



dallasvoice

RT Texas | DallasVoice.com |   DallasVoice | Established 1984 | Volume 31 | Issue 11 | FREE | Friday, July 25, 2014

the Tragedy of MH17

**Pim
Wilhelm DeKuijer**
Netherlands
(Lobbyist, AIDS Fonds/
Stop AIDS Now!)

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DeSchutter**
Netherlands
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AIDS Fonds/
Stop AIDS Now!)

Joep Lange
Netherlands
(Co-Director,
HIV Netherlands
Australia Research
Collaboration/HIV-NAT)

**Glenn Raymond
Thomas**
United Kingdom
(World Health Organization)

**Lucie Paula
Maria van Mens**
Netherlands
(Director of Support,
The Female Health Company)

**Jaqueline
van Tongeren**
Netherlands
(Amsterdam Institute for
Global Health and
Development)

HIV/AIDS community mourns
the loss of researchers, activists
killed in Malaysia Airlines crash

INSIDE
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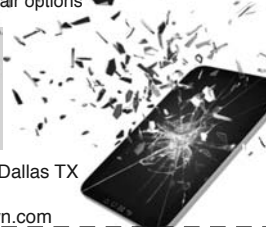
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Chris Miklos to be remembered at Dallas Eagle Friday night

Chris Miklos, the popular Dallas bear who died suddenly in his sleep this week at age 40, will be remembered by his friends Friday night, July 25, with a celebration at the Dallas Eagle.

"Join us for a night of celebrating and dancing, the way Chris would have wanted us to," the invitation reads. Folks will start gathering for the celebration at 11 p.m.

Chris graduated from the University of Akron and was a clinical research associate, performing medical testing on experimental drugs to treat a variety of ailments, including HIV. He traveled weekly for his work, which he loved. His friends remember him for all he did for the community.

He leaves behind a younger brother and his parents. Services are pending.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Judge tosses Colorado marriage ban, stays ruling

U.S. District Judge Raymond Moore issued his ruling Wednesday, July 23, overturning Colorado's ban on same-sex marriage. His ruling comes less than a month after a state district judge ruled in a separate case that the ban is unconstitutional.

Moore rejected Attorney General John Suthers' argument that failing to issue a stay would be harmful to the state and cause legal confusion. But the judge did temporarily stay his ruling to give Suthers' office until 8 a.m. on Aug. 25 to appeal his ruling to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

— Tammye Nash

Same-sex marriage would be an economic boom in Texas

A report released by the LGBT think tank Williams Institute at the University of California Los Angeles School of Law estimates that legalized same-sex marriage in Texas would give new meaning to the phrase "Texas Miracle."

According to the report, if same-sex marriage were legalized today, wedding planning would bring jobs, tourists and lots of cash.

Of the state's 46,000 same-sex couples, 23,200 would marry over the next three years, the report estimates. That means:

- Total spending on wedding arrangements and tourism by resident same-sex couples and their guests would add an estimated \$181.6 million to the state and local economy of Texas over the course of three years, with a \$116.2 million boost in the first year alone.
- This economic boost would add \$14.8 million in sales tax revenue to state and local coffers.
- Spending related to same-sex couples' wedding ceremonies and celebrations would generate 523 to 1,570 full- and part-time jobs in the state

The study follows a federal ruling in February striking down Texas' ban on same-sex marriage.

— James Russell

Researchers able to eliminate HIV from human cells

Researchers at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia say they have been able to completely eliminate HIV from human cell cultures.

Kamel Khalili, PhD., professor and chair of Temple's Department of Neuroscience, call the advancement "one important step on the path toward a permanent cure for AIDS." But Khalili added that while it is "an exciting discovery," the procedure is "not yet ready to go into the clinic." He added, "It's a proof of concept that we're moving in the right direction."

— Tammye Nash

Taylor named interim mayor in San Antonio

The San Antonio City Council appointed Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor as its interim mayor Tuesday, July 24, following Julian Castro's resignation in the wake of his appointment as the new U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Taylor was one of the three "no" votes against amending the city's non-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity.



According to the San Antonio News-Express, she voted no over concerns that it would stifle religious freedom.

At her swearing in however, Taylor said she looks forward to working with the entire community.

Chuck Smith of Equality Texas said in a statement he looks forward to working with Taylor "to ensure that the equal opportunities envisioned by the city's nondiscrimination ordinance (NDO) can become a reality for the 1.3 million people who make San Antonio their home."

Taylor, who has been on the council since 2009, will be the city's first African-American mayor. She will serve until the May 2015 elections and has said in the past she would not run for the open position.

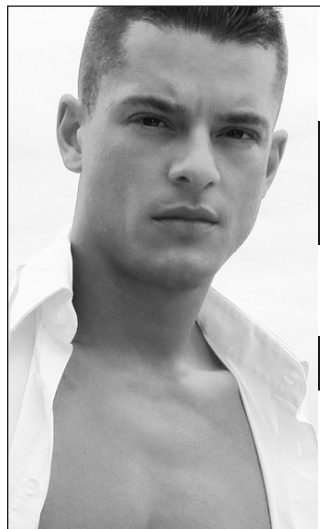

— James Russell



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localbriefs

Estate planning seminar set at Resource Center

Equality Texas presents a seminar on "Estate Planning for the LGBT Community" Saturday, Aug. 2, 2 p.m., at Resource Center's John Thomas LGBT Community Center, 2701 Reagan St.

Reserve a seat by emailing Amy Ford at AE-Ford@ft.newyorklife.com.

Bridge Building Network discusses LGBT elder care

Ed-U-Care's Bridge Building Network hosts a dinner, movie and discussion panel on creating a welcoming environment for LGBT elders in the Metroplex at the Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St, on Tuesday, July 29 at 6 p.m. The event is free.

To make a reservation, call Sharyn Fein at 972-239-9230 or email her at educaredallas@gmail.com.

Robertson to speak at Democrats meeting

Rebecca Robertson, legal and policy director for ACLU of Texas, will be the guest speaker at the Saturday, Aug. 2 meeting of the Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats. Robertson

joined ACLU three years ago after 15 years as a litigator. While she was a partner at Baker Botts, she chaired the firm's LGBT affinity group, led the amicus team that successfully challenged Texas' sodomy law in Lawrence v. Texas and assisted Houston residents with HIV/AIDS.

PC/CD Democrats meets at 10 a.m. at the University Park Public Library, 8383 Preston Center Plaza, Ste. 200. For information email mortonisis@aol.com.

High Tech Happy Hour meeting set

High Tech Happy Hour, an LGBT community networking program of Texas Instruments, meets Friday, Aug. 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Park Tavern, 8166 Park Lane, C310. For information call 214-446-0710.

Leo Party, Miss Leo benefit AIN

The AIDS Interfaith Network's 27th annual Leo Party and Miss Leo Contest will be held Saturday, Aug. 2 at 8 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. The theme this year is "Disco, Divas and Oldies."

The annual fundraiser benefits AIDS Interfaith Network's Daire Center and meals program. Call 214-943-4444 for reservations and more information.

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




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Anglin named 2014 Kuchling Award winner



Attorney/activist played a key role in the early days of many LGBT organizations



ANGLIN FOR AN AWARD | Friends praised Mike Anglin's legal expertise and commitment to the LGBT community, saying that he is 'long overdue' the recognition he received in being named the 2014 Kuchling Award winner. Anglin was close friends with Ray Kuchling (inset photo), after whom the award is named.

BY TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Black Tie Dinner officials announced Thursday, July 24, that attorney and longtime activist Mike Anglin is the 2014 recipient of the Kuchling Humanitarian Award. Anglin's friends said this week that the honor is long overdue.

The announcement was made during the annual Sneak Peek Party at Park Place Motorcars in Dallas, underwritten by Morgan Stanley.

"I am so pleased" that Anglin was chosen to receive the award this year, said Dick Weaver, a close friend of Anglin's and another longtime activist in Dallas' LGBT community.

"Mike Anglin is absolutely one of those people who never sought attention for the things he did. He was always content to stay sort of in the background. So most people don't realize the degree to which he was involved" in the fight for LGBT rights, Weaver said. "That's the beauty of Mike, and that's why I am so pleased he is receiving this award."

Anglin is a decorated military veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam from 1969 to 1972. He graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1976 then moved to Dallas to begin his career as an attorney.

Anglin served eight years on the board of directors for the organization that was first called the Dallas Gay Political Caucus, then became the Dallas Gay Alliance and is now known as the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance. He was the first chair of the organization's Social Justice Committee and was among those who, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, worked to stop harassment of LGBT people in Oak Lawn by Dallas police officers.

He also chaired the Dallas Bar Association's "Goals for Dallas — QC13" committee, which also directly confronted Dallas police regarding officers' unfair treatment of the LGBT community.

Anglin was an original board member of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, serving as vice president for nine years. His tenure on the board encompassed the years during which the organization was involved in Baker v. Wade, the first lawsuit challenging Texas' sodomy

law. Anglin was co-liaison between THRF and the Lambda Legal Defense Fund as the case made its way through the justice system to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Anglin was a founding board member of both Dallas Black Tie Dinner, serving on that board for nine years, and of Razzle Dazzle Dallas. He incorporated both of those organizations as well as the Turtle Creek Chorale and served as legal counsel to the original board of the Foundation for Human Understanding, now known as Resource Center. Most recently, Anglin was a founding board member of and incorporated the Dallas LGBT community history project called The Dallas Way.

Anglin has said that the accomplishment most important to him was being a constant friend of and legal advisor to other giants in the history of the Dallas LGBT community, including Bill Nelson, Terry Tebedo, John Thomas, Ray Kuchling, Don Baker, Dick Peebles, William Waybourn, Weaver and Lee Taft.

Weaver, praising Anglin's "brilliant mind," said his friend of more than 30 years was, in those tumultuous early years "always the voice of reason. His wisdom and his guidance were never to be questioned."

Louise Young, herself a former Kuchling Award winner, said she, too, has known Anglin since the late 1970s when they both were board members for the then-DGPC.

"I have always had so much respect for Mike, for his legal knowledge and legal expertise. His contributions [in terms of legal advice and expertise] were so very important to us in those early years," Young said. "I can't stress enough how important it was for us to have such an outstanding legal mind so closely associated" with the LGBT organizations and community.

Young said that even though it happened 32 years ago, she still vividly remembers Anglin standing up in a DGLA meeting after Judge Jerry Buchmeyer ruled, in Baker v. Wade, that the Texas sodomy law was unconstitutional, and reading from Buchmeyer's decision.

"I can see that so clearly," Young said. "I remember how Mike stood there and said, 'Everyone needs to really pay attention to Judge Buchmeyer's words.' Then he paused, and he said, 'It's wonderful.' Everyone was one the edge of their seats as he read that decision to us, and that memory has always stayed with me."

"Mike so richly deserves the Kuchling Humanitarian Award, and Vivienne [Armstrong, her wife] and I are just so thrilled that he has won it," Young added. "He most certainly deserves not only this award but, more importantly, the gratitude of our entire community."

Anglin said this week that he is "deeply touched" to have been chosen as the 2014 Kuchling Award winner, adding that "the fact the award carries the name of my old friend Ray Kuchling makes it all the more meaningful and cherished."

Noting that he and Kuchling were among the founding board members for Black Tie Dinner, Anglin said, "We were not only good friends, but also colleagues and comrades in the bold undertaking to launch and build the lasting tradition that is the Black Tie Dinner. I served on the board for the first nine years, and I will never forget the thrill of seeing the event evolve and expand into what it is today."

