

dallas voice

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COWBOY SALIM

What will it mean to DFW's LGBT community to have the first openly gay pro football player on the Dallas Cowboys roster?

By James Russell
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Beverly and Susan MacGray were legally married in a civil ceremony in Chicago, Illinois, Friday, August 29, 2014.

Judge James R. Carroll officiated. Teresa Grueter and Steve Schwab, friends of the couple, were their witnesses. The couple was previously married in a church ceremony September 2, 2007, at Cathedral of Hope.

Beverly is chief therapy officer and rehabilitation director of Accel Rehab in Plano, Texas. Susan is employed as a leader with Weight Watchers, and is also a private chef and caterer in Dallas. The couple spent 5 days in Chicago, but will celebrate this monumental day with a trip to Italy, Greece, and Turkey. The couple resides in Valley Ranch.



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UMC Bishop Martin McLee dies

Bishop Martin D. McLee, who presided over the United Methodist Church's New York region and once lived in Dallas, died Saturday, Sept. 6. The LGBT ally was 58 years old.

According to the UMC News Service, the Brooklyn native was called to ministry while attending Dallas' St. Luke "Community" Church. There, under the leadership of the Rev. Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. he immediately immersed himself in the life of the church, including its many social justice ministries, Holmes recalled. Among other activities, McLee sang in the choir, volunteered with the church's prison ministry, served in its AIDS ministry and registered voters.

Trained as a lawyer, he enrolled in SMU's Perkins School of Theology where he received his Master's of Divinity. He didn't give up on social justice causes, including his outspoken stances on LGBT equality once he joined the church.

— James Russell

Davis addresses Cathedral of Hope

Democratic gubernatorial candidate state Sen. Wendy Davis addressed Cathedral of Hope at its 9 a.m. service on Sept. 7 and received an award from the congregation.

Cathedral and Hope for Peace and Justice presented Davis an Advocacy Award "for speaking truth to power on behalf of women."

In her address to the congregation, Davis said as governor she would always embrace the LGBT community.

"I will remember you, because I am one of you," she said.

Republican candidate Atty. Gen. Greg Abbott has also been invited to address the church, but has not responded to the invitation.

— David Taffet

Anti-Sam protest fizzles

Of the more than 3.62 million members of the American Decency Association claimed by organizer Jack Burkman that planned to protest the Dallas Cowboys game on Sunday, Sept. 7, exactly none showed up.

Supporters, however, did show up with signs that read, "Thank you Cowboys" and "Love beats hate."

Even the American Decency Association disavowed Burkman. On its website, they wrote, "We are not the group in Texas using the name 'American Decency' headed by Jack Burkman that is being targeted as planning a protest against football player Michael Sam in Dallas this Sunday."

They complain about the kiss between Sam and his boyfriend — which they put in quotes — and then summarize, "In saying all of this,

— Arnold Wayne Jones



I make this point: We are not the ones behind the protest, but we also do not condone the lifestyle of Michael Sam."

So since American Decency is against everything that Michael Sam stands for, but they weren't behind the threatened protest, they ask that people stop emailing them hate mail.

— David Taffet

Theater critics bestow awards

The Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum met as usual the first Saturday after Labor Day to hash out our awards for the best of North Texas theater over the preceding 12 months, and the Dallas Theater Center ended up the big winner, with five of its shows receiving citations.

Les Miserables, *Fortress of Solitude*, *Oedipus el Rey* and its in-reperitory pair of *Raisin in the Sun* and *Clybourne Park* (*Raisin's* quasi-sequel) all took home major awards, including direction for the first four.

Cast members from many were also recognized, including Liz Mikel and Tiffany Hobbs from *Raisin*, Allison Pistorious from *Clybourne* and Steven Walters from *Les Miz*.

Uptown Players, coming off one of its best seasons, also won accolades for two of its shows: The gay comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (for direction and its ensemble) and for *The Boy from Oz* for its three stars and for its wig and makeup by Coy Covington.

The winners — which are voted on by a panel of 12 local theater critics, including me — are hashed out over a luncheon.

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localbriefs

Sisters sponsor food drive

Last year about this time, Resource Center put out an urgent call for donations for the Food Pantry. The shelves were bare. One of the groups responding to the call was the DFW Sisters who decided to make the food drive an annual project.

Bring nonperishable food items, cash, gift cards or checks to the game room at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road from 8-10 p.m. on Sept 19.

Daniel holding 3 town halls

Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel is holding three town hall meetings where she'll share the latest information on Dallas county government, voter ID requirements for the upcoming election and news about the new Parkland hospital. The county Tax Assessor-Collector will make a presentation about the new "two steps, one sticker" change in auto registration. A Health and Human Services representative will give updates on mosquito control.

