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DRAG *Angels*

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AT A TIME

Cover story by
Steve Ramos
David Taffet



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Graphic design by Kevin Thomas

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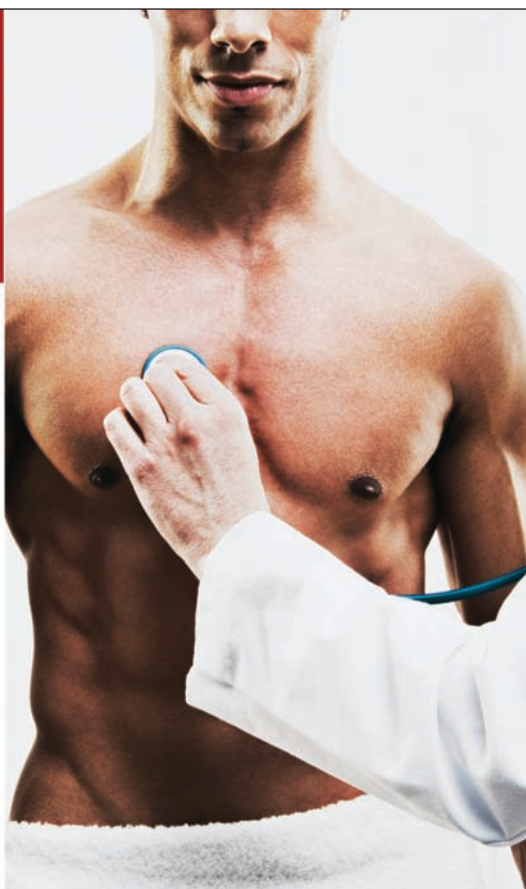
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NEW SHOPPORTUNITY | Dallas Councilman Adam Medrano, Dallas County Health Director Zach Thompson, AIDS Healthcare Foundation Texas Regional Director Bret Camp, Eddie Bernice Johnson's District Director Rod Givens and City Councilman Philip Kingston cut the ribbon at Out of the Closet on Cedar Springs Road. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Dallas City Council amends FMLA policy

Dallas City Council on Wednesday unanimously passed a change to its Family and Medical Leave policy. A city employee may now take time off to care for a "designated care recipient."

While that allows partners who are living together to take unpaid leave to take care of a spouse, it doesn't address some situations.

When interim assistant city manager Theresa O'Donnell's daughters were born, she was denied leave because she wasn't on the birth certificate. It's not clear if the new policy would cover a situation like hers.

Because two-parent adoptions by same-sex couples in Texas are possible but must be done separately, only the adoptive parent of the couple would be eligible under the new policy at the time of an adoption. A lesbian city employee might be able to take FMLA leave to care for her spouse who has given birth, but not to care for the newborn.

Employees are eligible for family leave after working for the city for a year, including a minimum of 1,250 hours. Previously, employees could use FMLA leave to care for an opposite-sex spouse, child, parent or for a relation who is a military service member with a serious health condition or situation resulting from that service member's active military duty.

— David Taffet

Another Texas judge rules state's marriage law unconstitutional

Another Texas judge ruled that Texas, marriage amendment is unconstitutional.

While the Texas Supreme Court continues to delay ruling on two same-sex divorces, Judge Barbara Nellermoe in San Antonio ruled today that the marriage law is unconstitutional, and she can proceed hearing a couple's divorce and custody case.

In one of the divorce cases before the Texas Supreme Court, Dallas Judge Teena Callahan ruled the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional and proceeded to grant the divorce. Earlier this year, U.S. District Judge Orlando

Garcia cited the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last year declaring DOMA unconstitutional and ruled the Texas marriage law also unconstitutional. Thursday's ruling in the San Antonio case involves a lesbian couple who married in Washington, D.C. in 2010.

Kristi Lesh became pregnant and gave birth last year, and the couple split up later in the year. Lesh argues that since she's the biological mother, she should retain full custody, since Texas doesn't recognize same-sex marriage. Allison Flood Lesh says a straight couple would generally be granted joint custody or visitation, and she should be awarded the same privilege.

So Kristi believes she had the right to take advantage of marriage when it suited her, but for the purposes of divorce, she's acting like Greg Abbott, pleading the marriage doesn't exist. The judge agreed with Allison and called for a hearing.

— David Taffet

Oak Lawn listed as 8th-best neighborhood for millennials

Niche Ink, a website dedicated to education analysis, reported Monday that Oak Lawn is the eighth-best neighborhood in the U.S. for young people to live in. The organization put together a list of the best metro areas for millennials. They ranked the metro areas in the U.S. using a dozen factors, including data from the U.S. Census, FBI crime rates, and Niche Ink user opinions on the best places for life after graduation. They then calculated the best neighborhood for young people in each of those cities.

The report said "Oak Lawn is one of the wealthiest areas of Dallas with a lot of urban professionals, townhouses, condos, and apartments. There are a lot of good restaurants, bars, and clubs, particularly for the LGBT community. Fifteen percent of its population is aged 25 to 34, and it has a median rent of \$874. The average income is \$29,830.

Midtown in Houston came in at No. 21, and South River City in Austin ranked No. 2. We can live with Austin beating us out. Houston? That's never going to happen. And the average income in Oak Lawn is \$29,830? I need a raise.

— Steve Ramos



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Drag queens pulled us through, one dollar at a time

During the years of the AIDS epidemic, drag queens raised millions of dollars that was used to establish agencies and even buy dog food

STEVE RAMOS | Senior Editor
DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

It was our Pearl Harbor. And they were our Marines. Yet there is no memorial, no yearly observance that commemorates the work of a group of people who stepped on to a battlefield that was quickly being littered with our dead. During a time when our own government was silent and inactive, some members of our community weren't. They fought back, and they did it in heels, wigs and a prodigious amount of makeup.

In the early 1980s when the AIDS epidemic slammed into the community and started

killing us, some gay men and trans women shook off the shock and went into action. In almost every gay club in Texas, performers stepped on stage in drag and raised money to fight AIDS. Lots of money.

For those who didn't experience the AIDS crisis, imagine a time during the late '70s and early '80s when the clubs were full of liberated men and women, celebrating without an inkling of what was coming around the corner. The release from the confines of small-town biases and religious shackles fueled the party. And then it hit.

"Lord, I remember how it hit," Gary Williams said. "It's like we were partying one month and then burying people the next. It hit us hard and fast. But you know what I remember so clearly, so vividly? I remember how the drag queens started raising money to fight AIDS."

There isn't a granite wall where the drag queens' names are etched, but Williams said there should be, so great was their contribution in the fight against the epidemic. Donna Day, Patty le Plae Safe, Donna Dumae, Kandi Delight, Whitney Paige, Tasha Kohl, Naomi Sims, Edna Jean Robinson and the names of dozens of other performers recall the years when

the drag queens looked out across a ravaged community and sang for dollars.

One dollar became 10. The 10 dollars became a thousand, and the thousand dollars became millions. On that foundation, other community leaders built Oak Lawn Community Services, AIDS Services of Dallas, AIDS Arms, Bryan's House, AIDS Interfaith Network and others. The sick and the dying had a place to get medical help, food, a place to live and a place to rest.

"But there was more to it than that," Dumae said. "In those days, we were fighting more than AIDS. The cops were still raiding the clubs and harassing us. They'd come in completely covered up and make a big show of it, protective clothing, like there was something in the air, and they'd catch it. They'd call us names. But we still went on. We still put on

■ ANGEL, Page 9



THE WAR YEARS | Advertising from 1988 editions of Dallas Voice shows the work the drag queens were doing to raise money to fight AIDS and fund the AIDS agencies.

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localbriefs



Chorale presents Sweeney Todd at City Performance Hall

Following the success of last spring's production of Ragtime, The Turtle Creek Chorale is collaborating again with Uptown Players in a concert version of Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

Director Michael Serrecchia and TCC Music Director Trey Jacobs lead a chorus of more than 150 men and women performing this incredible score.

The Tony Award winning musical thriller features the songs "No Place Like London," "God That's Good," "Joanna" and "Worst Pies in London."

Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. April 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 26 at 2:30 p.m.

GALA Youth presents suicide and bullying prevention program

A speaker from Teen Contact crisis line talks to GALA Youth about suicide and bullying pre-

vention at its Fourth Sunday monthly meeting. The presentation is open to teens and interested adults including parents and siblings.

The goal is to establish a network of adults and youth in the community who can recognize and respond to persons exhibiting signs of crisis, bullying, depression and/or suicide risk and who can assist in obtaining professional help.

GALA Youth, 201 W. Boyd No.105D, Allen. Aug. 27 at 6 p.m.

Black Trans Advocacy Conference at Doubletree

Black Trans Advocacy Family: Black Transmen Inc, Black Transwomen Inc and Black Trans International Ball & Pageantry System present the third Black Trans Advocacy Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Campbell Centre.

Mercedes Thompson and Deleon A. Harris serve as hosts. "One Earth. One People. One Love" is the theme of the conference billed as five days of empowerment.

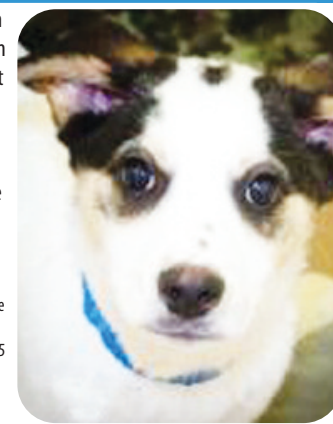
Among the scheduled events are the Black Trans Community Summit, Transgender Advocacy Awards Dinner, Mr. & Ms Black Trans International Pageant, Black Diamond Ball, an interfaith service and more.

Doubletree by Hilton Dallas-Campbell Centre, 8250 N. Central Expressway. April 29-May 4. More information at BlackTrans.org. ■

pet of the week / BEN

Ben and his two siblings were found as strays, and a good Samaritan brought them to Operation Kindness. He's a smooth-coated, mostly white, tricolor Hound mix. Ben will be a large dog when fully grown. He likes to follow his nose, so he'd be happiest in a home with a large, fenced-in yard he can explore. Ben also likes to use his beautiful hound voice to sing, so he isn't suited to apartment living. Ben is very friendly and is full of love and kisses. He's a growing boy with lots of energy. He'll need plenty of walks and play time, and some puppy training will help him become your ideal best friend. He'd love to go home with you today, and is sure to bring lots of fun and laughs into your life. Come visit with Ben to see if he's the dog for you.

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



■ ANGEL, From Page 6

the shows to raise money. We had to."

Dumae started performing in 1982 in Fort Worth and still performs two major shows a year that benefit AIDS Services of Dallas. She, like most of the other performers, have no idea how much they've raised over the decades, but Don Maison, President and CEO of ASD said there were times when Dumae and other drag queens "saved our butts."

"I didn't have a single nurse or home health aid," he said. "Sometimes there was barely enough money to pay the electric bill. He relied on Mark Shekter's Meals on the Move for breakfast and the Supper Clubs started by Kay Wilkerson to provide dinner. The money for meals not otherwise provided often came from funds raised in the bars.

When Maison started working at ASD in 1989, the agency's total budget was \$200,000, and that included the only government money he was receiving — \$25,000 from the Texas Department of Health and a multi-year Robert Wood Johnson demonstration grant.

"This was before HOPWA and before Ryan White," Maison said, referring to Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and the government funding of various other AIDS services.

Patti le Plae Safe said she has no idea how much money she raised for the AIDS organizations over the years.

"Honey, I stopped counting," she said. "It's in the seven digits."

At one point, she was performing up to five shows a night, seven nights a week. On a typical night, Patti said she'd start at TMC and then cross the street to the Round-Up Saloon. Then she and a couple of other drag queens would jump in a pick-up truck and drive over to the Eighth Day on Fitzhugh Avenue. And they still weren't finished for the night.

They would head over to the The Wave on Maple Avenue and then circle back to Cedar Springs Road where they'd finish at the Green Parrot, performing on the top of a pool table. Proceeds from one of the shows would benefit the food pantry, another would go to ASD and another to Byran's House.

"We just wanted to help everybody," Patti said.

And they did — for more than a decade. Patti, who was on the board of the Foundation for Human Understanding, now called Resource Center, said Bill Nelson would mention that donations were down at the food pantry and could Patti help.

Nelson was one of the early Dallas activists. Patti said one person would coordinate the effort by calling other drag queens and singers like Linda Petty or performers like Buddy Sherman.

"Everyone said yes," Patti said.

This went on for more than a decade, although some drag queens performed longer.

"We were still pumping shows hard in '93, '94," Patti said, "and into 1995 when I was Miss Gay America."

Donna Dumae remembers raising money for the needs that AIDS created.

"People with AIDS were being burned out of their homes, kicked out of their apartments and fired from their jobs," she said. "We even raised money so people could buy dog food. There was so much need."

The more people died from AIDS, the more the drag queens cranked up the theater.

"It was all about being big and bold," Donna said. "We had to be showy and bigger than life — big boobs and big hair. You have to remember, doing drag was even illegal in those days."

That's another reason Williams said there should be a memorial that honors the drag queens' contributions.

"They were the brave ones," he said. "They were out there on the forefront, storming the beaches and getting in the cops' faces when our bars were raided. They didn't back down, and we're alive today because they didn't back down."

The AIDS epidemic also took its toll on the drag queens. Their numbers diminished just as their audiences did. Patti said her friends were dying one after another.

"Kandi Delight was in a show with me one week, and the next week she was dead," she said. "Performing was very, very emotional.

War unites a community, and the drag queens were of one mind in the fight against AIDS. Patti said the performers cared about one another.