Anglin said that in the 32-year history of Black Tie Dinner, he has missed "no more than three" of the dinners. Saying that John Thomas is "rightfully recognized as the leading founder" of the annual fundraiser, he and Kuchling thought of themselves as Thomas' "first lieutenants in recruiting and organizing a proactive, highly competing board from the very beginning and advising and supporting John in bringing his vision of this incredible event into being."

"What a blessing it is to us all that John and Ray, although no longer with us, are still so widely remembered and beloved as part of the continuing celebration that is the Dallas Black Tie Dinner," Anglin said.

Ken Morris, co-chair of the 2014 Black Tie Dinner, said that Anglin "very clearly represents the service and commitment to the LGBT community that the Kuchling Award recognizes. So many of us have been inspired to volunteer and become involved in the community because of his example."

When you look down the long list of former Kuchling Award recipients and realize just how many of these people have made our community what it is today, we are humbled and honored that Mike joins this distinguished group for his many selfless contributions," Morris said.

The 2014 Black Tie Dinner, presented by Turtle Creek Solutions, will be held Nov. 15. Sponsorships and general table sales are available online at BlackTie.org. ■

A tragic start, but hope shines

IAS attendees mourn colleagues killed on MH17

BY TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The 20th International AIDS Conference, held this week in Melbourne, Australia, began shrouded in a cloud of shock and grief, when six people on their way to the event were killed — along with 292 other passengers — when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was blasted out of the air by Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine.

Initial reports indicated that as many as 108 of those who died aboard MH17 were researchers and activists on their way to Melbourne for the AIDS conference. But by the time the conference began Sunday, July 20, the number of conference delegates confirmed dead stood at six.

Sunday's opening ceremonies including a moment of silence for the researchers and activists killed in the crash of MH17, and Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, president of the International AIDS Society, which puts on the conference, dedicated this year's event to them.

"I would love to be telling you that we were opening this conference in happier times," Barre-Sinoussi said. "The extent of the loss of our colleagues and friends is still hard for me to comprehend or express. We grieve alongside all of those throughout the world who have lost family and friends in this senseless tragedy.

"I strongly believe that all of us being here for the next week to discuss, to debate, and to learn is indeed what our colleagues who are no longer with us would have wanted. We dedicate AIDS 2014 to them. We will remember their legacy and forever keep them in our hearts. ... Our colleagues were traveling because of their dedication to bringing an end to AIDS and improve global health. Our determination to continue their work honors their commitment," he said.

The conference delegates who died on MH17 were Pim Wilhelm DeKuijjer of the Netherlands, a lobbyist with AIDS Fonds/Stop AIDS Now!, Maria Adriana DeSchutter of the Netherlands, program manager for AIDS Fonds/Stop AIDS Now!; Joep Lange of the Netherlands, a former IAS president and co-director of HIV Netherlands/Australia Collaboration/HIV-NAT; Glenn Raymond Thomas of the United Kingdom, who worked for the World Health Organization; Lucie Paula Maria van Mens of the Netherlands, director of support for The Female Health Company; and Lange's partner, Jaqueline van Tongeren of the Netherlands, who worked for the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development.

"It's just such a tragedy," Ruben Ramirez, preventions program manager for Resource Center, said of the deaths. "We have lost such a tremendous brain trust of information on HIV and AIDS.

"Joep Lange was one of the earliest proponents of using combination therapies to treat AIDS, and he was right. Even today, we are using those combination therapies," Ramirez said. "We are really

going to miss this man, who was a giant in HIV/AIDS research. We are going to miss all of them. We have suffered a great loss."

But as the conference got underway, good news gave a silver lining to the clouds of mourning. One report presented in the early days of the conference showed that pre-exposure prophylaxis — PREP — is effective in cutting down the number of new HIV infections in high-risk populations. Another showed new HIV diagnoses dropping.

The PREP report presented Tuesday, July 22, discussed research involving 1,600 gay men and transgender women. The original study showed that daily use of the drug Truvada lowered the risk of getting HIV. In follow-up research none of those who took the pills at least four days a week became infected, and even using the pill two or three days a week lowered the risk of infection, compared to taking it less frequently or not at all.

Even though some researchers had worried that those who took Truvada might get a false sense of security and be less likely to practice safer sex, study participants reported no increase in risky behaviors and there was no rise in other sexually-transmitted diseases.

But Ramirez warned against being too optimistic. "Yes, the studies show that PREP is 100 percent effective — but only among those who adhere strictly to the regimen," he said. "And studies show that the majority of gay men do not adhere to the regimen."

Ramirez said there has been "a lot of talk about PREP on the [East and West] coasts" in the U.S., "and it's surging here, in Texas. But I think these statistics show us the work we really have left to do. Yes, PREP can be an effective tool in the HIV/AIDS prevention toolbox. But there's an education process that needs to take place."

The goal of a "zero AIDS generation" by the year 2030 looked more likely after reports noting that infection rates are dropping. Results of a U.S. government study released last week before the AIDS conference began showed that the rate of HIV infections diagnosed in the U.S. each year fell by a third over the past decade. And experts celebrated it as hopeful news that the AIDS epidemic may be slowing in the U.S.

But Ramirez again urged caution, noting that not all the news was good.

"Yes, overall the infection rate has dropped. But among young [men who have sex with men] between the ages of 13 and 25, the rate of new infections increased between 2002 and 2012. That's very sobering, to say the least," Ramirez said.

He attributed at least some of that increase to "the advent of new GPS-based communication options" such as smart-phone apps that allow people to "hook up" more quickly, without the kind of planning necessary in the past.

"It's faster, it's easier and these young MSM are hooking up without having to think, and they are not thinking about taking precautions," Ramirez said. "So yes, there is some good news coming out of the conference. But we still have a lot of work ahead of us."

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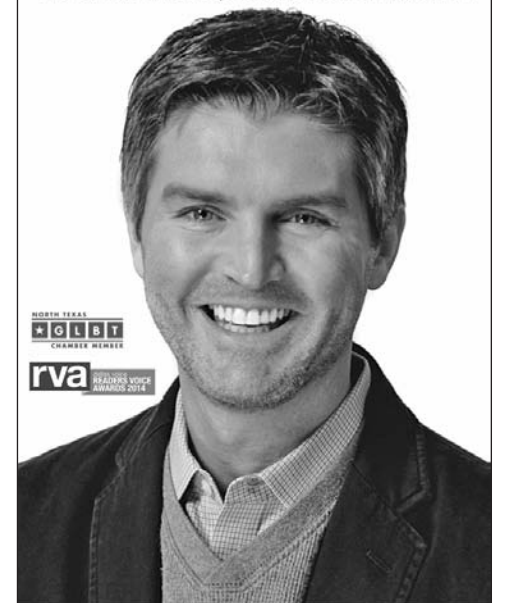
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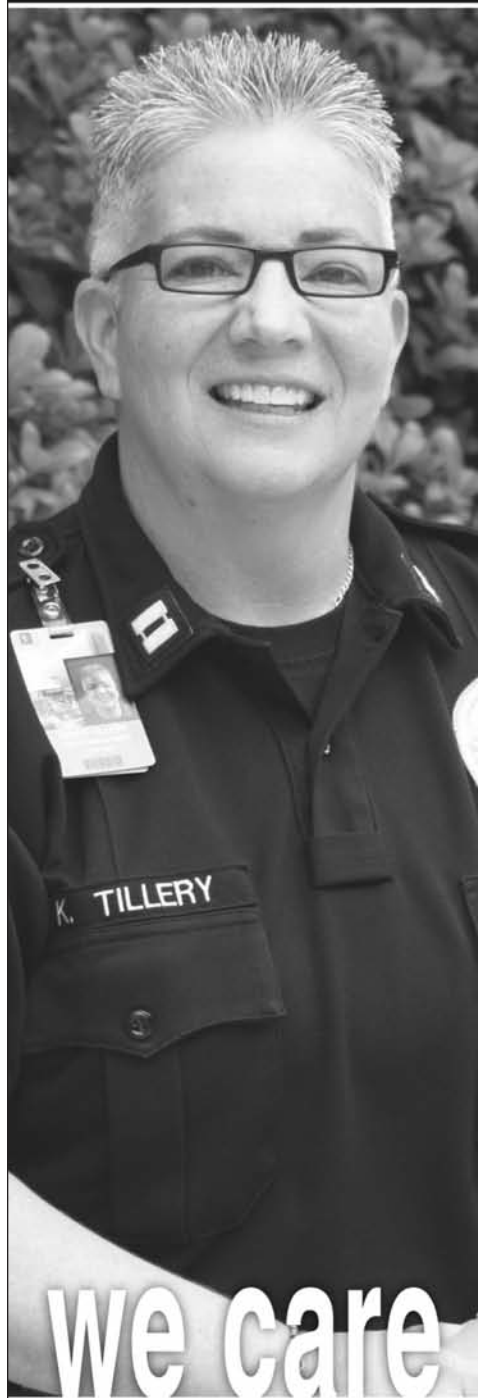


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SIGNING FOR EQUALITY | Surrounded by LGBT supporters, including Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, third from right, President Barack Obama signs executive orders to protect LGBT employees from federal workplace discrimination on Monday, July 21. The executive orders prohibit discrimination against gay and transgender workers in the federal government and its contracting agencies, without a new exemption that was requested by some religious organizations. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Obama's executive orders protecting LGBT employees offer some protections, but more are needed

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer

Russell@dallasvoice.com

President Barack Obama signed two executive orders Monday, July 21, barring companies with federal contracts from discriminating against LGBT employees. The move drew praise from a wide variety of local and national leaders and put a large local federal contractor under fire.

Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, a member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, said he welcomes the president's action. But he also chastised Congress for failing to vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, of which he is an original co-sponsor.

"President Obama's executive order is a major step forward in ensuring LGBT employees have the same protections against discrimination and harassment that their colleagues already enjoy. It is time for House leadership to bring ENDA up for a vote to extend protections to all workers around the country," Veasey said. "We must ensure that all Americans are judged based on the quality of their work, not who they are or who[m] they love."

Texas is the largest beneficiary of federal contracts in the country, according to the Office of Management and Budget's USAspending.gov website. Since 2000, according to the website, Texas contractors have received nearly 2 million contracts totaling \$545 billion in awards — and those numbers are constantly growing.

The change will also have an impact on one of the country's largest federal contractors, Irving-based ExxonMobil. The company is one of the few Fortune 500 companies and the only one in the top 10 to not explicitly prohibit termination of employees based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

When Exxon and Mobil merged in 1999, Exxon rescinded a Mobil policy giving employees with same-sex partners domestic partner benefits. And shareholders have voted down proposals to add protections for LGBT people to the merged company's official policy for 15 straight years, most recently

in May.

When contacted by the Associated Press, however, company spokesman Alan Jeffers said on July 22 that the company plans to "abide by the law," and stressing that the company prohibits "discrimination on any basis."

He did not, however, address whether or not the company will formally adopt a policy specifically barring discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Human Right Campaign Vice President for Communications Fred Sainz disagreed, calling Jeffers' statement a bold-faced lie.

"ExxonMobil's Equal Employment and Opportunity Policy has clearly and consistently omitted enumerated LGBT non-discrimination protections for its personnel," he said. "Until a nondiscrimination policy is enumerated, it isn't worth the paper it's printed on."