The meetings will be:

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. at Winfrey Point on White Rock Lake, 950 E. Lawther Drive. State Rep. Toni Rose will also speak.

- Thursday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. A representative from Sen. Royce West's office will

also speak.

- Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin St., Garland. Garland City Councilmembers B.J. Williams and Steve Stanley will also speak.

Resource Center holding open house

Meet the staff and tour Resource Center to learn about its programs and services. Light bites and wine will be served. The open house and tour take place 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Resource Center is at 2701 Reagan St. RSVP to dwilson@myresourcecenter.org.

Proud as a Peacock Gaybingo North

Sister Helen Holy hosts Proud as a Peacock Gaybingo North at 3 p.m. on Sept. 14 at 1509 H Ave., Plano. Sponsor David Lee is hosting a food drive for Resource Center Food Pantry. Chris Chism and friends perform during intermission.

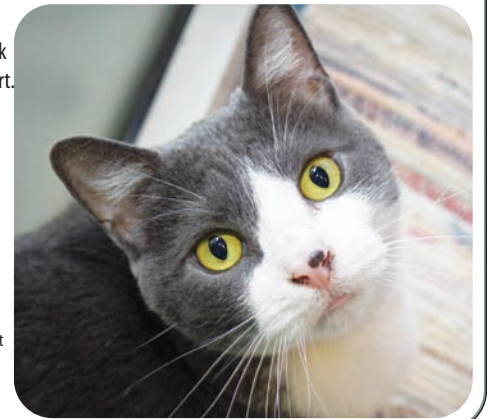
Veasey holding 'Congress on Your Corner' in Oak Cliff

U.S. Rep Marc Veasey will hold a Congress on Your Corner event on Saturday, Sept. 13, 4-5:30 p.m. at Tom Thumb, 315 S. Hampton Road in Oak Cliff.

pet of the week / STUBBS

Stubbs is a gray and white, neutered, declawed male, about 6 years old. This cat is so laid back and confident, he'll lie on his back and let you pet his stomach. He's very handsome and a kid at heart. He loves to play with toys and is very affectionate. The name he was given is the result of a 2 inch long tail - very becoming on this big boy. Since he's been at the shelter since August 8th, his adoption fee has been waived. He's at our main location: 1818 N. Westmoreland Rd. 75212.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 12 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 of age, to any senior citizen that 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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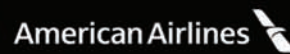


PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

Welcome back, Michael Sam



MICHAEL SAM COMES HOME | Dallas Cowboys practice squad defensive end Michael Sam smiles as he speaks to reporters after team practice Wednesday, Sept. 3 in Irving. (L.M. Otero/Associated Press)

The first out professional football player comes home to Texas

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
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Joining the Dallas Cowboys practice squad is a sort of homecoming for Michael Sam, the first out gay football player to be drafted in the National Football League. Growing up in the Texas Gulf Coast town of Hitchcock, his favorite team was America's Team.

Sam's agent told Dallas Voice Sam was not doing one-on-one interviews because he wants to "focus on football." But the 24 year-old's legacy as a ground-breaking pioneer in the sport is well documented through print, digital and social media.

Not only has his short but successful football career been well documented, but so too have the intricacies of his personal life. By piecing together the selected interviews, biographies, press statements and photographs from the past year, it's clear that Sam has had one wild past year.

The University of Missouri player burst onto every sports enthusiast's radar in 2013, when he was the Southeastern Conference's Player of the Year. The consensus among sports analysts then was that he'd be a top NFL draft in the early rounds.

But in February, Sam came out as a gay man. Though still considered a top pick, some privately wondered whether the NFL was ready for an out gay player. They thought it could impact his chances and in some cases, it was posited a gay player would turn away fans or create a distraction in the locker room.

Other select interviews also detailed a difficult childhood. ESPN.com interviewed his brother, Josh, who is currently in the Galveston County jail. "I'm proud of him for not becoming like me. I still love him, whatever his lifestyle is," Josh Sam said. "He's still my brother and I love him."

The St. Louis Rams picked Sam in the seventh and final round of the NFL's 2014 draft. With all cameras on him, tears running down his face, Sam kissed his boyfriend, Vito Cammisano, claiming another slice of sports history.

As the New York Times reported after the pick, "Sam's draft status was seen as a barometer of whether the NFL was ready to accept an openly gay player."