"They'd lend you shoes and dresses," she said.

Michael Doughman, executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, has been raising money for AIDS and LGBT organizations in Dallas since 1983.

"Easily over a million and a half over the years," he said.

His first performance after he moved from Reno was at the Round-Up Saloon.

"We were just trying to raise money for someone who was sick," he said.

During those dark days of the AIDS crisis, Doughman said the drag queens added another much-needed element to the bleak landscape — they made people laugh for an hour or two.

Doughman found out he was HIV-positive in 1985. When AZT was approved, he went on the medication for two weeks. It made him sick, so he switched to vitamins and herbs.

"I'm alive for a reason," he said, "I need to be doing something worthwhile."

The names of many of the drag queens who saved us are legend, but Patti and Donna said their friends contributed to their personas. Donna's friends came up with her drag name, and Patti said she also had a lot of help and input.

"It takes a village to put on a show," Patti said.

That village included not only the performers, but the bars and all the people who went out and donated one dollar at a time.

"It takes a village," Patti repeated. "A very large and partially demented village." ■

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Texas Obituary Project paints picture of gay Texas

Houston man scanned almost 5,000 death notices into a website, and he's looking for more to add to his genealogy of Texas' LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For years, the obituaries of the thousands of LGBT Texans gathered dust in the yellowing pages of the community's publications. Short write-ups, the eulogies offered a snapshot of the person's life through a gay lens. Mainstream publications weren't apt to publish someone's surviving same-sex partner, and they heavily edited the notices to remove the person's gay soul.

Those obituaries are a chronicle of LGBT life, and J.D. Doyle of Houston is ensuring they will be permanently available to researchers or to anyone simply looking for a memory of a friend. The obituaries were usually submitted by friends rather than family, so they were more authentic and unfiltered. Over the past year, Doyle has scanned almost 5,000 obituaries printed in Texas' gay publications and compiled them into an online database titled the Texas Obituary Project.

"I'm a fanatic," Doyle said. "I spent hours a day scanning and cropping individual obituaries."

Doyle has been active in Houston's LGBT community for years and was recently named Grand Marshal of that city's Pride parade in June. He said he creates a page for each obituary and then adds the name, cause of death, partner's name, age, city and other items that identify the person such as their affiliation with Turtle Creek Chorale or Dallas Gay Alliance. For community leaders like Bill Nelson, Doyle scanned several news stories to complement the obituary and added them to the web page. Nelson was one of the founders of Dallas Gay Alliance and AIDS Resource Center, now Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Resource Center.

Most of the obituaries were published in This Week In Texas, a statewide weekly magazine published from 1975 to 2000. Doyle hopes to add obituaries printed in Dallas Voice, once the University of North Texas scans the issues and makes them available online. Dallas accounts for 1,154 of the obituaries Doyle has scanned.

Bruce Monroe, a historian and a board member of The Dallas Way, called Doyle's work "an amazing project."

"It helps connect the dots," he said. "It's a valuable resource to put together the genealogy of the gay community."

Monroe said that when a friend approached

raised in the bikeathon to support on-going projects such as the acquisition of a tax number and the compilation of a

may bring them to the Quilt Workshop at 3901 Cedar Springs (the old Pirate Pub location) or to the Gay Community

Obituary —

Terry Tebedo, 38, died Thursday afternoon due to AIDS-related complications.

Tebedo was a member of the board of directors of the Dallas Gay Alliance, and served on the Dallas Dinner Committee and the Razzle Dazzle Dallas board of directors. He was one of the founders of the AIDS Resource Center.

Terry is survived by his lover of 11 years, Bill Nelson, and friends too numerous to mention by name.

Services will be held Sunday, Jan. 31 at 2:30 p.m. at Restland Memorial Park, Greenville Ave. at Restland Rd. (just north of LBJ Freeway).

Memorials in Terry's name should be made to the Dallas Gay Alliance.



OBIT | Dallas Voice obituary for Terry Tebedo, one of the founders of DGLA and Resource Center, who died of AIDS in 1988. His TWT obituary can be found in TexasObituaryProject.org. Dallas Voice death notices will be added to the database once the paper is digitized.

him to find information about a former Cedar Springs retailer who died in the 1990s, he wasn't able to find anything. Then he found the Texas Obituary Project, typed in a few key words, and the obituary from TWT popped up with the information he was looking for.

The obituaries and related stories archived in the project paint the story of gay life a few decades ago. In a December 1982 issue of TWT, the top news story was "Homosexuals in Texas fighting for their legality with the defeat of 21.06." It was the year Judge Jerry Buchmeyer ruled the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional.

The No. 2 story in that issue was "AIDS Epidemic Sweeps Texas." Four men in Houston

and one in San Antonio had already died from the disease, according to the story. A Dallas death had occurred, but it happened after the TWT story was written.

The earliest Dallas death recorded in the Texas Obituary Project is Joe Philpot, owner of Sundance Kids, a leather bar located on Maple Avenue next to the Tollway in a building last occupied by The Brick. Developers recently demolished the building to make way for the Old Parkland office complex now under construction.

Philpot's death was reported as nonspecific cerebral degradation. AIDS Arms medical director Gene Voskuhl said Philpot probably died

of CMV, crypto-encephalitis, a disease doctors weren't diagnosing in those early years.

A comment in one obituary also gives pause. The stigma of having AIDS and dying of it was heavy during the 1980s and 1990s, and the death announcements reflect it. The obituary of Charles Jarvis, 53, who died in 1985, noted he died "after a brief bout with cancer of the pancreas, and was not related to A.I.D.S. (sic) in any way." Clearly, it was important to record that distinction.

More than half of the deaths listed in the archive are AIDS related. Doyle said many of the obituaries listed no cause of death, but he added the AIDS category if the suggested do-

nation was to an AIDS agency or if a partner had AIDS listed as his cause of death.

Doyle also found another pattern while organizing the archive. He found 140 LGBT people had been murdered in Texas, 24 of them in Dallas. A number of victims were found stabbed or beaten to death in their homes. Others died from attacks on streets near the clubs. The most violent week occurred during Christmas 1981. TWT reported "a bloody holiday season across the Lone Star State," noting John Sholl was stabbed to death on Dec. 26 on Throckmorton Street as he walked from Maple Avenue to Cedar Springs Road.



VIGIL | A 1988 Dallas Voice cover highlighted an AIDS candlelight memorial scheduled to be held that week in Lee Park.

"In the two most populous homosexual communities in Texas, Dallas and Houston, there were three additional murders in only eight days," TWT reported, and in College Station, "a young lad was nearly beaten to death and dumped on a country road."

While the Texas Obituary Project contains thousands of notices, it's still smaller than one sponsored by the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society and the Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco's LGBT newspaper. Doyle said he was inspired by that project to begin his own. His focus is on the years from 1982 to 2000, although a few of the obituaries on the site date from 1976. He said that before the AIDS epidemic, TWT rarely printed a death notice. Dallas Voice, which began publication in 1984, early in the epidemic, quickly adopted a policy of printing obituaries for free.

Doyle encourages people to submit obituaries of people missing from the archive.

"There are lots of people whose obits weren't in the gay publications," he said. ■

Use the archive at TexasObituaryProject.org.

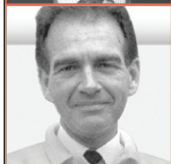
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Mid-cities travel agency puts together trans cruise

GEAR says this is the first time something like this is being offered to the trans community and calls organizer an innovator

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Travel agent Jeff Land blocked cabins on a Royal Caribbean sailing in December for what he believes is the first trans cruise.

"This has been a dream of mine for so long," Land said, "because it feels safe being with other trans people."

Land identifies as transgender and prefers female pronouns.

"I'm hoping to book 40-50 people," she said.

The cruise is on the Navigator of the Seas that leaves from Galveston on Dec. 14 for a week. Three ports of call on the trip include Honduras, Belize and Cozumel.

"In Belize, people should stay together, but it's gay-friendly," Land said. "Honduras and Cozumel are both very gay friendly."

She chose that itinerary rather than another of-

fered that includes Jamaica, which Land thought would be dangerous for trans travelers.

Land said the question asked most is whether the cruise will be safe. She said she avoided Carnival Cruise Lines because of an incident that happened two years ago, which she discussed with Royal Caribbean.

In 2012, Carnival Cruises booked a tour called "Drag Stars at Sea" in conjunction with gay TV station Logo. About a month before sailing, the cruise line sent a letter to everyone participating, stating that although Logo performers would be entertaining in the main theater, "only the performers are permitted to dress in drag while in the theater."

Guests who violated the policy would be removed from the ship at their own expense, and no refund would be issued.

The cruise line refused to answer at the time



AHOY | Jeff Land hopes a sizeable group accompanies him on the first trans cruise. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

whether the policy applied only to dressing in drag or whether trans people were included in the policy.

Land said he discussed the issues with Royal Caribbean, and the cruise line wanted travelers to know they are welcome on board.

Land said passports shouldn't be an issue either, even if the picture or name doesn't match a person's current presentation. To facilitate quick debarkation at ports of call, cruise ships issue an ID card that's used instead of the passport for getting on and off the ship in port.

The Transportation Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security has developed and implemented policies appropriate for trans travelers, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality. Travel safety tips for a variety of groups, including the elderly, those with hearing loss or other disabilities, can be found on its website, TransEquality.org.

"In 1999, I would let the airline know ahead of time I was traveling," Land said. "Now, they're more accepting, and there are so many trans people who work for the airlines."

Those policies, she said, also apply to cruise passengers.

GEAR coordinator Blair High said there are a lot of LGBT cruises, but this is the first time something like this is being offered specifically for the trans community.

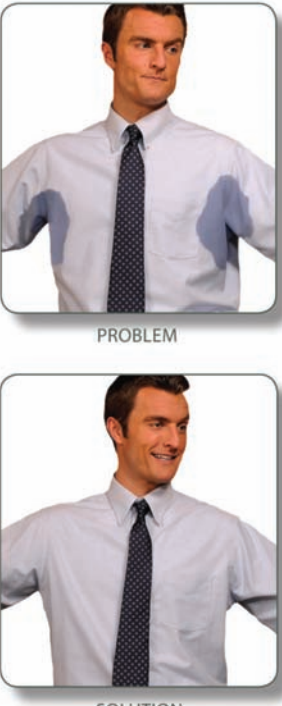
"The great thing about it is no one else in the U.S. is doing anything like this," High said. "You can go on vacation and just be free without worrying, is someone going to accost me."

High thought a number of people would take advantage of the opportunity to go on a trip with someone there to make sure they are safe.

"Jeff is an innovator," High said.

In addition to members of the trans community, Land said she has had inquiries from cross-dressers who would like to sail along with their noncross-dressing spouses. People from the LGB community are welcome as well.

Prices begin at \$831 per person based on double occupancy. A \$250 deposit is due by July 19. More information at TransgenderVacations.net.



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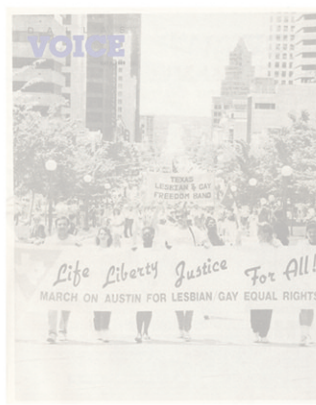
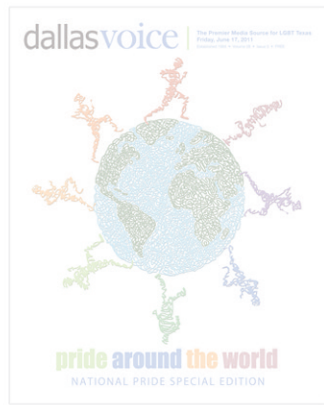
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Houston ordinance to include private employment

Parker proposed a broad nondiscrimination ordinance that includes LGBT protections for employment in private businesses

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

HOUSTON — Mayor Annise Parker on Monday released a draft of her proposed Equal Rights Ordinance that includes employment protections in private business.

In her State of the City address on April 3, Parker said she hoped to pass nondiscrimination protections this spring. Houston is the only major city in the U.S. with such an ordinance, but in her speech, she only mentioned protection in city employment.

“As I stated in my State of the City Address earlier this month, the Houston I know does not discriminate, treats everyone equally and allows full participation by everyone in civic and business life,” Parker said Monday. “We 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. It’s time the laws on our books reflect this.”

As currently written, the ordinance would cover discrimination in city employment, city contracting, housing, public accommodations and employment in businesses with more than 50 employees. Religious organizations are exempt.

Parker had suggested creating a Human Rights Commission to monitor the ordinance. Instead, according to the draft, the city’s Office of Inspector General and the City Attorney will handle complaints. If the subject of a complaint refuses to cooperate with an investigation, the city attorney may ask the City Council to approve the issuance of a subpoena to compel cooperation. The mayor may also create an advisory task force to study and report on discrimination issues.

The draft will be presented to the City Council’s Quality of Life Committee on April 30 and to the full council on May 7.

The draft of the Houston ordinance is 34 pages, much more detailed than Dallas’ which has been in effect for more than a decade. The Houston draft gives detailed explanations of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

That wording was much less common when the city of Dallas adopted its ordinance. City staff is now reviewing that wording for possible updating. In the Dallas ordinance, sexual orientation “means an individual’s real or perceived orientation as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or transgender.”

Although transgender is not a sexual orientation, the trans community was always intended to be covered and protected from discrimination.



Houston Mayor Annise Parker

Violators of the Houston ordinance could be fined up to \$5,000. Dallas only allows for a \$500 fine.

