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VOICE30

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SPLISH SPLASH | Hundreds of Purple Party revelers turned out Saturday for one of the featured events, a pool party at SISU Uptown Resort. The three-day event raised money for various LGBT charities. For more photos, visit DallasVoice.com/category/photos. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

Don't worry, Dale — we think you're a hunk

As long as Dale Hansen brought up the subject, we'll say it. Dale, at Dallas Voice, we voted that you still got it. You are officially one red-hot piece of beefcake.

When Michael Sam came out in February, Hansen said the NFL was ready for a gay player. Apparently, he was the only sportscaster in the country who said anything like that because the commentary got noticed nationally and landed him on Ellen.

Once Sam was drafted, Hansen weighed in again. His commentary is below. Hansen said he can't believe there are 248 college players better than Sam. He also mentioned he's worked with lots of gay guys at Channel 8 over the years, and he's never gotten hit on by any of them. He wonders if it's just because gay men tend to be professional at work or if he's just not that attractive.

So, Dale, we want to assure you it's just how professional your colleagues have been. You are one hot hunk, and we love you. Why, we're even nominating you to be grand marshal of this year's Pride parade in September.

I bet when Hansen meets Sam, if Sam gives him a hug and thanks him for being the only sports reporter in the country to fully support him from the beginning, Hansen is just secure enough to take it as nothing more than

a sincere thank you.

And a note to Sam's new team: He's not going to hit on you. He already has a pretty great boyfriend.

— David Taffet

Stupid is as stupid does, or whatever

I usually ignore stupid. I ignore it when people tell me I could pass for white. I ignore it when I hear someone say Africa is a country (help us, sweet Jesus), and I didn't say a word when someone once said to me, "Don't put too much ice in the glass cause when it melts it will spill over." I swear she did.

So, I was tempted to ignore this email because it just reeks of stupid. A man named Weldon Cranfield sent it to our publisher, Leo Cusimano, who forwarded it to me. It seems Weldon's Christian sensibilities are reeling after the Rams drafted Michael Sam this weekend. Bless his heart. You'll have to read lil' ol' Weldon's email. It's a jewel:

"Dear Sir,

"The news today is Michael Sam became the first seventh round draft pick ever to get a call from the president of the United States and the president wasn't calling him to congratulate him for his football prowess. He is not that gifted as a football player! He was drafted because he is a homosexual?

"There are less than 2 percent of

Americans who are homosexual or lesbian people. Americans should not let 2 percent of the population change the definition of marriage that has been supported by every single culture and every single religion for 5,000 years. Not to mention the medical ramifications.

"While the Center for Disease Control reports that 78% of all new HIV infections are among males, primarily those who have had sex with other men, HIV/AIDS is taking a monstrous toll on the young man in particular. According to the CDC, more than a quarter of all new HIV infections in the United States are found in young males between the ages of 13–24, particularly in young males between 20–24, the category into which Sam falls. In fact, young man are the only age group in which the rate of HIV/AIDS infections is showing a significant increase.

"Despite the fact that blacks compromise just 12% of the population, blacks who are Sam's age represent an astonishing 57% of all new cases among young males.

"There are more new HIV infections among young black males (aged 13–24) than any other age or racial group period. Alarming, the estimated rate of new HIV infections for black males is eight times as high as that of white men.

"In other words, as a young, black, homosexual male, Michael Sam is in the single highest risk category for

HIV/AIDS that exist on the planet. Ole Roger Goodell and the NFL should be warning him, not glorifying him.

"Alas, the only people who truly care for Michael Sam are those who love him enough to tell him the truth about the health risks of homosexual behavior — and that sadly does not include the Roger Goodell or the NFL. They long ago sold their souls to the virulent, vitriolic bullies and bigots of big Gay. But it will be Michael Sam who pays the price for their soulless cowardice.

"Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said that "homosexuality for over 200 years has been criminal in every state."

"My wife and our family and the majority of Americans (87%) refuse to celebrate sexual abnormality. We find it offensive and morally objectionable and is in no way a right in the U.S. Constitution. Society does not benefit from perversion, but rather ends up in decline. Calling Homosexuality a sin is truth, not hatred or bigotry.

"You have no right to be immoral in a Christian nation where sodomy and homosexuality is against the law. Nobody believes that perversion is a human rights issue. It has never been morally unacceptable and we find it very offensive."

"Sincerely, Weldon"

You can email Weldon at weldon.cranfield@gmail.com. God love him.

— Steve Ramos



TAKE A RIDE

Experience PrideFest in Denver, June 21 and 22. Connect with friends new and old, enjoy live music and the parade. While you're here, rent a B-cycle and explore The Mile High City's many unique neighborhoods featuring chef-owned restaurants, boutique shopping, and outdoor adventures. And don't miss this summer's world-class exhibitions like *Chihuly* at Denver Botanic Gardens and *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Plan your pride getaway today at VISITDENVER.COM/LGBT



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localbriefs

Harvey Milk Day in Dallas

Hope 4 Peace and Justice celebrates Harvey Milk Day on May 22 at the Legacy of Love monument at 8 p.m.

Milk, who lived in Dallas before moving to San Francisco, will be remembered for encouraging all LGBT people to come out.

The evening features brief remarks from SMU student Sammi Partida and the Rev. Jim Mitulski, interim senior pastor of UCC Cathedral of Hope. Chris Chism performs a musical excerpt from Dear Harvey. Meg Hargis presents a spoken word performance.

A candlelight march for justice will begin down Cedar Springs led by out SMU students and members of the Resource Center Dallas Grey Pride.

Afterward, everyone is invited to a birthday celebration, complete with cake and ice cream, upstairs at Sue Ellen's.

Gray Pride program

Rafael McDonnell presents LGBT on TV from the 1960s To Today, Part II discussing how the LGBT community has been depicted on TV from the 1960s to today in both television news and entertainment programming. Part 1 was presented in January.

Gray Pride is Resource Center's program for

people 50 years and older. Educational and support services include health and wellness activities, enrichment classes, monthly meals and social networking, support groups and special events.

Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. May 16. 5-8 p.m. Free, but donations welcomed. Food and beverages served.

AIDS candlelight memorial in Austin

The 15th annual Austin/Central Texas AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service takes place on May 18 with the theme Let's Keep the Light on HIV.

All attendees will be given red ribbons and commemorative candles. The event includes speakers, remembrances, AIDS Quilts, music and prayers. Free literature and condoms are available and free HIV testing will be offered at 4th and Lavaca streets from 4-9:30 p.m.

This is the only International AIDS Candlelight Memorial taking place in Texas this year.

Its goal is to honor, support, and advocate for those who have been affected by the global HIV epidemic through mobilizing communities for a world where people do not die of AIDS and people living with HIV can live in health and with dignity.

Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe St., Austin. 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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pet of the week / BUNNY

Bunny is a spayed female brown and white Boxer mix. Her ears curl backwards which only adds to her "cuteness factor." She's a little over 1 year old and has been at the shelter since March 18. She comes with all her vaccinations and a microchip. Her adoption fee has been waived, and she's all ready for her new home. Please visit her at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Road, and ask for Bunny, A829026.

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



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Tarrant County marriage plaintiffs come out as straight

Austin federal court case stemmed from 2 friends who wanted to fight for marriage equality when no other couple had filed a suit in Texas

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Chris McNosky and Sven Stricker have decided to set the record straight, literally.

The two men sat down with Dallas Voice this week to discuss their sexual orientation, which is straight, and their decision to file a federal marriage lawsuit last year.

Their case is based on sex discrimination only, not sexual orientation discrimination. Many marriage cases have combined the discrimination arguments, and those couples have been public about their gay relationships. McNosky and Stricker have never publicly discussed what their relationship is, allowing people to assume they're gay. Their court filings never mention their sexual orientation, so they said they never lied, and, if asked in court, they would have been honest.

"We neither confirmed, denied nor discussed the merits of our individual leaning," Stricker said, adding that them being gay was implied.

McNosky explained why a straight man would file a same-sex marriage lawsuit. He said that early last year, he was listening to a lecture online by an attorney who sued a New York school district for not responding to the bullying of a gay student. She argued it was covered under sex discrimination because the teen student was gay but was effeminate, which led to the bullying. He recalled the attorney mentioning that the ideal plaintiff would have been an effeminate straight student. And he thought LGBT equality could be won with sex discrimination, and the idea of a lawsuit came to him.

"I thought this is the context in which the fight needs to happen," McNosky said. "Not by sexual orientation but by sex discrimination."

Along with marriage equality, McNosky and Sven said their goal is to equate any and all discrimination based on sexual orientation to sex discrimination. But it was months later, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking the federal Defense of Marriage Act, that he and Stricker filed their suit in July after trying to get a marriage license in Tarrant County.

At the time their case was filed in a federal court in Austin, it was the second one filed in the state, but the first by a couple.

Retired Galveston nuclear engineer Domenico Nuckols filed the first federal marriage equality lawsuit in early July, but withdrew the case a few weeks later because he didn't plan to get married.

Shannon Zahrn and Catherine Zahrn, joined by Alexius Augustine and Andrew Simpson, later filed a suit in the same Austin federal court. Later,



LEGAL ALLIES | Sven Stricker, left, and Chris McNosky, now open about being straight friends, said they filed the marriage lawsuit to help equality, back when no other couple in Texas had filed a suit. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

Austin couple Cleopatra DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman, joined by Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano, filed a case in a federal San Antonio court.

It was the DeLeon v. Perry case's request for a preliminary injunction to allow Phariss and Holmes to marry that resulted in the February ruling that the state's marriage amendment is unconstitutional. But the decision was issued with a stay pending appeal, preventing same-sex cou-

ples in the state from rushing to courthouses. If there hadn't been a stay, McNosky and Stricker said they planned to tie the knot, too. And they still plan to marry.

"If we win, Sven and I will definitely be getting married," McNosky said, but said their reasons for doing so are private. "Our reasons are our own. We're in this thing all the way."

The state appealed the decision to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and requested a stay in the

two Austin cases. McNosky and Stricker were the only party that disagreed with the stay and wanted their case to move forward since the San Antonio ruling wasn't a final ruling in the case. The judge has yet to rule on the stay in the Austin cases.

McNosky said they had support from several gay friends to file the case and for the most part

■ PLAINTIFFS, From Previous Page

their families backed their efforts.

Stricker's family knew the truth about the case and was supportive, and even his girlfriend was on board. About 20 of their friends knew the truth, too.

"They're actually hoping the case goes well," he said of his family.

McNosky's situation was a little different. He told many of his family members that he was gay, and others eventually found out. When his father found out about the case, McNosky told him the truth, but his father didn't believe him, having often wondered if he was gay because he rarely had a girlfriend. Finally, he said he just told his father he was gay to make things easier. He later wanted to come forward with the truth because he was tired of pretending to be gay.

McNosky's father, however, went on social media several months ago, writing that the two said they were straight to make names for themselves as want-to-be lawyers. McNosky got the comments removed but said his father still doesn't believe he's straight because he's anti-gay and doesn't believe that a straight person would file a marriage equality lawsuit.

As for making names for themselves, they both maintained their intent in filing the case wasn't to get into law school. They both have applied to law schools and explained the case on their applications. McNosky, 28, who lives in Colleyville and works for a shipping company, said the experience made him decide to attend law school this fall. But for Stricker, 26, who just finished his degree in economics at the University of Texas at Arlington, said he may continue studying economics while he waits to attend law school.

"That would be maybe a nice fringe benefit," McNosky said about the case bringing them fame. "But that's something that can be argued with any plaintiff doing this at all. ... We weren't trying to do this for self-centered motivations."



VOCAL SUPPORTER | Chris McNosky spoke to an anti-gay protester at Dallas Pride last year. After their short conversation, he said he'd convinced him that being gay isn't a choice. (Courtesy of Chris McNosky)

Stricker added that the case was a simple argument, and while the two initially looked for counsel, they ended up figuring it out themselves.

"We had some of the necessary skill set to take the case on or develop it while doing it, learn the ropes of doing stuff like this, which we are interested in, which is really cool and fight for something that, in different forms or fashions, we pretty much believe in, which is equal rights," Stricker said.

While seeking counsel, McNosky contacted Lambda Legal's Dallas office. At the end of the call, he completed a survey and answered that his orientation was heterosexual. When he was later told they couldn't take the case, sexual orientation wasn't mentioned. Earlier this week, though, the case was listed on Lambda Legal's website as being filed by "two heterosexual men."

Paul Castillo, staff attorney at Lambda's Dallas office, said he wasn't sure how that information was added online and had the "heterosexual" part removed. He said their sexual orientation in the case file wasn't "clear one way or the other."

As to them being heterosexual hurting the case, Castillo said the arguments for sex and sexual orientation are different, so it shouldn't make the judge dismiss the case.

"The claim of sex discrimination is not fundamentally anchored in their sexual orientation," he said. "It's just based on their sex alone. It doesn't automatically mean that claims of sex discrimination are dismissed."

McNosky and Stricker don't expect coming out as straight to hurt their case.

"It might inconvenience it at most," McNosky said.

Meanwhile, they'll wait for the judge's ruling on the stay. The Austin cases were expected to be heard together sometime in the summer. But they said no matter the outcome — if their case is dismissed or has a negative outcome — they'll appeal, seeing the case, and their mission, through to the end. ■

Houston council delays vote on equal-rights law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Houston leaders on Wednesday delayed a vote on a nondiscrimination measure that has become a flashpoint for protesters as supporters of the law seek to extend protections for gay and transgender people.

The city council was scheduled to vote on the ordinance but ultimately chose to postpone any action until May 28 so that the public can provide more input.

Mayor Annise Parker and other supporters want to ban discrimination based on sex, race, national origin, age, religion, disability and for an array of other categories, even obscure ones such as discrimination based on one's genetic composition. Federal law already bans discriminatory

practices in many of the categories.

Violators could be fined up to \$5,000.

The debate over restrooms is similar to the discussions around the city of San Antonio's nondiscrimination ordinance that passed last year. Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and El Paso have similar ordinances. Houston is the largest city in the country and the only major city in Texas without any nondiscrimination ordinance.

On Tuesday, various pastors along with several hundred people gathered outside Houston City Hall to protest the proposed ordinance. Until then, hearings on the ordinance had gone without the acrimony that marked passage of a similar ordinance in San Antonio last year.

Those who protested the ordinance said the measure would infringe on their religious liberties to speak out against what they called the gay,

lesbian and transgender lifestyle.

Supporters of the ordinance, including Parker, who is openly gay, said the measure is about offering protections at the local level against all forms of discrimination.

The proposal would consolidate city bans on discrimination based on sex, race, age and religion, and increase protections for gay and transgender residents.

But the debate has focused largely on provisions regarding rights for gay and transgender citizens.

Parker proposed a nondiscrimination ordinance and a Human Rights Commission in her state of the city address in April. Her ordinance was in committee by the end of the month and first heard by the council on May 6. It has widespread support among councilmembers.

"Within the next two weeks I think we will come to some conclusion where this city will heal this divisiveness," Councilman Dwight Boykins said.

Although councilors did not vote on the package Wednesday, they did act on various amendments to the ordinance.

For instance, councilors chose to apply the ordinance to private companies with at least 25 workers, rather than the initial 50. After two years companies with at least 15 workers must comply with nondiscrimination provisions.

Officials also took steps to ensure the ordinance does not interfere with senior or veteran discounts, nor with municipal contracts that benefit small businesses owned by minorities.

Religious institutions would be exempt from the law. ■

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The evolving Voice of our community

A letter from the publisher of Dallas Voice

Between 1984 and today, the way we communicate has advanced in ways we could barely have imagined just a few decades ago. Technology has evolved from rotary phones to smartphones, and savvy media companies have quickly adapted to harness the potential that grows each time a social media platform or app is developed. It's an exciting time to be in media, and Dallas Voice knows it.

Our 30-year history is one of evolution, and we know our readers get their news from multiple sources. Today, our offerings to LGBT Texans include print, online, mobile, eblasts, a directory and social media. Our growth is nurtured by the relationships we build with the community and our communication with its members. By developing strategies that use that new technology, we invest in our future.

The LGBT press has played a major role in the community's growth for 30 years, and Dallas Voice, through its coverage, has created change. When Robert Moore and Don Ritz launched the publication in 1984, they had no idea how important and powerful LGBT media would become. They focused on creating a newspaper that spoke for the community, and through the years the community has used Dallas Voice as a switchboard to communicate its messages. Our founders' focus has become our passion.

In addition to providing a voice for our community, we are very proud of the role Dallas Voice has played in increasing LGBT visibility and in driving changes for equality. Our reporting contributed to Omni Hotels decision to offer domestic partner benefits to employees at the Dallas Convention Center Hotel. We also were instrumental in helping DART and Dallas County amend their nondiscrimination policies to include transgender employees. As a result of our coverage, the Dallas Morning News agreed to begin publishing same-sex marriage announcements, and DISD approved an LGBT inclusive anti-bullying policy. Dallas Voice has played a decisive role in building LGBT organizations, strengthening our community and in fostering political mobilization.

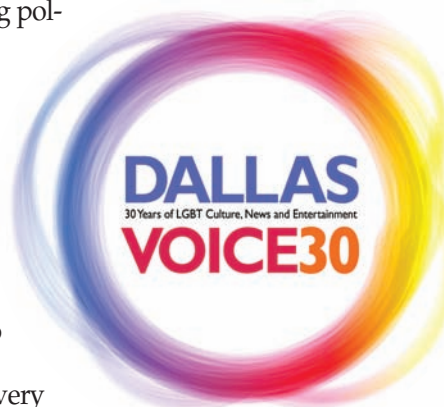
As we turn the page on our 30th anniversary, we're reflecting on what we've accomplished and on our vision for the future. With gratitude as a core value, we continue to honor the people who make Dallas Voice successful. To our readers and advertisers, we say thank you. Whether you pick up the paper every week or visit us online, we depend on your active engagement and loyalty. We thank our advertisers for giving us the resources to deliver in-depth, comprehensive coverage of the stories that matter most to our readers. I'm also thankful for our dedicated staff for living our mission to deliver relevant news with a passion. I am so proud of the work each member of our team delivers every day, every week from daily blogging to delivery on the street.

The next chapter for Dallas Voice includes exciting changes in our print format. Our vision is to evolve from a newspaper to a news magazine and eventually to a magazine. We're also energizing our website with the addition of CommunityTEA, a blog where readers will be able to write and join in the discussion of community topics.

We're tapping into the power of social media, and we're excited about the packaging of those platforms with our print and online products. It's an exciting time to be a member of the LGBT community, and it's an exciting time to be a member of the LGBT press.

Throughout our 30-year evolution, we've remained true at Dallas Voice to our passion of being a media source that speaks for the LGBT community. We don't know what the next 30 years will bring, but you can bet we'll be there every minute of it to tell you about it — just as we always have.

Leo Cusimano
Dallas Voice
Publisher and Co-Owner



Young and in charge

These newsmakers, leaders, artists advocates are making a difference — and all by age 30

Dallas Voice has accomplished a lot in just 30 years, but we are by no means the only ones. Dallas' LGBT community is full of folks from all walks of life who, in less than three decades, have already forced us to take notice of their work. Some are business leaders; some are activists for gay issues; some are advocates and caregivers in the service of gay people; some are involved in the arts, or the culture, of Dallas in ways that resonate throughout the community; some are involved in the spiritual health of North Texas; and some do more than just one of these. To these folks — we've selected 22 — we tip our hat.

You can read bios of 11 of them here, and all 22 will be available online at DallasVoice.com. ■

Photography by Terry Thompson, Arnold Wayne Jones and Steve Ramos.