In its annual Corporate Equality Index, which ranks companies based on their commitment to their LGBT employees, HRC gave ExxonMobil its first ever-negative rating.

According to its 2014 report, 91 percent of all Fortune 500 companies have non-discrimination policies barring discrimination based on sexual orientation while 61 percent also bar on the basis of gender identity. Of the 52 Texas-based companies on the list, ExxonMobil and Fluor, Inc., also based in Irving, do not have any policies protecting LGBT employees. Among area employers, however, Fort Worth-based AMR Corporation (the parent company of American Airlines), GameStop Co. in Grapevine, AT&T in Dallas and Nokia in Irving received 100 percent scores on the index.

Daniel Williams, field organizer for Equality Texas, said Obama's executive orders are "still new protections," but emphasized that advocates shouldn't stop efforts in Texas and elsewhere to pass ordinances barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In Texas, one of 17 states without explicit non-discrimination laws, filing a discrimination lawsuit is difficult, expensive and time-consuming. While some cities, such as Dallas and Fort Worth, have their own protections, others do not. A complainant in one municipality without protections may have to pursue one legal route while a complainant against another would have to pursue other options, he said.

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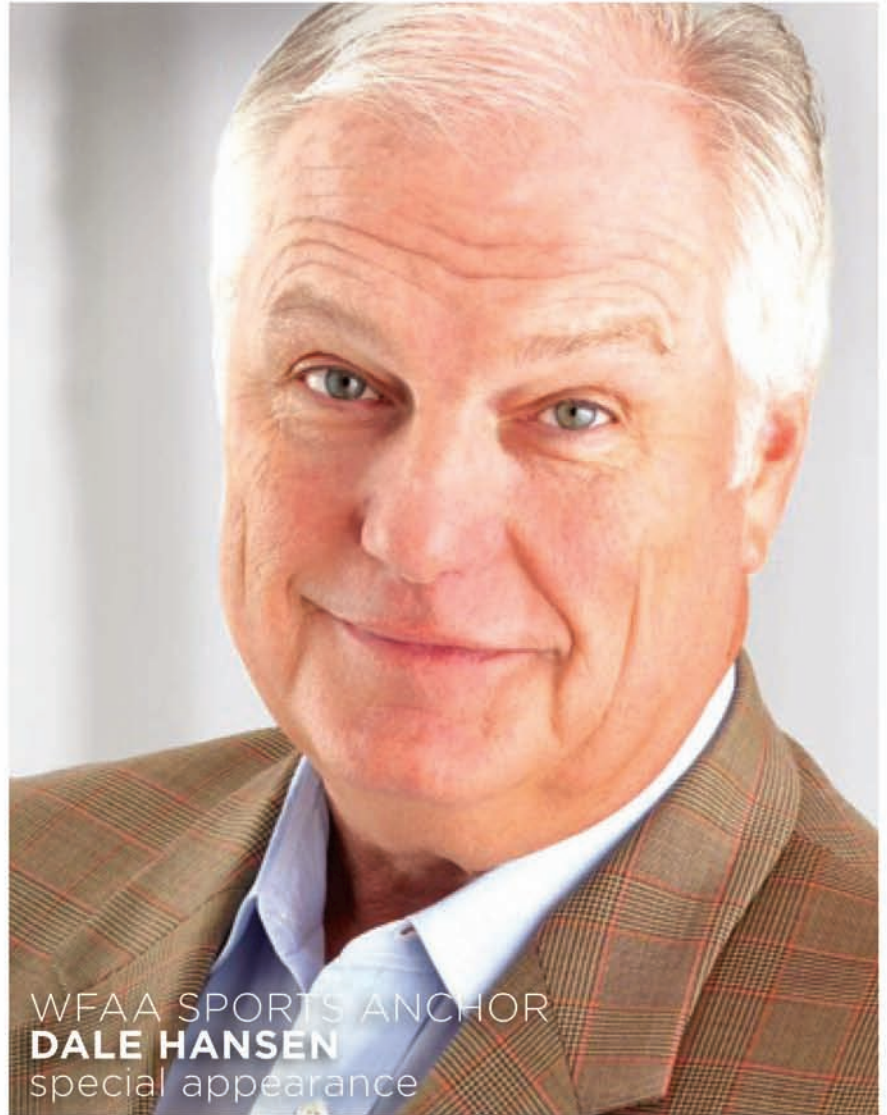
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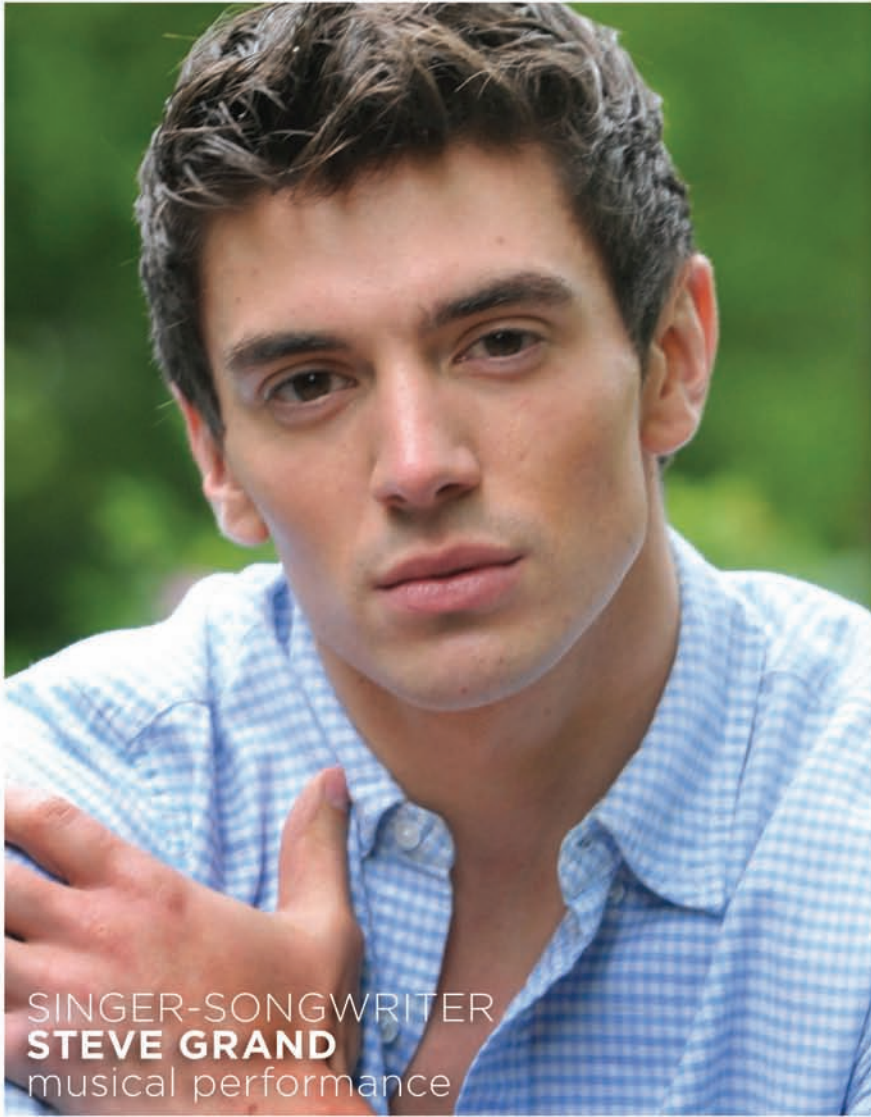
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What changes after a 53-year engagement? Not much



Jack Evans and George Harris married in February to make a statement to the Methodist church and support the Rev. Bill McElvaney rather than to solidify their relationship

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Not much has changed for Jack Evans, 84, and George Harris, 81, since they married in February. The most surprising thing to the Dallas couple — who have been together 53 years — was the amount of publicity that surrounded their wedding ceremony, one that challenged Methodist church policy.

“After 53 years, there’s nothing you can do different,” Evans said. “But it was important to stand in front of the congregation.”

Harris said there was one thing they forgot to do during the three weeks they had to plan their wedding. They forgot to invite their families. But Harris had a reason for that.

“The old ones are a pain in the ass,” he said.

Maybe on Harris’ side, but Evans’ mother always introduced Harris as her other son.

Evans said his sister saw the wedding on the news and said she would have come. Harris said his nephew thought it was great they were married and would have come as well, had he been invited.

But both men said the ceremony wasn’t about them.

“We wanted to make a statement to the Methodist Church,” Harris said.

The wedding took place at Midway Hills Christian Church, because Methodist Church policy prevents a Methodist church from hosting a wedding and its ministers from performing a wedding.

But the Rev. Bill McElvaney, who is retired, announced at Northaven United Methodist Church in January that he would perform same-sex weddings. Harris and

Evans signed up to be his first couple.

The Rev. Eric Folkerth, Northaven’s current pastor, said he thought Evans and Harris’ wedding was important in a number of ways. Folkerth attended the ceremony at Midway Hills.

“Jack and George are so important to us as role models,” Folkerth said. “They’ve been the embodiment of a loving relationship for all of our members for so long.”

While members of the church were aware they were making a statement with the ceremony, Folkerth said the event was also the perfect confluence of love and joy.

“It’s a shame this is still such a big issue,” Folkerth said. “The way we live here within our walls, couples are couples.”

He said no one at Northaven gives it a second thought: “It’s not something we’re wrestling with.”

For the LGBT community, Folkerth said he believes the wedding sent a message of hope.

“Any time a couple is together 50-plus years, it’s a beautiful thing,” he said. But, he added, people are touched with Evans and Harris, in particular.

“For so long, they’ve been willing to give of themselves,” he said. “They’re mentors to so many people.”

He said they help others with grace, ease and humility.

The week before Evans and Harris were married, Dallas media was filled with stories about their relationship. Every local Dallas station with news broadcasts was at Midway Hills filming the ceremony.

“TV grasped their powerful story of commitment,” Folkerth said.

After 50 years, their relationship makes it impossible to deny love and commitment among same-sex couples, he said.

Because media was also filled with stories of the Rev. Frank Schaefer, a Methodist minister from Pennsylvania who had recently been defrocked for performing his son’s same-sex wedding, the local story was picked up across the country.

Evans said they were having dinner at a new restaurant at Trinity Groves recently. He noticed a young man looking at him. When Evans got up to go to the bathroom, the young man followed him. He asked if they were the couple that married in the Methodist church. Evans said they were. The young man told him before he and his wife recently moved to Dallas, they saw a story about their wedding on the news. He congratulated them.

“Making a difference has been our focus through the years,” Harris said. “We want to make it better.

Evans said times have changed. He re-

called the first time they went to a bar on Cedar Springs Road.

“We drove around the block several times before we parked to make sure there were no police,” he said.

The couple, who created the Stonewall Business Association, which later became the North Texas GLBT Chamber, and who recently started The Dallas Way history project, have served on the boards of a number of organizations including Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale and Black Tie Dinner.

After 53 years together, six months of those as a married couple, some things never change.

“We’re trying to determine what our next project is,” Evans said. ■

TRAC: Resources for youth coming out of foster care

CitySquare, a Dallas organization once known as Central Dallas Ministries that is focused on fighting the root causes of poverty, includes a program aimed helping young people — including LGBT youth — transitioning out of the foster care and juvenile care systems.

