way out the door to get bombarded by birdseed.”

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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TOWER OF SUGAR | Bronwen Weber poses alongside a 7-foot cake she recently designed for a client. It is 13 tiers tall and covered in crystals, all set within gallons of frosting ... but very little actual cake (don't tell anyone). (Arnold Wayne Jones/DallasVoice)

■ **CAKE**, From Page 43

Some of her stranger requests are usually with groom's cakes. "People can get 'out there' — one time, we were asked for a surgery in progress. One time, Gene Simmons' head. If it's gory, it's fabulous! Anything goes."

There do tend to be trends, though. For a while, cupcakes were popular, then they fell into disfavor; now, they are back again. And another hot choice is the "Viennese table," a tableau of luxurious desserts laid out on a smorgasbord. And pop-cakes and pop-pies are "in" as well.

"Put something on a stick and people love it," she says.

Sometimes, couples ask for *her* opinion about

what to do. Since she wants them to decide, an outrageous suggestion usually gets them the focus.

"I always say something like, 'I like emus — let's put an emu on your cake.' If I could do it, I would," Weber says. (Her own wedding cake was one of the most outrageous: Each of her employees designed a different tier and surprised her with it at the reception. She had to guess who did which level.)

The flip-side, of course, is bridezillas ... and groomzillas.

"I won't deny it. They exist," she says. "They do calm down eventually. We have it easier than the photographers or florists, because we feed everyone cake. It's hard to be grumpy when you have a piece of cake in front of you." ■

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From Wagner to J.R.R. Tolkien, rings have always held a *precious* place in popular culture, representing everything from unending love to unbreakable bonds. And with marriage equality gaining ground, more same-sex couples are finding themselves in a position to be able to choose the perfect collection of metals and jewels to display their unending commitment.




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When it comes to designing rings that will stand the test of time, Lance Shapiro, owner and designer of Shapiro Diamonds, advises couples to skip the trends and create unique pieces that reflect personal touches in their love story.

"Your love is completely unique, and your rings should be as well," says Shapiro, who has designed a host of custom rings for same-sex couples.

Nothing is out of bounds when it comes to customizing, it seems. Among some of his favorite creations were matching bands with diamonds, intertwined initials and an *ambigram*, with the date the couple met spelled in Arabic, as well as the shape of island where they first laid eyes on each other. For another client, the rings were imprinted with each other's fingerprints. Another duo, who happened to be New Orleans Saints fans, opted to incorporate *fleur de lis* into their design. The possibilities are endless and as diverse as the couples themselves.

Historically, experts advised about three-months salary as a general budget rule of thumb for engagement rings, but Shapiro says that this "rule" — like so many traditional customs in today's modern world — is changing.

"We are seeing our clients choosing to spend more on their rings, which will last a lifetime, and less on their wedding, which will last only one day," he says. But he's careful to add that having a budget in mind before shopping is the key to a more enjoyable — and affordable — ring-buying process. And while matching gold bands are still acceptable for swapping with your loved one at the altar, that's hardly the requirement nowadays.

Among the rings Shapiro has sold to same-sex couples, he says that traditional white diamonds continue to be a frontrunner, based mostly on their simplistic beauty. But popularity isn't the only consideration — he's also seeing more frequent usage of alternative color stones like black diamonds, yellow diamonds and other precious colored gemstones.

"This allows clients truly to personalize their rings, creating one-of-a-kind sets that are as unique and special as their individual love story," he says.

For male-male couples, Shapiro continues to see low-profile bands dominating the choices, but increasingly these have embellishments, from small accent diamonds to even a large center diamond.

"These stone are still set low-profile so as not to look overly feminine, yet they still allow men to have the sparkle they deserve," he says.

For female-female couples, Shapiro confirms that, indeed, diamonds *are* a girl's best friend. Regardless of the union (same-sex or opposite), women often prefer a traditional (large) center diamond, sometimes accented by smaller diamonds or surrounded by a diamond halo. In this instance, after the ceremony the wedding band is many times added to the engagement ring to create a two-ring set.