Slow and steady has won the race for **Walter Lee Cunningham, 29**. A talented singer, he competed in the Voice of Pride competition several times, winning it all last year. But even if you missed him there, you may have seen him on other stages, from the Dallas Theater Center where he stood out in *Cabaret*, to the Kalita Humphreys Theater as Miss Texas in Uptown Players' recent production *Pageant*. And you might even know him under another name: His drag persona Jada Foxx, where he's a staple hosting karaoke.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Carolina Azevedo, 29, is an organizer of the popular lesbian and women-focused mixer, Chick Happy Hour. And last year she launched her own fertility consulting firm with an LGBT focus after her experience donating her own eggs to a gay couple. Her company, Family Fertility Solutions, even encompasses a separate program for gay men, Two Dads and a Baby. The firm handles everything couples need from researching options to legal paperwork and travel plans.

— Anna Waugh

Eric Russell, 24, is breaking ground in the research world. A grad student at UTA, Russell has already published a study on why gay men and straight women make such good besties. It was the first study on the close gay-straight bond, and he plans to continue that research and expand it. He's now using his research to help pair up gay men and straight women for friendship for the recently launched MatchingPetals.com site.

— Anna Waugh



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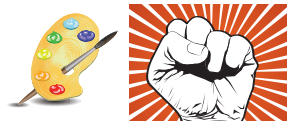
Tre LeVoux, 25, graduates from Wade College next week, but well before he got a diploma in his hand, he was already making waves in fashion, designing couture clothing for women and club clothes for guy (he had a line at Union Jack, before it closed). He's also one of the designers paired with a Dallas socialite and mentor for Little Black Dress Designer Fashion Show and has begun filling orders for next season. If *Project Runway* has taught us anything, it's that great designers can come from anywhere. And with LeVoux's work as an indicator, we know it for ourselves.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Maddox Price, 28, is a soon-to-be photojournalist. He works as an editor at the Brookhaven Courier and plans to transfer to SMU within the next year to major in journalism with a possible minor in gender studies. He takes photos for the drag king troupe Mustache Envy and Panty Raid, a queer variety show. Price came out as genderqueer last year in a Dallas Voice cover story. He now also identifies as transgender and had top surgery in March funded through the 70X100 project, which is commonly used to raise money for top surgeries.

— Anna Waugh



Shelbie Rosenblum, 21, has been busy at TCU. In the past year, she worked as president of the campus GSA to fight for more safety for LGBTQ students in the event of hate crimes. She's also spearheaded an LGBTQ prom for students and alumni after hearing about a prom at the university in the '90s. A social work major, she hopes to work for GLAAD for Trevor Project after college to combine her love of social work with LGBT issues.

— Anna Waugh



Justin Nichols, 29, is a San Antonio lawyer who's paved the way in politics and law. He was the first openly gay person to run for public office in Collin County when he ran for Plano City Council in 2008. He's paving the way for San Antonio law by representing a trans man who filed the first complaint under the city's recent nondiscrimination ordinance.

— Anna Waugh

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Jordan Edmondson, MA, LPC
Chris Cognetta, MS, LPC-Intern
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Alex Sanchez, 24, is the volunteer coordinator and development associate for AIDS Services of Dallas. Sanchez was working as a barback at JR.'s Bar & Grill, where Don Maison, the CEO of ASD, occasionally stopped in after work. Seeing what a hard worker Sanchez was, Maison offered him a position with the organization. Maison said he's delighted with all of the new, young volunteers and creative ideas Sanchez has brought to the Oak Cliff AIDS housing agency since he started working there in February.

— David Taffet

Tempest Redding, 29, has been spotted behind the scenes at local Human Rights Campaign events for years. She's the community events and planning co-chair for the HRC DFW chapter, which plans several events including Her HRC, the Fruit Bowl and Pride events. A doula and a nanny, she's also served as co-chair of HRC's Family Project Committee and continues to work with that group.


— Anna Waugh




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Few folks in Dallas sing as angelically as **Angel Velasco**, 25. His voice had gotten him noticed since he was a teenager, performing in everything from *Altar Boyz* to *Rent* to recurring stints in Uptown Players' *Broadway Our Way*. But he's about to get noticed a lot more. Velasco was diagnosed in January with HIV, and while the news initially sent him into a tailspin of self-recrimination, he quickly recovered and doubled-down on his activism. He'll be part of a national media campaign for Greater Than AIDS, and will perform at Bloomin' Ball later this month.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Travis Gasper, 28, is using his passion in advocacy to propel him into civil rights law. Having considered law school before, he said his time as an Equality Texas board member, AIDS Interfaith Network employee, as well as helping start Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats, inspired him to pursue a future in civil rights litigation. Now finished with his first year at Texas A&M law school, he'll head to Chicago this summer to intern with Lambda Legal and work on its HIV Project.

— Anna Waugh



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Young and in charge

Read full bios of these youthful luminaries exclusively online at DallasVoice.com.



Daniel Moran, 21. College student and Texas House candidate.



Steven D. Hill, 29. Photographer, makeup artist, and kids' toy drive organizer.



Carina Terry, 15. High school student and anti-bullying advocate.




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Kristopher Sharp, 24. Collegiate LGBT leader and political activist.



James Lee, 23. Political operative and gay rights advocate.





Valerie Jackson, 28.
Proud trans woman and
host of Gaybingo.



**Ahrys Zhen
Prince, 28.** Teacher
and hero of HIV-
positive people.



Jonathan Lipton, 21.
Political powerhouse
and advocate for reli-
gious inclusiveness.



Isaiah Smith, 18.
High school student
and campaigner for
nondiscrimination.



Khalil Abuhussein, 28,
left. Fought for the right
to stay in the country
with his husband Alex
Diaz, right.



Kat Ralph, 25.
Youth advocate and
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'The most marvelous romance'

Bill placed an ad in the Dallas Voice personals 19 years ago, seeking companionship, and Jim answered it; the rest is history

ANNA WAUGH
News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

When Bill Stoner placed a personal ad in the Dallas Voice in 1995, he wasn't looking for love. Instead, he sought companionship, someone to go to the symphony with. Having lost his partner four years earlier, he decided it was time to be more social and start enjoying life again.

"My first partner was very out there, very charming and outgoing and enjoying life, and I just thought it's time that I get back to doing that myself," Stoner said. "And I thought *ta-da!* The Voice!"

Not into the bar scene because of the cigarette smoke, Stoner said he turned to the Voice that summer, placing a personal ad seeking friend-

ship. For about 10 years in the late '80s and '90s, personal ads ran in the paper. People took out the ads, detailing what kind of relationship they were looking for, and if someone wanted to respond, he'd call the number dedicated to the personal ads, key in a mailbox number for the ad and leave a message.

Jim Lovell responded to Stoner's ad because it mentioned interests like concerts and the arts and wasn't explicit about being romantic or physical. Lovell, too, was interested only in friendship after losing his partner earlier that year. He kept himself busy during the school year as a teacher, but when summer came, he

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER | Jim Lovell, left, and Bill Stoner pictured a year after they met via Dallas Voice personals in 1995, right; opposite, a photo from their wedding in Iowa. (Courtesy Jim Lovell)



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was lonely.

"I'd lost a lot of friends, so I discovered I had a lot of time by myself," he said. "I certainly wasn't ready for a relationship. I wanted to build friends."

Lovell was one of a few responses Stoner received to the ad, but the only one he responded to. He said it excited him that they both had music in common, with Lovell being a music teacher and Stoner being a musician. And they'd both lost partners, which helped Lovell, who was still mourning his.

"Since I was just fresh from losing my partner just a few months ago and Bill had lost his four years ahead of me, he was able to help me deal with it and the issues with that," Lovell said. "I think at that time I was going through the anger stages. It was a good find."

They soon discovered that Stoner, then 51, and Lovell, then 38, had each lost their partners when they were the other's age. It seemed like more than coincidence to them.

"It was just beyond coincidence we always thought," Stoner said. "We think somebody else had a hand in this besides us two and the Voice."

Lovell started traveling during summer break, which delayed their meeting. But the two spent countless hours on the phone getting to know each other, a rarity since they both hate chatting on the phone.

"For hours on end, which neither of us had ever done before nor after," Stoner explained.

Stoner started falling for Lovell during those phone conversations, but he knew he wasn't ready to move on in a romantic way, so he waited. When they arranged to meet for dinner at Stoner's place, he watched him from the window, thinking he was almost too good-looking.

"I knew where we was coming from, as cautious, cau-

tious," Stoner said. "But I was thinking, damn, damn, damn, this guy sounds amazing."

For Lovell, his heart became attached in the fall when he invited Stoner on a vacation to Hawaii for his fall break. What followed was a whirlwind romance.

"It was just the most marvelous romance that I don't think either of us had before," Stoner recalled. "We thought we served a purpose with our first partners and now we're each other's rewards."

The couple settled down in Plano and raised four cats. In 2010, they married in Iowa to get their legal affairs in order before retiring and moving to the small town of Tourves in southern France two and a half year ago.

Although removed from the many Paris protests for marriage equality in France before its legalization last year, the couple said they were thrilled the country recognized their marriage.

Much to their surprise, Tourves is a conservative town and the "hotbed for the far right," a fact they discovered after relocating. For a while, the townspeople would whistle as they walked by, which Stoner explained is a way to taunt gays since they believe they have lisps and can't whistle. But he'd often whistle back, and the taunting ceased.

Now the town is used to them, and they've made friends.

"We're here to stay," Stoner said.

And after 19 years together, the fact that a simple personal ad brought them together still amazes them.

"I wasn't really looking for anybody in the first place. I was just wanting to go concerts with people," Lovell said. "I never would have thought after answering that ad we'd be together after all this time." ■

THANK YOU FOR 30 YEARS OF
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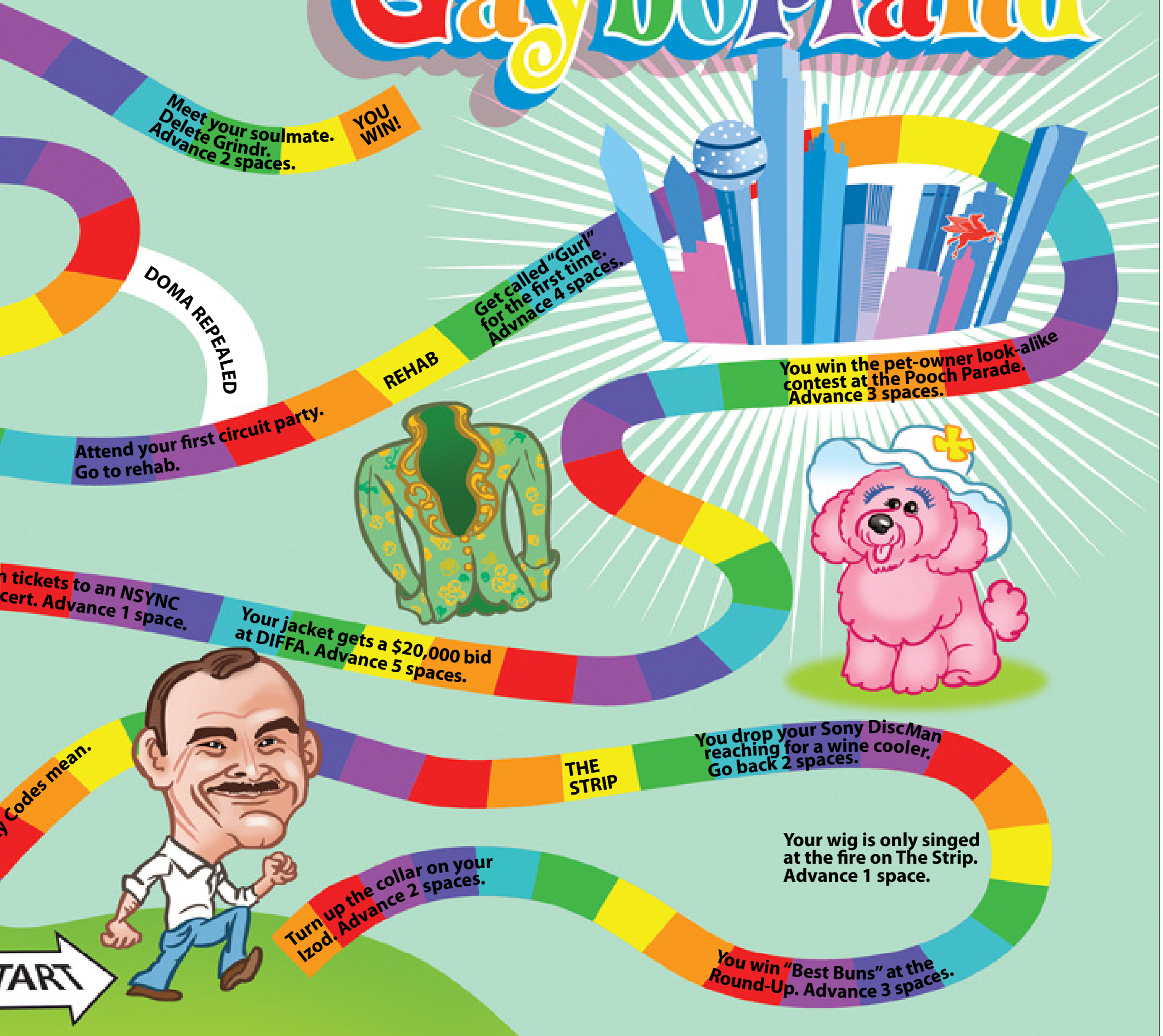
Life is just a game, it's said. So what better way to prove what a fun game it is than with Candyland... er, Gayborland, our wholly original board game that walks us through the fun, upheaval and fabulous cultural achievements we've seen over the last three decades. Start at the bottom (along with Dallas Voice founder Robert Moore), grab some dice and see how far you make it — and think about how far there still is to go!

— Arnold Wayne Jones and Steve Ramos

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
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concert. Advance 1 space.

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THE STRIP

You drop your Sony DiscMan
reaching for a wine cooler.
Go back 2 spaces.

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Izod. Advance 2 spaces.

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The Over 30 Club

Dallas Voice isn't the only organization that's been around 3 decades

The Over 30 Club doesn't have a clubhouse. You can't join just because you were born more than 30 years ago, though it does have membership requirements. And while you don't pay into its treasury, every member has paid well more than its share of dues.

Here at Dallas Voice, we're proud of our longevity, which we're commemorating throughout this issue. But we are the first to admit: We aren't the oldest business, group or organization in Dallas to be out front for gay rights, life and culture. Many preceded us (or came about at the same time), and those founders, owners, service providers and companies did a lot in shaping the look and tone of gay Dallas. We couldn't have gotten there without them, and many more that aren't around anymore.

Not surprisingly, many of the businesses are centered around the Oak Lawn/Cedar Springs area, which was the center of gay life for many years and one of the few places in the early days gay folks could feel safe to be out and proud.

To honor those achievements, we highlight nine other members of The Over 30 Club in the following pages (and we note at the bottom of many other institutions that have been around as long, or longer, than us that we didn't have space to write up. We hope we didn't miss any.) To all of them, we offer a hearty congratulations and an even more heartfelt "Thank you."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Members of the Club

Health: Brady Allen, M.D. / Page 29

Social: Club Dallas / Page 30

Dining: The Black-eyed Pea / Page 32

Spirituality: Congregation Beth El Binah / Page 34

Nightlife: Caven Enterprises / Page 36

Sports: Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association / Page 38

Activism: Dallas Gay & Lesbian Alliance / Page 40

Retail: TapeLenders / Page 42

Service: Texas Gay Rodeo Association / Page 43

THE OVER 30 CLUB

Brady Allen, M.D.

Dr. Brady Allen has spent 33 years treating HIV patients and researching the virus.

When he first started practicing medicine, there was no such thing as an "HIV doctor." But after his residency, Allen returned to Dallas, in 1981, to work as an internist. He later branched out to start his own practice and first treated HIV patients in late 1983. With the disease just coming onto the scene, Allen says he got thrown into the specialty as an internist and as an openly gay man.



"A lot of sick gay men were around, and being an internist in a big city I just started seeing HIV break onto the scene," he says.

So Allen did what any good doctor would do when faced with a deadly new disease: he researched, talked to the community about prevention as news developed and he helped his patients with pain as they awaited death. He's now an HIV expert who's first-hand experience had led to several research articles on HIV-related infections and even a book chapter.

"I was in the right place at the right time and sort of became an HIV expert by learning and by doing," Allen says. "Initially my role was to be a leader in the community and an educator."

But with the early stages of HIV/AIDS came the witness of the beginning of the control of the disease in 1995 when triple combination therapy became available, and people started getting better and living.

"From 1982 to 1995 was a period of despair and lot of horrible death and dying so I became very skilled at pain control and helping patients die with dignity," Allen recalls.

Allen has served on the boards of various HIV/AIDS organizations, many of which have given him awards, including the Crystal Hope Award from AIDS Interfaith Network, the Aetna Award from DIFFA, the Volunteer of the Year award from the AIDS Arms Network, and a joint Lifetime Achievement Award from all the AIDS agencies in Dallas in 2007 to mark his 25 years in the field.

Even with all of his accomplishments, Allen, now 61 and working at Uptown Physicians, which he founded, plans to work for many more years, at least five before he considers retiring. After all he's seen in HIV care and treatment, it'd be hard to walk away from his life's work.

"My whole career has been HIV related and I've seen dramatic turnaround from complete death and dying to a chronic manageable illness," he says.

— Anna Waugh

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1971

THE DALLAS TAVERN GUILD
1977

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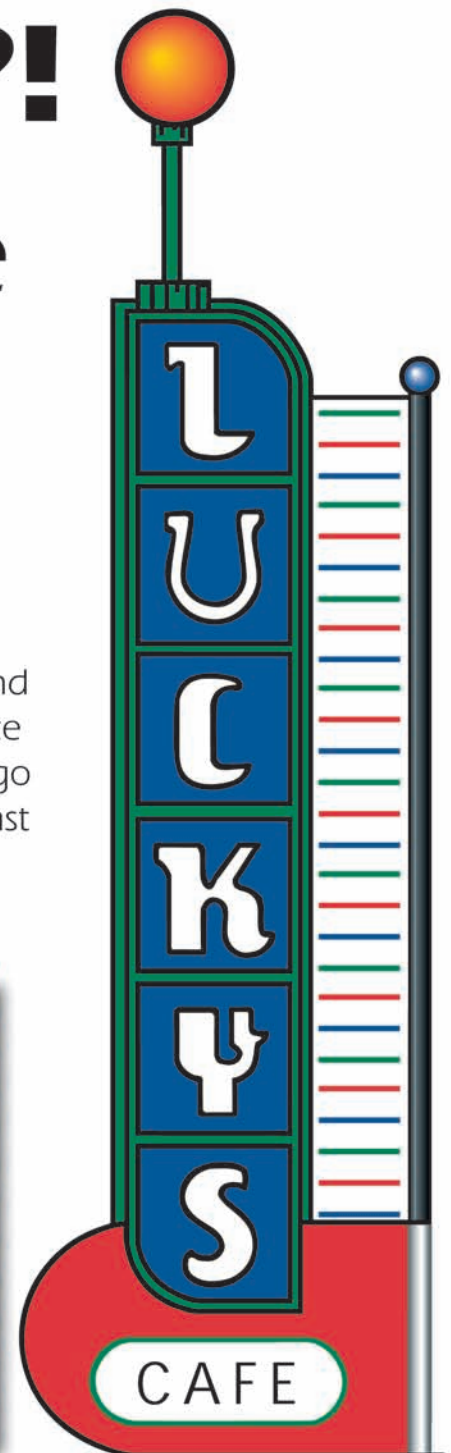
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THE OVER 30 CLUB Club Dallas

Josh Smith was late to arrive in Dallas, but when he did so, he had a purpose. Smith, who hails from Columbus, Ohio, had been working in the corporate world when, frustrated, he accepted a job with The Clubs, a Los Angeles-based company that owns and/or manages gay bathhouses across

the U.S. The opportunity seemed right, so he joined up with Club Columbus.