The Transition Resource Action Center — or TRAC — provides a “one-stop” assessment/intake and referral facility for these youth, bringing together community resources and intensive case management service.

TRAC provides a regional safety net for former foster youth when they age out of the system and are facing life on their own. Each year, the program helps more than 800 at-risk teens make a life plan and get the skills they need to survive on their own.

TRAC services include: crisis intervention for former foster youth; assessment and planning assistance; assistance in building life skills, job skills and financial literacy; job placement and retention assistance; educational advocacy services; case management, and emergency, transitional and supportive housing.

TRAC can also help these young people find the resources they need in emergency situations, such as medical services, rent or utility assistance and food banks, as well as shelters or other help for situations including domestic violence and drug abuse.

The offices are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and night and weekend appointments are available.

For information in Dallas, call 214-370-9300. Dallas offices are located at 3108 Live Oak St. For information in Fort Worth call 817-882-9162. Fort Worth offices are at 1598 Sunset Terrace. The toll-free number for TRAC is 866-466-8722.

LIFE AFTER MARRIAGE | Jack Evans and George Harris were married at Midway Hills Christian Church this year after more than 50 years as a couple.

Is Dallas is behind on LGBT elder care?

Despite gains, local advocates still see room for improvement for LGBT elders

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Death is already an emotional issue. Some have years to prepare. Others have mere weeks. But while a diagnosis doesn't discriminate, some local advocates for LGBT elders say that many local facilities often do.

"In terms of LGBT elder care, Dallas is behind the times," said Sharyn Fein. A year-and-a-half ago, Fein quit her full-time job with a healthcare company to educate the community full-time about the issues facing LGBT elders, the 60-plus-year-olds who are often overlooked by healthcare agencies, the government and other entities. Her group, Ed-U-Care and its Bridge Building Network conduct occasional educational workshops and events to raise awareness among community members.

The U.S. Administration on Aging estimates that between 1.75 and 4 million Americans over 60 are LGBT. While the administration suggests many are content with their lives, care-taking is another issue. The 2010 report *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*, concludes, "LGBT elders are more likely to be single, childless, estranged from their biological family, and reliant on families of choice, such as friends and other loved ones."

The 2011 report *LGBT Older Adults in Long Term Care Facilities: Stories from the Field* reveals LGBT elders typically go back into the closet.

It serves as a haunting reminder of the discrimination faced by a population that, for most of their lives, were brutalized, condemned and ignored.

Even as awareness of the LGBT community has grown nationwide, advocates like Fein still see systematic issues and a clear ignorance when it comes to the issues. While the federal government has gotten on board, said Fein, it's different at the local level. Various municipalities, like Dallas and Fort Worth, are not aware of the issues facing LGBT elders.

Even though a city or corporation may be friendly and affirming in its policies, individuals, including caregivers, "are not culturally competent." That's where Fein sees her organization playing a necessary role.

Some of the issues could be resolved through cultural competency training and education, she said, while other issues require a larger cultural shift.



ADVOCATE FOR A CAUSE | Sharyn Fein's Ed-U-Care brings awareness to issues facing LGBT people.

Fein's group is currently developing a curriculum with Harriet Cohen, an associate professor and at TCU's Department of Social Work and an expert on elder LGBT care, for caregivers who often face their own set of challenges.

LGBT patients are often in legal limbo, which can make the job of the care worker much more difficult. If, for instance, a patient does not reveal he is out, care workers often must confront the tension between estranged family members who may conflict with the family of choice, such as the patient's adopted family network that includes partners and friends.

VITAS, one of the nation's largest hospice organizations, is one organization where Fein doesn't worry about discrimination. That's because, said Kevin Yarrow, a senior general manager for VITAS, their holistic care giving approach caters to the specific needs of the LGBT population.

He said in many cases their LGBT employees provided the awareness and insight necessary to provide inclusive care. His office saw the need to address the specific issues between 5 and 10 years ago, he said.

But for people to even know these options exist, organizations must go out into the community.

Outreach is a large part of local groups' efforts. At a Dallas Pride event a few years ago, Yarrow said, VITAS set up a booth to raise awareness. He admits with a laugh that at a time to celebrate diversity, talking about end of life care wasn't exactly what everyone wanted to hear.

It served its purpose, however: "People shared their stories. Others said they didn't even know care specifically for LGBT elders even existed," Yarrow said.

Fein said while she has received an overwhelmingly positive response to her efforts, she occasionally is dismissed. It comes with the culture of the area, she said.

"There's not a lot of bridge building here," Fein said.

But that won't stop her. "Can I look into the future and see a crystal ball? No," she said. "But we're getting better." ■

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■ **viewpoints**

Staying safe as you age

It takes planning, paperwork and more to make sure that LGBT elders are safe and happy

At the Resource Center's United Black Elulment Health Fair in April, I picked up a flyer from FORGE, an organization with which I was not familiar. Entitled "Safety Planning with Transgender Clients," the document astonished me. It also made me think about safety in new ways.

The first thing I did after reading the flyer was to reach out to Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative. She wrote right back and, sure enough, not only knew about FORGE but had taken some of their online training sessions. The website — Forge-Forward.org — contained a lot of information about dangers most of us have probably never considered.

But a lot of the FORGE information on staying safe as a transgender or gender-nonconforming individual applies to the rest of us, all of our community members and allies.

For example, a separate resource sheet entitled "LGBT Elders: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault" points out that authorities and others frequently overlook or ignore ghastly behavior perpetrated by one elder against another — especially if they are of the same sex or are perceived as being frail.

(As a side matter, this unconscious overlooking or conscious dismissal is familiar to women my age — straight, gay, bi or trans. This is exactly the way the police and other authorities used to view abuse against women by men. If police were called to a dispute by the female victim or a third party, they never questioned the man. This was true nationwide, and in Texas, women could not then escape, since the law did not permit us to sign a lease or have a bank account or charge card. But back to the present issue. ...)

I have no idea whether this is accurate, but FORGE cites a Network/La Red assertion that one in four LGBT people are battered by a partner. That is consistent with the 12-36 percent estimate of violence against heterosexual women and within gay male pairings.

In any case, if you are interested, you can find much more on the FORGE website. The site also has info on the Transgender Aging Network (TAN), which offers free membership and many services and outreach mechanisms.

And then the site points to an organization embracing the whole of our community: the National



Phyllis Guest
Taking Notes

Resource Center on LGBT Aging (LGBTaging-Center.org).

Which brings us to a different kind of abuse that's mentioned on that site but is often overlooked by LGBT individuals and by significant others, friends, families and allies. It is, in short, financial abuse.

We're no different from other Americans when it comes to paperwork. If possible, many of us lock our desk drawers and slam our minds shut when it comes to wills, powers of attorney, etc.

But wait! Just recently, Dallas attorney Rebecca Covell spoke to Dallas Voice about what same-sex couples moving to Dallas would need by way of protective paperwork. Here's the list of basics: Updated wills for each person, medical powers of attorney and HIPAA releases, statutory durable powers of attorney, declaration of guardian, directives to physicians, and appointment of a person to control the disposition of remains.

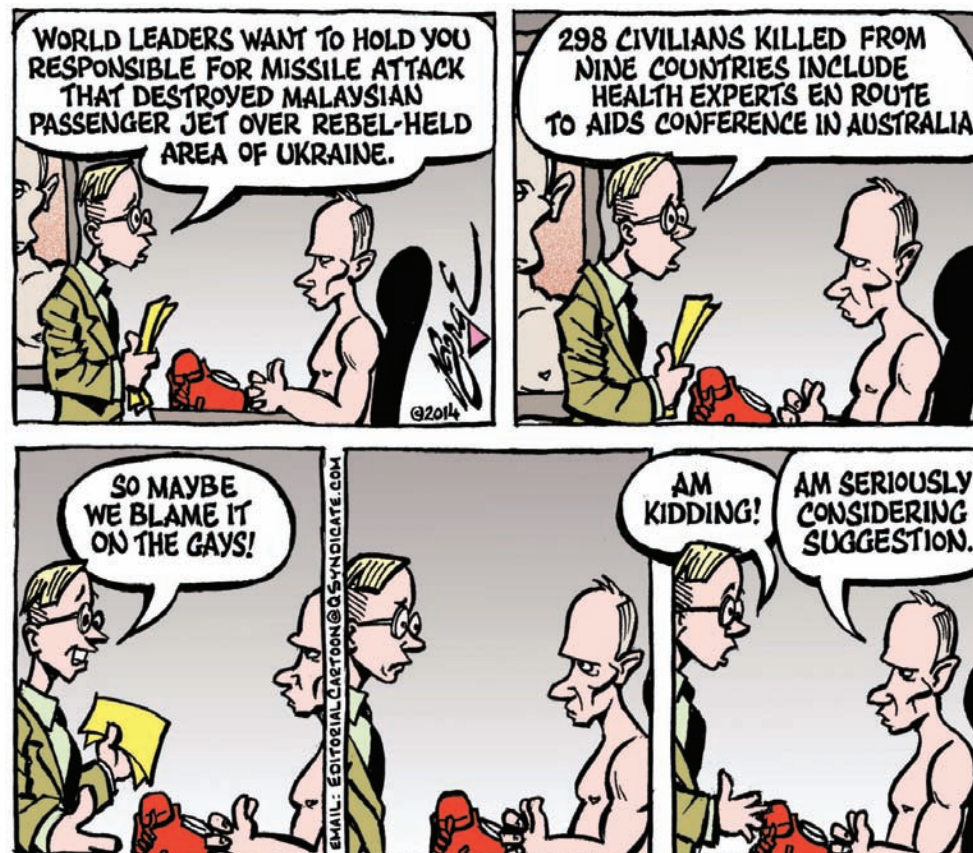
Covell estimated the cost of having an attorney handle these documents at \$850.

You see where I'm going here. If you want to protect your assets as you age, and make sure your end-of-life wishes are carried out, you absolutely must have all your docs in good order and accessible to not just a loved one but to a professional, too. I have not yet had a chance to investigate how those of us with little spare cash can get the documents, because \$850 is a big investment for many of us.

But I will investigate, because I have every document at the ready — and every one is 15 years old. That won't help me, my only sibling, my friends or my physicians. It won't even tell them whether I want to go into a large box or a small urn.

Other aspects to aging also hold the potential for loss, abuse, and neglect, or — in case you and your spouse become unwell at the same time — over-care by people who should know better.

Meanwhile, don't take any vague assurances or any nasty falls. ■



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Pop culture

Gay dads develop website to help families just like them

Who knew the lack of a uterus would be such an issue? When new gay dads Brian Rosenberg and Ferd van Gameren turned to the Internet to connect with other gay dads — or just find information about the unique perspective of their family portrait — everything they found was one “For Moms, By Moms” endorsement after another. And while having some mommy-tested-and-approved cred definitely has merit, it didn’t address their needs directly.

But rather than bemoan the lack of gay-dad blogs, they came up with their own; last month, their newest baby, *GayswithKids.com*, was born.

It may seem like a huge undertaking for parents already keeping up with an adopted five-year-old boy and nearly-four-year-old twin girls from a surrogate, but it was an important part of their journey as fathers. *Gay* fathers, specifically.

“As soon as we became dads to Levi, we turned to the Internet to try and connect with other gay dads. We were very surprised to find no resources available,” says Rosenberg. “Some of the very names of the stores we shopped in were clearly targeting moms, with names like Moms to Be... and More, and From Bump to Baby.”