For couples looking to break with tradition, alternative metals such as yellow gold, rose gold and black gold are gaining in popularity.

"Tungsten carbide is also very much in demand, due to its incredible strength, durability

and light weight," Shapiro says.

Lastly, Shapiro cautions buyers to take into consideration the functionality of the ring as much as the aesthetic for the would-be spouse.

"Medical professionals have difficulties with high-profile settings, because of the rubber gloves they use at work," he says. "Many choose to have a *second* ring to wear to work only — a dainty band, with no diamonds. People who enjoy cooking or gardening often select channel settings, which are more durable and sturdy."

As Beyoncé said, "If you like it then you better put a ring on it." Little did she know so many decisions about budget, metals and design awaited first.



For more information, visit Shapiro Diamond Showroom & Custom Design Studio, 5420 LBJ Freeway, suite 280. ShapiroDiamonds.com.



HIS & HIS & HERS & HERS | Lance Shapiro, opposite (with wife Kendra), says the availability of rings for same-sex couples has grown exponentially in recent years, with designs specifically tailored for two men, left, or two women, right.



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L+S screen

■ MOJO, From Page 31

in Hollywood.

"I'd heard the story about 10 years ago," Pavich says of the "legend" of Jodo's *Dune* book — a massive tome containing storyboards, sketches, outlines, even fabric samples of the elements he planned to turn into the greatest science fiction film of all time. It ended up being one of the most famous films even *not* to be filmed ... until, of course, Lynch's 1984 version, considered by many to be a disastrous flop of epic proportions, notwithstanding Sting's abs.

But what made Jodo's effort noteworthy, as

opposed to a footnote about an obscure filmmaker unable to get a greenlight from the tight-fisted money-men in Tinseltown, was what Jodo introduced to the world of filmmaking.

He was the first person to hire H.G. Giger, the futuristic Swiss artist, to work on a movie (Giger later won an Oscar for his concepts for *Alien*). He envisioned a mind-blowing tracking shot that went from a single atom outward to the totality of the cosmos (later cribbed for the opening of *Contact*). He imagined a huge film — 12, even 20 hours long — that seems unsustainable at the time ... until Peter Jackson stole the idea for *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*.

"Stole" may be overstating it. But Pavich — and many other folks, including director Nicolas Winding Refn (*Drive*) — firmly believe Jodo's ideas helped push the boundaries of what film could do by seeing something grander than had ever been attempted. This kind of drink-the-Kool-Aid fascination with Jodo is usually accompanied by words like "prophet" ... and occasionally, "kook." But always with respect.

"What makes Jodorowsky different ... yes, he was weird, but there's real meaning behind it," he says. "Scenes that would be grotesque or seen for shock value [from another director] in his hands seem beautiful. It makes you see his perversity."

Pavich agrees that Jodorowsky was psychedelic madman, a visionary filmmaker and a quirky character, and that those characteristics make him funny; you'll laugh a lot in *Jodorowsky's Dune*. But Pavich would be horrified to think anything he did caused you to laugh at the man.

"I hope you never laugh at him but *with* him," Pavich says.

You may be tempted to do both, such as when you see what Jodo put his 12-year-old son through in preparation to play the lead, Paul Atreides (eventually portrayed by Kyle McLachlan). But it was the freedom he afforded his creative team that helped build the legend.

"He was [working out these ideas] way before other sci-fi films," Pavich says. When he conceived of *Dune*, "there was *2001*, and there were B-movies, and that was it. The *Dune* project was the first film many [artists like Giger] worked on — they didn't realize how great the experience was until they started working on *other* movies."

Pavich clearly respects Jodorowsky's artistic temperament — something as hard to find now as it was 40 years ago.