Soon after, his boyfriend, who was in the military, was transferred to Fort Sill, Okla. Wanting to be closer, he accepted a job as assistant manager (he's now manager and minority owner) at Club Dallas.

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE
1978



40 YEARS AND COUNTING | Josh Smith, manager and co-owner of Club Dallas, and his assistant manager, Lou Sadlacek, stand outside in the bathhouse's pool deck. Smith has recently implemented numerous changes at the storied club, which has been around for nearly 40 years — all in the same location. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

At the time, Smith had no idea he was stepping into a storied bathhouse that has long been a pillar of the community.

It certainly has been for Dallas Voice. In the 30 years that Dallas Voice has been publishing, Club Dallas is the only advertiser that has been in every issue — the first on May 11, 1984, and this one (it's on Page 73).

That's a remarkable business relationship — a remarkable relationship of any kind — and one that reflects not just support for the paper, but for the gay community of Dallas as a

whole.

"In the early years, that's what kept Dallas Voice alive," says Lou Sedlacek, assistant manager at Club Dallas. (Bathhouses, clubs and bookstores were mainstays of gay media advertising for decades.) "It was also a resource — when you went to a new city, that's the first thing you'd look for. You'd pick up the gay paper and see where the bathhouses were."

And for the life of Club Dallas, that location

■ **CLUB DALLAS**, Page 44

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State Board of Education, Dist 13: Erika Beltran

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THE OVER 30 CLUB The Black-eyed Pea



The first time I ever stepped foot in the Black-eyed Pea on Cedar Springs was in May 1991, when Queen Elizabeth II was paying a state visit that brought her to Dallas. "Just what Oak Lawn needs" read a handwritten sign on the chalkboard menu. "Another queen."

That's what it's been like at The Black-eyed Pea — at this point, the longest continually-operating business in one location on The Strip — since the beginning: Out, proud and a little saucy.

Funny, then, that this bastion of home-cookin' was the flagship first location in the company chain. Founded by Mesquite native Gene Street, it opened in its present space in the spring of 1975, at a time when Oak Lawn was already the hotbed of gay life in Dallas — an unlikely spot for a place that serves (famously) Texas-sized chicken-fried steak (pictured), broccoli and rice casserole and home-made cornbread. Then again, the gays have always loved kitsch ... and they appreciate a good deal on food when they find one.

The attitude hasn't changed (for me) since that first visit more than 20 years ago. On my last lunch there, I asked my waiter for tea: "Regular, sweet or Long Island?" he deadpanned. "Hey, It's an option! I'm not gonna tell your boss," he promised.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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THE OVER 30 CLUB

Beth El Binah



TORAH TORAH TORAH | Congregation Beth El Binah's rabbi, Stephen Fisch, and its former president, Diane Litke, hold two of the synagogue's torahs in front of the ark. The synagogue has called the Resource Center home for 22 of its last 30 years. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Congregation Beth El Binah, a Jewish synagogue with an outreach to the LGBT community, began when a group of friends gathered at the home of Mike Grossman and George Amerson for a Passover Seder in 1984. Members of the group attended services at other temples, but liked to celebrate holidays together by breaking the fast after Yom Kippur and with Purim, Hannukah and Sukkot parties.

As the group grew, it began performing its own Shabbat service once a month. In 1992, the congregation joined the Union for Reform Judaism, becoming the seventh predominantly LGBT synagogue in the U.S. to join the Union and the third largest (or the smallest — depends on how you look at it) Reform temple in Dallas.

In 1997, the congregation welcomed visitors from around the world hosting the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. A few months later, they were one of several local hosts of the Union for Reform Judaism biennial at the Anatole Hotel. At that conference, the more than 950 member synagogues voted to begin same-sex marriage with only a few dissenting votes.

Along the way, Congregation Beth El Binah was a founder of The Vogel Alcove—Jewish Coalition for the Homeless, which runs a state-of-the-art day-care facility for children of the homeless in Downtown Dallas, has sponsored an exhibit on gays during the Holocaust at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, repeatedly won the “most creative” booth at the Jewish Arts Festival (until the Orthodox synagogues got pissed off and they canceled the competition) and, during the height of the AIDS epidemic, brought AIDS education to other synagogues in the Dallas area.

They've even helped other Reform temples get their start by lending one of their Torahs to a new congregation in Colleyville, and one to a new synagogue in San Antonio.

Rabbi Steve Fisch has led the congregation for three years, and the synagogue has called the Resource Center home for the past 22 years.

— David Taffet

ROUND-UP SALOON
1980

CANDY MARCUM
1981 (began counseling practice)

BLACK TIE DINNER COMMITTEE
1982

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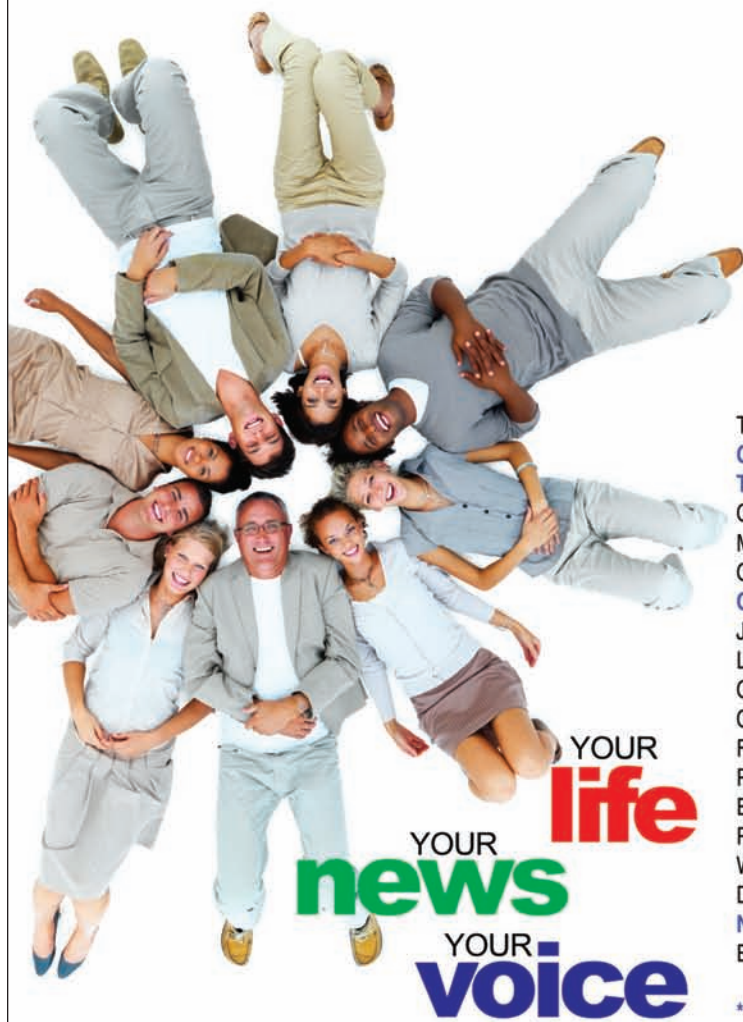
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Fed EX	3905 Oaklawn	75219	Dallas
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*Blue font indicates location also distributes OUT North Texas Directory



THE OVER 30 CLUB

Caven Enterprises



Frank Caven was closely associated with Dallas, but the founder of a string of gay clubs was born in Philadelphia and opened his first Texas bar in 1963 ... in El Paso. It wasn't until the 1970s that Caven ventured into Dallas (and later Houston), eventually taking his successful formula for bars national. The company incorporated as Caven Enterprises, Inc., in 1981.

By the time of his death at 68 in 1988, he had been owner of 60 clubs in Texas, Florida and Washington, D.C., among other locations, according to his obituary that appeared in *This Week In Texas* two weeks after his death.

Today the company operates four bars in Dallas — TMC: The Mining Company, JR.'s Bar & Grill, Sue Ellen's and S4. But in its heyday, the list contained very different names. Among Caven's Dallas bars were The Candy Store, Mark Twain, LaFitte's, Mother Blues, The Wooden Nickle and 4001.

The Old Plantation (later renamed Village Station) moved to Cedar Springs Road, where S4 now stands, from Downtown when the Dallas Museum of Art purchased land to move from Fair Park and build a large new facility. Throckmorton Mining

Company was already a few doors away.

Current Caven president, Greg Kilhoffer, said JR.'s was named for someone locally, but at the time, *Dallas* was the biggest hit on TV. So the company capitalized on the connection and a few years later opened Sue Ellen's, named after J.R. Ewing's TV wife. Actors Larry Hagman and Linda Gray, who portrayed J.R. and Sue Ellen on the show, both visited the bars several times.

Caven event manager Chris Bengston joined the company in 1985. She said she worked at Old Plantation until it closed. She said crews rapidly ripped out much of the interior and within a few weeks, the first Village Station opened.

Village Station had been in the building now occupied by Zini's and Skivvies, former site of the company's other disco, 4001. In the '90s, the bar moved again to the current location. Finally, Caven rebuilt most of the block into the current fourth incarnation of Village Station, known today as S4.

When JR.'s opened, that corner was best known for hookers. It took several years before prostitution moved from Cedar Springs Road to Harry Hines Boulevard. Over the years, JR.'s has been so

successful, it's expanded twice. Originally, the bar was long and narrow. The first expansion took in a space next door and the second doubled its size again with a second floor and balcony.

TMC was originally located where Sue Ellen's stands now. The building was a wooden, single-story bar. Again, success meant razing the building and more than doubling its size. After the only other lesbian bar in Dallas closed several years ago, Sue Ellen's and TMC switched locations.

Over the years, Caven bars have hosted everything from the BearDance each March (pictured), benefiting a variety of AIDS service organizations, to MetroBall in June, benefiting the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, to the Christmas project benefiting Sam Houston Elementary School located a block from the bars. During the height of the AIDS crisis, the company began the Caven Employees Benevolent Association to raise money to care for its employees affected by AIDS. Now, CEBA cares for any employee in a catastrophic situation. Today, the company is employee-owned and continues its dedication to the community.

— David Taffet

LAMBDA WEEKLY RADIO SHOW
1982

RESOURCE CENTER
1983

STEPHEN PYLES
1983 (opened his first restaurant, Routh Street Cafe)

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THE OVER 30 CLUB

Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association



Texans love sports, so it was natural that the Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association, which began in 1982, would remain popular. It even started out that way. From the inception, it rapidly grew to 15 teams. By the time the group hosted the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance's World Series in 2004, Dallas was fielding 28 teams each softball season in an assortment of divisions, from serious-minded athletes to weekend warriors and intramural amateurs.

The Miss PSSA Pageant, which has taken place annually since 1986, raises money to send teams to the World Series. Started about the same time is Switch Hitters where teams do skits, often in drag, also to support travel to the championship games.

Dallas teams have done well in the World Series over the years. Four times a Dallas team won its

division (including the team pictured above), and 18 times they have placed in a top ranking. Two PSSA members have been inducted into the NAGAAA Hall of Fame — Bill Smith in 2003 and Matt Miller in 2006. Those are impressive stats, considering the NAGAAA, the gay softball league, consists of 45 leagues with more than 800 teams located across the U.S. and Canada.

This year, PSSA will host the World Series for a third time (the first was in 1988). Opening ceremonies take place the day after Pride in Downtown Dallas at Annette Strauss Square in the Arts District, and Games will be played Sept. 22–27 in Kiest Park in Oak Cliff and Softball World in Euless. The league is even looking for a third venue. Quite the accomplishment in 32 years, and proof that Texans feed off competition.

— David Taffet

Dallas Theater Center

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THE OVER 30 CLUB

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance

When you think of gay activism in the early days of the movement, that one inescapable name is Dallas Gay Alliance. Founded in 1977, its mission was, from the start, to present a formal face of the gay community to media and before city council, to address issues such as police harassment and to talk to candidates running for office.

A few years after its founding, the Dallas Gay Political Caucus split off to become a political action committee that screened candidates running for office. The two groups remained separate for several decades, then merged in the early 2000s.

DGLA (the L was added in 1992) has always been good at creating — and spinning off — other groups. In 1985, it created the AIDS Food Pantry and the AIDS Resource Center under the non-profit name the Foundation for Human Understanding. By 1993, the groups severed ties when Resource Center had far outgrown its parent organization and the missions of the two groups had parted.

At the time, DGLA, along with the AIDS Resource Center, were the only groups in the state advising against taking an HIV test, then known as HTLV-III/LAV. The test wasn't confidential at the time and the fear was reprisal by employers, insurance companies and the government. Within a year of DGA's protest, the test became confidential in Texas.

Equality Texas, originally known as Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, was founded by five groups from around the state including DGLA.

When radio station KNON went on the air in 1983, the station manager contacted DGA to offer the group an hour a week to do a gay show. That show, *Lambda Weekly*, is still on the air after more than 30 years.

When talks with Parkland Memorial Hospital and Dallas



DEMONSTRATIONS | Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance takes to the streets when negotiating fails. Members marched in Austin for hate crime legislation in 1995, above, and protested Pat Buchanan's appearance at Border's Books in Dallas in 2002, below. (File photos)

County officials about AIDS care at the hospital didn't bring results, DGLA created GUTS (Gay Urban Truth Squad, which predated ACT UP) to begin street protests at city hall and in front of the hospital. DGLA promised to call off the rowdy protesters when the hospital agreed to better care for AIDS patients. Of course, the ragtag protesters marching and waving fists outside and the buttoned-down negotiators in suit-and-tie inside the halls were the same people.

When the only theater company in Oak Lawn was Dallas Theater Center, and that organization had no idea there were gay people in the neighborhood who might enjoy theater, DGLA created Theater Gemini, which performed in the back of its office on Cedar Springs Road. More recently, DGLA spawned Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance, now GALA North Texas, which created GALA Youth, a North Texas LGBT youth group.

DGLA's first office was in the Esquire Theater on Oak Lawn Avenue. When that landmark was torn down to make way for an office that was never built (Eatzi's stands on the property today), DGLA moved to Cedar Springs Road. Arson destroyed the office and much of the block in 1989.

When the Foundation for Human Understanding bought the old MCC church on Reagan Street soon after the fire, DGLA moved with them.

Today, the organization continues to do advocacy work and remains a strong voice for the LGBT community at City Hall.

— David Taffet

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THE OVER 30 CLUB

TapeLenders



TapeLenders motto could now be, "Everything *but* tapes."

Do you even know what a tape is? It's how we used to watch movies before DVD and streaming. But the name has persisted, even if the formats have evolved. The oldest retail establishment on Cedar Springs, TapeLenders opened in 1982. Ricky Stillwell helped his partner, Steve Freeman, open it, specializing in renting Beta tapes. Dallas was one of two markets — the other was Kansas City — where Beta was the dominant video format. After Ricky died in 1983, Steve and Dave Richardson began dating, and Dave began working full-time at the store.

When more people began asking for VHS format, TapeLenders ran out of room stocking both formats, so when VVV Records — the last store with straight ownership in the '80s — closed, Dave and Steve knocked down a wall and doubled the store's space — as well as its business.

In 1989, the store was damaged by the fire that also destroyed the DGLA office and the Round-Up Saloon, but they cleaned up and reopened within days. The store was so well loved that customers, who stopped by to return tapes, stayed and helped clean up the mess.

After Steve died in 1992, Dave began dating Todd Seaton and brought him into the business. They moved the store down the street to a larger space previously occupied by the original Half Price Books. In 1995, Steve and Dave opened a TapeLenders in Austin on the University of Texas campus. The next year, they opened OutLines on Cedar Springs Road and, in 2001, Skivvies.

In 2009, Dave semi-retired, so he and Todd sold TapeLenders to Chris Lynch and Mark Milburn.

Throughout its life, the store has been innovative; today, while it still carries movies (mostly of the adult variety), it also specializes in leather, gifts and magazines. After Union Jack closed earlier this year, Chris and Mark picked up the Andrew Christian line of underwear (one of Union Jack's most profitable brands), and the addition has already been a hit.

Because there are no longer any tapes to be found at TapeLenders, Chris and Mark discussed changing the name. But TapeLenders has become iconic, so they decided to keep the name of the 30-year-old store, even if some of the customers who come in wonder, "What's a tape?"

Maybe if they wanted to keep with the theme, they could add a line of tapes — you know, more of the duct, Scotch and masking sort of products.

— David Taffet

THE OVER 30 CLUB

Texas Gay Rodeo Association



When you talk about the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, it's like being Evelyn Mulwray in *Chinatown*: It's a sports group! It's a service organization! It's a sports group *annnddd* a service organization!

And it is. This being Texas, cowboys are bound to proliferation, even in the gay community. But unlike The Village People's cowboy, who probably never came closer to a horse than the merry-go-round, gay cowboys in Texas are apt to have grown up on a ranch, ropin', ridin' and putting panties on a goat.

OK, scratch that last one. That's one of the camp events you'll find at TGRA events, but most of the cowboys and cowgirls who show up to these rodeos have mad skills.

Founded in the summer of 1983, TGRA gave gay people an outlet to be themselves decades before *Brokeback Mountain* made it commonplace to think of sexual orientation as having little to do with countrified interests.

It's biggest local event is in Fort Worth every spring, but TGRA (and North Texas) also play host to the International Gay Rodeo Association's finals, held each fall here. It's a lot of cowboys having a lot of fun.

But there's also that service aspect. TGRA "royalty" are elected each year, and bring their considerable talents to fundraising, primarily (but not exclusively) Texas-based AIDS services organizations. It's been that way since Day One. Call it the cowboy code.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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■ **CLUB DALLAS**, From Page 31

has remained the same: The western end of Swiss Avenue — the spot the club has occupied continuously since it opened nearly 40 years ago, in August of 1974.

There have been lots of changes at Club Dallas in those intervening decades — some good, some bad, Smith admits.

“The challenge now is moving forward while attracting a new generation,” Smith says.

In years past, things were different. Both Bette Midler and Barry Manilow notoriously got their start in New York City’s Continental Baths, a steam-and-hookup joint that also featured the soon-to-be-stars as budding entertainment.

That was the early 1970s, soon after the Stonewall Riots gave gays hope and reason to be out-and-proud, and before the AIDS crisis hit. In the early 1980s, bathhouses in major cities (particularly NYC and San Francisco) were singled out as spreading HIV. Eventually, many of the bathhouses closed.

But not Club Dallas. It weathered the AIDS crisis, and much more.

“The Clubs were able to survive because of the forward-thinking of the owners at the

time,” Smith says. “The decision to add a gymnasium in the club was truly a life-saving decision. It helped people stay alive, giving them a place to work out and stay healthy. [Back in the 1980s], most mainstream gyms wouldn’t allow HIV-positive men to join, if they found out.”

Club Dallas has also long provided complimentary condoms, and provides regular complimentary HIV testing.

Perhaps there’s another reason Club Dallas in particular fared so well. In Texas, where the summers can be scorching, Club Dallas has boasted a deck and pool (with appropriately high walls to provide privacy) in its clothing-optional space. (Clothes are required only in the entrance and in the gym.) It might not have Midler, but most Saturday nights, you can find a local DJ spinning during the after-hours, creating a party atmosphere. And since it is open 24/7 — yep, even on Christmas and Thanksgiving — there’s never a time you *can’t* go in for a steam, a swim ... or, well, let’s face it. A hookup.

It’s the image of a “sex den” that branded many bathhouses with a stigma, and that hasn’t changed. It did, however, get worse for a while.