Parker was originally going to protect city employment only. Instead, she added private employment for companies with more than 50 employees. The Dallas ordinance applies to “any person who has 15 or more employees for each working day in each of two or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year, and includes any agent of such a person.”

Equality Texas Field Organizer Daniel Williams said Equality Texas has been encouraging people to call the Houston mayor’s and council members’ offices to expand employment protections. He said 70 percent of Houstonians oppose employment discrimination.

Dave Welch of the Houston Area Pastor’s Council complained about the ordinance to the Houston Chronicle.

“She is using anecdotal examples of discrimination, which may or may not occur, based on race and veterans’ situations as a front for her promises to ‘her people,’ as she described them in her inaugural address, the GLBT community,” Welch said.

Williams said the Houston Area Pastors Council “pitched a fit,” but they have opposed every initiative Parker has made through her nine terms in office as city councilwoman, comptroller and mayor.

“It’s not surprising people who don’t want the LGBT community to have all the rights and opportunities provided to all Houstonians would be upset that all LGBT people have access to all the rights and opportunities provided to all Houstonians,” Williams said. ■

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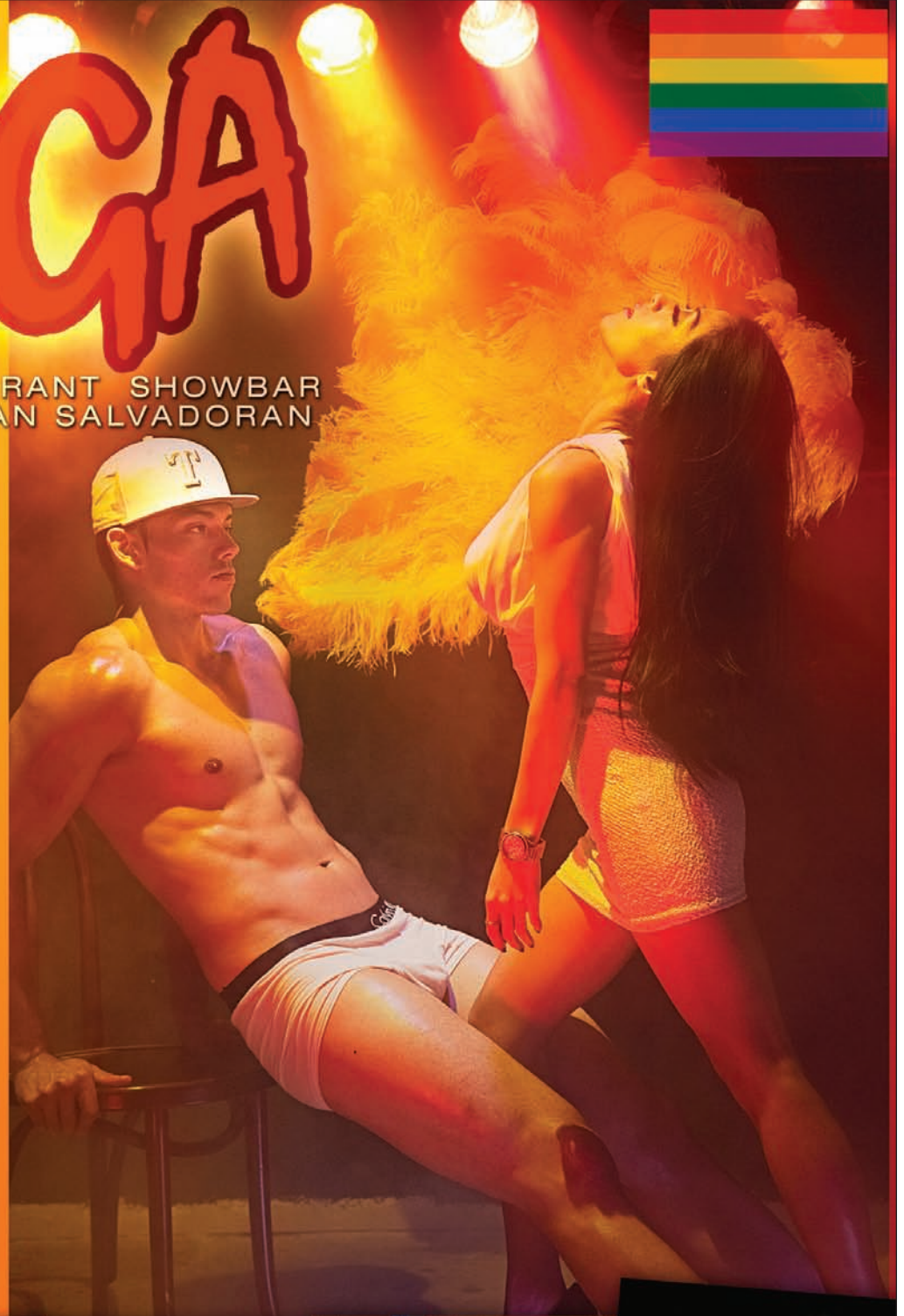
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LGBT Press Tour returns to DFW



PULITZERS | Last year's LGBT travel writers posed for a picture in the B-G letters in front of the Winspear Opera House while touring the Arts District. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Six writers from around the world will visit Dallas and Fort Worth to see what's unique about North Texas

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Six gay travel writers from the United States, South America and Europe arrive in Dallas this week for the 11th annual Dallas International LGBT Travel Writers press tour. Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman puts the tour together each year, along with the Dallas and Fort Worth convention and visitor bureaus. He said that while it's difficult to come up with a concrete dollar value to the city's income from tourism, the hotels, airlines, restaurants and other sponsors have been satisfied enough that they continue to participate.

"We've had more coverage than any of the other specialty trips according to the CVB," Doughman said. "We average two stories per writer."

Based on the value of a printed page, stories printed as a result of last year's tour generated the equivalent of \$150,000 in publicity.

Based on number of hits through social media, the publicity is even greater, Doughman said.

How that translates into LGBT visits to Dallas is hard to calculate. Doughman said leisure travelers don't declare that they're LGBT tourists, and airlines and hotels have no way to count them. But he said store owners and bartenders on Cedar Springs Road frequently hear comments from people who say they're from out of town and had read a story about Oak Lawn.

Doughman said the writers are looking for what's unique. One year, he took them to one of the city's finest restaurants, but they wrote about

their stop at the original Dickey's Barbecue. Fort Worth has three excellent art museums, but it's the Cowgirl Museum that interests the writers.

That's why this year the Wildcatter Ranch remains on the itinerary. Located in Graham, located about an hour and a half west of Fort Worth, the writers have the opportunity to go horseback riding and take a roping lesson with some time left for skeet shooting before sitting on a rocking chair on the lodge's porch and watching the sun set behind the mountains of West Texas. The western theme of that portion on their trip to North Texas is rounded out the next day with a stop to the Fort Worth Stockyards.

The Dallas component of the trip includes a tour of the Arts District with lunch from a food truck parked at the Deck Park. The writers get to experience Cedar Springs nightlife beginning with dinner at Hunky's. An afternoon visit to the Katy Trail includes a stop at the Ice House, and Hattie's in Bishop Arts hosts the group for dinner as they explore that other gay neighborhood.

Frank Libro with the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau said the return on investment for journalism trips is high.

"Dallas is a top U.S. destination for LGBT leisure and business travel," Libro said. "If a writer hasn't been to Dallas recently, they'll be surprised by some of our new assets."

He said he looks forward to showing off Trinity Groves, the Arts District and the Calatrava bridge to writers who haven't been to Dallas for awhile and writers coming for the first time who are always surprised at how cosmopolitan the city is.

Among those participating on the tour is Portland-based travel writer Andrew Collins who has contributed to Dallas Voice for more than a decade, so we may just get to read about one of the writer's impressions right here on our own pages. ■

LGBT leaders reject book on Prop 8

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

To say there's been a flurry of discussion around the Tuesday release of a new book on the legal case that challenged California's Proposition 8 would be an understatement. The book, *Forcing the Spring*, by New York Times writer Jo Becker, has been thoroughly pilloried by many plugged-in LGBT activists and journalists this week, both publicly and privately. While a few have attempted to cut Becker some slack for documenting some behind-the-scenes litigation and political strategies, most fault her for an approach that seems hell-bent on making Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin and conservative icon attorney Ted Olson into the white horse heroes of an upcoming Hollywood docu-drama about *How the Marriage Equality Movement* was won.

Hollywood movies do have a tendency to skew the historical record for audiences that have not been paying attention to the real-world events; and, if it does come to the silver screen, *Forcing the Spring* will carry an impressive credential — that it was based on a book by a “Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist” (even though she co-authored the entry that won).

The intense negative reaction from the LGBT community to Becker's book indicates the prospect that the marriage equality movement's real history will be lost is very troubling to many LGBT people who have watched and been part of that movement. It didn't begin with the Griffin-Olson lawsuit in 2009, but with individual couples as early as the 1970s and with veteran civil rights legal activists beginning in Hawaii in the 1990s.

Conservative gay commentator Andrew Sullivan led the assault on Becker's book this week. In his April 16 blog entry for his “The Daily Dish,” Sullivan berated Becker for suggesting Griffin is on par with legendary black civil rights activist Rosa Parks. He dismissed the book as riddled with “jaw-dropping distortion,” such as Becker's claim that the marriage equality movement “for years had largely languished in obscurity.”

Sullivan's assault was quickly joined by an impressive string of critiques: writer-activist Dan Savage (“a bullshit ‘history’ of the movement for marriage equality”), former New York Times columnist Frank Rich (“For a journalist to claim that marriage equality revolution began in 2008 is as absurd as saying civil rights struggle began with Obama.”) and White House strategist Jim Messina.

Becker offered a defense against the criticism, explaining to politico.com that she hadn't tried to write a definitive history of the marriage equality movement or the “gay rights” movement.

“Many people have contributed to the success the movement has experienced. I have the [utmost] respect for all the people who contributed to that success,” wrote Becker. “My book was not meant to be a beginning-to-end-history of the movement. It's about a particular group of people at an extraordinary moment in time, and I hope

that people will be moved by their stories.”

Unfortunately, her intro to the book and the slick public relations material sent out to promote that book proclaim otherwise.

On page one of the book, she writes that the marriage equality “revolution ... begins with a handsome, bespectacled thirty-five-year-old political consultant named Chad Griffin ...” Her own summary of the book calls it “the definitive account of the fight to win the rights of marriage and full citizenship for all. ...” And the Penguin Press release that accompanies review copies of the book calls it, “A deeply insightful and riveting account of a national civil rights struggle. ...” It quotes such celebrity legal commentators as Jeff Toobin as saying the book is “a superb, behind-the-scenes account of the legal battle to bring marriage equality to the nation.” NAACP former president, Benjamin Todd Jealous, calls it “the definitive account of one of the great civil rights struggles of our times.”

This is the kind of hype that accompanies many books. It's how publishers, in a very competitive environment, woo attention and favorable comments from reviewers, television talk shows and other vehicles in a position to stoke book sales. But critics of *Forcing the Spring* take issue with the book beyond the exaggeration of its marketing campaign.

“*Forcing the Spring* just doesn't get it right,” writes openly gay BuzzFeed legal reporter Chris Geidner. He notes that Becker quotes Hollywood screenwriter Dustin Lance Black as being rebuffed by an audience of potential LGBT major donors to the litigation organized by Griffin's American Foundation for Equal Rights. Becker also reports that the donor meeting's organizer, Tim Gill, “denounced Black outright.” Geidner provides a link to a video of the closed-door meeting about which Becker was writing that shows Black's speech was interrupted with applause five times and won a standing ovation from at least a few in the audience. And Geidner says Gill's alleged denouncement of Black was “more of a nuanced defense of ‘gradualism’ strategy for winning marriage equality.”

Hollywood movies require conflict and struggle, and it may be that the book — whose inside cover touts it as a “gripping behind-the-scenes narrative with the lightning pace of the greatest legal thrillers” — fell prey to the need to dramatize some hurdles for her heroes to overcome. A more journalistic approach might have conveyed the mixed reaction of Black's audience and contrasted that with Black's personal interpretation of how he was received.

It also would have been helpful for Becker to have talked in some depth with LGBT legal activists who have been working on the marriage equality movement for many years. A number of LGBT legal activists have pointed out significant factual errors in Becker's account as reported by the press thus far (none had received a copy of the book in advance).

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viewpoints

DMN: Welcome to the party (P.S. Took you long enough)

Dear Dallas Morning News,

I noted with interest your launch, earlier this week, of LGBTQ Blog, your still-difficult-to-find online column dedicated to gay voices. (How much did the consultants charge you to come up with such a catchy name?) To this, I say, "Bravo!" But as an editor for a publication nearing its 30th anniversary of giving gay Texans a say in the public forum, I do have one question — to wit, "What took so long?"

Where was this column in 1984, when the AIDS epidemic was making national headlines ... and Dallas Voice began publishing? Long-standing staffers and members of the community can still recall the weekly parade of death notices, the devastation HIV wreaked on queer Dallasites and the need for someone to step up and take notice.

Rock Hudson died the next year, and the first TV movie about AIDS, *An Early Frost*, got the country talking about gay issues with seriousness. Was the timing not right then? How about in 1988, when the World Health Organization established World AIDS Day? Or 1996, when David Ho became Time's Man of the Year for developing protease inhibitors? 1993 saw *Angels in America* win the Pulitzer Prize and *Philadelphia* win the Oscar. Were those events not significant enough for you?