That kind of legacy speaks to the impact the Cowboys' recent recruit has on the sport of football and on the LGBT community. But it also humanizes what his brother and other media sources describe as a young man with a tough upbringing who found refuge with neighbors and on the football field.

Sam was cut in the final round of trials with the Rams as part of the process of meeting the league's mandated limit of 53 players.

To quell any cries of homophobia, Rams Coach Jeff Fisher made it clear at a press conference that the decision was only related to the team's needs. "There will be no challenge, no challenges whatsoever," for Sam.

"I will tell you this: I was pulling for Mike," he said. "I really was, and I don't say that very often. Mike came in here and did everything we asked him to do."

The Dallas Cowboys expressed their interest in Sam, now a free agent. And after a Sept. 3 physical, he signed with the Cowboys' practice squad.

"If anybody wants Sam to succeed, the Cowboys practice squad is the place," said Dave Zirin, the sports editor at The Nation magazine. Sam's main weakness is as an "in-betweeners," a player without a position."

Impact in Dallas

Out athletes playing professional sports are not new. One-time Fort Worth resident and out lesbian Martina Navratilova is a tennis champion. Olympic champion swimmer Greg Louganis went on to write a bestselling memoir and married his partner.

But while many out athletes have had successful careers, only one until now has been part of one of the big four leagues, and none went without facing the stigma found in professional athletics.

Jason Collins, a professional basketball player with the Brooklyn Nets, came out in Sports Illustrated in 2013. He paved a path for future "big four" athletes, said Rob King of Dallas.

As an avid sports enthusiast and an out gay man, King just cares about what goes on the court. "It's what you do on the court that counts," he said. And he believes Sam should be held to the same standards as straight players.

Rafael McDonnell, advocacy and communications manager at Dallas' Resource Center, said this is still uncharted territory. Sam, he said, is uniquely positioned to make history: He's not just a gay football player, but also the first out gay football player joining an iconic brand.

"When anyone in the world talks about American football, they talk about the Dallas Cowboys," McDonnell said. "They're wrapped up in the identity of North Texas."

The North Texas identity, like many other areas of the nation, is slowly evolving on LGBT rights. But, as Zirin said, "Wherever [Sam] wound up, it shouldn't have been a city with abject homopho-

Questions continue over DISD officer's firing

Termination letter says the district was investigating Liebbe, but Liebbe said he doesn't know why

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Dallas Independent School District Superintendent Mike Miles dismissed DISD investigator Jeremy Liebbe from his position with little explanation of why he was fired.

"At will employees may be dismissed at any time for any reason not prohibited by law or for no reason, as determined by the needs of the district," Miles wrote in the termination letter. Then he says Liebbe was fired for a specific reason.

But Liebbe still doesn't know what that reason is.

"You were the recent subject of an investigation," Miles wrote. "The investigation substantiated allegations that you acted outside the scope of your role as manager of the Professional Standards Office."

Liebbe said he has no idea how he acted outside the scope of his job description. At the time of his original suspension, he had just passed information to Miles about his own supervisor having served a year on probation and lying about it on her job application. But that sort of investigation is exactly what his job was, not "outside the scope" of his position, he said.

Liebbe had been with DISD since 2004 when he started as a narcotics investigator. He was outed as a gay man during his first few months with the district, which already had a nondiscrimination policy in place, and he said his sexual orientation hadn't been much of an issue during his 10 years there.

During that time, Liebbe rose through the ranks and became one of DISD's top investigators. His most recent promotion was to head the Professional Standards Office, the investigative unit of the district's human resources department.

In June, Liebbe's investigation into the district's athletic program led to Miles firing 15 employees — 12 head coaches, assistant coaches and teacher assistants from schools and three from the downtown athletic office — for recruiting violations at Wilmer-Hutchins and James Madison high schools.

The investigation centered on two students who were living in the same apartment in south Dallas, away from their parents, and attending the two separate high schools. In March they got into a fight, and one killed the other.

In his investigation, Liebbe uncovered forged documents that showed these students should not have been going to those schools.

"The only reason they were where they were is because of something our employees did," Liebbe said.

Dallas police investigated the murder. Liebbe was only involved in the personnel investigation.

In his current position, Liebbe investigated teachers having sex with students. Through his investigations, he also found someone who was threatening to unleash a Newtown-style massacre in a Dallas school on the anniversary of that tragedy, averting a local copycat massacre.

Since 2008, Liebbe has been regarded as DISD's top investigator, repeatedly receiving evaluations of "exceeds expectations" or "exemplary." He was never counseled or given any warnings.

But it was his investigation of his supervisor that Liebbe and his attorney Pete Schulte believe led to his termination.