For several years before Smith arrived,



COMMUNITY SUPPORT | Smith stands in front of a sign at Club Dallas which celebrates its four decades serving Dallas’ gay community. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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things had begun to slide. Despite numerous expansions over the years, which had effectively taken over all the buildings on the block, the spa hadn't undergone much renovation in quite a long time. In his less than three years in Dallas, Smith has seen to it that the facilities have been substantially updated. He convinced the corporate owners to shell out some dough to revamp the lobby, the maze, and to add new furniture.

"It needed a little face-lift," Smith says.

It also needed cleaning up in another way. Club Dallas has a reputation for illicit drug use, and Smith has teamed with the Dallas Police Department to rehabilitate that image. Signage states clearly that those using — and especially dealing — in drugs will be kicked off the premises. Smith even partnered with Midtowne Spa, a competitor and neighboring bathhouse, to commit to clean up the drugs — as much for the industry as for the individual businesses.

"We've worked to get that element out of here," he says. "I've [committed] to building bridges — with the Dallas P.D., with Midtowne — to ensure the success of the community."

Such cleanups naturally come with costs. Drug dealers actually spend a lot of money, and can attract some business. But Smith is a big-picture thinker. He knows that if the club is raided, or people are injured here, it damages the long-prospects more than it bolsters the immediate bottom line.

It certainly doesn't hurt to be politic with other in the community. Smith says his experience with the club's neighbors has been consistently cordial. Club Dallas is located along a strip of Swiss Avenue dominated by Arts & Crafts-style homes and other eclectic styles, restored and repurposed largely as office space for nonprofits. Smith says "we get along well with them," but he has a selfish reason for wishing the nonprofits weren't there.

"I wish they were art studios and galleries," he says. "Not because that would [drive foot traffic], but because it would make them more exposed to the public. I'd love to see inside those places."

If Smith demonstrates an unexpected sophistication, well, that's an image he'd be happy to cultivate for all Club Dallas clientele.

It's not easy. But the success of Club Dallas is, in part, its ability to be "whatever you want to make of it. Our gym isn't the cheapest, but it does have some amenities," he winks. And people come here for all kinds of reasons.

"Some guys just gather in the [main room] and watch [sports and entertainment show] on the TV. You can come in for a steam, or sit in the hot tub. You can lounge out by the pool. Or you can go to the adult area," one of the amenities he was referring to.

Bathhouses have always been a part of gay life in the past. But Club Dallas is committed to making them just as relevant in the future.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Over 30 years, Dallas Voice has transformed with the times

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

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Robert Moore, the co-founder of Dallas Voice, has told the story countless times — how, in May of 1984, he, Don Ritz and William Marberry all put in \$250 to start a new publication, one to replace the Dallas Gay News and provide a voice to the gay community in Dallas. Appropriately, they called it Dallas Voice.

In the early days, Moore says, they survived for two reasons: (1) their printer (located in Houston) gave them a “float,” a week’s grace period during which they could pay last week’s print bill after they distributed the current week’s issue. That kept cash flow going. (2) That cash flow was generated, as Moore related, from “the three Bs — bars, bookstores and bathhouses,” the main advertisers at the time.

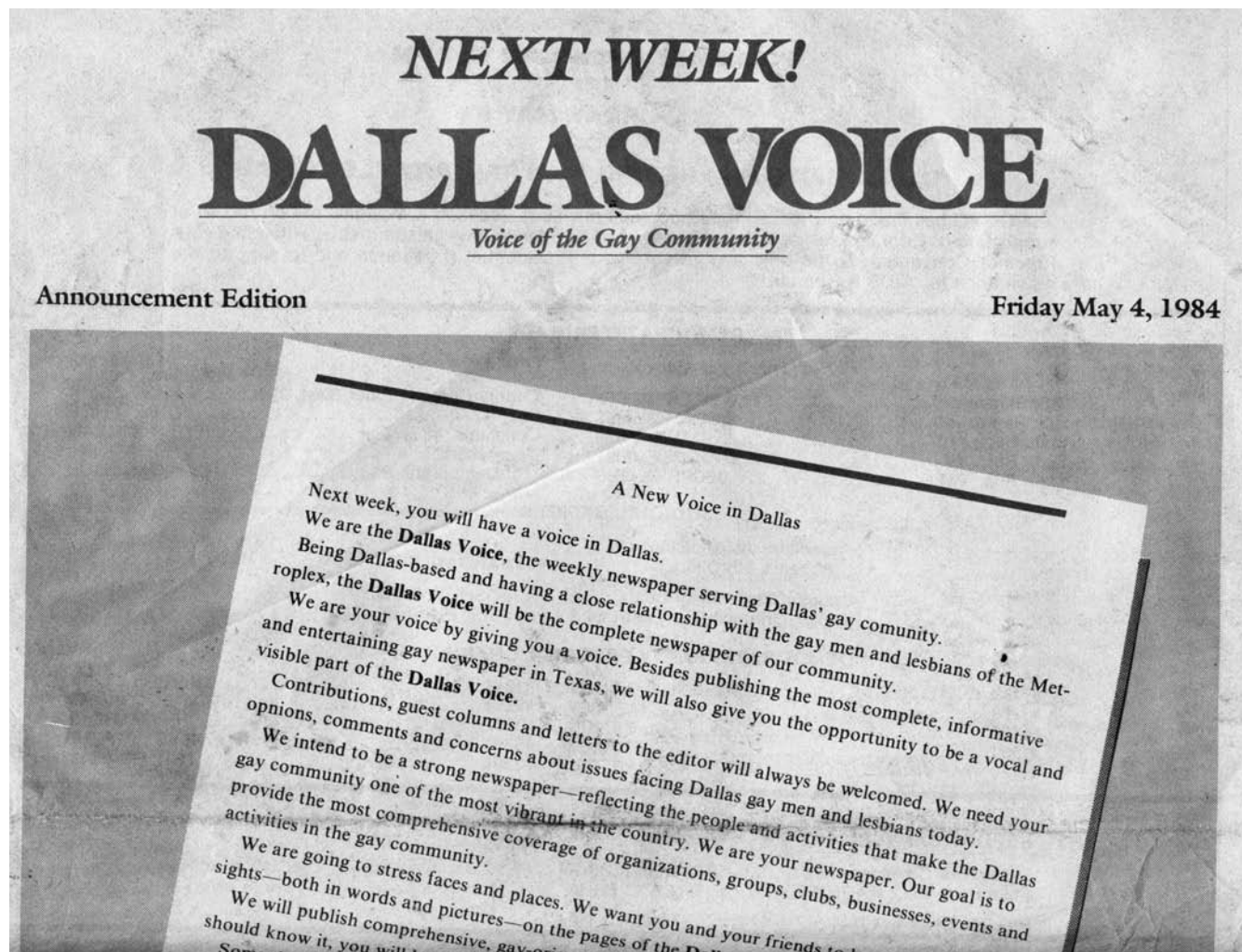
In the 30 years and some-odd days since then, a lot — a lot — has changed, from the advertising base (although the Club Dallas bathhouse remains the sole company to advertise in every single issue of Dallas Voice — that’s 1561 issues, including this one; see the story on Page 30) to the look of the paper (check out the glossy stitch-and-trim cover, compared to the gray newsletter-like initial issue) to our market (in 1984, virtually no straight people — and some gay people — would be caught dead seen reading a gay newspaper; now, straight readers warmly embrace us).

Marberry sold out his interest within the first year, and for the next 15 years or so, it was Ritz and Moore who steered the paper — through the growing AIDS crisis, through the growth of Dallas as an international city, through 9/11 and DOMA and the first black president and so much more.

Things continue to change, often for the better. There have been several office moves (our next, after 11 years in the same location, is set to take place this summer), countless staff changes, new printers (no longer in Houston!), new advertisers, new readers, new platforms.

In the early days, Moore (as advertising director) and Ritz (as controller) were the business side of things; the editorial side was run by Dennis Vercher, Rex Ackerman (aka Heda Quote) and, starting in 1988, Tammye Nash. There were salesmen and a small production department getting it out, as well.

“Don was the quiet one — the one who kept all the finances on track, and he was the only one who had a computer on his desk,” Nash wrote back in 2009, reminiscing on the 25th anniversary of Dallas Voice.



WHAT STARTED IT ALL | Dallas Voice didn’t publish its first official edition until May 11, 1984, but a week before that, a special ‘Announcement Edition,’ above, let the community know it was coming, and what its mission would be — hey, Twitter didn’t exist yet. Below left: Dallas Voice was there in 1989 when a fire along The Strip devastated several gay-owned businesses.

Ritz retired from his day-to-day duties at Dallas Voice in 1998, but retained his ownership stake in the company until his death in January 2001. That’s when Moore became the sole owner and, for the first time, took the title “publisher.”

Although not on the editorial side, Moore had a vision for Dallas Voice to reach a more mainstream audience, to push outside of niche advertisers and readers, and to grow the Voice. In 2000, Moore launched Qtexas, a statewide glossy publication that most would call a “bar rag,” with stories about DJs and singers, drag shows and circuit parties, gossip and pictures of pretty boys. In 2004, when the long-running statewide competitor Texas Triangle went on the sales block, he bought it, merged it with Qtexas and created TXT Newsmagazine, which published throughout 2005.

The Triangle purchase also came with the acquisition of the Lambda Pages, an

LGBT business and organizational directory. Moore and the rest of the staff retooled that in 2005 and launched an online version; then in 2008, it was renamed the Dallas Voice Yellow Pages. In 2014, it was rebranded again, this time as OUT North Texas, a full-sized glossy.

Moore surprised a lot of people in early 2013 when, immediately after publication of the Readers Voice Awards edition (which was started in 2006), he announced that he was selling his ownership and retiring as publisher. The staff sat stunned ... all except two folks: The promotions manager, Terry Thompson, and the advertising director, Leo Cusimano, who together bought the publication, with Thompson becoming president of Voice Publishing and Cusimano replacing Moore as publisher.

Both had long-standing involvement with the Voice. Cusimano — a New Orleans native who loves to say he only moved to Texas on the condition he would not have to work — nevertheless eventually hunkered down to a job, joining the staff as a part-time graphic artist in 1993 (he eventually moved into sales, and ultimately settled in as advertising director). Thompson came on in





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■ **PROGRESS**, Page 48

2001, working the front desk and keeping everything humming.

When you think about it, that's a tremendous history and amazing record of continuity for any business, especially the volatile publishing industry. Only two publishers, five owners, two advertising directors, four senior editors, two Life+Style editors in three decades. Overall, Dallas Voice has employed fewer than 100 staffers over that time, including the present staff of 14 (including Moore as founder and our distribution manager, Linda Depriter). But longevity doesn't mean permanence. By our count, 12 former employees have passed away, for causes ranging from HIV to a house fire. All are missed.

Few are missed more than two early leaders. Rex Ackerman was Dallas Voice's first media star, a part-timer who wrote a weekly column under the *nom de snarque* Heda Quote, who tracked the week's gossip. But Ackerman, who pulled no punches, was beloved even by those he dished about, largely because of his tireless efforts at AIDS fundraising. His health declined, and he eventually retired Heda before succumbing to AIDS in May 1998.

Dennis Vercher led the editorial side of things for about 20 years, before passing away from AIDS-related causes in the fall of 2006.

"He also had a dry wit and dark humor that could catch you off-guard and leave you laughing at the most inopportune of times over the most not-funny topics, like the fact that he had AIDS," Nash wrote in 2009. Vercher was wiry and grumpy, and kept weird hours and could have worked on his social skills more, but he was devoted to Dallas Voice and adamant about producing an excellent product with meticulous care.

Everyone who works here — or at least, if they want to work here long — has the same drive. In the days when a weekly gay pub was the community's only access to the news and entertainment that affected them, Dallas Voice was the gay paper of record.

As LGBT issues became more mainstream, and as the Internet changed the way people access their news and information, the format has changed, but the mission has stayed the same.

It's the kind of place that keeps pulling you in. Nash, who left in 2001, returned in 2004, and stayed on until early 2012. Current staff writer David Taffet wrote his first column (a travel story) as a freelancer in March 1989, and wrote about travel continuously for 10 years, but also expanded his duties as an editorial assistant. After leaving in 2005, he returned full-time in 2009. Arnold Wayne Jones started as a freelancer in late 2001, and was hired as the paper's first staff writer tasked specifically with writing for the Life+Style department in 2003; he has been the editor of his department since 2009. Art director Michael Stephens joined the Voice staff in late 2004 when Moore purchased the Texas Triangle, where he'd been for three years. Depriter first began working distribution in 1997, and became manager in 2010.

Even the comparatively newer folks have added immeasurably to the development of the Voice: The current Senior Editor, Steve Ramos, started in October of last year. News Editor Anna Waugh started in February 2012. Assistant Advertising Director Chad Mantooth and Account Manager David Liddle were both hired in 2012. The newest member of the staff is Classified Sales Manager Chase Overstreet.

Graphic Artist Kevin Thomas came here in 2010, the same year as Office Manager Jesse Arnold. You'll find photos of the staff, as well as their reminiscences about watershed moments in their lives, on Pages 52 through 54.

The editorial focus has evolved as well. We continue covering the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the Stonewall Democrats and the Resource Center and AIDS (unfortunately, still an issue in many lives) to City Hall, but we do so much more. We've interviewed the head of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. We've covered national political campaigns, and the politicians re-

FROM THE ARCHIVES | A demonstration against homophobic county court judge Jack Hampton in 1988 was, for founder Robert Moore, a turning point both for the Dallas gay community and for the way Dallas Voice was perceived by politicians and readers.

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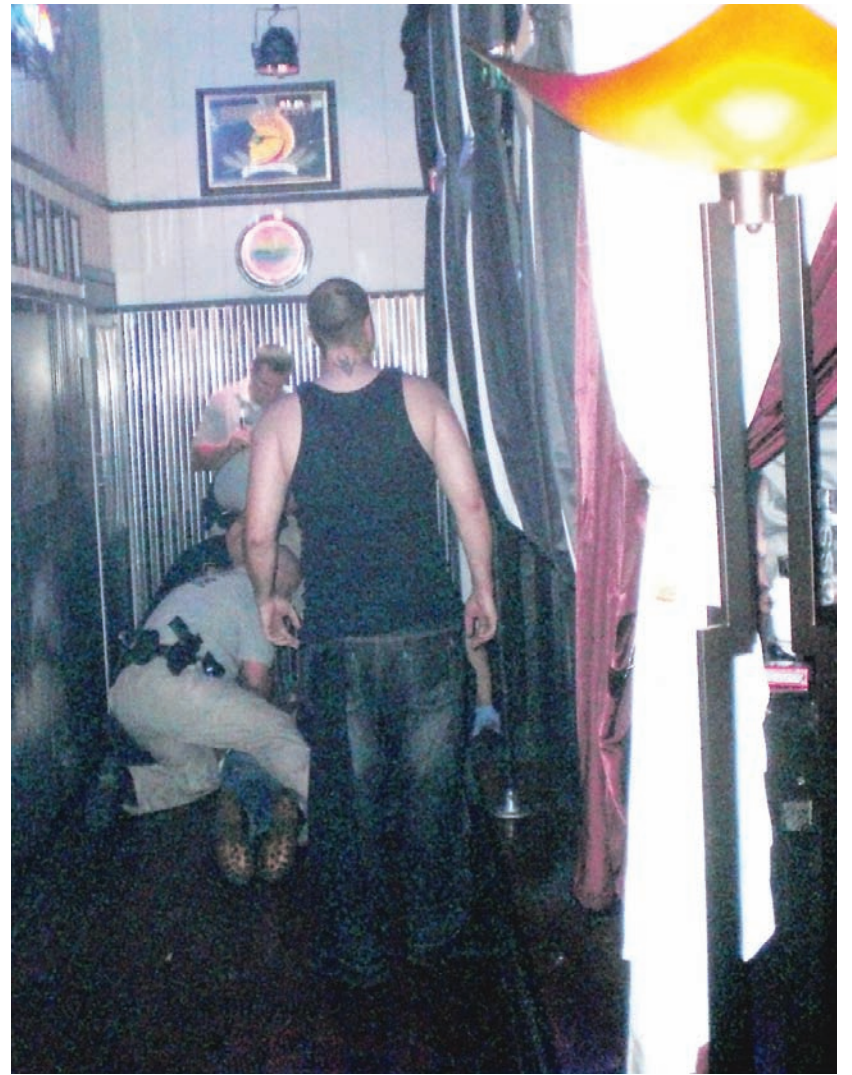
turn our calls (including folks like Hillary Clinton). We've had the privilege to be at the forefront covering the repeal of Don't ask, Don't tell, the overturning of DOMA, the national debate on anti-gay bullying. We've written the definitive coverage about the gay bar raid in Fort Worth on the 40th anniversary of Stonewall and interviewed celebrities from Kathy Griffin to Cyndi Lauper to John Waters (in this issue; see Page 58).

Not only have the kinds of stories changed, so have the ways we deliver them. Dallas Voice has a Facebook page, a Twitter handle, a website. Our blog, InstantTea (updated multiple times daily), is a popular way to communicate with our readers about everything from amusing videos to breaking news to the personal passions of our staff.

As with any deadline-oriented job, there's not much downtime — you're always working on the next story, the next cover, the next interview, the next issue. And after more than 1,500 of them, it would be easy to feel, collectively, exhausted. But that's not the case. Because we believe in what we do, and we believe in you for supporting us. It's a symbiotic relationship, the bond between reader and publication. We've weathered a lot (the economic downturn of 2008 and beyond), and we hope to keep weathering even more.

"What's past is prelude," Shakespeare said in *The Tempest*. Well, the last 30 years have been a prelude for us as well as you. There's more to come — so more than we can even imagine — and we can't wait to bring it to you. Just watch. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES | Heda Quote, aka Rex Ackerman, was a popular gossip columnist and tireless fundraiser for AIDS causes, left; right, an iconic photo from the events at Fort Worth's Rainbow Lounge in 2009. Dallas Voice's exhaustive coverage of the event and its aftermath drew national attention to the raid, which seemed to mirror those at the Stonewall Inn exactly 40 years earlier.



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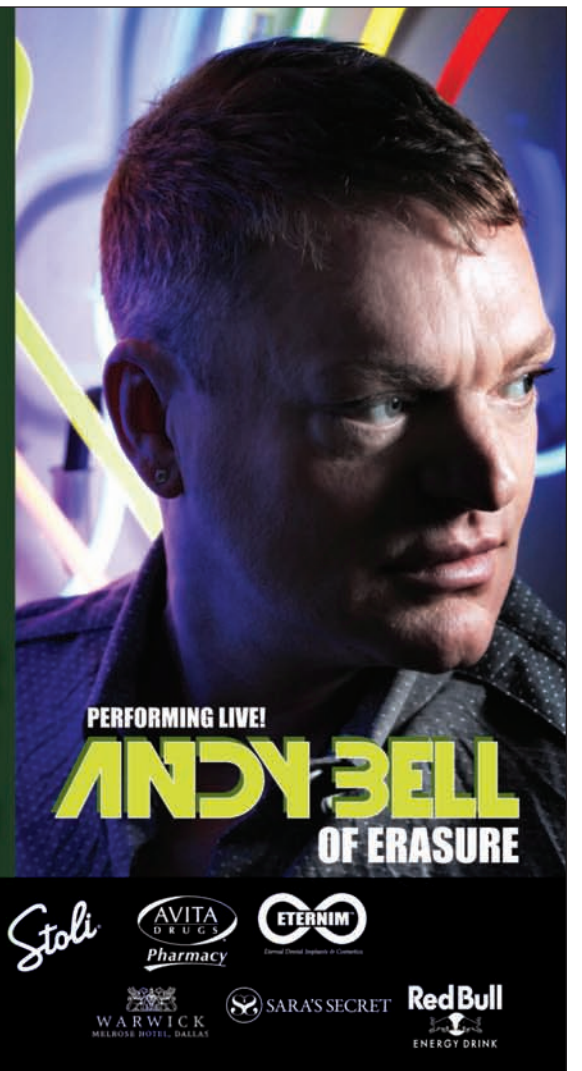
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Dallas Voice: A timeline

Year-by-year with Texas' premier media source for the LGBT community

- **1984:** Dallas Voice is founded by Don Ritz, Robert Moore and William Marberry with a financial investment of \$250 from each partner. Marberry is publisher; Ritz is editor and Moore is advertising director when the 24-page Vol. 1, No. 1 issue is published on May 11, 1984. In its inaugural year, the Voice becomes a member of the Gay Press Association. Its offices are located at 3409 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 212.