"He rails against money — he thought 90-minute movies were about theaters controlling how many [screenings a day they could squeeze in]," Pavich says. (For the record, *Jodorowsky's Dune* clocks in at exactly 90 minutes — pure coincidence, Pavich assures me.) "He doesn't do anything to get rich, he doesn't do it for the glory. He wants to help people — he developed his own kind of therapy he calls 'psycho-magic.' He was an artist more than a filmmaker. All he wants to do is change the world." ■

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Friday 04.11

Liz Mikel headlines George C. Wolfe's jazzy musical 'Spunk'

Zora Neale Hurston was one of the shining lights of the Harlem Renaissance, and gay theater impresario George C. Wolfe decided to move her from the written page to the stage in his bluesy musical *Spunk*, which adapts three of Hurston's short stories. Water Tower presents the show, which stars local legend Liz Mikel, as well as Calvin Roberts, Tiffany Denise Hobbs and Joshua Bridgewater. Akin Babatunde directs the show.

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. April 11–May 4 (in previews through April 13). \$20–\$40. 972-450-6232. WaterTowerTheatre.org.



Saturday 04.12

El Centro's gay prom goes to Studio 54

For those gay kids who never got a proper prom, El Centro College has got your back. The school's Lambda Club is again sponsoring its gay prom (renamed the Equality Ball) with a Studio 54 theme. Students are invited to attend in their favorite retro costume from the 1970s or early '80s — there will even be a contest. Shake you booty, kids!

DEETS: Student Life Center, 801 Main St. 7–10 p.m. \$5.

Saturday 04.12

No Tie dinner gets its just dessert

The autumn fundraiser called the Black Tie Dinner is all about dressing to impress, but springtime is more casual, as the No Tie Dinner and Dessert Party sets out to prove. The event (which starts out at sponsored in-home dinner parties) benefits AIDS Services of Dallas, and returns to the Frontiers of Flight Museum for a dessert party featuring pastries from top local chefs and silent auction items. Leave the ascot at home ... and wear stretchy pants or bring a bigger belt than usual.



DEETS: Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. \$50 donation requested. NoTieDinner.org.



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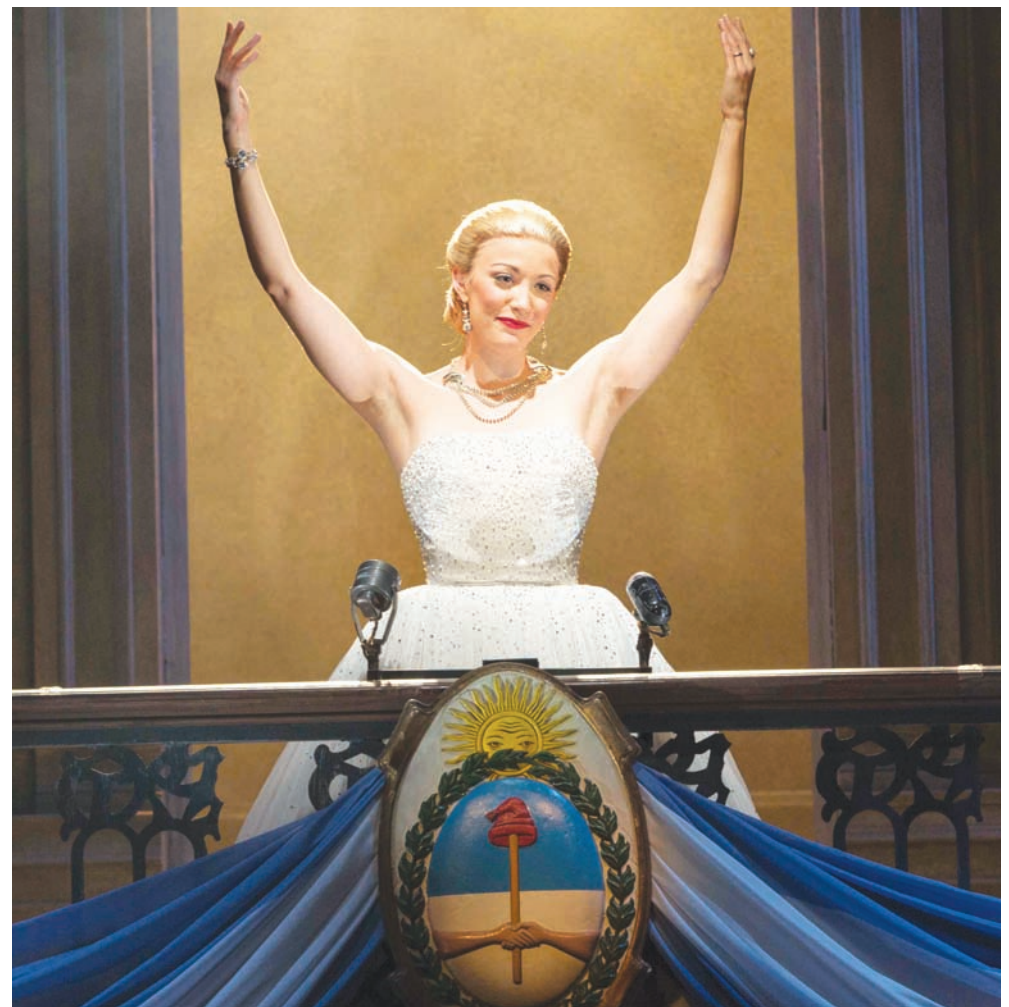
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ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