Of course, the gay community in Dallas is

about much more than a disease. So perhaps you missed it, also in 1993, when three sitting city councilmembers — Craig McDaniel, Paul Fielding and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Luna — were openly gay at the same time. That would have made for good timing. So would 2004, when Lupe Valdez became the first gay female and Hispanic sheriff of a major city. She's been getting national attention ever since. Did you notice? We did.

Did you perhaps get distracted from starting the column more than a decade ago, when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Lawrence v. Texas* — a Lone Star State lawsuit! — which established gay sex could not be criminalized?

On the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, something echoing them happened at Fort Worth's Rainbow Lounge — we know (I was the first journalist in the coun-

try to blog about it, and our coverage was repeatedly cited by the New York Times and other publications ... including the DMN). That would have been a savvy time to start a gay blog — it did wonders for our web traffic.

Where was your blog in the late 1990s, when Dallas Voice started running couples' commitment ceremony announcements, and why did it take you more than a decade (and a lawsuit) to extend the same courtesy to your LGBT readers and couples?

Vermont became the first state to grant same-

sex couples rights equivalent to heterosexual marriage (what they quaintly called civil unions) in 2000. It's when the tide first started to turn in our favor. We could have used the support then, and especially again in 2004 when the right wing of the GOP used opposition to same-sex marriage as a wedge issue in the presidential election, and W squeaked by another electoral victory. Gay Texans were pretty bummed when Texas enacted a ban on marriage rights. Did you have editorial meetings back then to discuss reaching out to your readership with stories devoted to humanizing gay people? No?

Don't ask, don't tell and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) were pretty tall hurdles for us to overcome, but we did it. Took us nearly 20 years, but in 2011 the military finally stopped discriminating against openly gay service members. Texas has a huge military population. Did you not think they might be interested in reading a blog from the DMN back then? And DOMA! That took even longer — just last year — but even the right-leaning SCOTUS finally struck down that homophobic policy. And the victory over Prop 8 sent shockwaves through gay America. You should have picked up on that, with a column devoted to ferreting out such things. (We're happy to give you a little advice — we have some experience in covering gay issues.)

2013 was a banner year for the gays, no doubt: Eight U.S. states joined those offering same-sex marriage, and just earlier this year, Texas' ban was declared unconstitutional. The blood is in water. We guess that's why, after all this time, you've finally decided, "It's time to reach out to the gay community." Or maybe you thought of it as a kind of anniversary present for us. We're touched.

Anyway, welcome to the party. I guess, in typical Dallas style, you were waiting to make a fashionably late entrance. Enjoy what's left of the trail mix, and feel free to tip the keg; the rest of us will be in the kitchen cleaning up the mess, as always.

Arnold Wayne Jones is the Life+Style Editor at Dallas Voice.



Arnold Wayne Jones
Life+Style Editor



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Pillow talk

LIFE+STYLE

digs

'Design Santa' Nate Berkus discussed his new show, a disastrous elementary school home-ec project and his boring conversations with Oprah

Home isn't where the heart is on *American Dream Builders* — it's where the drama is. And it's where you'll find Nate Berkus, who hosts the home-renovation show airing Sundays on NBC.

As the bossman to a dozen contestants trying to woo him with their best remodel, Oprah's longtime gay pal and talk show sidekick steps back onto TV after the cancellation of his gabfest, *The Nate Berkus Show*. Berkus recently chatted about *American Dream Builders* being a better fit for him, how the first thing he ever designed was so bad it ended up in the garbage and the boring home stuff he and Oprah talk about.

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Gosh, these contestants mean business, Nate. Nate Berkus: They really do.

Are all home designers really this cutthroat? When you take 12 people who are leaders in their industry from around the country, who are used to having the final say in everything they do in all realms of their lives, and you put them in a competition setting, they definitely have a curve on how to get along. The truth is, we had an embarrassment of riches when it came to the drama because it started in the very first episode and continued all the way through the last one.

What about *American Dream Builders* attracted you? I really wanted to come back on television in a meaningful way that really centered on design and the design space, and in order to do that I needed to work with a network that would allow design on television to be what I think it always

should have been: true creativity, great resources and transformation. I think a long time ago, someone decided that design on TV should be about how quickly and how inexpensively you can renovate a space, but I really never believed in that. So this was an opportunity to take 12 experts, give them — at their fingertips — those same things that they would normally have in their own private practices and set them loose to renovate two homes a week and focus exclusively on the quality and design.

Those shows you mention — are you referring to the ones on HGTV? I'm not saying that specifically, but if you look at the trends in design over the years, these are the shows we all watch because that's what's been on so far. But *American Dream Builders* is something new. It's massive in scale. When you're doing high-end design you have to have antiques, you have to have architectural salvage, you have to have vintage, you have to have one-of-a-kind items, you have to have real paintings and contemporary art and photography and great construction materials. This isn't what you can do in a half hour or in an hour in your own home; the whole show, from the very beginning, is about high-level inspiration.

After the cancellation of *The Nate Berkus Show* in 2012, how does it feel returning to TV? I really enjoy hosting this much more than I enjoyed hosting my talk show, and I'll tell you why. The truth is, when you're doing a daytime talk show, it's on every single day, so it's your responsibility to fill that hour with all sorts of different kinds of content that fit within the lifestyle realm. With this show, it's a Sunday night primetime show, it's once a week and it's purely

about design. We have a fantastic cast, but my focus is creating an enormously scaled design show that I can be a part of, that I can call on my contacts to get involved with. I can hand select these 12 people from around the country and say, "I'm gonna watch what you do every single week, and I wanna be shocked, I wanna be surprised, I wanna be blown away, I wanna rethink how I feel about design, and I'm challenging you by showing me just that. And if you can do it, one of you is gonna win, and if you can't then, you know, that's it."

So you're basically the Tim Gunn of interior design. I hadn't thought of that!

How often do random people on the street ask you for home advice? Oh my god, constantly. I always get the same thing: "Come to my home." I'm the design Santa when I'm walking through an airport. But it's great, because I've been doing design on TV for

years now — it's been 13 years — and so I think that people associate me ringing their doorbell with a transformation that's about to happen and a really positive change in their lives, so I really wanted *Dream Builders* to represent that as well. It really is, for me, an extension of what I've always been doing, but it's a way for me to showcase the talent of people who deserve to be in the spotlight.

What's the first thing you ever designed? A hamburger pillow in fifth grade home ec with sesame seeds, and it had ketchup dripping down the side. Mine was by far the worst one in the entire class.

How did that happen? How was I so bad? I still can't sew.

You used one of those pillow kits, didn't you? Because I did, too! But mine was a tiger cub, so it was much gayer than yours. Yeah, a hamburger — I guess I was predicting my future dietary habits.

Regarding your spring wedding to Jeremiah Brent: being that you're both designers, is there any clashing going on as far as planning the big day? Not at all. We don't fight about design. We literally fight about who gets the last piece of pizza and who has to walk the dog — that's what we fight about. The two of us can furnish a room together in an hour on the computer because we reach for very similar things. We use them in different ways, but we have a very good connection with that.

What's the best party you've ever had at the Brent-Berkus residence? I don't really do wild parties at home because I don't want people to break anything. Like, really. Not at all. But I do a lot of dinners for

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NATE 2.0 | After the cancellation of his talk show, Nate Berkus is back on TV with his new reality competition series 'American Dream Builders.'

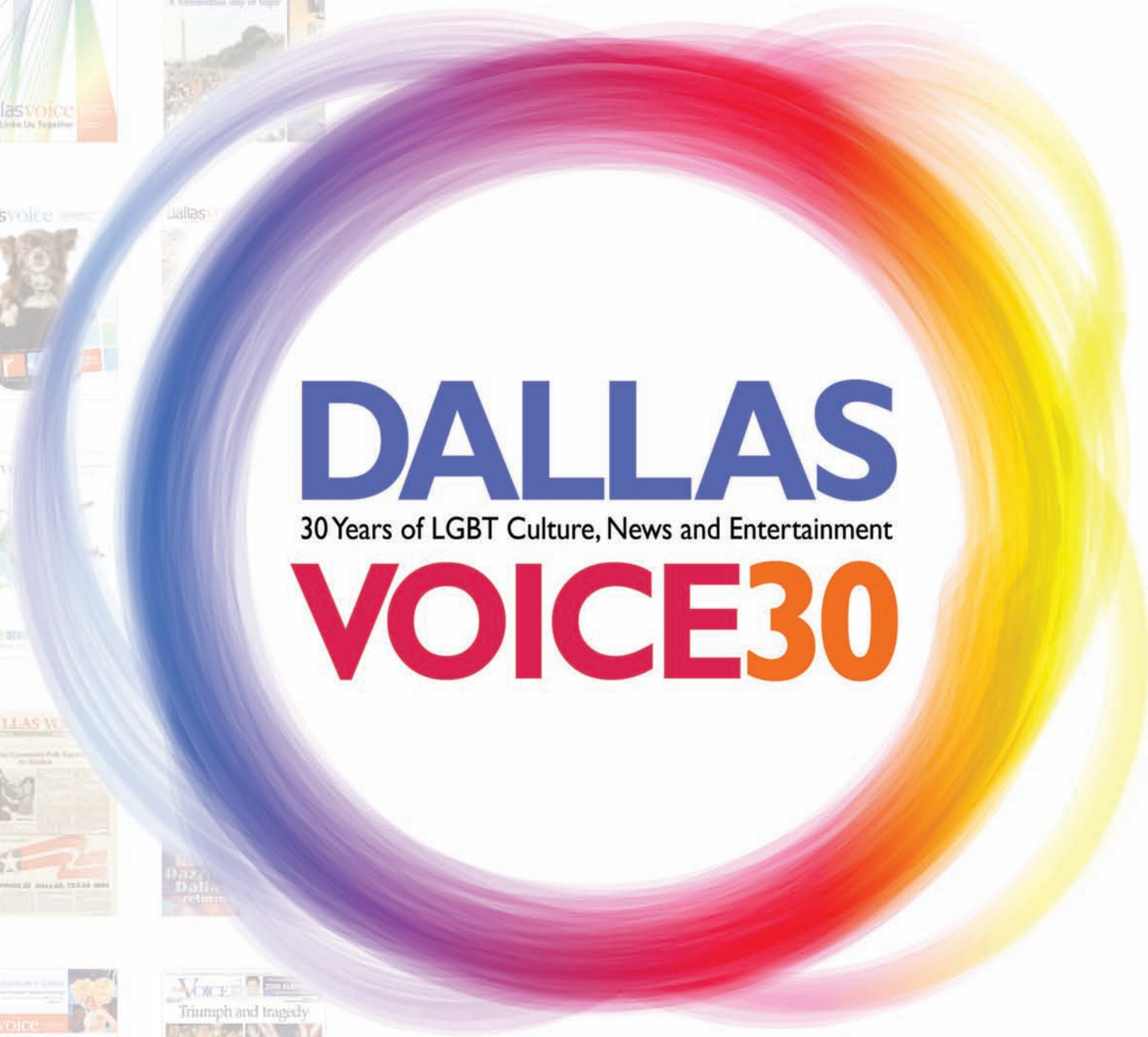
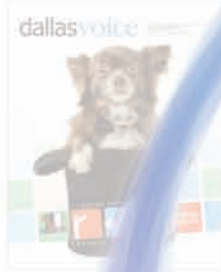
small groups of people. Dinner for six, dinner for eight, maybe dinner for 10, and it's always really good friends. We sit around the table really, really late and sometimes I'll bring in somebody to cook because I'm terrible at it, but, when it comes to entertaining, those are for me my favorite nights at home.

Your advice in your 2012 book *The Things That Matter* was to let your home tell your story. What room in your house tells the best story?

The truth is, the whole home does. Everywhere I look in our home reminds me of where I've been, who I've

known, what memories I have of being that age in that place, who I was with. Design really is an opportunity to build a collection of things that chronicle the life that you've led, who you've loved, who you've lost, where you've been, what you've seen, who you've met along the way. That for me is really what the house represents. It's a great way to live, because when I look around our home, everything has meaning. Some things are there just because I think they're cool, or because he does, but in the end,

■ BERKUS, Page 38



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Dallas does divas

Two iconic actresses with ties to Dallas — **Morgan Fairchild** and **Lindy Gray** — will strut the red carpet at the USA Film Festival



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

When you get a half-hour to chat with Linda Gray — who, for 36 years, has been intimately associated with our fair city as the star of both iterations of the juicy nighttime soap *Dallas* — there's one question you *have* to ask:

"How do you like having a lesbian bar here named after your most famous character?"

"Been there!" she happily chirps about Sue Ellen's, the gay nightclub along the Strip.

"You know there's *also* a gay bar named JR.'s?" I add.

"Been there, too! And with Larry!" she says, referring to the late Larry Hagman, who played Sue Ellen's evil spouse, J.R., on the series. "I mean, how can you *not* go?"

She's been there during both of its lives, in fact: The first on Cedar Springs, and the new one along Throckmorton. "I went to the new, remodeled Sue Ellen's — it's bigger!" she gushes.

For those who've followed Gray's career, her enthusiasm comes as no surprise. Since the new *Dallas* began airing two

years ago on TNT — it's now on its third season, which recently wrapped its third mid-season and will return in August for seven more episodes — Gray and her fellow cast members have frequently been in Texas, filming the series. And rather than hole up in her trailer or retreat to a fancy apartment, she's been visible out in the community.

"I love the community," she says. "I have friends that I met there in 1978 and [are still friends]. So when you know them, and you have those times off, Larry and I would go down there.

There are so many beautiful people in the Dallas community that are so generous — they really care. I become infused in the community because I love it. The people couldn't be nicer or more generous."