- **1985:** Ritz and Moore buy out William Marberry and move all production operations from Houston to Dallas. Don Ritz becomes controller. Robert Moore continues as advertising director. Dennis Vercher III is hired as editor of Dallas Voice. Ritz and Moore become founding members of the National Gay Newspaper Guild, an affiliation of LGBT papers in 12 markets. The Voice offices are now located at 2727 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 105.

- **1986:** When Robert Moore, the victim of a stabbing attack is hospitalized at Baylor, staff place him in an isolation ward, simply because he is gay. Dallas Voice adopts a format with a single photo on the front page.

- **1987:** Dallas Voice incorporates as Voice Publishing Company Inc.

- **1988:** Voice offices are now at 2525 Wycliff Ave.

- **1989:** David Taffet joins the staff part-time as a travel writer. His duties will expand over the next 25 years.

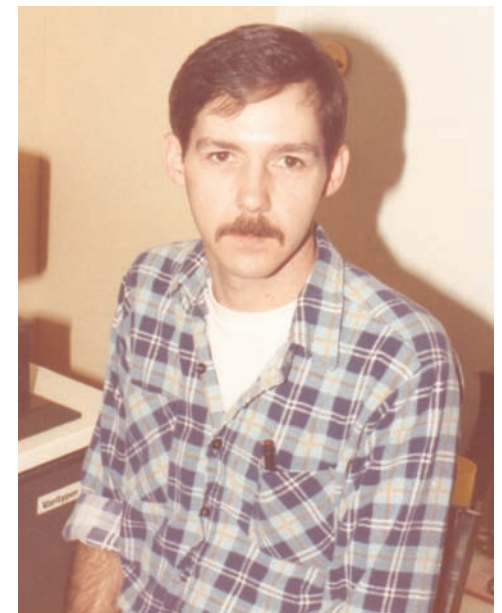
- **1990:** Dallas Voice reports on a demonstration commemorating 1,421 AIDS deaths in Dallas County.

- **1991:** When amyl nitrate — the original “pop-pers” — are banned, Dallas Voice reports on those hoarding the formula.

- **1992:** The Dallas Voice offices relocate to larger quarters at 3100 Carlisle St., Ste. 216.

- **1993:** Leo Cusimano joins the Dallas Voice staff, first as a part-time graphic artist, later becoming a full-time ad sales representative. This same year, conservative religious groups protest at Prestige Ford in Garland after the auto dealership begins advertising in Dallas Voice, and the Dallas Morning News features Don Ritz and Robert Moore in its Business section.

- **1994:** The Voice offices move across the park-



EARLY DAYS | Dennis Vercher, Dallas Voice's first editor. He served for more than 20 years.

ing lot to 3000 Carlisle, into an even larger space.

- **1995:** Dallas Voice organizes the first Gay Day at Six Flags over Texas as a community event during the Dallas gay Pride celebration surrounding the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade in September. John Bode, Dallas Voice graphic artist, dies of AIDS.

- **1996:** DallasVoice.com is launched and provides DFW's weekly LGBT news online. Greg Hoover joins the Dallas Voice staff as a classified advertising sales representative, where he will remain until December 2013.

- **1997:** Daniel Kusner is hired as Dallas Voice's first Life+Style Editor.

- **1998:** Don Ritz retires. Robert Moore becomes publisher. Leo Cusimano becomes advertising director. Rex Ackerman dies of AIDS.

- **1999:** Robert Moore is elected treasurer of the National Gay Newspaper Guild.

- **2000:** Qtexas magazine, a statewide publication, is launched.

- **2001:** Robert Moore becomes sole owner of Dallas Voice and president of Voice Publishing Company Inc. upon the death of his investment partner, Don Ritz. Terry Thompson joins the Voice staff as office manager.

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ROGUE'S GALLERY | A history of logos for Voice-owned publications and platforms over the years.

• **2002:** Conservative religious groups begin a boycott campaign and protests to try and stop Gay Day at Six Flags Over Texas during the September gay Pride weekend. They fail.

• **2003:** Dallas Voice moves its offices to the third floor of 4145 Travis St. Arnold Wayne Jones joins the staff of Dallas Voice as a Life+Style reporter and theater/dining critic.

• **2004:** Dallas Voice marks its 20th anniversary, and Tammye Nash returns to the staff as a reporter. Qtexas acquires the Texas Triangle and DFW Lambda Pages in November. The Texas Triangle and Qtexas merge to create TXT Newsmagazine. Former Texas Triangle graphic artist Michael Stephens joins the staff.

• **2005:** TXT Newsmagazine launches in January, but ceases publication at the end of December. DallasVoice.com is redesigned and relaunched at the first of the year. DFW Lambda Pages is redesigned and retooled as an annual LGBT Yellow Pages business directory and visitors guide.

• **2006:** A new video component, called DVtv, is added to DallasVoice.com, featuring news and entertainment videos from around North Texas produced and filmed. Dallas Voice produces its first annual Readers Voice Awards issue in March. Dennis Vercher dies in September from complications from AIDS and lymphoma. Tammye Nash is appointed senior editor.

• **2007:** Gay businessman Ed Oakley gets into a run-off for Dallas mayor. He loses, but the winner, Tom Leppert, hires a gay man, Chris Heinebaugh, as his chief of staff.

• **2008:** DFW Lambda Pages is rebranded Dallas Voice Yellow Pages.

• **2009:** Dallas Voice completes its 25th full year of publication issue and begins its second quarter-century of business. Arnold Wayne Jones becomes Life+Style Editor. David Taffet joins the staff full time as a news reporter. Dallas Voice's print edition is redesigned with a "stitch and trim" format and regularly produces glossy-cover editions.

• **2010:** Kevin Thomas joins the staff as a graphic artist, and Jesse Arnold comes onboard as office manager.

• **2011:** Anti-bullying legislation passes, the first time any pro-gay legislation passes in Texas in a decade.

• **2012:** Anna Waugh joins the staff as a news reporter, and Chad Mantooth and David Liddle are hired as advertising sales representatives.

• **2013:** Robert Moore retires as publisher, and sells his interest in Voice Publishing to Leo Cusimano and Terry Thompson. Cusimano takes over as publisher, and Thompson becomes president of the company. Steve Ramos is hired as Senior Editor. Chase Overstreet joins the staff as manager of the classified ads department, replacing longtime employe Greg Hoover, who embarks on a worldwide sailing tour.

• **2014:** Dallas Voice Yellow Pages is rebranded as a full-sized glossy magazine, OUT North Texas. Dallas Voice begins its 31st year of publication with its 1,561st issue.



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My passion started at Dallas Voice 20 years ago, when I worked hard to get an appointment with the major restaurant chain, TGI Friday's on Lemmon Avenue. After much negotiation and effort, I was finally able to get a sit-down with its (straight) manager. We meet in the back at a small table and I gave him my pitch.

After a short introduction, the manager leaned over and almost whispered, "Leo, I'm sorry, but I don't want drag queens in my restaurant." My initial reaction was *What?! I, for one, didn't even own a wig, heels or a makeup kit.* (OK, I do add some blush for the occasional pimple, but still — I was shocked.) I explained that our demographic is well educated, our readers had professional jobs and lots of discretionary income, not to mention they were loyal. (And yes, some are drag queens as well.) He was very reluctant, but I eventually got him to sign up for four weeks of ads.

At the end of the contract, I went back in. The manager was excited to see me.

"Leo, you guys drink!" he shouted. Alcohol sales are important to a restaurant, and he was very impressed with the results. "Your community tips well," he said, noting an increase in his business. But what really struck a chord was this: "More than anything Leo, you have changed my impression of the gay community."

I had to step back and understand what I had just done. I made money for myself, and my company, and brought a restaurant to the attention of our readers. But more than anything, I helped someone change *his* impression of *us*.

This is what ignited my passion. I was able to work at a company and make a living, but also made a difference for the LGBT community. That's still my passion today.

— Leo Cusimano

While working at Dallas Voice, I've heard numerous stories about what it was like to be gay in previous decades. I've known the history of those years and the battles people have fought for equality, but I didn't put it in the context of how it affected me. I've always been grateful to the people who fought for the rights I have today as a gay man, but like many young people, I often forget the sacrifices that brought us to where we are today. Working at Dallas Voice, I'm reminded almost daily of the importance of working together as a community so that the generation after me will have even more rights.

— Chase Overstreet

I moved to Dallas with my best friend Aaron three years ago. Then about two years ago, Aaron told me he was going to transition. That's life-changing. Growing up in Kansas City, I had a narrow view of the transgender community, so when Aaron told me, I was concerned. I thought his dating life would become nonexistent. I was concerned he was setting himself up for a world of hurt, and that I couldn't be there to protect her. But I couldn't have been more wrong. I've done a complete 180 on the subject and learned trans people are just trying to live their lives.

— Chad Mantooth



Before the great novelist John Irving released his book *In One Person*, his people contacted me to see if I would like to do a review and interview. Then one day, I picked up the telephone and John Irving was on the other end, calling me from his car. That was awesome.

A few weeks later, I published the interview — the same day he was in town for a chat through the Arts & Letters Live program at the DMA. As a writer, you always like to think that the subjects of your stories read them, and you often do hear back from them, but with someone of Irving's stature, I didn't hold my breath. Still, I held out some hope.

The morning of his talk, his people called me again and said, "John loved the interview and thinks you're a fine writer; he'd like to invite you to have dinner with him tonight." I expected it would be a big to-do with many such guests and Irving on a dais while we snacked from afar. But no: When I arrived at the restaurant, there was just me, my guest, John Irving sitting across from me, his wife, and a few folks from the DMA. No other media, no entourage, no distance. Just me and John Irving eating Italian food together for two hours and talking about gay rights and literature. Because *he* thought *I* was a good writer.


— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Growing up in a conservative part of North Texas, I never thought I'd be able to come out to family and friends, let alone one day cover issues that affect my future.

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 2013, I'd hoped it would occur on June 26 for two reasons. It was the 10th anniversary of Lawrence v. Texas and it was my anniversary.

Walking around the office that week, I kept calling out "Lucky 26" when we in editorial discussed what day the ruling would come down. And I was right, it came down on June 26.

That night at a rally on Cedar Springs, I snapped photos and took notes for stories on the ruling. In between shooting photos and listening to impassioned speeches, I'd glance over at my girlfriend and think that this was my future. Both she and a world in which our relationship will one day be equal everywhere in America.

And with federal marriage equality, came the end of civil unions and full recognition in may states in the months that followed. Now my girlfriend will never be my domestic partner, but, one day, she will be my wife.

— Anna Waugh

When I got out of the Navy in 2003, I made a decision that when I went home, I was going to be out and open to my family. It was my chance to be honest about who I am, and they could take me or leave me. It was the best thing that had happened to me. There have been only two times in my life when I felt a weight had been lifted off me. The first time was when I was baptized while in high school and the second was when I came out to my family. I felt all my problems had disappeared. The worry was gone, and I could focus on important things. I got to know myself better, and my relationship with my parents improved. If you're not out to family and friends or at work, it will be difficult to experience happiness.

—David Liddle

When I moved back to Dallas with my partner several years ago, I faced the challenge of being hired at 50. We'd spent the previous 13 years in Hawaii, but wanted to return to Texas. After two years of looking for full-time employment, I saw an ad for an office manager in the Dallas Voice. But I didn't get the job. It seemed like being 50 years old no one wanted to hire an old man. Then a month later, I got a call asking if I still wanted the job. I did.

Being here got me really interested in gay rights and equality for the first time in my life. It helped bring out the activism in me, which is a positive thing. I'm not only a gay activist, I'm an LGBT activist.

—Jesse Arnold

I had been freelancing for Dallas Voice for about 12 years and sometimes worked in the office helping with editing on Thursdays. One Thursday evening, everything was laid out. We were about to put the paper to bed and editor Dennis Vercher looked at me, realizing we had left something out. "Where are the obituaries?" he asked. "I don't have any," I said. We asked David Webb, a writer here, the same thing. He had none.

Medications to control HIV became available in 1996 and came into widespread use over the next couple of years. Deaths from AIDS had been noticeably slowing, but this week there were none. We began to cry. An issue of Dallas Voice without any obituaries!

—David Taffet

I was discharged from the Air Force in 1979 for going to a gay bar. In those days, all it took was for someone to put in a call *alleging* you were in a gay bar, and the military wheels to boot you out started spinning. We called them witch hunts. Officers from the Office of Special Investigations would round up dozens of men and women who had been turned in and the discharge proceedings would begin. There was nothing we could do or say in our defense. That discharge rocked my world. To be told you weren't wanted because you're gay was a sledgehammer to my self-esteem and psyche. It took years to recover, but it made me realize how hateful the country's laws can be and that when you're knocked to the ground you have to shake the dust off your britches and get after it again. Through that experience, I learned to plant myself more firmly so that it would take a mighty blow to knock me down, and I learned how important it is to get back up.

—Steve Ramos

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Dallas Voice staff: Watershed moments



I'd often wondered if I should have "the talk" with my dad, but my mother once advised me against it. Then starting around 2001, a family friend encouraged me to tell my father I was gay, but I put it off. Finally in 2007, I flew to Washington, D.C. to tell him. I just wanted to get it off my chest. His reaction was, "As long as you're happy, I'm happy." After 42 years without revealing my sexuality to him, I thought I had everything to lose. But he gave me a big bear hug and told me he loved me no matter what.

— Kevin Thomas

When Judge Jack Hampton gave a lesser sentence to a convicted murderer because he killed a gay man, things at Dallas Voice and in the LGBT community changed. The realization that people of authority, who had power over your lives, would say to a gay person their lives weren't valuable because they're homosexual — nothing could be more motivating than that. I remember the protests. Ann Richards, who was state Treasurer at the time, sent a statement. Even people in a conservative state like Texas weren't going to tolerate that.

I saw the community get energized in a way he had never seen before. I saw straight people becoming allies for the first time. Readership increased and Dallas Voice reporting was being taken seriously beyond the LGBT community.

— Robert Moore

One of my drivers was going to see her aunt in the country and swerved to avoid what she thought was a rat in the road. She stopped when she saw it was a little six-or seven-week-old chihuahua. She called and asked me if I wanted him. I thought I'd take him and find a home but I fell in love. That was four years ago.

Joey became the office dog. He always shows up in a new outfit. He works the Dallas Voice booth at events in his Dallas Voice T-shirt. He helps deliver the paper every week and if I leave him home, everyone asks where he is.

— Linda Depriter

My Facebook post, May 2009: "Our 25th Anniversary issue comes out Friday!" In the five years since our last Anniversary Edition, I've seen the world's opinion of our community improve, my personal life has taken a 180, and at work I find myself looking at The Big Picture, now that I am co-owner of Dallas Voice and responsible for lives and careers other than my own. I have a genuine hope that by our 35th, Texans of all persuasions will be able to marry, equality will have taken some pretty big strides, and Dallas Voice will continue evolving to remain a relevant and important voice of the LGBT community.

— Terry Thompson

I began working at Texas Triangle in 2001, and I still remember the first cover I designed. When I saw a stack of the newspaper at Kroger, I just stood and stared at it for what felt like 10 minutes. When Texas Triangle merged with Dallas Voice in 2004, Robert Moore called me "the best part of the deal." I got to know, love and respect Senior Editor Dennis Vercher, so when Dennis died in September 2006, after battling AIDS for two decades, I asked to design the memorial ad.

The ad was a simple design featuring a large picture of Dennis. In the background was a picture of the typewriter Dennis used before Dallas Voice moved to computer that remained on his desk until his death. I knew I got the memorial right when I saw how it brought tears to the eyes of other staff members. Dennis' typewriter and his 1979 Mapsco still sit on a writer's desk.

— Michael Stephens



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viewpoints

It's a bad week to be a bigot

From music to sports to marriage equality, gay issues took on tremendous visibility this week

Three different examples of the continued march toward equality happened this week from shockingly different corners of American society and around the world. Unless you live under a rock, (and hey, if you do, how does that actually work?) you've heard that openly gay football player Michael Sam was drafted in the seventh round of the NFL draft by the St. Louis Rams, self-proclaimed "bearded lady" Conchita Wurst won the Eurovision Song Contest representing Austria and a judge overturned the gay marriage ban in Arkansas.

It's a lot. A lot of gay. Just, gay, gay, gay — everywhere gay. It must be a horrible moment for bigots the world over. I'd imagine there is some serious soul-searching and hand-wringing happening everywhere from the Kremlin to a few sports bars to the Focus on the Family headquarters.

Because not only did our community win big this weekend, we won with strikingly in-your-face visuals to accompany each victory. The photo of Michael Sam jubilantly kissing his boyfriend was shown on ESPN. The picture of the first lesbian couple to receive a marriage license in Arkansas is filled with joy, and the two brides look like they would step easily into the cast of *The L Word 2.0*. And Conchita. Dear Conchita. As the drag queen persona of a gay man, performing in a ball gown, with Kardashian worthy eyelashes and tresses and accompanied by screen-projected flames for her "Rise Like A Phoenix" number, Conchita served an appropriately obvious metaphor with the subtlety of a fabulously bedazzled sledgehammer.

Bigots can almost literally not turn on the news and not see us this week. And it is. *Awe-some*. It is a limp-wristed slap in the face to the anonymous sources who declared the NFL was not ready for a gay player. It is an aggressive offensive drive straight at Putin's Russia and his anti-LGBT policies. And in the South, oh, the South — it is a clarion call for action and advancement in states where many LGBT individuals have heretofore thought "but it will be a long time before equality gets here." Well that time is now, and Texas, this means you, too.

There is certainly the expected pushback, though it feels anemic and impotent in a gleefully large number of cases. Already conservative commentators are bemoaning the onscreen kiss. An apples and oranges comparison be-



OUT AND PROUD | Michael Sam kissed his boyfriend on ESPN when he became the first openly gay man drafted into the NFL, left, and Conchita Wurst wowed audiences to take the Eurovision Contest, right, giving gay issues an international platform. Right-wing pundits imploded.



Emerson Collins
Contributing Columnist

tween the treatment of Tim Tebow and Michael Sam has been repeated ad nauseam. Russian politicians are criticizing the Eurovision result as the end of Europe. The Arkansas attorney general is pursuing a stay against the ruling lifting the ban on gay marriage. These, however, are all the actions of opponents on the ropes. Like the little Dutch boy with a finger in the dike (stop it), they are fighting losing battles on all fronts.

Of course, there is still much ground to be covered in all of these areas. Conchita cannot change the current plight of LGBT Russians. Michael Sam cannot be expected to do anything more than play football as well as he is able. And if Arkansas remains No. 18, there are still 32 left to go. Still, these bellwether moments can and should be celebrated.

The wonder of this confluence of events in art, sports and legislation is how beautifully it showcases the diversity of the gay community. The rainbow, that beautiful, cheesy and appropriately colorful symbol, is demonstrably apropos this week. Stereotypes are not good or bad things if they are true, though they should never be used to make assumptions about a person. However, it is an incredibly exciting accomplishment to be able to loudly and proudly say, "See! We come in all shapes and sizes, with talents as different as they are impressive and we will not be boxed, shunned or kept from achieving anything based on this one aspect of who we are."