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.

The Diviners, a play directed by Rene Moreno. Through April 27. ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com.

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

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

Greater Tuna. The Texas comedy classic opens in 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.

Ropes and Stone, a staged reading of a new play by a Dallas playwright. Presented by WingSpan Theatre Co. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. April 11 and 12. 7:30 p.m. Admission is pay-what-you-can. WingSpanTheatre.com.

Pageant. Uptown Players revives its 2006 hit musical comedy, set in the world of beauty pageants. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

Spunk. A musical adaptation of the works of Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. April 11–May 4. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

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. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. DallasOpera.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 Sunday. For a complete schedule, visit DallasFilm.org.

SATURDAY 04.12

COMMUNITY

Equality Ball: Studio 54. El Centro College hosts a gay prom, open to all. Presented by the Lambda Club. Student Life Center, 801 Main St. 7–10 p.m. \$5.

QueerBomb Dallas organizing meeting. Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. 1–3 p.m.

DINING

No Tie Dinner and Dessert Party. A fundraiser benefiting ASD. Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. \$50. NoTieDinner.org.

FESTIVALS

Scarborough Faire. The Renaissance festival returns for a 34th season, with new attractions. Faire Grounds, FM 66 in Waxahachie. Through May 26 (open weekends and Memorial Day). SRFestival.com.

FINE ARTS

Spring Eternal. DIFFA designer Lucreita Waggoner displays her ceramics at Laura Rathe Fine Art, 1130 Dragon St. Through May 10. LauraRathe.com.

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

MONDAY 04.14

BROADCAST

Dallas. The Texas-set nighttime soap airs its mid-season finale. TNT at 8 p.m.

RuPaul's Drag Race. The sixth season continues, with the two "premiere" groups of six queens each merging into one group. Logo at 9 p.m. (new time).

TUESDAY 04.15

THEATER

Evita. The thrilling webber and Rice musical about a machiavellian politician and his wife, Eva Peron. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. April 15–April 27. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Beauty and the Beast. The animated feature with songs by Ashman and Menken, adapted for the stage. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 15–27. ATPAC.org.