“That’s when Brian first came up with the concept of creating a community for gay dads,” van Gameren says. “But we were busy with being first-time dads and then we had our girls, so it’s only been in the past year that we finally had time to move forward on this concept.”

And the decision to focus exclusively on issues of gay fathers rather than all LGBT parents made the most sense.

“First, we’re gay dads so that’s what we know,” Rosenberg says. “Second, the concept of parenthood for lesbians is hardly new; they have been giving birth and raising children for a long time, so many resources offline and online are already available for them.”

The content users discover on *GayswithKids.com* is diverse, too.

“It’s truly an incredible mix,” Rosenberg says. “We’ve now got about 15 gay dad bloggers, a community that is growing in size each week, and they contribute a lot of great content about their everyday experiences. In addition, we have award-winning journalists, longtime writers and even those just starting their careers working with us. Sometimes they approach us with content ideas, and sometimes we approach them.”

They offer original content covering issues of interest and importance to gay dads, much of which is not often covered by the mainstream media.

“For instance, our ‘Positively Dads’ article talks about medical advances that can make biological fatherhood a reality for HIV-positive gay men,” van Gameren says. “We also want to be sure to cover all aspects of how gay men become dads, whether through relationships with women, co-parenting, foster care, adoption or surrogacy.”

Both van Gameren and Rosenberg contribute content, including providing their take on current events and headline-making news.

“We also offer lighter fare: articles about gay fashion and style, where to take the kids on vacation,” van Gameren says. “We publish fun recipes, how to throw parties with a gay theme, and how to host a spectacular dinner party, with or without kids.”

Fiction, children’s stories and original artwork can or will be found on the site, too.

According to Rosenberg, response has been overwhelmingly positive from gay dads and gay men in general across the globe, especially North America, Europe and Australia.

“One thing that surprised us,” he says, “is feedback we’ve received from a couple of moms whose high school kids have recently come out of the closet. The moms wanted to thank us for

being such great role models and for showing them, their husbands, and their newly-identified gay sons what life can hold in store.”

Even though the site would still be considered a newborn in the baby world, they already have big plans for its future. For now, they’re keeping the specifics under wraps, but offered details on their newest feature.

“‘Gay Family Showcase’ allows gay dads anywhere to quickly upload their own family picture to our carousel,” Rosenberg says. “We hope to become the world’s largest album of gay families — we believe there’s strength in numbers!”

Connecting with a like-minded community is important, too, because for most gay dads, it’s like coming out all over again.

“We don’t think of our lives as facing challenges, but there are certainly parenting issues that are unique to gay dads, especially gay-dad couples. For instance, we have both been out of the closet for many years, but now that we’re dads, we often find ourselves having to come out often — at the kids’ schools, doctors, parents of playmates, etc.,” van Gameren says.

“Like any parents, we need to show by example that we are good and caring people and are happy with ourselves. This way our children will be happy about themselves, so they are prepared to handle that their family is different from many of their classmates and friends.”

And to all the gay dads out there, and those who hope to become fathers in the future, van Gameren offers up one final bit of support.

“Know that you’re not alone. There are many, many of us and our numbers grow each day. We hope you find *Gay With Kids* to be a tremendous resource.”

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— Steven Lindsey

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Like all great artists, Deborah Vial knows how to work the press.

Even though she moved from Dallas to Maui a decade ago, she still makes time for the local media, to conduct in-depth, cutting-edge interviews prior to her appearances here.

But this is not one of those.

Nope, Vial's tired of talking about herself, even to promote her latest concert (featuring, as per usual, special guest Jane Doe),

which takes place on Saturday at the House of Blues. Still, the soulful rocker — whose powerful vocals and sultry performances have made her a Texas favorite for more than two decades — needs to eat (and drink), so she sat down with us over a bottle of pinot and some figs at Hattie's in the Bishop Arts District to give rare insights behind-the-scenes in the life of a diva.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

DEBORAH VIAL

With special guest Jane Doe.

House of Blues,

2200 N. Lamar St. June 26.

Doors at 6 p.m.

HouseOfBlues.com/Dallas

Dallas Voice: Deborah, you're 47 years old — how come you only look 46? Deborah Vial: Arnold, the key to my beauty is moisturize, moisturize, moisturize! I should also add that "moisturize" is one of my favorite words ... second only to "moisture."

Wow, I think I will have to spend more time moisturizing. What do you do in your free time on Maui? Well, my wife Caron and I have six dogs and three cats. I don't have that much time for myself since I am running a kennel. A typical day at home looks like this: wake up, make the coffee, feed nine animals, moisturize, go to the beach and drink mai tais all day, come back home and feed nine animals, moisturize, go to bed.

That sounds like a pretty tough life. Do you think you will ever move back to Dallas permanently? I think they have limits on the number of animals per household in Dallas, so no, I can't see us ever moving back, given my penchant for hoarding livestock. Do you have any spare animals you would like to give me? We could always use more cats in the house. They are very useful and difficult to come by.

My cat just died. Oh, right. Sorry. Have another glass of pinot.

Thanks, Deborah. Thanks, Arnold.

COLD CREAM, CURLERS AND CATS | Vial reveals her secret regimen for looking young.

10 smart travel ideas

Vacation coming up? Consider these ideas to make the trip go smoothly



There's still more than a month until summer unofficially ends on Labor Day, so if you find yourself lucky enough to get away soon — or really anytime — here are some tips to make your travel experience go smoothly.

Before leaving the house

Scan or "screen grab" important documents and information. Even if you're holding a physical boarding pass, it never hurts to take a photo or screen grab of the QR code, itinerary or other details in case you lose the hard copy. That way, you can easily access all the important information. It's also a good idea to save scans of your passport, driver's license and other essential documents, just in case you misplace them or get pickpocketed.

Best time to buy airline tickets? Usually Tuesdays, from 2–4 p.m. That's when most airlines start discounting, especially for short-term purchases.

Travel-size refills. Rather than buy the usually-overpriced travel sized items over and over, just buy them once and refill. Or hit The Container Store and get free vials and tubes and put all your speciality products in them rather than buying what's available at the drug store.

Saving space. Rolling your clothes saves luggage space. You can also fill your shoes with items like rolled-up socks, a spare pair of glasses or even chargers to maximize storage.

Packing your shoes. If you wrap a disposable

shower cap around your shoes, you can keep the grime of the city from transferring to your clothes.

Maintaining freshness. Add a disposable dryer sheet to the bottom of your bag, and clothes will maintain a fresh smell longer.

At the airport

Free airport wifi. Don't want to pay for pricey and/or limited wifi offered at most airports? Check out comments on sites like FourSquare or Yelp! to see if generous travelers have posted the password already. Another option? Adding the suffix ".jpg" at the end of most URLs should grant you free logon privileges.

Power strip hero. Ever needed to recharge at the airport, but all the plugs are taken? Bring along a small power strip and you can unplug one of those, give the removed plug a space on the strip and have leftovers for yourself.

Once you arrive

Recharging your devices. If you forget the wall adaptor and don't have your laptop handy, most modern TVs have a USB port on the back where you can plug in and charge up.

Keeping a map, even off-line. Type in "OK maps" in the search area of Google Maps, and the visible area will be stored even when you're not connected to the Internet. You can also use "Airport Mode" and use the GPS function without being logged in.

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Life of Benj



Benj Pasek, the gay half of the B'way team Pasek & Paul, talks about the North Texas debut of their musical 'Dogfight'

SCOTT HUFFMAN

Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

From the moment he read the back of the DVD release, self-professed theater geek Benj Pasek, 29, was intrigued with the idea of turning *Dogfight* — a 1991 film about a group of young Marines who, on the eve of deployment to Vietnam, contribute money to a pool that will be awarded to the one who brings the ugliest girl to a party — into a musical.

"When you describe the plot, people go, 'Ugh!'" Pasek says. "And that kind of visceral reaction is something so inherently musical. People have an instant connection with this protagonist. Immediately, you are connected emotionally — although it might be in a twisted way because you want to see how the plot untangles."

Pasek and his straight collaborative partner, Justin Paul, acquired the rights to the story they considered a "hidden gem." Along with book writer Peter Duchan, they began the adaptation process, a project that offered extraordinary resonance.

"I think that great human stories can be gay stories," he says thoughtfully. "I really do view *Dogfight* in a lot of ways as a gay story. It's re-

ally about someone who's been made to feel ugly and how they then learn self-acceptance. I think that is a gay narrative. Rose [the character unwittingly thrown into the competition] is a character that I really relate to."

Still, Pasek attributes much of the show's success to his solid working relationship with Paul.

"I think the strength in our collaboration is that we are really different people," he says. "There certainly is no awkwardness because of sexual orientation. It's a marriage in a way: Sometimes it's rocky, [and] you have highs and lows. But we've been working together for more than 10 years. I think it's a cool thing to share that with someone."

Dogfight opened off-Broadway to rave reviews in 2012 and was nominated for several awards (winning the prestigious Lucille Lortel Award for outstanding musical), but the production opening this week at WaterTower is the first outside of New York. Unfortunately, his work schedule keeps him from attending.

DOGFIGHT
Addison Theatre Centre, 15650
Addison Road. July 25–Aug. 17.
WaterTowerTheatre.org.

A MARRIAGE OF SORTS | Benj Pasek, left, calls his musical-writing partnership with straight college pal Justin Paul a marriage ... except without sex. No, wait, maybe that makes it a marriage.



musical. For Pasek, the best part of the nomination was the six weeks leading up to the Tony Awards, when the team was invited to events with other nominees. They had the opportunity to meet several celebrated actors and musicians — Cyndi Lauper, Harvey Fierstein and Tom Hanks among them.

“As theatre dorks, [the Tony Awards] is the Super Bowl,” Pasek says. “I had never been to the Tonys as a spectator, and now I am going as a nominee. The coolest part is that, once you are nominated, you go to a press event with other nominees. They give you this pin that shows you are a Tony nominee. For us it basically just

became permission to run up and stalk every person we are obsessed with. We were basically fangirl-ing.”

More recently, Pasek met Tony-winner Idina Menzel, one of his musical theater idols, backstage at her show *If/Then*. However, he quickly found himself temporarily unable to speak.

“I tend not to get totally starstruck by celebrities,” he says. “But, to me, [Menzel] is a bigger celebrity than anybody. She was in the original *Rent* and *Wicked* — shows that I was obsessed with. Immediately I lose my function to create sounds.”

Pasek also gained some press recently due to

another celebrity encounter of sorts. When Shia LeBeouf was recently ousted from a Broadway performance and handcuffed by police, Pasek happened to be walking by. A social media junkie, Pasek posted a comment about the scene on Twitter — a tweet that became the source for a Yahoo! news story about LeBeouf’s June 26 arrest for disruptive behavior. “To me, that was all very embarrassing,” Pasek says. “I was just walking down the street, and I thought how crazy is New York? I didn’t know that my acknowledgement [on Twitter] would make me an eyewitness. I would much rather be known as a writer than as a celebrity gossip source.” ■



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“It really is insane to us,” he says. “This is a show that we started working on our first year in the city. We didn’t expect people to respond the way they did. The subject matter is sort of dark, and it is a challenging show. It’s crazy how the show has had this life. It’s so cool that it has extended beyond the original production.”