You may not know what Eurovision is, you

may not watch any version of sportsball and you may never travel to Arkansas, but we can all celebrate what these victories together represent. It's important to continue to celebrate, trumpet and cheer each of the varied victories for our community until we reach the day where it just does not matter.

Under the rainbow banner, we are beautifully and wonderfully different. The bigots all sound exactly the same. Fewer and fewer hear their message of intolerance and hate as anything other than that with each passing day. Their moans of frustration and red-faced screaming and gnashing of teeth in the face of the tsunami that is our march toward global equality? Those I could listen to all day long. ■

Former Dallasite Emerson Collins is an actor, producer and blogger based in Los Angeles.

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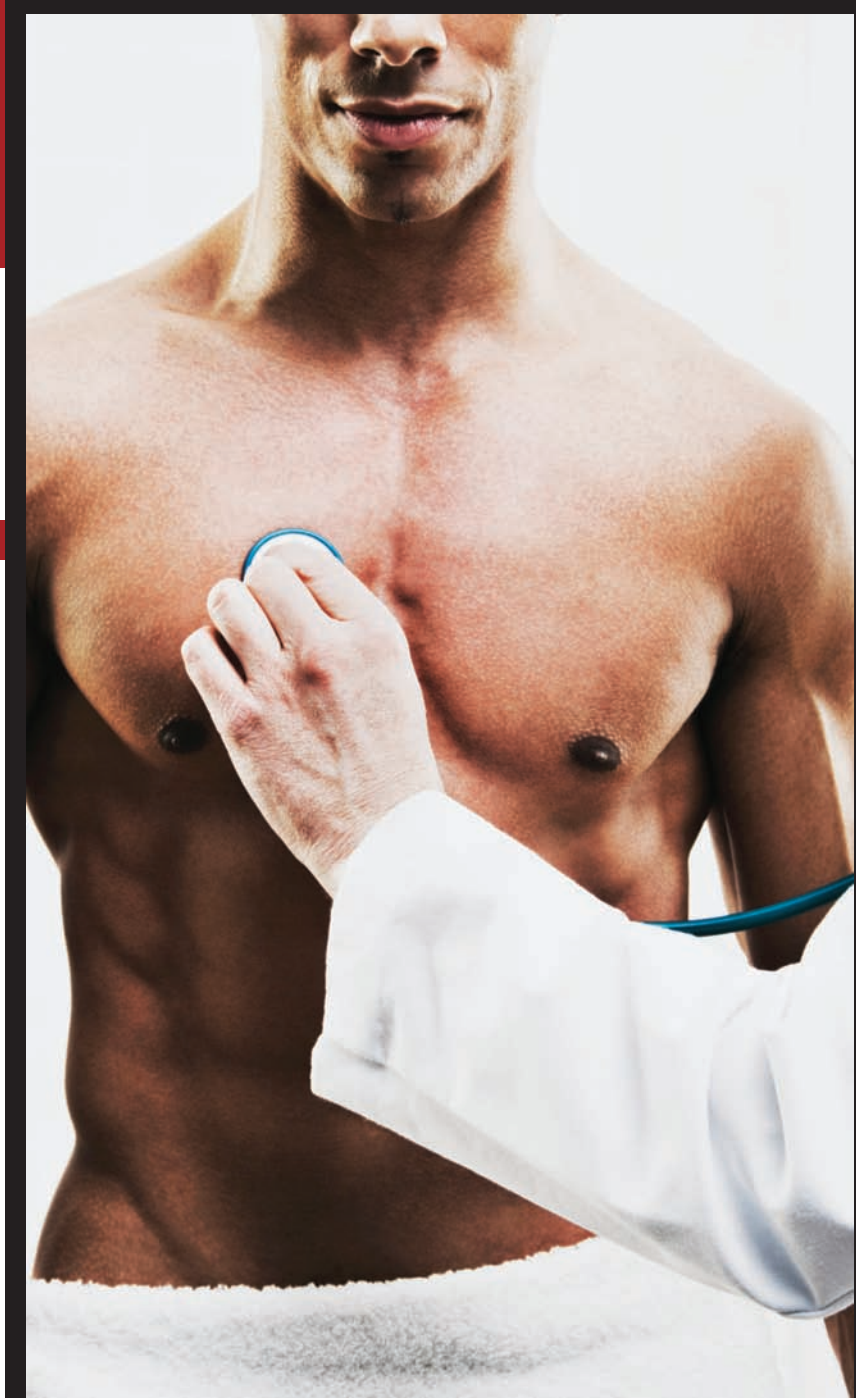
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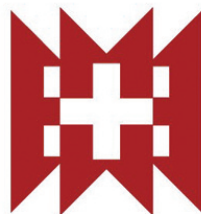
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Muddy Waters

He's been called America's maven of bad taste, but for cultural icon John Waters, it's just a question of being true to himself



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

John Waters was gay when gay wasn't cool — hell, it wasn't even legal.

He was an underground filmmaker when countless hippies and counterculture types were experimenting with art forms, sexuality and the limits of popular culture. But even in that group, Waters stood out.

"I never fit in," he says. "I went to my first gay bar in Washington, D.C., called the Chicken Hut. I walked through the door, looking around and thought, I may be queer, but I'm not *this*. I was looking for Bohemian. I'm against separatism; I love being in a bar that's mixed and you can't tell who's what."

Seeing things differently is a large part of the contest of This Filthy World, the one-man spoken-word show he brings to the Kessler later this month, though it's not the first time here for the out-and-proud Baltimore native.

"I remember coming [to the USA Film Festival] a lot — I met Dorothy Malone there. She was one of my favorite actresses. I hope she's alive and kicking in Dallas," he says. (She is.)

He may talk about Dorothy Malone at his upcoming chat, but probably he'll stick to his perversely enlightened ideas about soci-

ety.

"I talk a lot about [things such as] what is the politically correct word for gay men who *can* marry but choose not to?" he says. "It has been amazing how quickly [marriage rights have spread]. I campaigned for it with Gov. O'Malley in Maryland ... and then I was shocked that it passed! Personally, though, I think we have enough gay people. I'm for coming *in* — you should have to audition in front of a panel of experienced perverts, and only then do you get your card."

That aesthetic defined not only Waters — in early movies like *Female Trouble*, *Mondo Trashy* and *Pink Flamingos*, and later hits like *Hairspray*, *Cry-Baby* and *Serial Mom* — but an entire genre of kitsch: The full-frontal trash-wallow comedy. Who else would have a drag queen eat dog poop on screen *and* let the fat girl get the hot guy and become a TV star?

Of course, for decades the genre was one unto Waters alone. No one was doing what he did, which included notorious stunt casting — he made more-or-less-mainstream movie stars out of Patty Hearst, Pia Zadora and Traci Lords.

"I wasn't rediscovering them — I never forgot them!" he says. "I never hire someone because I think they are so bad; I do because they are so great. I got Pia Zadora great reviews in *Hairspray*. On *Cecil B. Demented* we had Adrian Grenier, Michael Shannon and Maggie Gyllenhaal before they were famous. I'm really proud that we've used folks either going up or coming down."

He's especially proud of the "image rehab" he did on Johnny Depp for *Cry-Baby*.

"People forget — Johnny was like Beiber at the height of his teen idolness, so we made fun of it and it went away. Who wants to be a famous victim? No one. Once you satirize, it goes away, but

you have to have a sense of humor about it."

That was also the last movie he stunt-cast.

"Everyone came to expect it," so I stopped doing it," Waters sniffs. "Now everyone does it — badly."

There is also the humor that goes into awkward places. People called it bad taste; he has another name for it now.

"Bad taste became American taste!" he exclaims, embracing his

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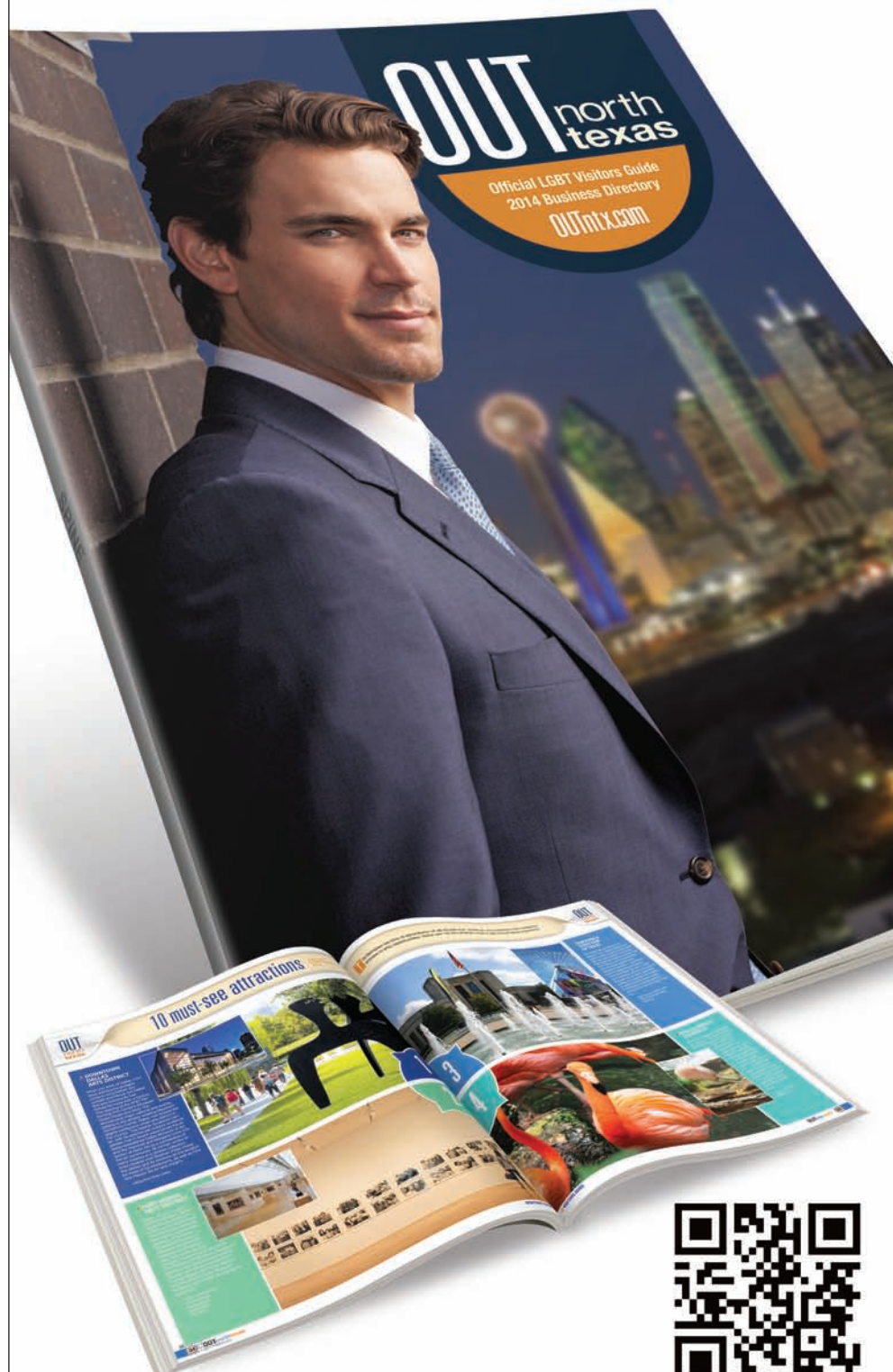
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L+S profile



SMOKE ON THE WATERS | Filmmaker-cum-lecturer John Waters has had a varied career with many occupations, which he'll talk about at the Kessler in Oak Cliff on May 29.

■ **FILTHY**, From Page 58

reputation as the maven of muck. “They called it sick humor. What I did as a kid is what Hollywood does — I never changed, but the rest of the world did. So whatever anybody does, it’s not shocking to me. I went to court to show pubic hair; [now] someone can shoot a load in Cameron Diaz’s hair. I haven’t done everything that’s in my movies. Johnny Knoxville [might] have. I like to say, with my movies, I paid my rent ... but he buys houses. Which I think is great.”

Clearly, Waters sees society as having caught up with him, rather than the other way around. Even though it’s not something he ever sought out. He was fine being on the fringe, since he seemed to have a place there.

“I was on the cover [of a gay magazine early in my career] not because I was brave, but because

no one *else* would put me on their cover!” he says.

And then came *Hairspray*.

“*Hairspray* is really the only subversive thing I ever did — it has the same values that Pink Flamingos teaches. All my movies have the same message: Exaggerate your uniqueness! Somehow that one snuck in [to the mainstream]. When I wrote it, I never thought I’d make money or it would cross over. Talk about cross-over! Everyone gets it!”

Still, Waters has — proudly — never fit into a mold. Call him a filmmaker? He hasn’t released a new feature in 10 years, though he has one in the works (a children’s film, if you can believe it). And he’s in no rush to prove anything.

“I might not ever make another film. I think of myself as a writer because every single part of my career I write — my movies, my books, my narratives. When I was 12 years old, I was a

puppeteer and wrote the puppet shows. I'm an art critic sometimes. I have many careers that are all equally interesting to me," Waters says.

And equally interesting to his remarkably diverse audience, which runs the gamut in terms of age, sexual orientation and social strata.

"My audience gets younger and younger," he says. "That's the one thing you can never buy: young fans. The average age at my spoken word events is 25. Eventually I'll be to the point where some of them weren't even born when I made my last film." Many of them know Waters not from his unrated movies, but from voiceover for Disney shows, appearing in a Chucky film, from

his show on Court TV or his role on an especially good episode of *The Simpsons*. ("Kids do come up to me and remember me from that," he says, insisting that his last residual check for it was made out to one cent.)

"The only thing you don't dare ever ask me is if I have a hobby. Them's fightin' words!" he laughs. Only not really. But how, then, does he explain his documented interest in photographing (originally with a Polaroid, now with a Fuji camera) every single person who has stepped into his living space for the last 25 years?

"That's not my hobby — that's my diary," Water says. "No one can see it until I am dead.

Every person who has ever been in any place I've ever lived is there. I take a pic from the governor to Johnny Depp to the phone man to a trick. And they all kind of become equal. It's very personal if you come into my house. It is varied. And it's [actually pretty] depressing — many are dead, or they are sad or sick or broke up."

So, accepting that he's given up stunt-casting, I still have to ask: Is there's someone in pop culture whose reputation he would love to rehabilitate, given the right role in a movie?

"I don't know," Waters hems. "... Casey Anthony?"

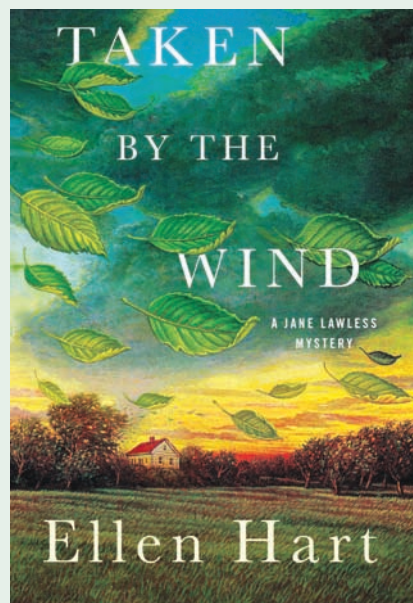


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'A LESBIAN COLUMBO'



Taken by the Wind by Ellen Hart (Minotaur Books, 2013). \$25.99; 336 pp.

Jack Lindstrom and Gabriel Born were cousins and best friends. The 12-year-olds did everything together, spent practically every night at one's house and even liked the same things. Still, Jack's two dads and Gabriel's mom and stepdad were astonished when the boys apparently ran away together. Eric Lindstrom figured it was because he and his partner, Andrew Waltz, had recently split. Surely, Jack was acting out. But Gabriel's mother Suzanne, didn't understand why her boy went along with it.

Andrew called Jane Lawless, a practicing PI, as this supposed runaway was looking more sinister. And then the ransom note arrived.

Taken by the Wind is middling potboiler, a solid 5 on a 1-to-10 scale. Over the course of several books in this series, Jane Lawless has evolved into a fine PI with excellent skills of deduction and enough outside support to allow her to get the job done. I like Jane; she's taciturn and smart, kind of a lesbian Columbo.

The mystery itself is decent and filled with just the right amount of keep-you-guessing, but it's also filled with too many side-stories that feel like unnecessary padding. My interest waned more than once.

As mysteries go, I've read better and worse. Give it a whirl, but be forewarned: *Taken by the Wind* blows hot and cold.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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L+S screen

Crash of the Titans

‘Godzilla,’ unexpectedly, is the best monster movie since ‘Jurassic Park’

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



Poor Aaron Taylor-Johnson — dude can’t catch a break. Sure, he appears to have been carved out of alabaster and leftover marble from Michelangelo’s David, gilded with Apple pie and puppy kisses. And yes, he has top billing in a summer tentpole movie.

Top billing, perhaps, but not the title role. That plum belongs to **Godzilla**, a 60-year-old movie monster who doesn’t make his appearance until an hour in this two-hour actioner. That’s star power: the ability to show up late to the party and still get all the chicks.

That leaves Taylor-Johnson as one of the most passive action heroes that modern moviedom has seen. This isn’t entirely a bad thing. *Godzilla* avoids many of the clichés of the traditional action film, even as it slyly reinforces some of its more appealing tropes. On the downside: The wife of Taylor-Johnson’s character, played by Elizabeth Olsen, spends most of the movie running while glancing upward with her big, dewy cow eyes (she also works in a hospital, as all female partners of movies superheroes are required to). And the explanation about the source of power for these mythic super creatures — that they feed on radiation — doesn’t fully justify the science of how eating and unexploded nuclear warhead would provide them with the energy needed to step all over San Francisco. And, like many action films

★★★★★

GODZILLA
Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen, Ken Watanabe, Bryan Cranston. Rated PG-13. 120 mins. Now playing in wide release.

of recent vintage, the stakes start out incredibly high — nothing short of world destruction and global financial collapse, as opposed to an isolated villain with a bug up his butt. They crash and flail and wreak the untold havoc of a toddler at a Toys R Us sale.

But overlook these miscues. Moreover, forget that abortive comic-tinged version from 1998. This *Godzilla* is one of the most satisfying monster movies since *Jurassic Park*.

It helps that we approach the film with six decades worth of backstory. The opening credits, a montage apparent classified newsreel footage

from the early atomic era of the 1950s, become kind of shorthand superhero origin story. Godzilla and his nemesis, a giant winged arthropod code named MUTO, are remnants from an age when dinosaurs could feed off of radiation. MUTO has the ability, with the stamp of a talon, to emit an electro-magnetic pulse, essential bringing the whole of humanity into the stone age. How can you defeat a creature who feeds on the fallout from ICBMs?

Maybe Godzilla — as a Japanese scientist, played by Ken Watanabe, poses — can bring balance by attacking his natural predator on behalf of mankind — the kick-ass Yin to MUTO’s Yang. And just what are Godzilla’s superpowers? You have to wait and find out, but it’s worth it. (Hint: One of his best moves he

RADIOACTIVE MAN | In Gareth Edwards’ surprisingly awesome film, the CGI-created Godzilla has more humanity than a sequel’s worth of Transformers.

learned from Muhammad Ali — an old-fashioned rope-a-dope.)

Godzilla has more in common with a classic monster pic like *Alien* than it does, for instance, Michael Bay's *Transformers* franchise of CGI-induced headaches. Sure, there are special effects aplenty, but much of the real action is traditional chop-socky hand-to-hand, like the Toho Studio B-movies and Hong Kong action flicks that spawned the campy style of *Godzilla* in the first place.