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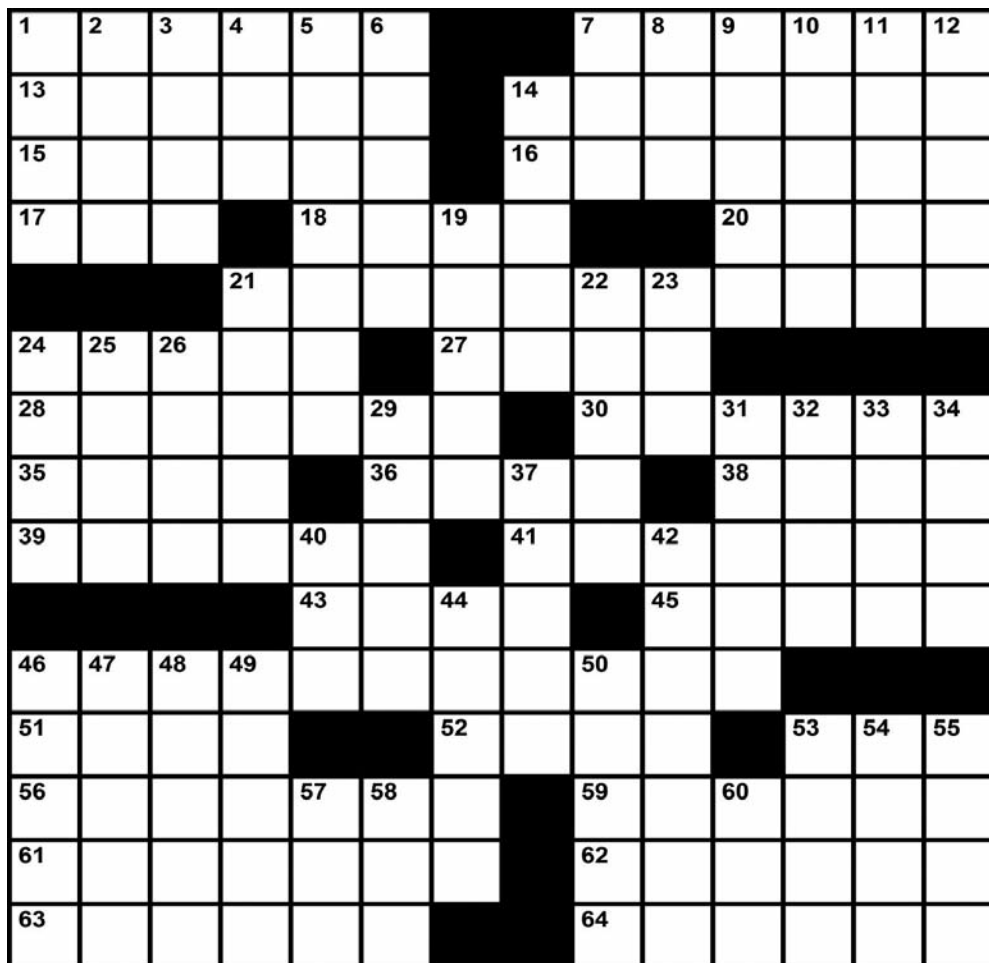
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Frontman with a Problem in Front