She's a fan of The Family Place, the Dallas Children's Theater, and just saw her first show at the Dallas Theater Center (she recently saw its production of *Fortress of Solitude* and "I was amazed by it. I'm a big architecture fan and that was my first time in the Wily"). Last year, she attended her first DIFFA gala, as well as the Burgers & Burgundy foodie fundraiser.

It's for all those reasons, and more, that Gray is being honored

Saturday at the USA Film Festival with a special sit-down chat and tribute. So what will it be like?

"I have no idea what I'm doing!" Gray laughs. So expect the unexpected.

Certainly many folks there will be expecting to hear about Sue Ellen, though ... and how she has developed her over 30-plus years.

"When people ask me about Sue Ellen, I say, 'Haven't we all [changed]? Have *you* changed in 20 years?' I didn't want the writers to write the old Sue Ellen — it's got to be different. But she shows us all that we are frail, all different, all individuals. That's the cool part of playing that character. It's what keeps Sue Ellen interesting."

But in the recent cliffhanger, she's started drinking again and was trapped in a burning Southfork. What accounts for such drama?

"I'll give you the phone number of our writers — you can call them," she jokes. "These sneaky little critters huddle up in their room in Los Angeles and [create all these scenarios]. I give them applause, though. They have so many people to pull into one 41-minute segment of time. They look at the whole picture of 15 shows and think, 'How are we gonna end this season?' We're

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LIFE+STYLE

screen

given a script maybe a week ahead [of filming], and we freak out! Then we call each other and say, 'Do you know that there's a ménage between us?' For us, it's quite interesting."

As for Sue Ellen's relapse, she's sanguine. "I thought I did that well in the '80s — kind of a been there, done that," Gray says. "But hang on — there're things that will happen that will answer your questions. You just have to wait 'til August!"

Gray became a Dallas booster by choice; Morgan Fairchild — who likewise will be feted by the USA Film Festival, on Friday — was born to it. The native cut her teeth on the boards of Theatre 3 and other area companies back as a child.

"I will always be grateful to [Theatre 3 co-founders] Jac Alder and Norma Young for seeing the potential in my sister, Cathryn and me, and for giving us such wonderful training and so many fabulous opportunities as very young girls," Fairchild says. "And we also owe a huge debt to Larry O'Dwyer, who passed away recently, who was a great mentor to us and a great inspiration as an actor. I stood in the

LADIES FIRST | Two TV stars who made Dallas famous, opposite: Linda Gray, for playing its booziest wife, Sue Ellen Ewing, on 'Dallas;' and Morgan Fairchild, a real-life native who started her career here and still credits the late gay actor Larry O'Dwyer as her greatest influence.


wings and watched Larry onstage every night in every play we ever did, just to learn from him. He was a master class in acting. I was once asked who I'd worked with that I thought were the best actors. I mentioned a few, but then said, 'I was fortunate to work with a two comic geniuses: Robin Williams and Larry O'Dwyer. And Larry O'Dwyer is every bit as great.'"

Fairchild probably has more stories than she can count about her training here, including working on the film shoot of *Bonnie & Clyde* (she was just 16!).

"Once, I attended a cast party for the movie and became rather depressed about the lifestyle I observed. [The next day I told O'Dwyer], and Larry gave me the best piece of advice I ever received. He said, 'You can always walk out on reality.' And that's what I've done my whole life, I just create my own, and that's how I've survived in show biz."

And survived she has. From her breakthrough on the nighttime soap *Flamingo Road* to full-on comedy, including playing Chandler's transgender father on *Friends*, Fairchild has

■ **DIVA**, Page 35




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QUEER CLIP: 'Finding Neighbors'

Sam's (Michael O'Keefe, right) career is in the toilet. Once an acclaimed graphic novelist, he's been gripped by writer's block that sees his wife becoming the breadwinner and his agent threatening legal action. He knows he's in a rut, but like most ruts, doesn't have a clue about how to extricate himself from it.

But when a gay couple — type-A Paul and twinkish househusband Jeff (Blake Bashoff, left) — move in next door, Sam finds a new project to occupy his time. Only why is he hanging out so much with Jeff?

Finding Neighbors is the kind of film festivals were designed for: Personal, quirky and hard to pigeonhole. Is it a comedy that eschews punchlines, a drama with a light touch, a dramedy, a slice-of-life or a ...? Well, it's exactly what Ron Judkins wants it to be.

Judkins — a two-time Oscar winner for his work as a sound designer on Spielberg films — goes anti-Spielberg with this feature, only his second as a writer-director (and first in 15 years). His exploration of an unconventional relationship rings true, with O'Keefe and Baskoff delicately navigating the waters of a new friendship with sensitive authenticity, and without becoming maudlin or trite. It's really a movie for the new millennium, one where two men — one gay, one straight — interact on a human level irrespective (but aware) of their differences. It wears its tolerance and bromantic nature not as a badge of honor, but as a color of the rainbow.

— A.W.J.

Screens at the USA Film Festival Saturday at 7 p.m. Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones will moderate the post-screening Q&A with Judkins, actress Catherine Dent and producer Jennifer Day Young.

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Happy Madison

Bravo's Madison Hildebrand brings his empowerment message — and killer smile — to Dallas

Since he started appearing on Bravo's *Million Dollar Listing* six seasons ago, Madison Hildebrand has become one of SoCal's most recognizable — and hottest — gay Realtors. Heck, we'd buy a condo from him even if it was in the Towering Inferno.

Hildebrand was scheduled to be in North Texas Friday hosting a seminar to empower people to reach their successes, but just as press time approached, the event was cancelled.

Nevertheless, we spent a few minutes asking Hildebrand about his career, the reality TV shows he likes and who inspires him. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Dallas Voice: What are the pros — and cons — of being a reality TV star? Hildebrand: I feel very blessed to have been with *Million Dollar Listing* since the show started six years ago. My business has grown exponentially over those years, and although a lot of that can be equated to hard work, drive and strategy, I cannot deny that the exposure from the show is a key factor in my success. Being on TV, people feel like they know me, and that comfort level with my skillset can translate into leads and clients when they are looking for a Realtor.

In regards to liabilities, it can feel like an invasion of my personal life. Being on a reality show, you feel a certain level of vulnerability all day, everyday. Even when the cameras stop rolling, people recognize and stop me wherever I go. It can be fun and comes in handy when I need to get a 'hard to get' reservation but not so great when you want to have a secret date!

Are there moments you recall from the show where you felt it was edited to give the wrong impression about you? Here's the thing: Yes, the producers can edit the show, but they can't invent content. If a person says something horrible or acts a certain way, they lived that. I think the show has done a very accurate job of capturing each of our personalities. That being said, after six seasons, there's been plenty of times that I cringe at mannerisms I use. Also, there are times when things happen you don't anticipate — like when Heather threw a drink on me — and you can't control or calculate your response. There's always that element of risk when filming a reality show.

What reality TV shows do you watch? There was a moment when I watched way too much reality TV. Being in the Bravo family for so many years, I've grown to know and become friends with many of the

other personalities on different shows, and so I felt inclined to watch everything on Bravo so I could see what was going on in their lives. I'm friends with Jeff and Jenni on *Flipping Out* — love their show. I'm also friends with Patti on *Millionaire Matchmaker* and even went on her show to be matched up! The final straw came when I found myself indulging in *Love and Hip Hop* on VH1. At that point, I got rid of my TV and knew it was time to get some new hobbies.

Which career do you prefer: Realtor, TV star or public speaker? I love having a diverse career and keeping things interesting. I also have a book, a candle line, am a brand ambassador for eSignature giant DocuSign ... and am always looking for the next project. While each of these areas is intertwined, I am really loving producing these seminars. It's been very rewarding to provide a platform to educate and inspire agents all across the country. At our last event in Houston, we had an agent stand up at the luncheon and confess that she had been on the brink of giving up on a career in real estate, and after attending the event, she felt inspired and energized to push through and build her business. Hearing that was the best part of the day.

Who inspires you? I'm surrounded by inspirations — my family, mainly. My father worked tirelessly and strategically to reach the pinnacle of his industry. Watching by example, he instilled a fierce work ethic in myself and my two brothers. And my grandparents, who are still wildly in love after so many years. I'm still searching for that, but know not to accept anything less. I try to also find inspiration in my surroundings, making a home with beautiful things that inspire me and also making time to be outdoors and in nature. I'm really blessed to live in one of the most gorgeous and inspiring places in the world.

Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com



Dear Howard,

My stupid, Jesus-freak boyfriend — a pet supplies' retail wizard by weekday and drag queen by weekend nights — always tells me there are just two types of people: the "true believers" and the "illusionists." Every time I ask him what he even means by this, he usually just adjusts his wig tighter and clucks, "It's a long road fraught with peril to slay Babylon." I mean, Howard, WTF? — Bryan

Dear Bryan,

OK, I'm gonna do this one short and not sweet at all: Your answer, Bryan, lies hidden in plain sight within only the second word of your very question to me . . . "stupid." In other words, stupid, you're not even remotely deserving of your "retail wizard/drag queen" boyfriend. After all, have you ever even *once* asked yourself just what kind of decent spouse refers to his own boyfriend as "stupid?;" or, to quote Revelation 14:8, "Ruined, ruined, Great Babylon ruined! She made all the nations drunk on the wine of her whoring."

Dear Howard,

What do you know, if anything, Sir, about gemstones and their healing properties? I have a question about moldovite: My main man just gave me an anniversary pendant made of this stuff. The stone is a weird green color, sort of like a bleached-out Heineken bottle, but all jaggedy and bumpy-looking, totally shapeless and not particularly pretty at all, but he *insists* it brings fantastic luck to "star children" like me. Is my man being sincere, or has he just given me a piece of old broken glass on a chain? — Sam I Am

Dear Sam,

Moldavite, eh? . . . Wow! FYI, the gemstone your man gave you, Sam, is correctly spelled "moldavite," as opposed to, "muldovite." I can tell you this much about moldavite, dear star child — your man isn't taking you for a fool: Moldavite is not only *extremely* rare, but it supposedly possesses *extraordinary* metaphysical properties: Firstly, it's *only* found in the Czech Republic, of all places (the term "moldavite" is derived from the Czech town of Moldauthein, from where the first described piece was discovered); secondly, moldavite is *only* formed by a meteorite impact; thirdly, moldavite is *so* rare, in fact, that in less than just 10 years from now, there will be virtually no appreciable amount of

gem-grade remaining in the ground. You are fortunate, indeed, Sam I Am, to have landed that Moldavite Man of yours.

Dear Howard,

I'm 100 percent bisexual. For real, man. I'm not talkin' 90 percent gay and 10 percent straight, either. Right down the middle, 50/50, I like guys and chicks in bed, equally. So, here's the deal: My boyfriend just canceled a weekend Vegas trip on me due to some work thing that came up; but, he said I could go ahead and use the nonrefundable tickets to Le Reve he'd originally booked for the two of us, and for me to take my girlfriend there, instead. The thing is, though, these are VIP, champagne-seating tickets. My girlfriend *knows* I can't afford VIP Vegas show tickets. She also does *not* know I have a boyfriend. Do I take the girlfriend and impress the hell out of her, but just be vague about the tickets being a gift, or had I better not run the risk of her asking too many questions and just say screw the free tickets altogether? — Jace

Dear Jace,

As you've undoubtedly discovered already, young Jace, girlfriends are *always* very expensive. Keep in mind, too, slick, that once you've taken the girlfriend on that first trip ever to Vegas, then whatever subsequent trip you squire her on must either match it in glamour, or, exceed it. In other words, you can't take the girlfriend to, oh, Le Reve at The Wynn, and impress her with VIP seats, champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries, and then not followup ever forward with *anything* less than that on each subsequent traveling excursion you take her on. Once you show 'em First Class, son, it's gotta *always* stay First Class.

Have a question (about etiquette, love, life or work) that needs answering? E-mail it to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it!

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Against the current

At 64, Diana Nyad did the impossible. Now what?

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

When Diana Nyad was the first contestant bumped from the latest season of *Dancing with the Stars* last month, it was a rare defeat for a woman who seems destined to achieve all her goal.

It's OK, though. She can wait. Maybe she'll come back five years from now and win the trophy outright.

Don't put anything past her. Nyad has the patience of a shaman. And the tenacity of a pit bull.

Or perhaps a better metaphor would be a shark. She is, after all, best know for her achievements in the water.

She shot to fame in the 1970s, setting a record in the Bay of Naples race, then the following year swimming around Manhattan — a stunning 28 miles. But she was just getting started.

In 1978, she made her first attempt to swim from Havana, Cuba, to Key West, Fla.; she failed. She also failed on her second attempt, 33 years later; and her third; and her fourth.

Then last year, at age 64, she did it: the first person (man or woman) to swim the 110 miles without aid of a shark cage. It took her 53 hours.

"Well, 52 hours and 52 minutes," she corrects me with a grin. "But I'll spot you the eight minutes."

It was a gargantuan achievement for someone with a history of

swimming against the tide. Her previous long-distance attempts resulted in severe jellyfish stings and all manner of exhaustion, but she persevered, just as she has in her personal life: as a rape survivor and openly lesbian athlete. Conquest is in her DNA.

"In all our undertaking with Mother Nature — all of our expeditions climbing mountains, etc. — you learn something whether you achieve your goals or not," she says during a recent visit to Dallas as the keynote speaker at the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center's Appetite for Advocacy luncheon. "I'm a better athlete today [than I was when I first attempted the swim]. I'm not as fast — I'm sluggish even just in a 100m swim — but in terms of energy, of recuperation, and the mind, which is far more powerful than the body, you have the capacity."