Pasek is equally enthusiastic about the duo’s Tony-nominated adaptation of the holiday classic *A Christmas Story*, which Dallas Summer Musicals has booked for a December run at Fair Park Music Hall. In early 2010, that show’s producers awarded the assignment to Pasek and Paul after holding songwriter auditions.

“We went crazy and didn’t sleep for like an entire year,” Pasek recalls. “It was our first musical ever to be produced in a major way. If we messed this up, we would have ruined Christmas for a bunch of people. Looking back, I can’t believe that [the producers] let us do that. I think that we were too young to know that it was crazy to do. And I think that’s exactly why it came together.”

While Pasek and Paul were pleased with the results of *A Christmas Story*, no one was more surprised than they when, after a run on Broadway, the show received a Tony nom for best

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L+S stage



Alex Ross reunites with director Cheryl Denson for Uptown Players' regional

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

work represented. The reason was simple: She needed a break.

Luckily for audiences, that hiatus ends this week when she returns to Uptown for *The Boy from Oz*. And it's a reunion of sorts, as Denson teams again with leading man Alex Ross — who has himself been absent from local stages for a year.

When North Texas theater companies want to mount splashy, entertaining musicals, they all know what the secret weapon is to making them great ... and it's not much of a secret: Hire Cheryl Denson.

For years, she's been the favorite go-to director for everyone from Lyric Stage (where she usually stages huge revivals of Golden Age Broadway classics) to Uptown Players. You can even catch her tackling a play once in a while.

But for the last year or so, you haven't seen her

It's an ideal pairing of behind-the-footlights talent and in-front for a show that draws its primary appeal from a charismatic lead and a dazzling staging. And charting this territory is new for Denson and Ross.

"This isn't like with a Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, where you're looking for a new way to do a very old thing," Denson explains. "The history of [*The Boy from Oz*] is tied to only one actor. So you need to find the *show*, not the personality in it. You need to fall in love with a show, or not do it. But if you look hard enough, you *can* fall in love."

That "one actor" is Hugh Jackman, whose life-long ambition was to tell the tale of Australian-born entertainer and songwriter Peter Allen, a man as famous for marrying Liza Minnelli (and being *flamboyantly* gay) as he is for win-



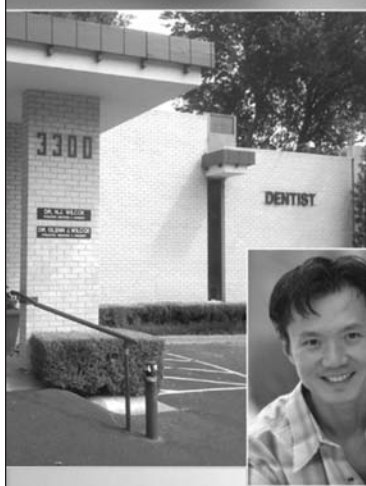
PINEAPPLES ... AND A PAIR
Cheryl Denson and Alex Ross both took time off from stage work for the last year, but they return full-force with a musical based on the life of sassy entertainer Peter Allen. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

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Journey to 'Oz'



premiere of the flamboyant musical biography 'The Boy from Oz'

ning an Oscar co-writing "Arthur's Theme." (His sole contribution to that song? The line *When you get caught between the moon and New York City* — but rarely has such a small investment paid such dividends.)

Jackman won a Tony Award for his performance, and as soon as he left the production, it closed. It has not toured. So for Ross, stepping into such tap shoes was a little daunting ... especially since he has no idea who Peter Allen was.

"I was very unfamiliar with him before the show," Ross says diplomatically. "I knew some of his songs because they were [on the radio], but it wasn't until I got cast I realized he wrote them. And when I learned Cheryl was directing and Jeremy Dumont was doing the choreography, I listened to the cast album and I understood what was involved. And I wanted to be a part of it."

What was involved has become perhaps Ross' most daunting stage work to date. (He's spent most of the last year working in film and television.) Ross sings, by his and Denson's estimate, about 16 numbers and is onstage nearly the entire show. ("We even dress him onstage," Denson says.) And there's dancing to boot. (Compare that to Ross' role as "Ziegfeld Tenor" in Lyric Stage's *Funny Girl*: He walks out, sings one number in Act 1, then waits backstage for the curtain call two hours later.)

"How great is this opportunity," Ross asks rhetorically. "This has to be one of the biggest musical theater roles out there for a man."

"I'm always looking for a real actor [in my musicals]," Denson says, and this part demands more than most. "You have to be able to sing, dance, have charisma, charm and even play the piano a little. Alex does all that."

Many of Allen's songs were first popularized by other singers, from Christopher Cross to

Olivia Newton-John. It wasn't until he made his name as a composer that Allen was able to stake his own claim as a performer.

The script is structured as an elaborate flashback, told by Allen himself as he gives his last concert in his native Australia. At this point, Allen knew he was dying of AIDS, and was reflecting on his life from childhood to the present. And while the score is comprised of songs written by Allen, his memories shape the narrative, so they aren't used chronologically, but to reflect what was going on with him emotionally. Denson was especially interested in giving due to the volatile period of the 1980s and early '90s, when the AIDS epidemic was devastating the theater community; Allen was, of course, among its casualties. His lover, in fact, was one of the first to contract the disease.

"I didn't specifically do research on AIDS, so it hit me all of a sudden that most of [the actors in the cast] didn't know about AIDS — all they knew were the myths," Denson says. "They didn't know what a grassroots kind of thing [AIDS activism and awareness] was."

There was *some* investigation that Denson did actively explore, however: The subject of the musical himself. But that did not extend to his songwriting output.

"I did a great deal of research about Peter Allen and what was going on in his life, but I did not research the songs — who they were written about, or for," says Denson. "I chose to use the songs as they were meant to be: As ways of moving the plot along. That's what's kind of wonderful about musicals: We sing when the emotions are so great we can't talk anymore. And when we can't speak at all, we dance."

And Peter Allen, perhaps more than most people, let his emotions explode. ■

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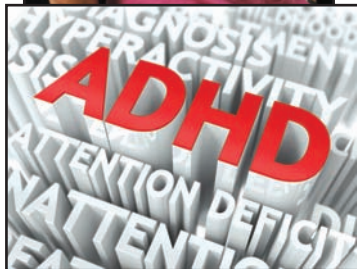
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Drawing Dallas

Young soulmates Aubry Roach and Timothy Cargill found love early

Names and ages: Aubry Roach, 21, and Timothy Cargill, 19.

Occupation: Artists.

Spotted at: Munger Avenue and Tremont Street.

Refugees from oppression: Born and raised in small towns in East Texas, Aubry and Tim both grew up with a strong sense of wanderlust and creative rebellion. Geminis both, and realizing from a young age that they had larger goals and aspirations, their hearts were set on escaping.

Although they lived in the same tiny area, they did not meet until the summer of 2013. Both in full belief that they had found their soulmate, they have been together every single day since meeting — inseparable and in love.

Earlier in life, Timothy struggled with family issues, as his family did not accept that he was gay and sent him to a “pray the gay away” camp. His artistic temperament could not tolerate such repression, and Timothy escaped, when he met Aubry. Both describe the other as a source of confidence.

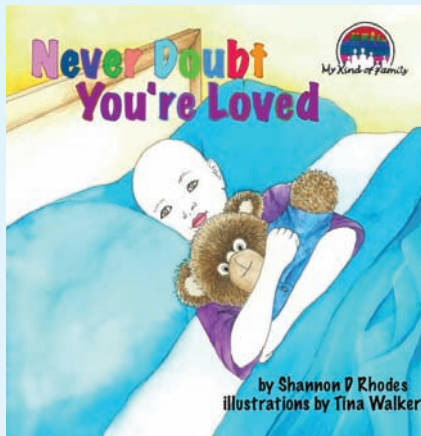
Aubry and Tim describe themselves as brothers, best friends, husbands and “everything you could need tied in to one.” They sold everything and moved to Dallas, sharing a car and everything else in life.

A new life together: Aubry had a small group of close friends from Dallas who became their de facto family, and now they all live together as one big unit, sharing quarters with their beautiful friends Jen and Tina (models with Kim Dawson Agency), the amazing comforter Jassamine (a graphic designer) and Darren, Jen’s son. The entire family helps “the boys” grow daily, which has changed many aspects of their life. Seeing the world through others’ eyes is the best way of understanding and practicing patience and friendship.

Now celebrating their first anniversary, Aubry and Tim plan to move to California later this year to push themselves — and their art — further.

To keep up with their journey, you can follow them on Instagram @aubryroachofficial and @timothymax.

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com



Unique books for unique families

What does "family" look like? A new series of books by North Texas author Shannon Rhodes lets children answer that question by creating a unique book that reflects their own family.

Rhodes self-published the first two books in the My Kind of Family series (*Understand How You Feel* and *Never Doubt That You Are Loved*) and sells them on Amazon.com and her own website, MyKindOfFamily.com. Four more titles are in the works: *Include Everyone*, *Quitters Never Win*, *Use Your Brain* and *Education Is Important*.

The series allows children and their caregivers to fill in names, select pronouns and color in the illustrations — choosing things like hair and skin colors — to reflect their families. The idea for the series, Rhodes says, came from her own life: She and her former partner tried several times to have a child of their own before deciding to adopt. Even though they are no longer a couple, they still co-parent their daughter, who is now almost 5.

Rhodes says the books were influenced by her experiences as a survivor of childhood abuse, and by the experiences of other families she met through the LGBT parents group Rainbow Roundup. In fact, she met the books' illustrator, Tina L. Walker, through Rainbow Roundup.

"These books mirror my past and the things I have learned," Rhodes says, noting that the first letters of the first words in each title in the series spell UNIQUE.

Licensed professional counselor intern Renee Baker said that is a fitting description of family today.

"It's a unique book," Baker says, referring to the first book in the series, the only one she has read so far. "And it's a great idea, giving a child a way to create a family book that matches their own family. Diverse families are more the norm than 'normal' families. Only about 25 percent of families these days are the white picket fence type we think of as the 'traditional' family. So these books are a really nice idea and a great way to let kids normalize their own families."

The books let children "feel like their own family is validated," Baker says. "Their family feels normal. And it gives parents a chance to talk to their children about diversity in a way that feels normal."

— Tammye Nash

The first two books in the series are available at Amazon.com for \$11.99 and at MyKindOfFamily.com for \$9.99. Available to nonprofit organizations at a discounted price for use in fundraising. Therapists working with children can also obtain copies from Rhodes through her website.

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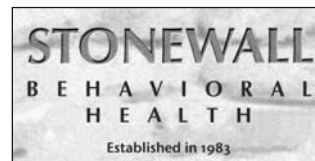
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Pictured: CHRISTIA MANTZKE and STEVEN MICHAEL WALTERS
as the Thénardiers in DTC's production of *Les Misérables*.
Photo: Karen Almond





Friday 07.25
Saturday 07.26

Cirque du Soleil goes Jacko at AAC

More than five years after his death, Michael Jackson still holds a place of fascination among the public, and especially music lovers. Cirque du Soleil tries to capture that appeal with its arena show, the Michael Jackson Immortal World Tour, which turns The Gloved One's music into the score for a typical Cirque performance of balancing acts, movement and feats of derring-do.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. July 25–26. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

Thursday 07.31

Rawlins Gilliland tells Texas tales at The Kessler

When Rawlins Gilliland — radio commentator, poet and native Dallas bon vivant — did his one-man spoken word show, *Rated [R]awlins*, at the Sons of Hermann Hall earlier this summer, he expected it would be a one-shot gig, but it sold out so quickly — and reaction was so intensely favorable — he's bringing it back in the larger venue of The Kessler. Gilliland recounts, in his inimitable voice, the weird beauty of his gay bohemian travels, in turn hilarious and wrenching, as this peerless raconteur delights his audience with stories all the more incredible because they are true.