At the time Liebbe was put on administrative leave in July, he was investigating Tonya Sadler Grayson for allegedly lying about her criminal background on her employment application. She served 12 months' probation for misdemeanor charges when she was 19.

Grayson claimed she thought her situation didn't apply to the question on the application.

DISD now claims she properly revealed the 25-year-old misdemeanor and probation, but Liebbe claims she didn't reveal it until after his investigation.

Whichever it was, Liebbe said he took the information directly to Miles so he could deal with it privately and never intended to make the information public.

Soon after and without being given any details, Liebbe was placed on paid leave.

Dallas Voice obtained a copy of the letter informing Liebbe he was on leave through a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

"The district is hereby placing you on administrative leave with pay. The leave status will not affect your days or your pay. This action does not imply guilt or any wrongdoing by you, nor does it indicate any disciplinary action on the part of the district," the letter from Miles said.

The letter doesn't give any reason for placing Liebbe on leave or indicate what might be under investigation or why anyone might imply guilt or wrongdoing on his part.

The termination came immediately after Liebbe sent a complaint to the DISD board of trustees.

In it he denies one rumor.

"The allegation that I secretly installed hidden spy cameras in district offices is absolutely false, defames my integrity, and wrongfully accuses me of criminal violations of federal law," Liebbe wrote.

He acknowledges his review of Grayson.

"It would appear that the superintendent supports the violations of his top staff — else why do I remain on administrative leave while the chief and executive director remain on the job?" Liebbe wrote in his complaint.

This week, Liebbe said he and his attorney, Peter Schulte, are "researching and exploring options." DISD spokesman Andre Riley said Grayson "is still an employee in her current capacity," but would not say if she is under investigation.

Riley said it was unfortunate the matter was so



Jeremy Liebbe

Peter A. Schulte Attorney at Law Former Dallas County Prosecutor, Police Officer



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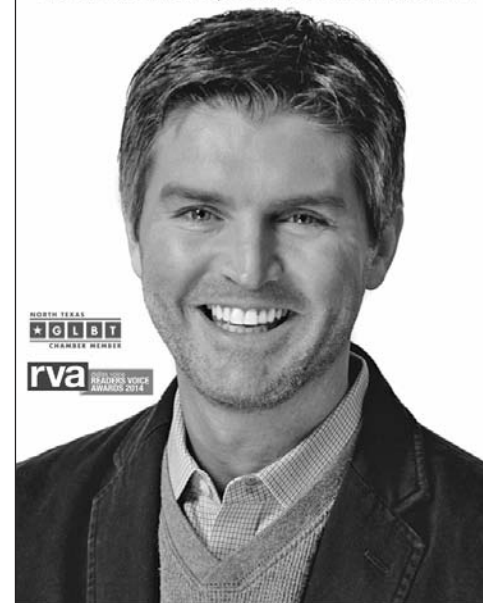
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Fort Worth City Council backs Police Chief Halstead

The move comes after a local police association calls for Halstead's resignation

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Members of the Fort Worth City Council this week reaffirmed their support for Police Chief Jeff Halstead despite calls for his resignation from one local police officers' association. The move came during the council's executive session on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

City officials also announced Tuesday that they are enacting an action plan to guarantee diversity and fairness within the department's ranks.

The Black Law Enforcement Officers' Association recently called for Halstead's resignation after an independent review conducted by Coleman and Associates detailed incidents of harassment and hostility against black officers within the police department. The review, released in August, was prompted by three separate complaints filed in 2013 alleging racial discrimination and harassment

within the department's ranks.

The 3-E Action Plan, guaranteeing "equity and equality for everyone" is the result of suggested changes in department policy.

Mayor Betsy Price, City Manager David Cooke and Halstead discussed the plan at a press conference. It includes efforts toward recruiting a more diverse workforce, ongoing outreach to minority communities and six annual meetings with both the African-American and Hispanic officers' associations.

It also requires all employees go through multicultural training.

Following the report's release, Cooke said the "department will see in our actions that diversity is valued; that any disparate treatment not related to merit will not be tolerated; and that any incidents of a hostile work environment will be handled quickly and appropriately."

His office will "be directly involved in monitoring [the plan's] progress."

Dallas Voice's calls seeking comments from Black Law Enforcement Officers' Association President Sergeant Roy Hudson and the Fort Worth Latino Peace Officers Association were not re-

turned as of press time.

It is not the first time Halstead has come under scrutiny from Fort Worth communities.

In 2009, less than a year into his tenure, seven Fort Worth police officers and two agents of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission raided Fort Worth's Rainbow Lounge, a then-newly-opened gay bar. One patron, Chad Gibson, suffered serious head injuries during the raid.