It certainly took determination few can fathom — at an age when most folks are settling into a lazy retirement — set a world record unheard of in human physical history. And after four failed attempts, three in just the last few years, it demonstrates not only prowess but character. Still, Nyad has no problem putting credit where credit is due.

"The technology is incredible now. There's always a new possibility — a new silicone mass, a new body gel, an answer to every issue," she says, standing the entire length of interview. ("I hate to

UPSTREAM COLOR | Lesbian long-distance swimmer Diana Nyad was in town last week at the Sheraton Dallas to tell her remarkable tale of endurance. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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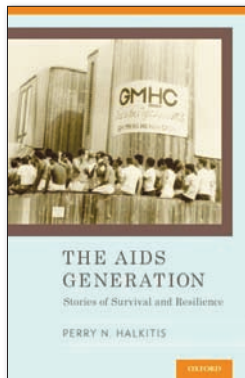


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Survivors

The greatest generation may be the one that endured the AIDS crisis

The AIDS Generation: Stories of Survival and Resilience by Perry N. Halkitis (Oxford University Press 2014) \$49.95; 249 pp.



The history of AIDS is vast and can't be told without the stories of the people lost to the disease and the ones they left behind.

Of the latter, Perry N. Halkitis says, "all the gay men of my generation, infected or not, are long-term survivors."

The AIDS Generation: Stories of Survival and Resilience, recounts many of those tales of survival. Those are the men who came of age in the 1980s when "the promise for sexual freedom and sexual expression existed." They are the men who, in the prime of their lives and when they should've been the picture of health, watched their friends and lovers die and who were told,

sit down — but you should feel free to," she tells me.)

The rules of the swim are almost as taxing as the swimming itself. "You have to do it in the summer — by October 1, it's just too cold," she says. "It's ironic because it's during hurricane season, so you have to slow down between storms, but I need the water to be 84 to 86° because you're in the water for 2½ days nonstop." During the swim, "you're not allowed to touch anything — not a person, not a surfboard."

Still, it's not constant motion. "You have to pee, to drink, to eat," she confides. "They can even give you injections — the doctor'll administer it through your suit. But he's not allowed to give me flotation aid. The rules say you have to go until there is no more sea-water! So when I was walking up on Key West, there was this entire cordon of people running on both sides saying, 'Don't touch her!' Can you imagine losing it there?"

Nyad continues to take on new challenges. *DWTS* was just the latest one, but an autobiography is expected next year (she has, however, stopped contributing to NPR, where her commentaries have been a mainstay for a quarter century). But even Nyad probably knows nothing will ever compare to what she did last September.

"The swim from Havana to Key West is our Mount Everest — the impossible goal," she says. "There's nothing else that can really stir my soul that way." ■

upon their own AIDS diagnosis, that they, too, would probably be dead within two years.

But of course, that wasn't necessarily true. This book — the culmination of a large-scale project on gay men who have lived with AIDS for decades — pulls together 15 survivors who were "still alive to tell their stories as middle-aged men."

Some of them don't remember when they learned of their diagnosis, while some remember the day clearly. Regardless, all exhibited "the pause," as Halkitis calls the stress reaction to remembering that time.

Some of the 15 knew, deep down, that they'd been infected; one said it would've been "a miracle ... not to be positive." For others, it came as a surprise. Some got sick, while others waited for illness that never really came. All are "resilient," says Halkitis, and are now surprised and amazed to experience the kind of normal health issues that men in middle-age endure.

"I've been at the worst of this virus," one of them told Halkitis, "and now I'm in the golden years of this virus. This virus has taken me halfway around the world, and I'm still here."

At first blush, *The AIDS Generation* may seem like it's more academic than not. That assessment is true; there is plenty for academics in this book, but casual readers will find something here, too. As one of the AIDS Generation himself, Halkitis knew which questions to ask of his subjects in order to get the memories and emotions he pulled from them. That questioning leads to a



Author Perry Halkitis.

fresh sense of heartache in the telling of tales, and a distant theme of horror that bubbles with anger and ends with a general awe for life and an appealing sense of triumph. Despite linguistic stumbles that might've been better off edited out, that makes them compellingly readable.

The audiences for this book include long-term survivors who count themselves among the warriors and younger men who need to learn. If you fall into either category, reading it will be a worthwhile experience.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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L+S auto

Wagons, ho!



2 German turbo diesels — the flashy BMW 328d and the sturdy VW Jetta TDI — offer competing insights into fuel efficiency and fun

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

In the early 1980s, after their Pontiac Phoenix disintegrated, my parents bought an Oldsmobile Cutlass diesel wagon — woodgrain, burnt orange paint and all. It rattled like a Peterbilt, stunk like a truckstop and was anything but sexy, but it sparked my affection for both wagons and diesels. I'm weird.

Race ahead 30 years, through a few trips to the gym, and you get something like the BMW 328d xDrive Sports Wagon.

It wears the same handsome face as other 3-Series models with the traditional twin-kidney grille and quad headlamps. It's only when you move around to the side that you realize the roof goes on like Shaq on his back. Riding 18-in. alloys, the car has a wide stance. Taut lines look athletic and sophisticated. Walk around the back, press a button and power up the hatch to toss in a bicycle, stroller or yourself and your partner.

Lift the hood to peer over the 2.0-liter turbo-diesel engine that delivers 180 horsepower, 280 lb.-ft. of torque and near-hybrid fuel economy ratings of 31/43-MPG city/hwy. Typical of diesels, tepid horsepower is accompanied by ground-stomping torque and smooth turbos. An 8-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters, all-wheel-drive and auto start/stop enhances fuel economy and all-weather performance.

Interior design is a balance of serious driving environment and upscale luxury. I love our test car's heated red leather seats, red-stitched leather-wrapped steering wheel and alloy dash trim. Big analog gauges, rain-sensing wipers,

and automatic climate control make the car easy to drive. (I could do without the optional red trim on the dash, which makes it look like a \$16,000 compact over-reaching — not exactly the right image.)

BMW's Driving Dynamics Control with Eco, Comfort, Sport and Sport+ modes modulate the throttle, steering, and suspension for vastly different personalities. Eco mode makes the throttle less sensitive to conserve fuel. Comfort balances handling with on-road relaxation. Sport mode tightens everything — the best choice for tearing up backroads.

In all weather, the xDrive AWD system never puts a wheel wrong. Wafting along at 80 mph was as easy as sneezing with that thundering torque under-butt. BMW could work a bit on the diesel rattle, but on the highway, the car was smooth and quiet. I could settle in with all of my

newborn daughter's gear, or a week's worth of camping gear, for a drive to the moon.

BMW's 3-Series has been the benchmark sport sedan for decades, an absolute delight to drive. Those wanting something

sexier went for the coupe or convertible. But, I think the Sports Wagon is the sexiest 3-Series of all. It looks suave with its 18-in. alloys and Sport Line package, but is also insanely practical. Press a button, flip up the hatch, and toss in all your stuff. Tap into all-wheel-drive and an efficient diesel for a car that loves to roam during all seasons.

A base price of \$42,950, and \$51,525 as tested, puts it against the Cadillac CTS, Audi Allroad and Volvo V60 wagons.

Volkswagen first introduced a diesel engine to

COMING AND GOING | The Jetta, top opposite, is a surprisingly fun mover, while the BMW, above, offers luxury both under the hood and inside its well-appointed interior, below opposite. (Photos courtesy BMW and Volkswagen)

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the U.S. with the 1977 Rabbit. Since then, more than a million diesel-powered VWs have been sold here. Slap the wheel of a 2014 Jetta TDI and you'll understand why.

Diesels were once rattling slug bombs that delivered outstanding fuel economy despite their misery. That's a long-ago memory now, replaced with deep torque and athletic highway cruising. Jetta TDI shares its 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbo-diesel engine — which delivers 140 horsepower and a ground-tapping 236 lb.-ft. of torque — with the Passat, Beetle, Golf and Tiguan. With the six-speed manual transmission, fuel economy is rated 30/42-MPG, which in my experience is completely understating reality. I've seen over 45-MPG on longer trips, clicking along at 80mph in the fast lane (perfect for hot-hoofing across wide expanses of Texas asphalt).

You'd be hard-pressed to tell that from looking at the Jetta's conservative suit. The sedan's taut lines are handsome, accentuated with VW's trademark grille, sculpted hood, chiseled sides, and 16-in. alloy wheels. A high trunk and lower front splitter look good and enhance aerodynamics. Like the larger Passat, the Jetta is not anything exciting from the outside, but it appears substantial and upscale. Hopefully the next generation will be more flamboyant.

It's mostly Nerdville inside as well. I'm not sure why diesel-powered German sedans always come with unadorned interiors, but I'm guessing it's to make sure they last as long as the engine. Our test car came with black leatherette seats, but at least they were heated, thickly bolstered and with lower lumbar adjustment. A leather-wrapped steering wheel, iPod audio input, satellite radio and auto up/down windows add panache, as do cruise control, trip computer and silver metallic trim on the dash and doors.

What makes VWs special is their but-

toned-down seriousness. The interior is basic, but comfortable and supportive on long drives. A wide dead pedal, roomy back seat, precise adjustment of climate controls and rear armrest that clicks into place instead of flopping down like a wet sardine tell you a horde of engineers were involved in making the Jetta something more than just another compact sedan.

If your friends make fun of you for buying a "boring" Jetta TDI, it's probably because they aren't driving one themselves. The combination of low-down torque, turbo at speed and the control of a six-speed manual create a fun drive. It is no BMW sport sedan, but the car feels precise, goes where you steer it and floats over rough pavement without shaking a creak. A very long drive would be both cheap and enjoyable.

If you like this TDI, wait until later this year when Volkswagen introduces a new diesel engine for the 2015 Golf, Beetle, Beetle Convertible, Passat and Jetta. Employing advanced technology, the engines will be cleaner, more fuel efficient and 10 horsepower more powerful. Sounds good to me.

Volkswagen has owned the affordable diesel market for a couple of decades, but diesel versions of the Chevy Cruze and Mazda3 will give it a challenge. Challenge, maybe, but they'll have to work hard to build a car as well-engineered, efficient and fun-to-drive as the Jetta TDI.

Stickers at \$16,895, but our test car came to \$24,015. ■

'14 JETTA TDI
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Something fishy in FW

Out 'barihunk' Lee Poulis makes FWO debut, ratcheting up the sex appeal of 'Pearl Fishers'

There's a cliché (we won't repeat it here) about the opera that, frankly, just isn't true anymore — at least not the way it used to be. Indeed, maybe we should rewrite it: The opera isn't over until the buff (often gay!) guy sings.

That's increasingly the case, as represented at Dallas Opera recently with *The Barber of Seville*'s dashing Nathan Gunn and Alek Sharder, and currently in Fort Worth Opera's production of Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*. Set in a Polynesian wonderland, it stars hunky tenor Sean Panikkar and delicious baritone Lee Poulis as island hotties who — purely for the sake of historical accuracy — spend most of the show shirtless. Hubba-hubba.

Poulis, who is openly gay, brings a hearty physicality to the role that has tongues both wagging and panting. (There are two more performances of *The Pearl Fishers* — an April 27 matinee and the May 2 finale.)

THE OPERA AIN'T OVER | Lee Poulis, center, goes pec-for-pec with Sean Panikkar, right, in FWO's 'The Pearl Fishers.' (Photo Karen Almond)



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"Lee brings a wonderful, natural masculinity to [the role of] Zurga that is equally sympathetic as it is threatening," says John de los Santos, the gay stage director of the production.

We got a few minutes to ask Poulis about being shirtless for several hours each night, as well as how he feels about being considered a "barihunk" (sexy baritone) and how he *finally* made it to Bass Hall. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: What brought you to the Fort Worth Opera for your debut? Poulis: I first sang for Darren Woods [FWO's general director] in 2003 while I was a member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at the Washington National Opera. Darren has followed my career since then and has actually been trying to get me here for a while. I've wanted to sing here for just as long. But a singer has to be available when the right role comes along. There were three years that I lived in Germany, which was great for singing in Europe but put a bit of a wrench into my being able to sing often in the U.S. I'm certainly happy to be back home.

Tell us about your role in *The Pearl Fishers*. I play Zurga, the chief of a pearl fishing village on the coast of Sri Lanka. My character experiences a wide spectrum of human emotions through the opera. First he's honored and proud to be chosen village leader, then he's overjoyed at his best friend's return after many years, then he leads a village spiritual ceremony of sorts, then later he sentences his best friend and the woman he loves to death for a terrible betrayal, then he regrets it deeply but cannot reverse the punishment, then he saves their lives by sacrificing his own, and finally he dies happy knowing they have escaped safely. You really can't beat that kind of drama. And I get to sing all of it!

What excites you about this show? The music is gorgeous, the dancing is powerful, the setting is magical, and the singing is virtuosic. Each of the roles allows the singer to really show what they've got. My role has a huge vocal range and goes a full step higher, to an A, than what a baritone would normally sing. There are also many powerful choruses and the orchestra is oozing with expression. This all adds up to being a fantastic opera, if you ask me.

Do you have a significant other? I do.

How do you juggle a relationship with the gypsy lifestyle of an opera singer? He's in tech, not opera, which is great! It's a juggling act that we have learned and now enjoy. There are so many ways to stay close these days even when you are apart. When I'm home, I'm usually not working, so we spend time together then. And when I'm away he visits when he can, which has thankfully always worked out. Right after our time apart we spend a lot of time together, which is always incredible!