But director Gareth Edwards, while honoring those cheesefests, also has a modern eye turned on the screen. Much of the battle scenes look like found footage, as if the *Blair Witch* went all Hollywood. It mostly avoids moralistic dialogue about whether it's "right" to destroy these creatures (when Taylor-Johnson's character, on his own initiative, decides he needs to destroy a MUTO nest, there's no philosophizing about playing god; it's Us vs. Them, and Us needs to win.) His apocalyptic view of a MUTO attack is frightening but not oppressively so, like *Man of Steel* felt. There are visual echoes to movies like *The Birds* that conjure up Hitchcockian unease about modern society, without getting heavy-handed.

Despite Olsen having nothing to do and Juliette Binoche being dispatched before you get two bites of popcorn, the cast gives a dignity to the proceedings that makes *Godzilla* feel high-class. It's just too bad Taylor-Johnson never gets to take his shirt off — that much muscle deserves a proper focus, even if *Godzilla* gets the glory.

With a diet of radioactive isotopes, you couldn't exactly label *Godzilla* a foodie; that title belongs to Jon Favreau, the writer, director and star of *Chef*.

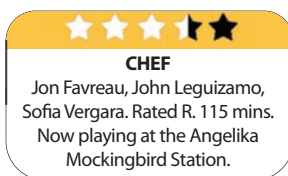
Chef operates in a world where a schlub like Favreau can boast Sofia Vergara as an ex-wife and Scarlett Johansson as a girlfriend. (It's also one where restaurants are informed ahead of time that a critic will be coming in to do a review.) But who cares about details like that? This is a feel-good tale of redemption, a banquet for the soul.

Carl Casper (Favreau) is a once-edgy chef at a respected L.A. eatery, who has allowed malaise to settle in at his kitchen. He longs to try more interesting dishes, but his play-it-safe employer (Dustin Hoffman) insists he stick with a boring menu: Lava cake, diver scallops, a caviar egg appetizer. When an influential food blogger (Oliver Platt) eviscerates him for losing his way, Casper has a meltdown that goes viral on social media and makes him *persona non grata* in the culinary community. Will Casper rediscover his passion, and finally become a good dad to his devoted but overlooked son (Emjay Anthony)? Have you *seen* a movie before?!

We've seen the structure before, though usually the follow-your-bliss path is reserved for jazz musicians and surgeons, not cooks. It does not avoid all the clichés it could (the melancholy relationship with Vergara, who plays it close to the vest, Casper's tone-deafness to his son's needs, etc.) but the chef's search for purpose is

satisfying and largely real. There's an overall authenticity to the food plot — Favreau-the-director treats us to visually delightful shots of exquisite dishes, which he contrasts cannily to the appealing-but-ordinary menu at his restaurant — and a tactile, romantic quality that never becomes cloying. The stomach truly is the way to a man's heart — and an audience's. ■

MIAMI HEAT | A chef and his son (Jon Favreau, Emjay Anthony) embark on a journey of self-fulfillment in the heartwarming comedy-drama 'Chef.'



CHEF

Jon Favreau, John Leguizamo, Sofia Vergara. Rated R. 115 mins. Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.



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L+S screen

X marks the spot

Newly out Ellen Page and gay-friendly Patrick Stewart on the film's message



X-Men: Days of Future Past goes to some pretty dark places, with some iconic comic book/movie heroes meeting gruesome ends within the first bombastic 10 minutes alone. How does one prepare for these sorts of scenes and tone?

"Well, James McAvoy the other day claimed he heard Hugh Jackman warming up in his trailer singing *Les Mis*," Patrick Stewart shares, amused. "I believe it, too. If I had a voice like Hugh Jackman, I would warm up ... but definitely not *Les Mis*. I would find other things to sing. My musical education ended with Buddy Holly."

I'm spending quality time with returning cast members Ellen Page and Patrick Stewart in Manhattan's Ritz-Carlton, prior to a press conference about the film and its making. We're alone, in a suite, and the pair of actors sits on a couch together.

The actress, who came out publicly in February (and is subject of *The Hollywood Reporter's* revealing cover story this week), plays Kitty Pryde, whose mutant power allows her to move through walls. Stewart plays Charles Xavier, aka Professor X, the world's most powerful psychic

and founder of the X-Men. Out actor Ian McKellen, who plays Magneto, controller of all things metal and Xavier's longtime frenemy — and one of Stewart's real life BFFs — isn't here today. He is, however, the subject of our conversation at the moment.

McKellen and Stewart famously posed and tweeted playfully queer photos together all over NYC, with the hashtag *gogodididididnyc*, while appearing in Broadway's *Waiting For Godot* last winter. Page admits that when she saw an image of the men holding hands, romantically strolling down Coney Island's promenade, "I re-tweeted it saying, 'date already!'" she laughs.

"We've known one another so long," Stewart, who married wife Sunny Ozell last year, elaborates, "and have been so intimate onstage as actors. I think we're entirely qualified to hold hands. We took what I think are some beautiful pictures down by Stonewall Inn and with the [Christopher Street] gay Pride statues."

Stewart has a great sense of humor about gay rumors (he's happily played gay in everything from the movie *Jeffrey* to an episode of *Frasier*). Even when it went a little too far recently, the actor had a great laugh.

MUTANT COUPLE | Patrick Stewart and newly out co-star Ellen Page see a definite gay message in the X-Men series.



BESTIES | Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart reunite in the latest 'X-Men' movie.

"My congratulations to Ellen! When she came out immediately produced a response from *The Guardian* newspaper outing me! They retracted it about 25 minutes later, but in those 25 minutes, I got some of the nicest emails and texts I've ever had in my life."

Director Bryan Singer's return to the *X-Men* movie franchise teams the original trilogy's cast members with their younger incarnations from director Matthew Vaughn's 2011's prequel, *First Class*: James McAvoy (the young Xavier), Michael Fassbender (Magneto), Nicholas Hoult (Beast), and Jennifer Lawrence (the shape-shifting Mystique).

X-Men: Days of Future Past begins with a dystopian future, in which mutants and their human sympathizers have been hunted to the brink of extinction by Sentinel robots, created by Dr. Bolivar Trask (Peter Dinklage). In a last-ditch effort for survival, Xavier sends Wolverine's consciousness back to the 1970s, where he might prevent the Sentinels from ever being created (hints of *The Terminator*?). Once there, he has trouble enlisting a bitter young Charles, a duplicitous Magneto and a Mystique dead-set on a vengeful agenda.

"In the first *X-Men*, Charles was a mentor for Wolverine, and the opposite happens in this movie," Jackman noted during the conference. "And Wolverine, going back to the '70s? It's perfect. I don't think he wanted to leave the '70s! The hair, the muttonchops, the clothes! I think the moment that Tears For Fears, Flock of Seagulls, and Wham came around, Wolverine was

like, 'I'm out!'"

Boasting grand effects set pieces, fight scenes, dark twists, and hysterical bits of humor — particularly during a delicious caper sequence in which arrogant young mutant Quicksilver (Evan Peters), who can travel at light speed, helps break Magneto out from beneath the Pentagon — this *X-Men* ups the game considerably.

Like the previous films and comic book series from which the *X-Men* sprung, there's an analogy to be found between mutants and LGBTs. In *X2*, there was a memorable scene in which Iceman, played by Shawn Ashmore, came out as mutant to his family. His mother asked, "Have you tried *not* being a mutant?" and countless gay

heads nodded out of familiarity.

"It's been present since the very first film," Stewart acknowledges, "and that content has given a lot of substance. It questions prejudice and discrimination, because some creatures on our planet are different. However in this story, mutantkind and humankind in the present day are connected, because they're facing a threat far greater than any before. A Sentinel cannot be reasoned with. You can't rationalize what the Sentinels want. You can't sit down and have a cup of coffee to talk it over. But those parallels have always been there, and we've always talked about and been aware of them."

Of course, one can also draw a parallel be-

tween mutants who "come out" and LGBTs who do the same, putting a face to what some people fear and hate. Page's life has changed profoundly for the better since she came out as lesbian at the HRC's "Time To Thrive" LGBT youth conference in Las Vegas on Valentine's Day. Julianne Moore has signed on to play her girlfriend in the upcoming *Freeheld*, a dramatization of the Oscar-winning 2007 documentary about a dying New Jersey policewoman who desperately fought to assign her partner survivor benefits. However, Page says she isn't aware of a closeted Hollywood sisterhood *per se*.

■ X-MEN, Page 67

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L+S music

Cast away

Former Dallasite Jim Caruso brings his New York Cast Party to North Texas



SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

"It's such a spontaneous evening," says Jim Caruso, out Dallasite-turned-New Yorker, of Jim Caruso's Cast Party, a celebrated weekly talent night he has hosted at Manhattan's Birdland nightclub for the last 11 years. "It is truly an open mike, so whoever comes through the door is fair game to be on the list. Last week, we had Liza Minnelli, Michael Feinstein, Art Garfunkel, a woman who wrote a song about her feet, and a

guy who's a contortionist who sat on his own face. When I say you never know what's going to walk in, I'm not kidding."

And it's not just New Yorkers who get to partake of his event anymore — Dallas is getting a taste of it on two nights, starting this week, when he brings the show to Kitchen Café.

Caruso attributes Cast Party's endurance to the superior talent of its guests. Working mem-

LIFE IS A CABARET | Jim Caruso, who used to wow 'em at John L's, brings his NYC open mike show back to his hometown for two shows.

bers of the Broadway, jazz, cabaret and folk communities, along with their fans, populate each show's talent roster.

"It never feels like a drunken karaoke event," he says. "The standards are very high. I don't know if I would call them classy all the time, but [it brings in] lots of really talented people."

Interestingly, Caruso cut his musical teeth right here. His first foray into entertaining was in Dallas, with an act he and his pianist-mother created.

"It was called Son of a Bitch," Caruso recalls. "We played Stefano's Seafood on Mockingbird Lane during happy hour. Top that! It sounds so horrifying, and it probably was, but it gave me my first taste of nightclub. There was actually a thriving nightclub community [in Dallas] at that point."

Today, Caruso's Cast Party pianist and long-time collaborator is award-winning musician Billy Stritch, also a former Texan. The duo first met in 1990, when each had moved to New York. It was then, by chance, that they met famed performer Liza Minnelli.

"We just happened to move here [to New York] at the same time, and he was playing piano in a restaurant," Caruso recalls of Stritch. "Liza and Chita [Rivera] were over in the corner. He started to play the theme from *The Bad and the Beautiful*, a film that Liza's father had directed. Liza came over and sat on the bench next to him."

The trio became fast friends — or, as Caruso describes it, "three amigos." Later, Caruso made his Broadway debut alongside Minnelli in the 2008 Tony-winning production *Liza's at the Palace*, with Stritch arranging the show's vocals. Today, the three remain close, with Liza making frequent appearances at Cast Party.

In an effort to widen the show's scope to include talented performers outside of New York City, Caruso and Stritch have taken the concept on the road. They have visited, among other places, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. But this week will mark its Dallas debut, and Caruso is eager for the opportunity to reconnect with old friends.

"I'm so excited about coming to Dallas and rejoining the Dallas scene!" Caruso enthuses. "I lived there for 18 years. I ran an open mike there, as a matter of fact, at a club called John L's. It was just a great space. I have a feeling that some of the greatest performers from the Dallas theatre scene will be coming to see us."

Caruso is quick to differentiate Cast Party from popular television talent shows.

"No matter where we do it, it's a very upbeat positive experience for people," he says. "So much of this kind of stuff on TV now is judged and slammed and, you know, made fun of. That is not at all what we do, no matter who it is. The lady with the feet got the same amount of applause as Liza did. Well maybe not exactly the same, but almost the same."

With reality television's current popularity, it would seem that Cast Party is ripe for primetime broadcast. There are, however, a few obstacles preventing it.

"It's difficult because of music rights," Caruso says. "Songwriters have to be paid, and I understand that. You know a Gershwin tune would eat up the whole month's budget."

Still, with or without television, Cast Party's mission of highlighting talented performers continues.

"I'm a big proponent of celebrating talent," Caruso says. "In an age when budgets for the arts are being cut right and left, we've been proud to be able to shine a spotlight on singers. It's a thrill to be able to connect with other people." ■

■ **X-MEN**, From Page 65

"I don't know any," she insists. "I don't know any other person in my life I had something like that going on, a secret little club or something. I [came out] because I was ready to do it in my life. I would never judge someone for whatever choice they want to make, nor do I believe in outing people unless they're rightwing politicians taking away our rights and saying horrible things."

Bryan Singer has already given away the fact that another *X-Men* film is in the works, this time starring villain Apocalypse (stay through the

end credits for a tease), so it looks like this team will reunite again. Maybe Stewart and McKellen can tweet photos of themselves holding hands in Cerebro when they do.

"We have become a company," Stewart nods. "Even though there are gaps between movies, we are an ensemble and it's been a collaboration all the way along the line. When the camera stops rolling and director says 'cut' we always have plenty to say to one another. The conversations on set are entertaining and lively. There are some jobs you get to do where it feels like the very best dinner party." ■

—Lawrence Ferber



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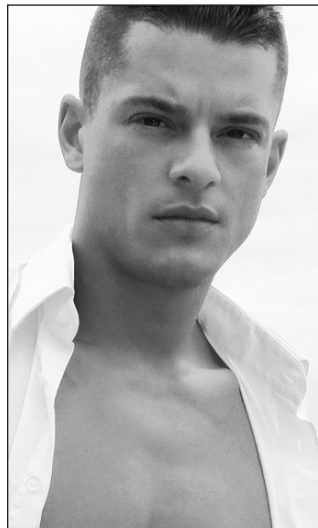
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L+S music

Sounds of Szilenze

Queer rockers go loud on new CD with gay and straight tracks that deliver



CROSSING OVER | Combing straight and gay sensibilities on their new album, indie rockers Szilenze bridge a gap in popular music with epic style.

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
getrichindallas@gmail.com

For their second album, Szilenze makes a point with the title alone. In *Shut Up and Listen*, the group shows gains in their song structuring and instrumentation. While the pacing gets iffy at times, the album is a graduation for the indie rockers who rep some major queer cred.

As the album's launching pad, the self-titled opening title track should burst out of the gate. But the band holds back on making the anthem it seemed destined for, and the song instead serves more as a prologue. That early stumble is quickly recovered with the poignant "Take This Life." The song ebbs and flows from rocker to ballad with intricate guitar work throughout. An empowering lyric like *You've nothing to prove / just be the you that's inside* never plays as schmaltz. Szilenze fuses killer edge with a feel good message.

The band flirts with metal, goth and steampunk elements but they have a penchant — whether they know it or not — to give songs some pop structure. Their outlandish outfits and album art don't immediately read as accessible, but they make up for it with fascinating tracks like "Dear John." The guitars and drums are heavy as hell, but amid the song's muscle, the band weaves a melody that ties the song to-

gether.

Szilenze falters with "Popular," which vocalizes some repressed teen angst that plays with a forced bent. (Whether intentional or accidental, the guitar riff recalls the *Beverly Hills 90210* theme music.) Music can be cathartic but the band seems too mature for this as they prove in the later ballad "Once Upon a Time."

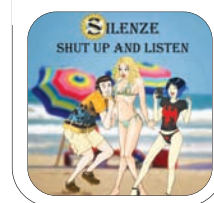
What's remarkable about Szilenze is their straddling of queer and straight. Regardless that band members Spencer Fellner and Roxanna Jeske identify as LGBT, the band as a whole gives voice to each member. This leaves room for songs like "Dear John" and the aggressive and blatant "Mr. Right Now." Hard rockers need anonymous hook ups, too, and here

the band doesn't hold back with *No time for talking just fucking / fuck my face*, and we're all the better for it.

Shut Up and Listen is overall a fascinating epic. The rough edges of indie music are apparent. Vocal qualities aren't quite there yet, and they somehow manage to go balls out in some parts and hesitant in others. But Szilenze is loud in its determination. It has heart and are comfortable with both queer and non-queer voices, which say something far more. ■



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The Slow Bone

The moment the words escaped my lips, I knew I'd screwed up. "... And I'll have a side of the cauliflower *au gratin*," I said, employing the proper French pronunciation.

Big mistake.

Not that anyway rolled his eyes or looked at me quizzically. But at a venue like The Slow Bone, you feel compelled to order things "aw grottin," to chew on cornbread, not baguettes; to help yourself to the fixin's bar, not request the waitress bring you an extra dollop of sauce. There are no pretenses here, as ideally there shouldn't be when folks from all social strata commune to break bread. There's just food, manners and the shared experience of excellent barbecue.

The Slow Bone is an egalitarian setting, the kind that just arises organically and cannot be foisted on anyone. During a midday lunch rush, truckers and bankers, mechanics and ministers of all ethnicities will stand, elbow-to-elbow, waiting for the chance to order meals laden with proteins and home-style sides. I assume they accept credit cards, but it seems right to pay cash — keep the line moving. Any delay just punishes yourself, making you wait until you can indulge in the food before you.

If turkey weren't such an inviolable Thanksgiving tradition, the kind of food they serve here would be the ideal celebratory feast, only one you can access any day of the year. It's plentiful and unabashedly rich, and as is the fashion with

holes-in-the-wall where gourmands converge, consistent. Places like this always have a "secret": secret sauce, secret smoking/curing process, secret add-ins to make the vegetables pop. (Were I to guess, I'd imagine the two secret ingredients here are "love" and "pork fat.") It's not brain surgery (unless, on a special day, they're serving cabeza) — it's just what restaurants should do well.

The menu is limited: The rib platter (\$14.99) is the specialty, but you can get one, two or three meat plates (starting at \$12.99), choosing among ribs, brisket, sausage, chicken. Your order is carved in front of you, and you work your way down the cafeteria-style line, selecting from

among the half-dozen sides and always with a bread included (hush puppies or cornbread). You can get a piece of buttermilk pie if they have it, and of course they serve sweet tea.

Many folks differentiate their favorite barbecue spots based on the sauce, but the best barbecue doesn't require any. The meat is the star, not stewed tomatoes and spices. Still, The Slow Bone makes a sweet sauce, including what they call "cock sauce" (housemade Sriacha; it packs a kick) and the default barbecue sauce is on the sweet side. I liked it, but the meat lived on its own, from the succulent flesh falling off the ribs to the tender sliced brisket to the chipotle-infused pork sausage. Vegans need not apply here;

I think even the Diet Coke has pork fat in it.

The sides are just as wonderful, especially the mac & cheese (who doesn't love mac & cheese, especially one this rich) and okra where the cornmeal merely dusts the veggie, not entomb it like a caterpillar waiting to emerge from a chrysalis.

My dining companion, despite his substantial Southern roots, had never tasted buttermilk pie before; he was unimpressed, though I liked it. That's OK. You don't need to love everything about someone to still wanna spend your life with them.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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ComicCon flies into Dallas

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DEETS: Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. May 16–18. For times and prices, visit FanExpoDallas.com.



Saturday 05.16

Gaybingo goes superhero

It's time for Gaybingo again, and we can't say for sure, but our Spidey sense is tingling that perhaps the reason this week's theme centers on superheroes relates to ComicCon being in town. Or maybe they just know gay men like to dress up in Spandex. Either way, the monthly fundraiser is here to the rescue!

DEETS: S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 5 p.m., play at 6 p.m. \$25–\$40. RCDallas.org.