DEETS: The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. July 31. 6 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. \$20–up. TheKessler.org.



Saturday 07.26

QCinema screens 'Sordid Lives'

Come on, you already know all the lines and wanna see it on the screen again. Or maybe you don't know any of the lines and it's about damn time. Either way, this is your chance to see the cult classic queer Texas comedy *Sordid Lives* (the movie) on the big screen. QCinema is showing the story of outrageous gay-haters and gay-baiters and gays period in this hootenanny of hilarity.

DEETS: The Rainbow Lounge patio, 6512 Jennings St., Fort Worth. 9 p.m. Free. Hotdogs and popcorn, \$2; well drinks \$2.50. Qcinema.org.

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calendar highlights



STRAIGHT NOT NARROW | MBS Productions presents the premiere of the play 'The Straight Guy,' about two roommates (one gay, one straight) confused about each others' sexuality.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

The Festival of Independent Theatres. Small Dallas theater companies present one-act plays, showing in repertory at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 2. \$20-\$63. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.

The Boy from Oz. Uptown Players mounts this musical about the flamboyantly gay entertainer, and Oscar-winning songwriter, Peter Allen. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. July 25-Aug. 10. \$30-\$50. UptownPlayers.org.

Broken: The Musical. A story about tragedy and justice, it deals with the many untested and lost rape kits that deny justice to many victims. Proceeds benefit the Dallas Rape Crisis Center. The Lone Star Room at Gilley's, 1135 S. Lamar St. July 25-Aug. 17. Shows daily (except Mondays). BrokenTheMusical.com.

Dogfight. Charming musical by out composer Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. July 25-Aug. 17 (in previews through July 27). WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Christhelmet. Another experimental show from Matthew Posey including music, puppetry and more. *Final weekend.* Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. OchreHouseTheater.com.

Herbbits, Wizards and Borks, Oh My! Another popcorn-tosser that satirizes the Lord of the Rings movies. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 Mockingbird Lane., #119. Through Aug. 16. 214-821-1860.

Les Miserables. The Dallas Theater Center closes its season with this inventive reimagining of the modern classic. Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 17. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Little Shop of Horrors. The classic doo-wop-era

musical from Ashman and Menken, based on the campy film. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 3. JubileeTheatre.org.

Phantom. A musical ... but not the Andrew Lloyd Webber version. Instead, this adaptation comes from *Nine* scribes Maury Yeston (score) and Arthur Kopit (book). Presented by ICT MainStage Irving-Las Colinas. Directed by Michael Serrecchia. Dupree Theater at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. July 25-Aug. 9. \$19-\$24. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Steve Martin wrote this acclaimed absurdist comedy that places Einstein and Picasso together in a cafe in 1904. Trinity Arts Theater, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Aug. 3. OnstagelnBedford.com.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in T3's downstairs space. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Extended through Sept. 20. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Straight Guy. A straight guy who seems gay and a gay guy who seems straight become roommates and romantic entanglements ensue in this new comedy by

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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.

North Texas playwrights Alejandro de la Costa and J. Kyle Harris. Presented by MBS Productions. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Aug. 10. MBSProductions.net.

FINE ARTS

Concentrations 57: Slavs and Tatars. An international art collection, on display as part of the DMA's Concentrations Series. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Dec. 14. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 07.25

CONCERTS

Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour by Cirque du Soleil. The music of the late pop icon is re-imagined by Cirque du Soleil. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. July 25–26 at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY 07.26

CONCERTS

Deborah Vial with Jane Doe. The Dallas rocker, now a Maui girl, returns for a rollicking concert which she calls The Is What It Is Tour. Special guest Jane Doe opens. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 6 p.m. doors. HouseOfBlues.com/Dallas.

BENEFIT

In the Heat of the Night. An annual fundraiser for Legal Hospice of Texas, this event will feature hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, casino games, prizes and a silent auction. UNT Dallas College of Law, 1901 Main St. 6:30–10 p.m. \$50 in advance, \$65 at the door. LegalHospice.org.

FILM

Sordid Lives. The cult classic, set in Texas, about a screwed up family of religious nuts, closeted gays and outrageous sexpots. Rainbow Lounge patio, 651 Jennings St., Fort Worth. 9 p.m. Free. Qcinema.org.

TUESDAY 07.29

FILM

Pillow Talk. The best of the Doris Day-Rock Hudson pairings, and also the first. Doris received her only Academy Award nomination for this romantic comedy. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 07.30

CLASS

Acting Master Class. Welsey Taylor, an actor who appeared on *Smash*, holds a master class teaching the craft of performance. KS Studios, 2600 Stemmons Freeway. 6 p.m. \$35 (observe), \$249 (participate). StraightFromNewYork.com.

THURSDAY 07.31

SPOKEN WORD

Rated [R]awlings. The Dallas-bred raconteur relates his amazing life as a stowaway, Haight Ashbury hippie and even assault victim. The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. 6 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. TheKessler.org.



THE ROCK, ROLLING
Brett Ratner's 'Hercules,' starring Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, was not screened in time for Friday reviews — rarely a good sign for a summer movie.

FRIDAY 08.01

CABARET

Cabaret and Cabernet. This combination intimate concert and wine-tasting returns to the Sammons Center with performances by local favorites including

Laura Ainsworth, Sara Shelby-Martin, Amy Stevenson and Larry and Lindsay Petty. Meadows Hall at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7:30 p.m. wine-tasting, 8 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$200 (table of 8). SammonsArtCenter.org.

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TwoDaddiesOneLove.com

COLAGE

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GAYSWITHKIDS.COM

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Freddy Obregon
Leo Cusimano
214-754-8710 ext. 114
hrc.org/issues/parenting

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KindCompanions.com

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ParkGateDallas.com

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PrimeTimers-DFW.org

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212-741-2247; SageUSA.org

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Jeff Cusimano

Cassie Nova

How do you address a drag queen?

Cassie Nova here, y'all, and I am ready to dish up some old school wisdom in this fast-paced, one-click, I-need-it-now, A.D.D. world. Oh, look! A squirrel! Thanks to the many of you that have sent me questions. If I haven't gotten to yours yet, I hopefully will soon. Trying to solve the world's problems is exhausting work. I'm like Mother Teresa, Dear Abby and Batman all rolled into one. Now let's get to work.

Dearest Cassie Nova, I read in a recent online interview with a nationally famous drag queen that she feels the success of RuPaul's Drag Race has garnered certain under-talented, less hard-working drag queens both tours and club bookings that have subsequently cut into or lessened bookings

of more seasoned, hardworking, popular local queens. Do you feel this comment has any merit? I love the show and think it has opened doors and built bridges with our straight allies, and even some of our foes who've just stumbled into the Logo network. Thanks! Love and light, Kenny C from Big D.

Dear Kenny C, First off, let me say I love the show, too. I have watched every single episode and it really has helped the art of female impersonation

“I have absolutely no plans to audition for ‘Drag Race,’ ever. I am too old, too lazy and too set in my ways to put myself through that. Besides, I can have a bit of a temper.”
— Cassie Nova, dispelling rumors of reality TV glory.

become more mainstream and be more accepted. It is also a great way for non-pageant queens to make a name for themselves. But just because you got on a television show does not make you a great entertainer. *Drag Race* is more about characters than actually performing. There are quite a few “girls” on that show that would never make it in a real cast show at a place like the Rose Room. Without a doubt, there have been some talented bitches come from *Drag Race*. Local girls **Alyssa Edwards** and **Shangela** are great examples of what it means to be a true showgirl. Some of the other ladyboys are just boogers that get paid a big booking fee but will be

forgotten as soon as their season is over — they will have no longevity. It is disheartening to see these less talented queens get the bookings that used to go to the hard-working staples in our communities. Sadly, I recently heard there are a few clubs around the country that have decided to *only* book queens from *Drag Race*! I get it — everybody loves something new and shiny, but a shine fades quickly if

there is no substance. Thanks, Cassie.

While I'm on the subject of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, I have absolutely no plans to audition, ever. I am too old, too lazy and too set in my ways to put myself through that. Besides, I can have a bit of a temper. I might not get into fist fights, but I might throw marbles on the stairs! Damn you, *Showgirls*, for putting that in my head!

Dearest Cassie, What do I say to guys who jump right into a conversation with “Top or bottom?” after only a few minutes of chatting? I always feel like it's no one's business but my own and my sexual partner's. Am I in the minority in feeling this way? Thank you and best wishes, Joshua.

Dear Joshua, Your feelings are totally legitimate, but it depends what you want from these conversations. If you are just looking for friends, then it's nobody's business. If you are looking to hook up, then spill it! Don't think of them asking that question as a bad thing — think of it as an opportunity. If they are asking you “top/bottom,” it opens the door for you to ask them just about anything you want to know: Are you a felon? How long did you breast feed? Were you a bed-wetter? Do you cry after you orgasm? They may regret opening that can of worms. Good luck, Cassie.

Dearest Cassie, Many of us have seen countless drag shows but few realize how much work goes into getting ready for a show and putting the illusion together. Walk us through a typical Friday getting ready for a show. Thanks, Terry Walters.

Terry, I'd love to. There are a lot of people who



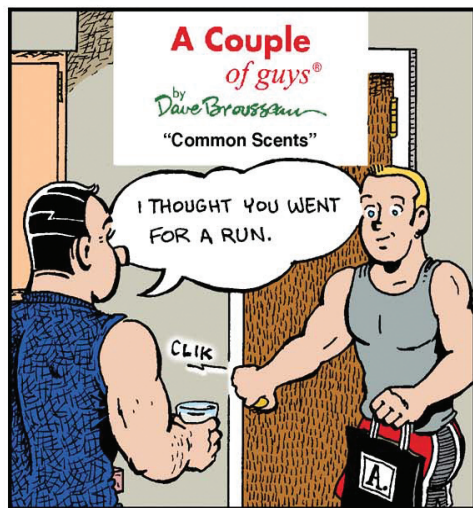
don't realize how much work can go into a show. Let's assume I have hair and costumes ready to go. My Friday night starts when I get to the club at about 8 p.m., freshly shaved and plucked. The ladies of the Rose Room are so lucky to have a great dressing room with our own stations and lockers. I unpack my supplies from my locker (make up, hairspray, spackle) and have a cocktail. I then pick the songs I am going to perform, like “My Vagina is 8 Miles Wide” or anything by Kelly Clarkson ... and have a cocktail. I put on my pads next, because it makes me feel fishy. Then I have a cocktail. Now that it's 8:15, I'm drunk. Just kidding — it's just a light buzz. (Just so we are clear, when I say pads, I am talking about the foam I have shaped to look like my voluptuous curves. Not the other kind. Ewww.) By 9 p.m., some of the other “girls” show up and we kiki as we put on our makeup. I can paint my mug a lot faster, but I really enjoy taking my time and talking shit with my sisters. Honestly, the *real* show happens backstage. We will laugh, cry, fight and make up all before the show starts at 11. The camaraderie we share is second to none. Once I am painted and lashed, I give myself a fierce tuck, cinch my waist, put on my boobs, dress, hair, heels, a spritz of Alien perfume and *Bam!* It's show time.