Of course, the Barihunks.com website is a must for gay opera fans. You are on it: Does that make you proud or embarrassed you? I am on it, and I'm flattered to be included. Anything that makes opera just a little bit more exciting is a good thing. Physical appearance is part of every other type of entertainment, so I think opera can allow some of that, too.

You get to be shirtless a lot in the show — dream come true or just part of the job? How much do you work out to stay in shape for those scenes? It's fun and it's also part of the job. I can't say I'm in better shape now just because of *Pearl Fishers*. I like staying fit and always enjoy going to the gym.

Bastard.

■ **DIVA**, From Page 27

earned the right to live her own reality.

"I love doing comedy, and yes, it is much harder than drama," she says. "I had a great advantage when I got to Hollywood, in that they had very few ladies who looked like me and could do comedy. For a while, I was doing a lot of the comedies [*Happy Days*, *Mork and Mindy*, *Newhart*] and then I got *Flamingo Road*, where my character's reason for existence was to come between the two star-crossed lovers. I only had eight scenes in a two-hour movie pilot, but I ad-

libbed my way through them and made them funny ... and I made her a funny bitch. I did that with every series I ever had: took a one-dimensional bad guy and made her funny, so the audience was waiting to see what the hell she's going to say or do."

Of all her roles, though, she does have a favorite: The bitchy (surprise) fashion maven Racine on the short-lived series *Paper Dolls*.

"When Len Goldberg called and asked me to do her, I said, 'She has no storyline. All she does is talk on the phone.' It was a series about the fashion biz, and Racine was basically Eileen

Ford run amok. So Len said, 'I promise, if you'll do the show, I'll give you a storyline.' Finally I said OK, but when it came time to do these boring scenes where she's just barking orders on the phone, I just started ad-libbing these sarcastic things, figuring they'll cut around them. But they kept them! And when it came time to do the series, they began to write *to* my weird sense of humor. They had a writer on staff — Donald Roos — who got what I was doing and wrote to it, and we had so much fun! I hope they have some of those scenes in the reel clip at the festival!" ■


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

Food trends are the lifeblood, and the bane, of the dining scene. On the plus side, they offer diners (and food critics) the opportunity to compare honey-poached apples to honey-poached apples — a horizontal taste tests to see who's got the goods and who's just capitalizing. Innovation arises out of these trends, and sometimes they stick around ... for better or worse (Asian fusion and Southwestern cuisine on the better, crème brûlée on the worse).

A few years ago, it was gourmet hamburgers (still hot). Could gourmet frankfurters be far behind?

Apparently not. Samson on Oak Lawn set the bar for me last fall, combining fresh ingredients and a winning bun-to-brat ratio (plus a facility

with dessert that got my heart racing). But Hofmann Hots — the trendy, '50s-inspired diner across the Calatrava in the burgeoning Trinity Groves development — lacks such ineffable appeal.

It's not for want of trying. There's the Johnny Rockets-like décor (neon signage, vinyl booths, old-school rock 'n' roll playing on the loudspeakers) and elongated trailer shape that feels like you've walked onto the set of a *Happy Days* reunion. It's all meant to conjure an era where you'd sit with Peggy Sue over a malted, looking into her eye and pretending you were straight ... I mean, in love, updated for a savvy audience of today.

Superimposed over this laminated nostalgia is the concept of high-end hot dogs. But my visit — on a weekend evening, when things should have been buzzing like a sock-hop but were as stifling as the Day the Music Died — what was offered was underwhelming. As with most restos of this sort, you can choose from a set-list of items as well as your bun and the style of dog you can try. The counter staff seemed knowledgeable and friendly and willing to help out. Can't fault them.

On my visit, I got the German frank (rather than the kielbasa — Hofmann is a German name, and kielbasa is Polish, so I figured I'd go with their strength), which has the snap of a tightly pulled skin on each bite. I ordered it with the Himalayan dog, which listed only three additions on the printed menu (onion straws, curry

I GOT THE
Biggest Wiener!

aioli, onion chutney) yet arrived stacked higher than a Highland Park hairdo — nay, as teased out as a drag queen's on Halloween. The extras imparted a spiciness that was overall enjoyable, but the bun totally absorbed the dog, which, when I finally saw in the end, was colored the pallid pink of a grocery store wiener — not surprising, perhaps, because Hofmann has made mass-market franks for more than a century.

But where was the carbonized skin, the rich juiciness, the ... personality? There are the intentionally suggestive posters bragging that they have the biggest wieners. News flash: Bigger *doesn't* mean better when you're talking this kind of sausage. Bulk does not equate with deftness.

The menu includes shakes, but not malteds (who doesn't prefer a malt to a shake?!) and the tater tots are, well, tater tots, as you'd get at Sonic maybe. Ah, Sonic: Another retro diner that



TO THE DOGS | The Himalayan, above, is overwhelmed by its extras; the campy signage, inset, reiterates a brag we've all heard before. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

serves footlongs. And you don't have to get out of your car.

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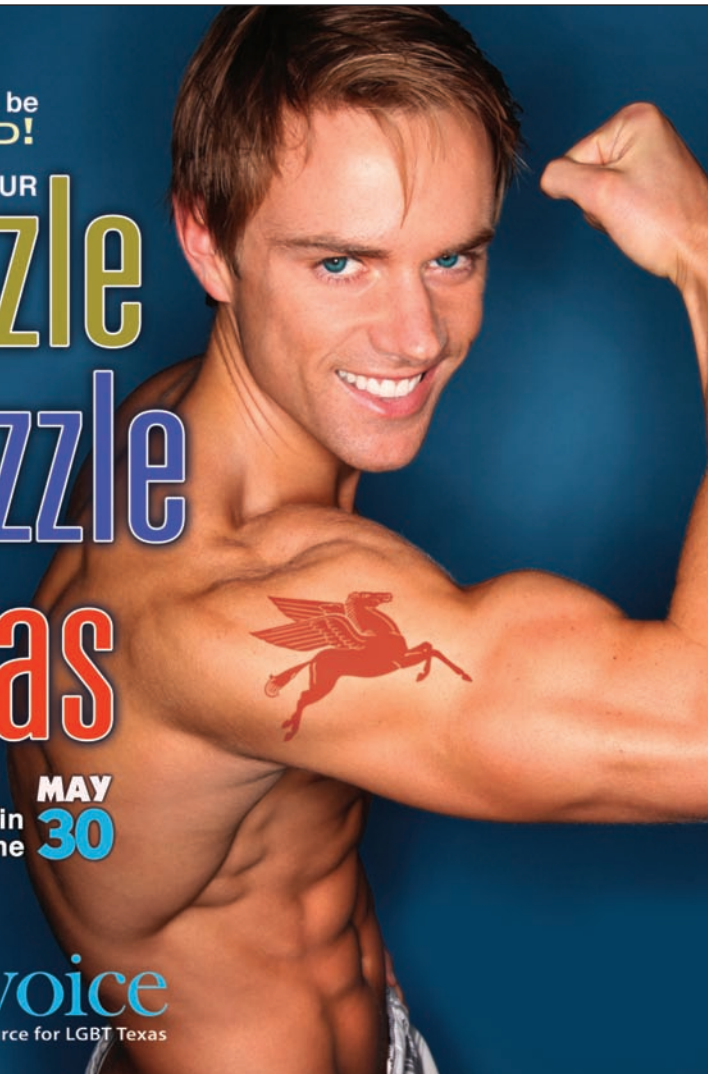
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Tasting notes

Stephan Pyles debuts new concept, San Salvaje; Lakewood goes mole

Just in time for Cinco de Mayo, **Lakewood Brewing Co.** is releasing its latest iteration of its signature Tempress imperial milk stout. The luscious dark beer will take on a chocolatey personality with the Mole Tempress, arriving April 28. Its infusion of chiles, spices and cocoa (from **Katherine Clapner's Dude, Sweet** chocolates) is part of the Seduction Series, and will be available on draft at select bars and restaurants around DFW that already carry Lakewood.

Clapner's former mentor, **Stephan Pyles**, is up to his own new plans. Next week, the out chef launches his latest concept, **San Salvaje by Stephan Pyles**, in the space that previously housed his Samar restaurant. Taking its cue from the flavors south of the border, San Salvaje is set to open next week. Combining Latin American ingredients and processes (notably Peruvian) with his own modern culinary sensibilities, it transforms and expands the Samar space with colorful accents both on the walls and on the plate. And there'll be a taco bar for those who can't resist. (We'll have a review, and an interview with the chef, in an upcoming edition.)

Pyles isn't the only celebchef with a new concept opening. **John Tesar (Spoon)** is set to open **Knife**, which replaces Central 214 inside the Hotel Palomar, later this month. In support of the new resto, the hotel is offering special packages for stays booked from May 1-July 31 that include luxury accommodations, meals at

Knife and some sweet swag (a cutting board signed by Tesar, spa credits at Exhale and more). Use the promo code KNIFE or PRIME when making an online reservation.

The T.J. Martell Foundation, the music industry's equivalent to fashions DIFFA or theater's Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (it raises money to cure leukemia, cancer and AIDS), will host its Best Cellars Dinner at Hotel ZaZa. Chefs **Dan Lasberg (Dragonfly)**, **Bradford Hodgkins (FT33)**, **Cody Sharp (Casa Rubia)** and **Lance Smith** (formerly of **Smoke**) will be in the kitchen. It begins at 6 p.m. with a champagne reception at the pool and dinner at 7 p.m. in the

Uptown Ballroom. For tickets, call 214-728-2918.

Cook Hall at the W Hotel will be hosting a beer dinner with Houston-based brews from **Saint Arnold** on April 25, starting at 7 p.m. — three courses, plus a starter and a dessert for just \$55. Call 214-397-4111. ■

— A.W.J

FIRST TASTE | The yellow fingerling potatoes at San Salvaje, below, tweak a Latin favorite; Lakewood's new mole Tempress, right.



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■ BERKUS, From Page 24

everything really does tell a story of who we are as people.

Do you think that being a gay man has anything to offer to your own work ethic and design aesthetic and inspiration? Whether being gay has to do with my creativity — not really. I think that that's one part of who I am, and it's always been a part of who I am and it's something that I've always been very proud of, but I know lots of creative heterosexual people as well. It's definitely one part of who I am, but I don't think that has really any influence over my professional work.

How often does Oprah call you for design advice? She does *not* call me for design advice. We do have

extremely long conversations about things that other people would find incredibly boring, like hinges and doorknobs. But Oprah really loves design. It's something she's always been really passionate about, which is why 12 years ago when I started with her on her show, we really both enjoyed being together doing the before-and-after segments because it's just something she's also really passionate about and interested in.

What inspired the latest Target line? Celestial design and how influenced we are by space and colors, which I've been working with for a long time — black, deep blues and clear acrylics, and those sorts of geodes and stones and metallics. It's something that's very modern right now, but I also think it mixes well with a lot of different styles.

I work with a great team of people who are based in Chicago on every new collection, and we talk about what's really happening in fashion and what's happening in design, but we also talk about what will make a home feel updated with one purchase. In the current collection, my favorite things probably are these brass table lamps. That to me is the perfect example. You put it on a side table in your living room, and all of a sudden the room takes on a completely different note.

Can you shop at Target without getting mobbed? Actually, yes! I usually go to Target when I'm coming back from Soul Cycle, or coming back from the gym after a really long day, and I buy a lot of my own things. I have a sample closet, obviously, but I keep that primarily so that I have reference of what I de-



signed before — and what my team and I are going to design going forward — so I try to not take the samples as often as I can, but I mean, I shop at Target constantly. I grew up in Minneapolis. I bought my Halloween costumes there and my school supplies, and it's a very funny moment for me to look up and see all of my collections that are sold at Target. It's fun. I mean, it's really fun! It's funny because I don't know anyone who doesn't shop at Target, and sometimes I can get by totally undetected even when I'm checking out and they're ringing up things that have my name and picture on them.

No way. It depends on whether I've showered. If I come from Soul Cycle, no one has a clue. They're like, "Do you want paper or plastic?"

Which room do you keep the hamburger pillow in? It's in the school trashcan. I don't even think I brought it home from elementary school!

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Your Home & Garden Guide



Nate's not the only out expert at fixer-uppers. In Great Spaces, our annual LGBT home and gardening supplement in this week's issue of Dallas Voice, we get advice from handyman Mitch Matlock about how to redo a kitchen, suggestions on sprucing up your space from remodeler Reilley Lawrence, suggestions for how to start a vegetable garden in your backyard from Brumley Gardens and more. Plus: Preview the Turtle Creek Association's annual Home Tour of the fanciest high-rises (and one house!).

— Arnold Wayne Jones

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Sunday 04.27



Jason and de Marco sing their praises at Cathedral of Hope

Jason and de Marco represent everything the far right should embrace: A stable, devoted young couple, who are raising a family and are devout Christians. Except they're gay. Oh, well. The iconic duo — who will be in town for a concert of gay-affirming churches — will perform a public concert at the Cathedral of Hope on Sunday night as part of their The Journey Spring Tour.

DEETS: Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. \$25. JasonAndDeMarcoTour.com

Friday 04.25



H4P&J marks Holocaust Remembrance Day with production of 'Bent'

As an observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Hope for Peace and Justice is presenting a three-performance production of *Bent*. The award-winning play, about the treatment of gays in a concentration camp under the Nazis, unites issues of the abusiveness of homosexuals — and shows the origin of the pink triangle as a symbol of gay persecution.

DEETS: Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. April 25–27 at 8 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. CathedralOfHope.com.