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Monday 05.12

Comic whodunnit 'Shear Madness' opens at Theatre 3

It's madcap! It's spine-tingling! It has bangs — not the gun kind, but the hair kind. *Shear Madness* is a long-running comedy with a little something for everyone and some stuff for nobody in particular. A murder is committed, but did you spot the clues? You might be tapped to participate in this farce, starring Dallas stalwarts B.J. Cleveland and Bradley Campbell. It opens Friday in T3's downstairs Theatre Too space, and has a run planned throughout most of the summer.

DEETS: Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. May 16–July 20. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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EELS | EELS with strings performs in one of the first outdoor concerts of the season at Annette Strauss Square in the Arts District. (Photo by Craig Sotres, courtesy of AT&T Performing Arts Center)

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Dallas Solo Fest. Eight performers (including three locals) mount their one-person shows in this inaugural festival. Presented by Audacity Theatre Lab. Margo Jones Theatre at the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Through May 25. DallasSoloFest.com.

The Lyons. A dark comedy about a family reuniting as the patriarch (Terry Vandivort) is dying. Directed by Bruce Coleman. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

The Masks of Sor Juana. Play about the feminist Mexican saint (recently portrayed in the opera *With Blood, With Ink* at the Fort Worth Opera Festival). *Final weekend.* Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Road. TeatroDallas.org.

Seminar. The recent Broadway hit about a college lecturer and his relationship with his students. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in T3's downstairs space. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). May 16–July 20. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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

Venus in Fur. The hit production, which played earlier this year at Fort Worth's Circle Theatre, moved to Addison. *Final weekend.* Studio Theatre, Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

White People. J.T. Rogers' provocative play about three ordinary Americans placed uncomfortably in the spotlight in a play about race, language and culture. Presented by Pegasus Theatre and Churchmouse Productions. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through May 25. 800-838-3006.

DANCE

Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Spring Celebration Gala. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m.

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. Through May 25. Artist's reception Friday, 7–10 p.m. Ro2Art.com.

Carmen Menza: Equal. The local artist opens her new show of neon, fine art and sculpture as a benefit for the Human Rights Campaign. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, suite 107. Through June 14. ilumegallerie.com.

FRIDAY 05.16

EXPO

Dallas Comic Con. Guests include William Shatner (Star Trek), Stan Lee (Spider-Man, X-Men) and Michael Rooker (The Walking Dead). Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. May 16 4–9 p.m. May 17 10 a.m.–7 p.m. May 18 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

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SHOW ME THE MONEY | Seasoned LifeWalk participants exchange ideas to help teams recruit new members and offer fundraising tips to increase donations at Wednesday's event. (File photo)

DINING

Fork & Cork. The culinary event designed for the Epicurious with celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson. May 16-17. Addison Circle Park, Addison.

BURLESQUE

Viva Dallas Burlesque, the largest burlesque show in Texas. Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Road. 8 p.m.

FESTIVAL

Richardson's Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival. Galatyn Park, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. May 16 6 p.m.-midnight. May 17 11 a.m.-midnight. May 18 12:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY 05.17

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.

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo: Comic Book is the theme. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY 05.18

FILM

Nobucco stars Placido Domingo. Magnolia Theater, 3966 McKinney Ave. 11 a.m.

MONDAY 05.19

CONCERTS

EELS with strings. Annette Strauss Square. 8 p.m. 214-880-0202

TUESDAY 05.20

FILM

Giant. The Magnolia Theater continues its Tuesday Big Movie (sponsored by Dallas Voice) with this Texas-set classic, which first teamed Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor and began a historic friendship. Directed by George Stevens, who won an Oscar. Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village. 7:30 and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 05.21

COMMUNITY

LifeWalk 101. Learn from seasoned LifeWalk veterans about ways to recruit team members, fundraise and plan events. Lawyer's Title, 4141 N. Central Expressway, 4th Floor. 6:30-8 p.m.

THURSDAY 05.22

CABARET

Jim Caruso's Cast Party. The former Dallas resident brings his New York City cabaret show to Dallas. Kitchen Cafe Dallas, 17370 Preston Road, #415. \$25.

this week's solution

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browse

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

submit

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

MAY is MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH!



Renew Your Gym Membership Get a month FREE

Purchase or renew your six-month or yearly gym contract in May and get an extra month FREE!

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AIDS HOTLINE — 214-559-AIDS; Sponsored by Resource Center.

AIDS SERVICES

***AIDS ARMS INC.** — 351 W. Jefferson Blvd., #300; 214-521-5191; aidsarms.org.

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK — 501 N. Stemmons, #200; Dallas 75207; 214-943-4444 (Programs); 214-941-7696 (Administration); aidsinterfaithnetwork.org.

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER — 400 N. Beach St.; Fort Worth, 76111; 817-335-1994; aoc.org

AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT — 400 S. Zang Blvd., Dallas 75208; 214-645-7300; 214-645-7301.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY** — 5450 Denton Drive Cut Off, Dallas 75235; 214-521-3390.

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

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

EDUCATION

ALLIES — 3140 Dyer #313, Dallas 75205; 214-768-4796.

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

HOMAGE AT UTA — 817-272-3986; tmarsh@uta.edu.

OUT @ COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE — 214-991-7851; out.collin.edu.

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

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

MEDIA

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

OUT NORTH TEXAS — 4145 Travis, 3rd Floor, Dallas 75204; 214-754-8710; outntx.com.

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION — 800-GAY-MEDIA; glaad@glaad.org; GLAAD.org.

LAMBDA WEEKLY — GLBT talk-radio show; KNON 89.3FM; P.O. Box 71909; Dallas 75371; lambdaweekly@aol.com; www.lambdaweekly.com.

PRIDE RADIO — 14001 N. Dallas Parkway, #300; Dallas 75240; 214-866-8000; prideradiodfw.com/main.html.

MUSIC

NEW TEXAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — P.O. Box 190137, Dallas 75219; 214-526-3214 (x101); ntso.org.

OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND — 2701 Regan Street, Dallas 75219; 214-621-8998; Info@oaklawnband.org; oaklawnband.org.

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE — P.O. Box 190137, Dallas 75219; 214-526-3214 (x 101); turtlecreek.org.

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS — 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., Suite 210; Dallas 75219; 214-520-7828; twcoffice@twcd.org; twcd.org.

POLITICAL

DALLAS STONEWALL YOUNG DEMOCRATS — 4145 Travis St., #204; Dallas5YD.org.

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

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS — Tom Purdy; LogCabin.org/Chapter/Texas-Dallas; Facebook: Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas.

METROPLEX REPUBLICANS — MetroplexRepublicans.com.

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS — P.O. Box 192305, Dallas 75219; 214-506-DEM5(3367); stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org.

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

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

PROFESSIONAL

ALLIANCE OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS — 214-526-2085.

CATHEDRAL BUSINESS NETWORK — 214-351-1901 (x135); cbn@cathedralofhope.com; cathedralofhope.com/cbn.

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN BAR ASSOCIATION — 214-540-4460; adamseidl@aol.com; dgiba.org.

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

LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS — 2701 Reagan, Dallas 75219; 214-957-2011; lambdapride@feettoasthost.us; http://reports.toastmasters.org/findclub.

LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS — info@leadershiplambda.free; toaststost.com; leadershiplambda.toastmastersclubs.org.

LGBT LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS — lgbtlawtx.com; 800-204-2222 (x1420).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD — 214-528-0022; rcdallas.org.

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

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

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

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

SOCIAL

BATTALION MOTORCYCLE CORPS — P.O. Box 190603, Dallas 75219; commander@battalionmc.com; battalionmc.com.

BITCH N BRUNCH — bitchnbrunch.org; bitchnbrunch@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIREDANCERS — mikeykeith@cs.com; fireddancers.org.

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

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

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

GROUP SOCIAL LATINO — 2701 Reagan St., Dallas 75219; 214-540-4446.

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

KHUSH TEXAS — http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khushstexas.

LATE BLOOMERS — La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave.; Dallas 75219; 903-887-7371.

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

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

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER — P.O. Box 190611, Dallas 75219; 214-521-4765.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION — dallasfamily.org.

SPIRITUALITY

AGAPE MCC — 4615 E. California Pkwy. (SE Loop 802); Fort Worth 76119; 817-535-5002; agapemcc.com.

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

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — 4523 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-528-4084; bethanypresby@sbcglobal.net.

***CATHEDRAL OF HOPE** — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-351-1901 (Local); 800-501-HOPE (Toll free); cathedralofhope.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GATHERING PLACE — 14200 Midway Rd., #122, Dallas 75244; 214-819-9411; thegatheringplacechurch.org.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST JESUS — 411 South Westmoreland, Dallas 75211; 214-333-9779.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — 4105 Junius at Haskell, Dallas 75246; 14-824-2533 (Phone); 214-824-2279 (Fax); gumc@graceumcdallas.org; graceumcdallas.org.

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

HARVEST MCC — 725 North Elm St., Suite 18, Denton TX 76201; 940-484-6159 (Phone); 40-484-6159 (Fax); harvest@harvestmcc.org; harvestmcc.org.

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

INTEGRITY — 214-521-5342 (x1742).

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

KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — 1215 Turner Ave., Dallas 75208; 214-942-0098; kpumc.org.

LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS — 214-691-4300.

***LIBERTY CHURCH** — 4150 North Central Expwy., Dallas 75204 (Physical); P.O. Box 180967; Dallas 75218 (Mailing); 214-770-3184.

LIVING FAITH COVENANT CHURCH — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd., Dallas 75211 (Share Building with Promise MCC); 972-546-0543; livingfaithdfw.org.

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

LUTHERANS CONCERNED — 6411 LBI Fwy., 214-855-4998; lcnorthtexas@lcna.org; lcna.org; reconcilingworks.org.

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

MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH — 11001 Midway Rd., Dallas 75229; 214-352-4841; mail@midwayhills.org; midwayhills.org.

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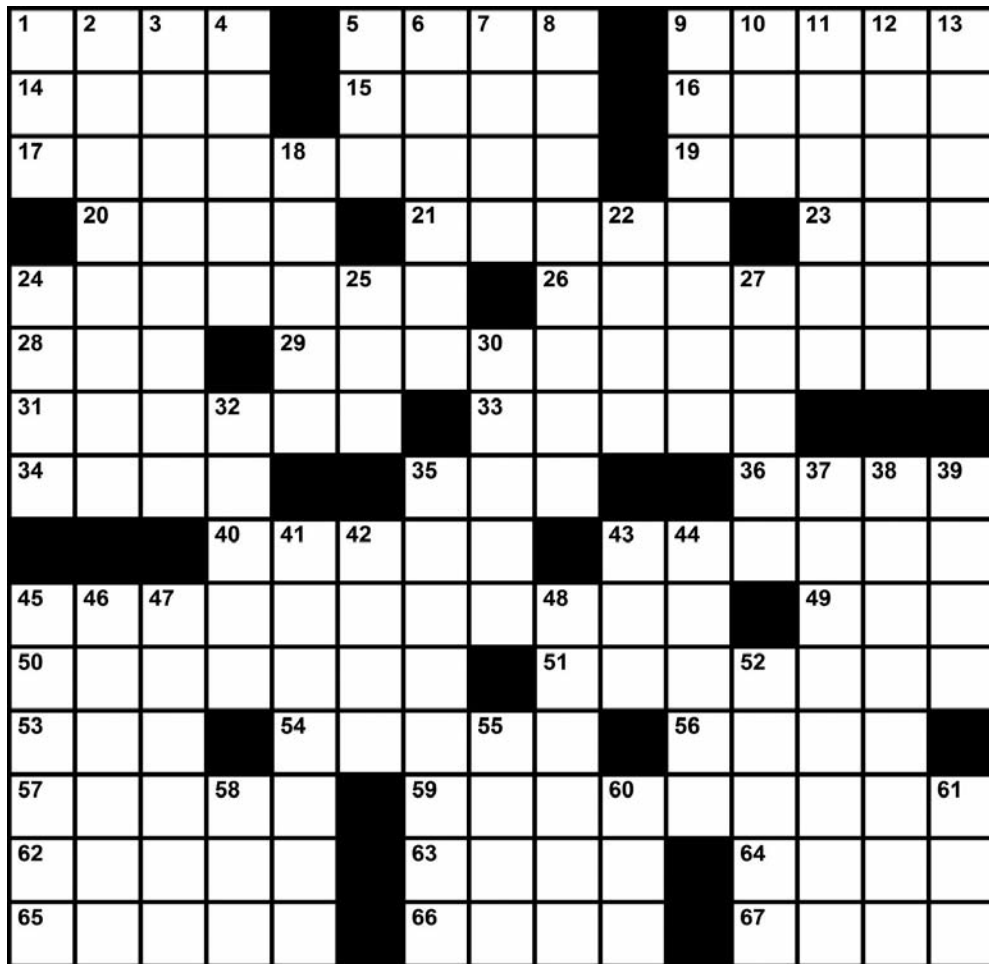
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Giovanni's Room

Solution on page 73

Across

- 1 Peters out
- 5 Word used by grabbers
- 9 Plotting group
- 14 Wife of Buck's Wang
- 15 Carbon compound
- 16 You must remember this
- 17 Start of James Baldwin's definition of home in *Giovanni's Room*
- 19 Card of the future
- 20 Spin like a top
- 21 Hymn to a Greek god
- 23 Island necklace
- 24 Place for a stud
- 26 Sugar pill, at times
- 28 Heather's mommy count
- 29 More of the definition
- 31 Animal bite worry
- 33 Cut out
- 34 Watched intently
- 35 Seaman
- 36 Verne hero Phileas
- 40 Lambda ___ Defense and Education Fund
- 43 Decide on
- 45 More of the definition

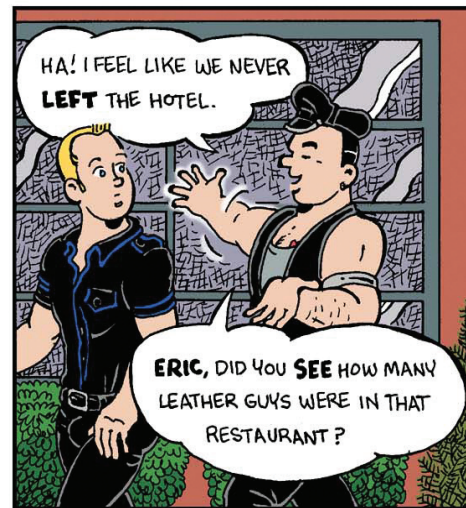
- 49 "Phooey!" to the Bard
- 50 Most intimate
- 51 Renting out
- 53 Four, often, to Sheehan
- 54 German white wine
- 56 "If I Were a ___ Man"
- 57 One-named pop singer
- 59 End of the definition
- 62 Provide new equipment for
- 63 "Blowjob" filmer Warhol
- 64 Make more potent
- 65 No-tell motel meeting
- 66 Give the slip to
- 67 Sommer of film

Down

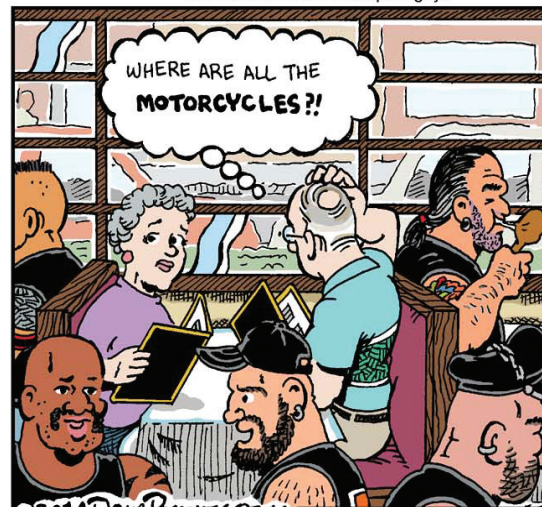
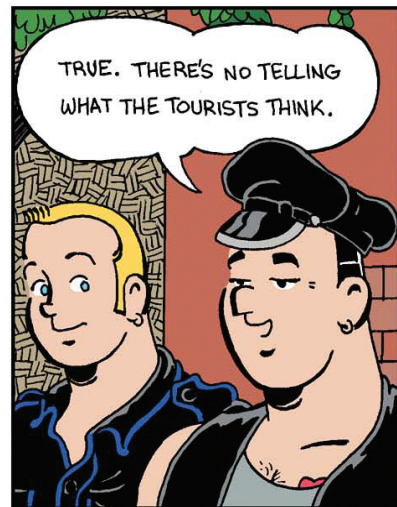
- 1 Awfully long time
- 2 Thrill with oral sex?
- 3 Postcoital garment
- 4 One who comes slowly
- 5 Martin of the *Daughters of Bilitis*
- 6 All worked up
- 7 Frida's mouth
- 8 More ready for bed
- 9 Breaks for pussies and toms?
- 10 Home of T. Bankhead
- 11 Beermaker's grain
- 12 Microscopic critter
- 13 It's for skin
- 18 Anal insert from a UFO?
- 22 Soprano Gluck
- 24 To be in Rimbaud's arms
- 25 It picks people up who eventually get off
- 27 Chin dimple
- 30 Milano opera house, with "la"
- 32 One who screws around
- 35 Kind of maneuver
- 37 Dave Pallone, to a baseball game
- 38 Become a debtor
- 39 Eldest Brady boy
- 41 Rupert of *Stage Beauty*
- 42 "Hey, I never thought of that!"
- 43 José's huzzah
- 44 Kind of dish
- 45 To some extent
- 46 Woolf's *The Common Reader*
- 47 Thin out
- 48 Becomes part of the crowd, with "in"
- 52 Owner's document
- 55 Denial for Nanette
- 58 Fleur-de-___
- 60 Head job?
- 61 Born, to Bonheur



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Maya Douglas at Buddies II, 2000.



Brett with June and Bonnie Pointer at TMC: The Mining Company, 2003.



Mr. Gay Texas All American at The Round-Up Saloon, 1998.



Shegotta Mustache at the Eagle, 2001.



Minne Van, Miss Club Dallas, 1999.



Corey and Diana at Buddies II, 2003.

Making the SCENE the week of May 16-22:

Alexandre's: Jason Huff on Friday at 10 p.m. **Three Drunk Monkeys** on Saturday at 10 p.m. **Paloma** on Wednesday at 9 p.m. **Alicia Silex** on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Best Friends Club: Imperial Court de' Fort Worth/Arlington show on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout. Sunday at 4 p.m. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** royalty show. Sunday 5-9 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: DFW Leather Corps seminar on Saturday at 2 p.m. **Mr. Texas Leather Send-Off Party** to IML on Saturday at 8 p.m. **Eagle Dragons Softball** cookout on Sunday at 5 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: Miss Gay USofA Sunday-Thursday 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

Sue Ellen's: Tiffany Shae on Friday. **Caio Bella** on Saturday. **Cami Maki, Heather Knox** and **Ashleigh Lynn** on Sunday.

The Brick: Dannee Phann Productions presents **Sugar Stix** Saturday with **RuPaul's Drag Race** entertainers **Shannel** and **Coco Montrese** hosted by **Larry** with a special performance by **G licious "G"** and beats by **DJ MINDO**. Saturday at 9 p.m. All donations accepted by your bartenders and part of the cover go to **LifeWalk Team Sugarstix**.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Casino night. Saturday 7-10 p.m. **Dallas Outlaws** extra innings. Sunday 4-7 p.m.

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



Melba (Robert) Moore on the right with a friend.



AIDS Quilt 1996.



Rob at the Eagle 2003.



Ms. Fem and Ms. Butch (Sparky and Claudia) at Buddies II 1996.



Steve at the Brick 2003.



Wanda and Cassie Nova at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 1997.



Jim and Joe at Throckmorton Mining Company 1998.

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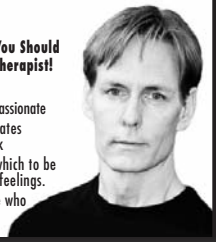
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