Cassie, I have always wondered: What is the best way of addressing a drag queen when they are not in drag. Is it proper to call them by their real name or their drag name? I always stumble over this — I don't want to offend anyone. Sincerely, Jim Dujka.

Hey, Jim, If you are fortunate enough to know a queen's real name, use it if they are not in drag. Don't scream “Cassie!” at me from across the aisles at Walmart. Awkward! This rule, though, does not apply to trans women — always call them by their girl names. Hell hath no fury like a pissed off tranny. Proceed with caution. — Cassie.

As I leave you this week, the world is in turmoil. Drought, downed planes, the death of the fabulous Elaine Stritch. Life can be awful sometimes. I hope you can find a reason to laugh a little each day. Love more! Bitch less! And be *fabulous!* XOXO, Cassie.

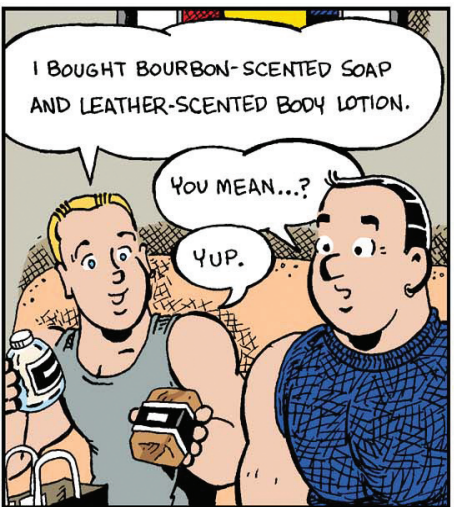
If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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LIFE+STYLE

scene



Buck Wyld and Karma at Sue Ellen's.



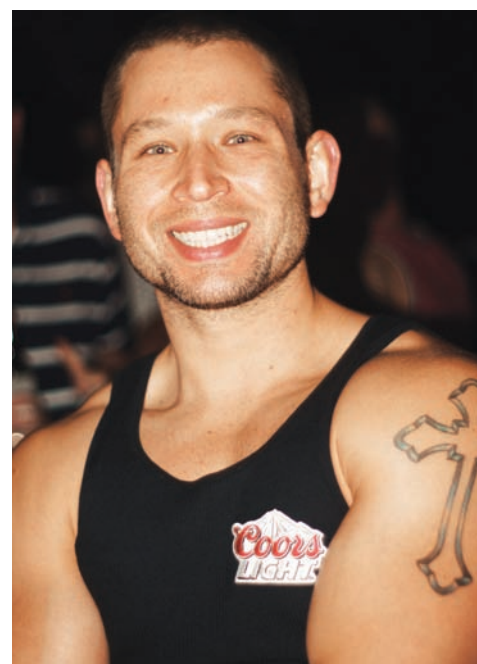
Eri, Jeff and Oscar at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Boys' night out at BJ's NXS!



Julian at Kaliente.



Anthony at the Dallas Eagle.

Making the SCENE the week of July 25-31:

1851 Club: Anton Shaw and the **Bad Habits** on Friday at 10 p.m.
Alexandre's: Carlos Saenz on Friday at 10 p.m. Shelia P and **Infinity** on Saturday at 10 p.m.
Sheran Keaton on Wednesday at 9 p.m. **Alicia Silex** on Thursday at 9 p.m.
Best Friends Club: **Miss Gay Fort Worth** state and state-at-large pageant on Saturday at 7 p.m.
Club Reflection: **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** dance event on Saturday at 7 p.m. **TGRA** cookout on Sunday at 5 p.m. and show at 7 p.m.
Dallas Eagle: **United Court of the Lone Star Empire Birthday Show** on Friday at 8 p.m. benefits **Youth First**. **Koneko Nawa** presents **National Leather Association's Leather Perspectives**, a leather education, demonstration and discussion on Saturday at 2 p.m. **Jeffrey Payne** hosts **Boots Are Made for Walking**, an auction with entertainment on Saturday at 7 p.m. benefiting **ILSB** and **ICBB**. **Larry Carter** hosts **UCLSE's Grand Duckie Show** with auction items on Sunday at 7 p.m.
Round-Up Saloon: **Stoli Guy Competition** on Thursday at 8 p.m.
Sue Ellens: **Bad Reputation and Deadly Skins Burlesque** on Friday at 10 p.m. **American Red Blood Drive** from 1-5 p.m. **CHIX** on Saturday. **Backhand Sally** on Sunday.
The Brick: **Second SS Saturday with Raja, Madame LaQueen, G licious "G"** and emcee **Nicole O'Hara Munro**. A portion of proceeds benefits **Sugar Stix LifeWalk** team. Doors open at 9 p.m. Show at midnight.

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



Chris and Dominick at TMC: The Mining Company.



Miss LifeWalk 2014 at the Rose Room.



Miguel, Josh, Antonio, Jose and Steve at the Tin Room.



AJ at the Red Party fashion show at the ilume.



Model at the Red Party fashion show at the ilume.



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scene



Lydia at Randy's Club Cherries.



Friends' night out at the Tin Room.



Ethan and Justin at The Brick.



Partiers at the Summer Party fundraiser for AIDS Services of Dallas.



Host Tom Doan, second from left, with guest at the Summer Party.



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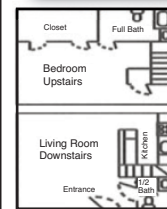
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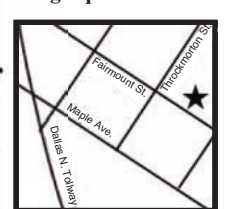
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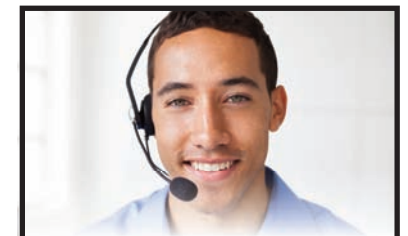
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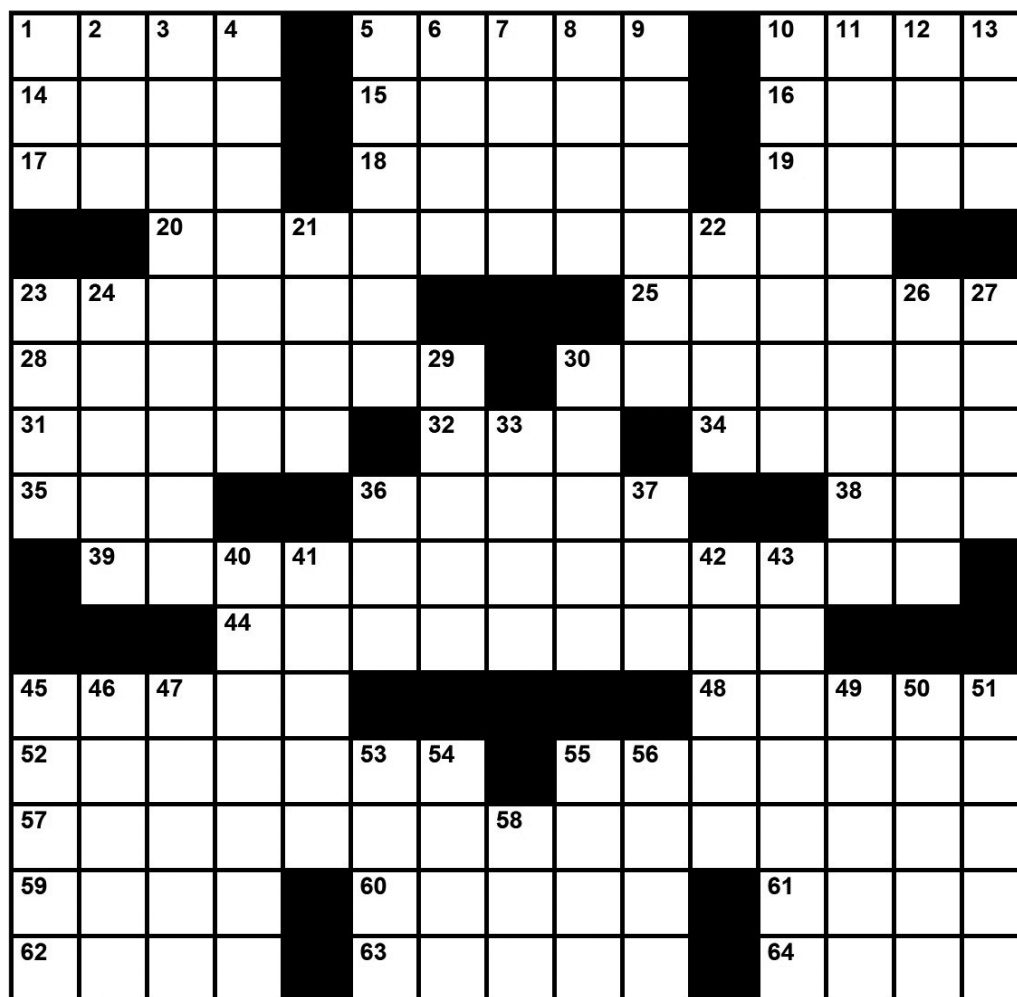
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q-puzzle



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Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 What a computer may spit out
- 5 Glory hole locale
- 10 Problem for one's bitch
- 14 "Excuse me!"
- 15 Vietnam capital
- 16 Cruise obnoxiously
- 17 *Death in Venice* author Thomas
- 18 Hard woody nut
- 19 Role for Bela
- 20 Archbishop who said "I'd rather go to hell than worship a (39-Across)"
- 23 Inventor Otis
- 25 Opera tenor Caruso
- 28 Sparing the rod
- 30 Moorish palace
- 31 No longer jail bait
- 32 Heavenly body
- 34 You might pick one up in an alley
- 35 Thespians do it
- 36 B. D. Wong, for one
- 38 Month in Madrid
- 39 False deity of prejudiced people
- 44 Touchy
- 45 It goes on a queen's head
- 48 Combined
- 52 Like some foreign movies
- 55 Word game involving a stick figure

Down

- 1 Beaver job
- 2 You might say it when you get it
- 3 Taking care of
- 4 Result of a lick on the head, perhaps
- 5 Medicine man
- 6 Folded fast food
- 7 At once, to Byron
- 8 Alfred Douglas' title
- 9 Door frame part
- 10 Guy's zip, when he gets caught in it?
- 11 John of *To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*
- 12 Antidiscrimination letters
- 13 JFK posting
- 21 Author/illustrator Silverstein
- 22 Dad's bros

- 23 Scat queen
- 24 Bloodsucker
- 26 Felt (for)
- 27 Crude material
- 29 Big Lovely band singer
- 30 Addis ____, Ethiopia
- 33 Historic Stonewall event
- 36 Lending letters
- 37 Fine point of writing
- 40 Moon of Uranus
- 41 Use a gifted tongue
- 42 Dirty Harry portrayer
- 43 Start of an Asian warrior title
- 45 For all, in music
- 46 __ water (imperiled at the bathhouse?)
- 47 Fields of interest
- 49 Last letter for Socrates
- 50 Conquers, sexually
- 51 Provide
- 53 Creature in a *Star Wars* sequel
- 54 Presidential title role for Kevin Kline
- 55 *The Bridge* poet Crane
- 56 They're performing, in *Fame*
- 58 *Once Upon a Mattress* legume

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