Friday 04.25

Out artist TJ Grffin opens new exhibit

We all put on masks we show to others, but TJ Griffin is someone who makes a living at showing his masks. At least, those are his current preoccupation. The out artist's latest collection of works, Called Animal Instinct, focuses on abstract graphic ideas, especially fantastical imagery and, of course, masks. The exhibition will be on display at Ro2Art Downtown's Akard Street gallery for a month, with an opening night reception Friday. Don't forget to wear a smile!

DEETS: Ro2Art Downtown, 110 Akard St. April 25–May 25. Artist's reception, 7–10 p.m. Ro2Art.com.



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THEATER

Beauty and the Beast. The animated feature with songs by Ashman and Menken, adapted for the stage. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

Bent. Martin Sherman's acclaimed play about gays in Nazi Germany. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. April 25–27. \$10. CathedralOfHope.org.

Evita. The thrilling Webber and Rice musical about a machiavellian politician and his wife, Eva Peron. *Final weekend.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Greater Tuna. The Texas comedy classic opens in Theatre Too. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Marianela. Mark-Brian Sonna adapts this play about an illiterate woman with a joy for singing. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre's Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net.

Nocturne. The second show of Second Thought Theatre's 10th anniversary season. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. STT.co.

Seminar. The recent Broadway hit about a college lecturer and his relationship with his students. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Through May 18 (in previews through April 27). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure. Dallas Theater Center presents this jaunty mystery with Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. April 25–May 25. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Spunk. A musical adaptation of the works of Harlem

Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through May 4. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Sweeney Todd. Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale team up for this concert version of the Stephen Sondheim musical. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. \$39–\$54. UptownPlayers.org.

OPERA

Fort Worth Opera Festival. The opera company's spring festival returns, with most performances at Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through May 11. FWOpera.org.

FILM

USA Film Festival. Celebration of film, including special tributes to Carol Kane, Morgan Fairchild, Linda Gray and others. Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Sunday. USAFilmFestival.com.

John Wayne Film Festival. The third annual celebration of The Duke. Look Cinemas, 5409 Belt Line Road. Through Sunday. JohnWayne.org.

FINE ARTS

TJ Griffin: Animal Instinct. The gay artist opens a new show concentrating on masks and patterns. at Ro2 Art Downtown, 110 N. Akard St. April 25–May 25. Artist's reception Friday, 7–10 p.m. Ro2Art.com.

SATURDAY 04.26

CONCERTS

Holly Near. The lesbian musician performs at the SWUUC 2014 conference. First Unitarian Church of



THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT | The Kids in the Hall, a sort of stonerish version of Monty Python that used cross dressing to great comic effect, reunite for a performance at the Majestic on Sunday.

Dallas, 4015 Normandy Road. 7:30 p.m. \$25.

FESTIVAL

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

Artscape. Juried fine art show at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 8525 Garland Road. April 26–27, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. \$15. DallasArboretum.org.

SUNDAY 04.27

CONCERTS

Jason & de Marco: The Journey Spring Tour. The gay couple, who have children together and sing Christian music, perform. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. JasonAndDeMarco.com.

THEATER

Venus in Fur. The hit production of the Tony Award-winning play, which played earlier this year at Fort Worth's Circle Theatre, moves to Addison with the same

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cast. Studio Theatre, Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. April 27–May 18. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Theatre, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. April 30–May 4. \$25. OurProductions.org.

COMEDY

The Kids In the Hall: Live As We're Gonna Be Tour. The Canadian comedy troupe, including out funnyman Scott Thompson, reunite. Majestic Theatre. 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. \$40–\$50. AXS.com.

THURSDAY 05.01

COMMUNITY
LifeWalk Kick-Off Party. LifeWalk rolls out the red carpet for this part silent auction and raffle. Park Place Volvo, 3515 Inwood Road. 6:30–9 p.m. RSVP to hannah.orsburn@aidsarms.org.

TUESDAY 04.29

BENEFIT
Golf Invitation Benefiting the Zazza Community Foundation. Local personality Tony Zazza hosts this inaugural event of food and golf at the Bear Creek Golf Club, 3500 Bear Creek Court. ZazzaCommunity.org.

WEDNESDAY 04.30

THEATER
Project Youth, a new musical by gay composer Adam Wright, his late partner Jeff Kinman and Stephanie Riggs, receives its main-stage debut. MCL Grand

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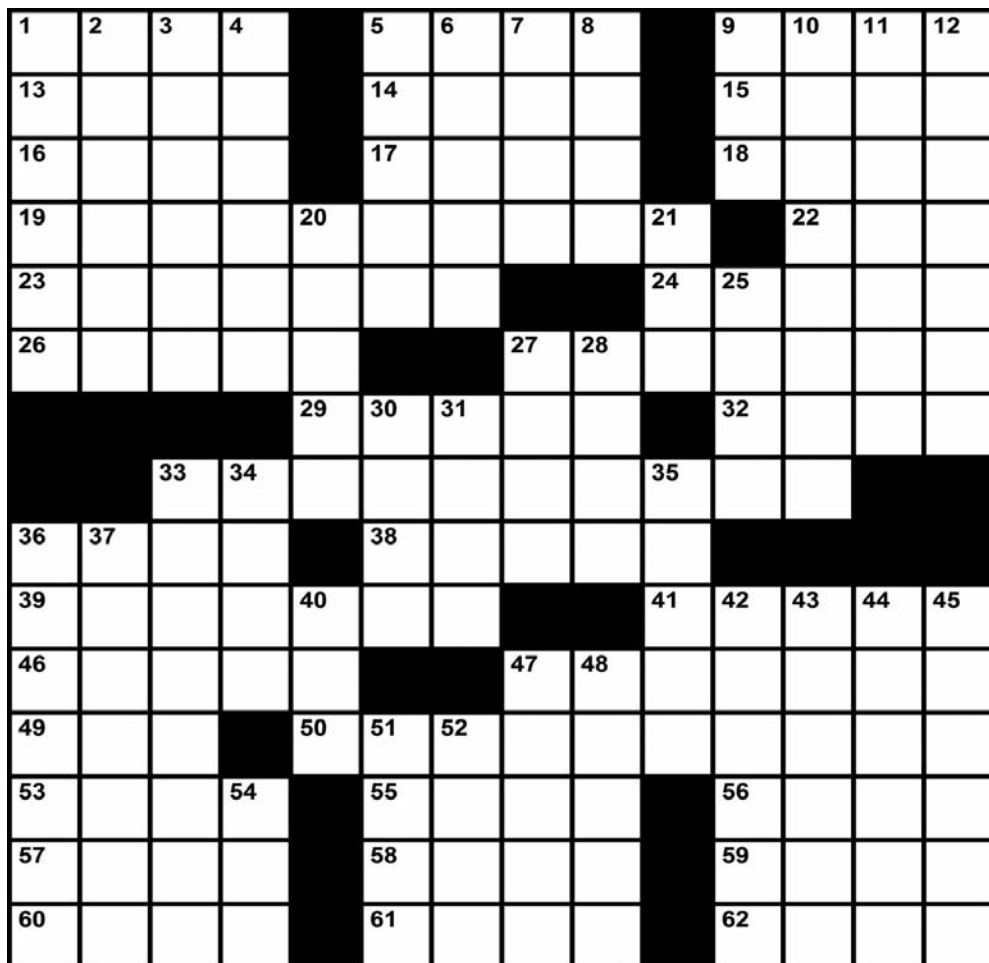
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Gay Morning America

Solution on page 41

Across

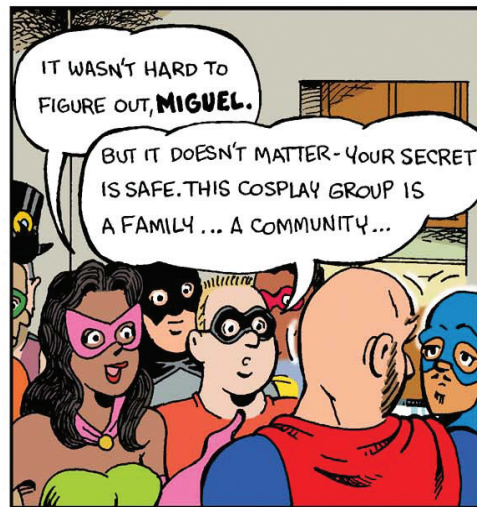
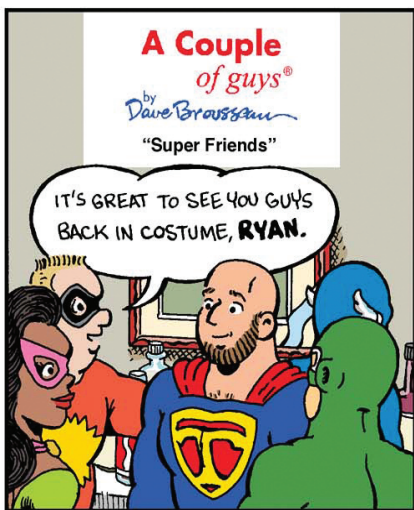
- 1 *Otello* villain
- 5 Italian wine city
- 9 *Sound of Music* escape route
- 13 Sling mud at
- 14 In those days
- 15 Neeson of *Kinsey*
- 16 Etcher's fluid
- 17 Vidal's *Rocking the* ____
- 18 Peru native
- 19 Type of transplant received by Robin Roberts
- 22 Lang. of Hedwig
- 23 Rupert of *Stage Beauty*
- 24 Ready for action, for guys
- 26 Rock-bottom
- 27 Toward the side
- 29 American Idol judge Paula
- 32 Open to the breeze
- 33 In 2012 Robin Roberts received this
Womens Basketball honor
- 36 TV listings
- 38 Place to become wife and wife
- 39 Canal concern?
- 41 Writer Saikaku

Down

- 46 Water threesome
- 47 Janitor's tool
- 49 Good da. in Lent
- 50 Partner of Robin Roberts
- 53 Sty cry
- 55 " ____ Hai"
- 56 Use a beeper
- 57 From the top
- 58 Cathedral of Hope collection
- 59 Stats from *A League of Their Own*
- 60 Sitcom with a cross-dressing corporal
- 61 Bed support piece
- 62 Prepares Easter eggs

Down

- 1 Novelist Miller
- 2 Room recess
- 3 20-shilling piece for Oscar Wilde
- 4 Info for waiters
- 5 Opportunity for Billy Bean
- 6 Martin of *Father of the Bride*
- 7 Shed item
- 8 Bernadette Peters' ____ *the Woods*
- 9 Will Smith title role
- 10 Drag queen's intimate wear
- 11 Robin Roberts drove this for the
2010 Indianapolis 500
- 12 With style
- 20 It may be picked up in a bar
- 21 Freshly painted
- 25 Get juice from a fruit
- 27 Judy's daughter Lorna
- 28 Italian sports car, briefly
- 30 Not so exciting
- 31 Distribute sparingly
- 33 Joan of Arc, and others
- 34 Second fruit eater
- 35 Plath poetry collection
- 36 Bubbles seen at the beach
- 37 Robin Roberts anchored a series of reports
on this hurricane
- 40 R. E. Lee's nation
- 42 In a mound
- 43 Queen bee's locale
- 44 Some Jamaican music
- 45 James, who shot off in *GunsMoke*
- 47 Aunt of Bart Simpson
- 48 Limp body part, allegedly
- 51 New corp. hires
- 52 Bouncer for Amelie Mauresmo
- 54 Meas. of electricity





A little teasing at TMC: The Mining Company.



Spreading his wings at Out of the Closet opening.



Mariel and Peety at Grapevine



Kiki and Alicia at Grapevine.



Tony Vedda at Out of the Closet opening.



Pretty Easter bonnet at the Rose Room.



Adam and Philip at Pooch Parade.



Friends at Sue Ellen's.



A little fun at Purple Party Happy Hour.

Making the **SCENE** the week of April 25–May 1:

1851 Club: Heather Knox at 10 p.m.

Alexandre's: Carlos Saenz on Friday at 10 p.m. **Bad Habits** on Saturday at 10 p.m. **Liz Mikel** on Wednesday at 9 p.m. **So Strung Out with Spencer West** on Thursday at 9 p.m.

BJ's NXS! Stevie's Big Top Circus, the sexiest show on earth with DJ Press Play on Saturday 4 p.m.–2 a.m.

Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association cookout at 4 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Dallas Eagle: Dallas Eagle 19th Anniversary Weekend. National Leather Association presents **Leather Perspectives** on Saturday 2–5 p.m. \$5. Members free. **Dirty Bird Awards** and **Dallas Eagle Anniversary Celebration** on Sunday, 2–4 p.m. Vote online at DallasEagle.com.

Eden Lounge: Bella and Darla perform on the rooftop. Sunday, 3–9 p.m.

Rainbow Lounge: Tuesday strip tease contest hosted by Kiana Lee.

Round-Up Saloon: PSSA presents **Switch Hitters** when the players switch to become entertainers. Sunday 6–9 p.m. Benefits PSSA teams' **Gay World Series** expenses.

Sue Ellen's: Mi Diva Loca on Friday. Kalico Jak opens for HEY GURL on Saturday. Tyla Taylor Band on Sunday. Little Chalupa karaoke on Monday and Thursday.

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



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Peter at Scarborough Renaissance Festival.



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One, two, three good looking men at Purple Party Happy Hour.



Fancy wagon at Pooch Parade.



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- St. Thomas Episcopal Church 6525 Inwood Road (Inwood at Mockingbird) Dallas, Texas 75209
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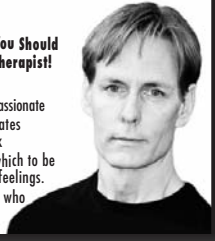
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