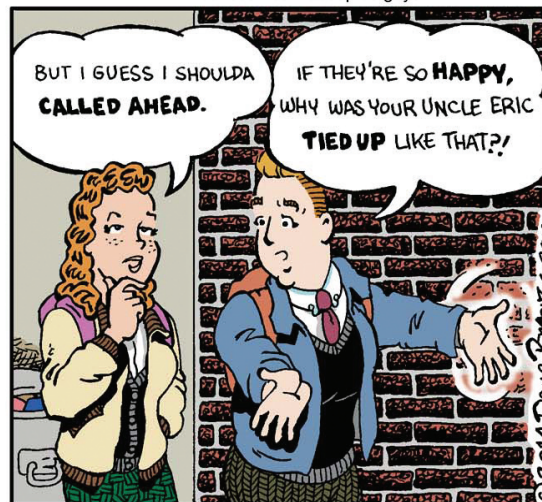
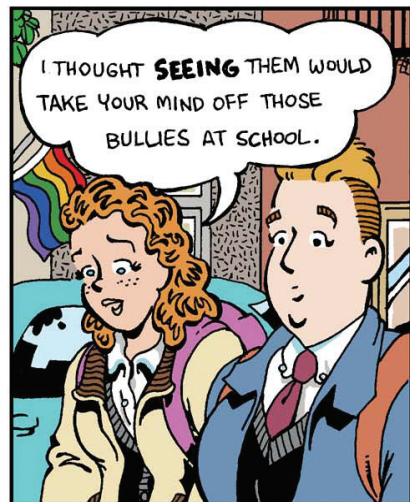
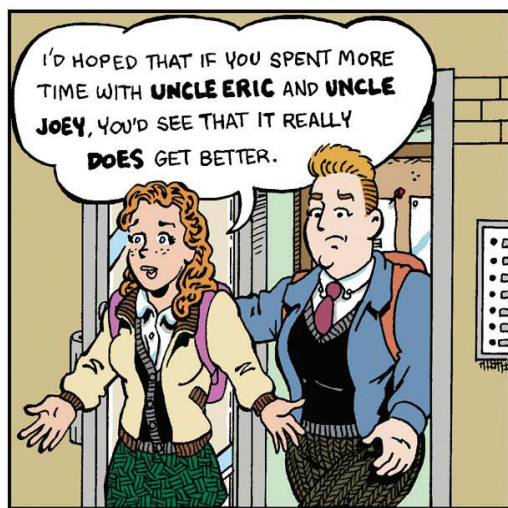
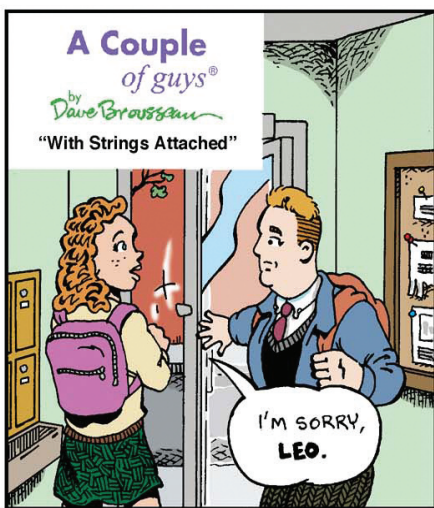
Solution on page 53

Across

- 1 Takei of *Star Trek*
- 7 Rocker Boz
- 13 Address to King Edward
- 14 Dancer Duncan
- 15 Start of an upcoming Broadway musical title
- 16 Goes out with NASA astronaut Ride?
- 17 Music lover's buys
- 18 Leg smoother
- 20 Virginia Woolf's *A Room of ___ Own*
- 21 More of the title
- 24 Hardly like a muscle Mary
- 27 Survivor, sometimes
- 28 Will Geer's role on *The Waltons*
- 30 Put under
- 35 Sophie B. Hawkins' "*The Cream Will ___*"
- 36 End of the title
- 38 A little, to Bernstein
- 39 Come out
- 41 Having a cool head
- 43 On the summit of
- 45 *Pussy, King of the Pirates* author Kathy
- 46 With 59-Across, actor that plays -Across

Down

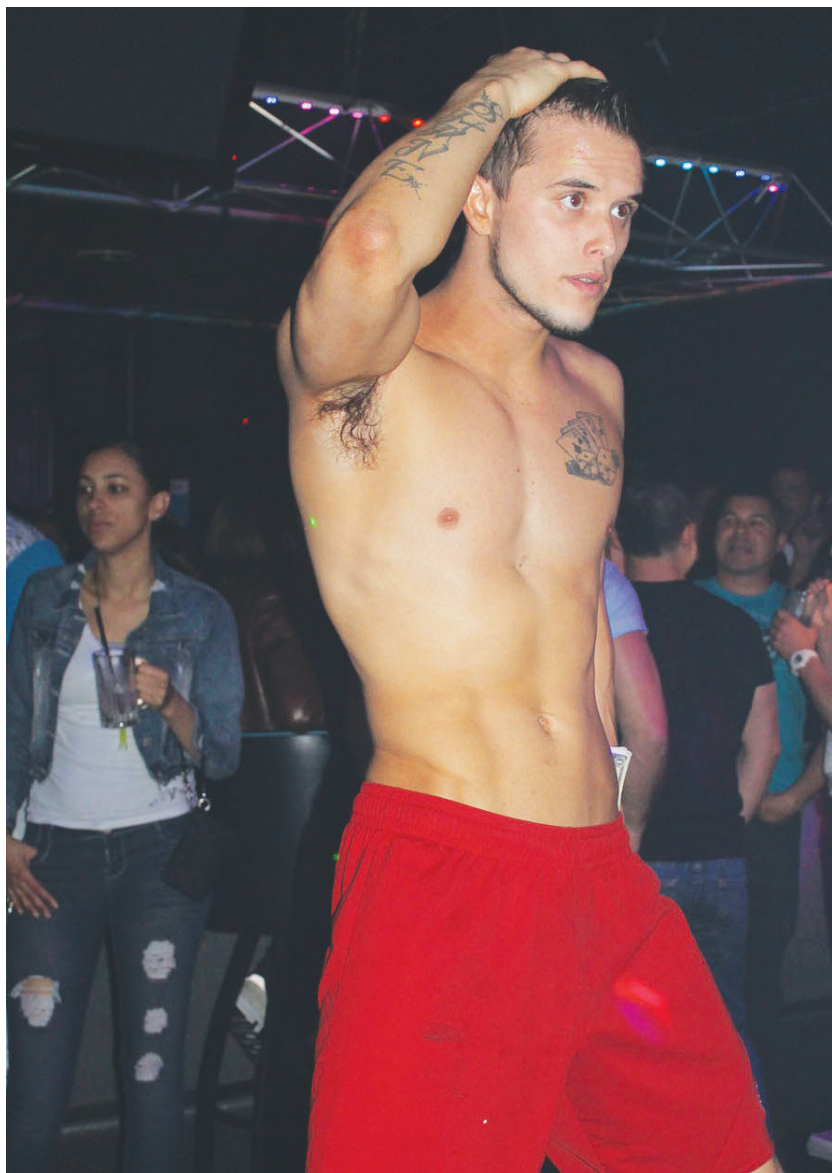
- 1 AIDS org.
- 2 Looked at
- 3 Ford contemporary
- 4 Straight line
- 5 Smiled from ear to ear
- 6 Cut leaves of grass by the sidewalk
- 7 F.I.C.A. funds it
- 8 James Dean's *East of Eden* role
- 9 Lesbian pulp author Arthur
- 10 Auctioneer's word
- 11 Garson of Hollywood
- 12 Full of lip
- 14 Porter's "*Where ___ Life That Late I Led?*"
- 19 Hawke of *Hamlet*
- 21 Mary Tyler Moore's costar Ed
- 22 Eminem's ___ *Mile*
- 23 Constellation over Rio
- 24 Fairy tale bad guy
- 25 Fedora feature
- 26 "___ On Down the Road"
- 29 Michelangelo's mother-and-son piece
- 31 Tiny bit
- 32 Long bath
- 33 ___ homo
- 34 Gay activist, e.g.
- 37 *It's a Wonderful Life* director Frank
- 40 Noticeable opening, with *The*
- 42 A guy's junk
- 44 Colette's *The ___ One*
- 46 "Faboo!"
- 47 First name in talk
- 48 Lesbos and others
- 49 *Fistful of Dollars* director Sergio
- 50 Vonda Shepard's "*It's ___ Kiss*"
- 53 Gershwin and Levin
- 54 Actress Merrill
- 55 Voyeur's confession
- 57 Seizure for Caesar
- 58 Month in Madrid
- 60 Street where Debussy lived



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scene



Ace at BJ's NXS!



Jacob, Domingo and Randy at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



Brad at Round-Up Saloon.



Tasha and Brad at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Garrett, Athena and Ben at Salum.



Glamorous eye wear at the Rose Room.



Jason at ES Collection.



Jacob, Dania, Brad and Hattie at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Above: Friends at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.
Above right: Serving up drinks at The Rainbow Lounge.



Kevin and Zak at Alexandre's.



Jake at The Tin Room.



Nick at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



Brian and Mo at Hidden Door.



Dylan at Round-Up Saloon.



Tyler at BJ's NXS!.



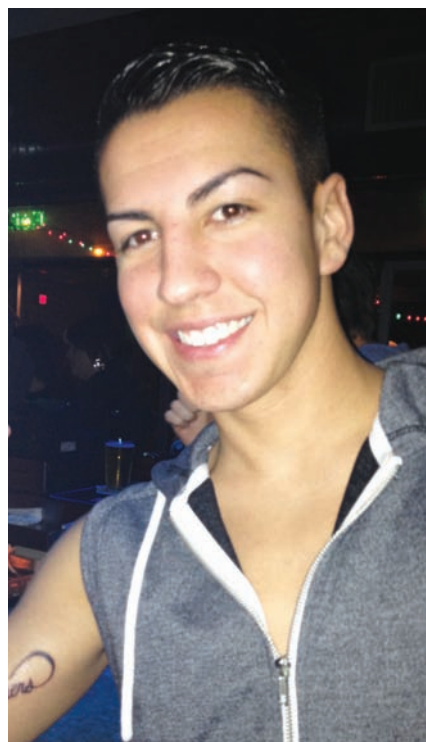
Dennis, Pepe, Fabian and Bernardo at Hidden Door.



Cassie Nova at the Rose Room.



Patrick and Josh at Three Sheets.



Steven at S4.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **April 11-17**:

1851 Club: Barefoot Hippies on Friday at 10 p.m.

Alexandre's: Walter Cunningham on Friday at 10 p.m. Three Drunk Monkeys on Saturday at 10 p.m. Sheran Keeton on Wednesday at 9 p.m. Alicia Silex on Thursday at 9 p.m.

BJ's NXS!: The official after-party for the Red Foundation Reveal with guest DJ Sarah Battle. Giveaways include a wine basket and a night at the W Hotel. Friday 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Brick: Ru Paul's Drag Race viewing party. Monday.

Dallas Eagle: ES Underwear Auction & Fashion Show benefits Purple Foundation. Friday at 8 p.m. National Leather Association club night. Saturday 7-11 p.m. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Back Woods to the Big City benefiting Youth First. Saturday 7-10 p.m. UCLSE presents Supper Time Revival, a casserole cook-off benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network. Sunday. 6 p.m.-2 a.m.

Eden Lounge: Dancing under the stars with DJ Marky Marc on Saturday 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Kaliente: Chantal's Talent Night with \$100 in cash and prizes. Wednesday.

Round-Up Saloon: Round Up Synergy Softball Extra Innings on Sunday. 4-7 p.m. Leslie Jordan performs a benefit for gay Oklahoma state Sen. Al McAffree who is running for Congress. Hosted by Ron Coming and Steve Kemble. Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

S4: Betty Who's Slow Dancing release party. Sunday. William Belli in the Rose Room. Thursday.

Sue Ellen's: Eric Himan on Friday. Kalico Jak on Saturday. Rockin Spring Fest with performances by Jenn Ciesielski, Virgin Gun Club, Langton Drive and Rip the System. Bake sale, photo booth, button making and face painting. Sunday. \$5 suggested donation.

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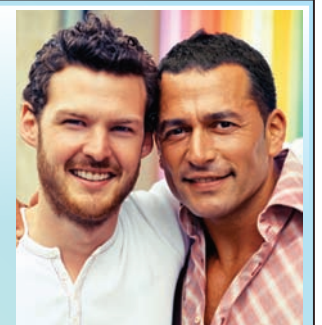
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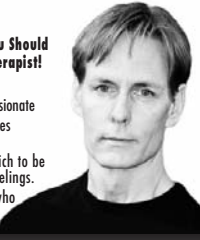

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