Initially Halstead defended his officers, saying at the time to WFAA, when "you're touched and advanced in certain ways by people inside the bar; that's offensive. I'm happy with the restraint used when they were contacted like that."

Following an outcry from the community and numerous elected officials, Halstead backtracked on the statement and worked with what became Fairness Fort Worth to implement new measures, including sensitivity training and appointing the department's first LGBT liaison, Officer Sara Straten. (Cpl. Tracey Knight is FWPd's current LGBT liaison officer.)

Then in 2011, a group of community members with the Black, Brown & Tan Caucus and the Community Leaders Coalition called for his resignation

after a Tarrant County grand jury did not indict a white police officer who shot and killed Charal Thomas, a black man.

Fairness Fort Worth President David Henderson said this week the situation with the LGBT community is different now.

"While we aren't privy to details on the current dilemma, our history with Chief Halstead from the Rainbow Lounge Raid is based largely on a relationship that saw him tangibly transform from crisis proxy to trusted partner," Henderson said.

He added, "Crucial to our resolution was that Halstead recognized the...problem, publicly owned up to his responsibility and swiftly enacted changes that actively invited us into the process."

The Rev. Carol Ann West, whose church, Celebration Community Church, hosts Chief Halstead on a monthly basis to speak with members of the LGBT community, has no doubts about Halstead keeping his word.

"He is a man of integrity who has done a tremendous amount of work with all groups in Fort Worth," she said. "He's made tremendous strides between the LGBT community and City Hall." ■

September

• Through Sept. 14: Play Pride Festival

Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 N. Tyler St. \$15-\$20. TeCoTheater.org

• Through Sept. 20:

Pride Performing Arts Festival

Uptown Players, Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org

• **Sept. 13: Car Wash for LifeWalk Team Heart Throckmorton at Cedar Springs**, in the parking lot behind Zinni's and Skivvies, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. All proceeds benefit LifeWalk and the clients of AIDS Arms Inc. Donations only. For information call 214-521-5191. LifeWalk.org.

• **Sept. 13: Destination : Dragon Street Guys and Dolls 2014 Silent Auction and Art Show.**

Private home at 1531 Dragon St., 7-11 p.m. \$35 per person. For information call 214-418-5429 or email jay.nolen@ibsa.com. Benefits LifeWalk and AIDS Arms Inc. LifeWalk.org.

• **Sept. 13: Gay Day at Six Flags hosted by Dallas Voice**

Discount tickets good Sept. 13, 14 or 20. \$35 including parking if booked online. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. is.gd.W00KU

• **Sept. 13: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Casino Coach Day Trip**

Bus trip to Louisiana Downs casino and race track. \$30. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. TCGPWA.org

• **Sept. 14: Coexist — Youth Lead Interfaith Sunday**

Youth from around the Dallas area are invited to join the congregation of Cathedral of Hope UCC for worship while honoring their own faith, 11 a.m., at CoH, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CathedralofHope.com

• Sept. 19: Red Party

Benefits Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage. The Globe, 525 S. Riverfront Blvd., 9-11 p.m. RedPartyDallas.org

• **Sept. 19: CinéWilde Presents "Longtime**

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Benefits LifeWalk Team CGGCares. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd., 8 p.m. For more information e-mail cinewildedallas@gmail.com.

• **Sept. 20: LGBT book presentation**
Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 11 a.m.

• Sept. 20: Purple Party

The Loft, 1135 S. Lamar St., Dallas. \$35 Online/\$40 Door. 10 p.m.-4 a.m. PurpleFoundation.org

• Sept. 20: Dallas Teen Pride

Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Teens free. Adults \$5. 2-7 p.m. RealConnect.org

• **Sept. 20: Austin Pride festival and parade Festival** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Jesse Segovia St., Austin. Parade 6-10 p.m. Congress Ave. in downtown Austin. AustinPride.org

• **Sept. 21: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade** "Reflection of Pride: Stonewall 45." Cedar Springs Road from Wycliff Ave. to Turtle Creek Blvd. Begins at 2 p.m. DallasPride.org

• **Sept. 21: Festival in Lee Park**
Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. \$5. Noon-7 p.m. DallasPride.org

• **Sept. 22-30: The Gay Softball World Series**
DallasSeries2014.com

• Sept. 25: Outrageous Oral

Rose Room (inside Station 4), 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., program starts at 7 p.m. Features Lory Masters, Cece Cox and Emma Colquitt with Dee Pennington as Mistress of Ceremonies.

• Sept. 25-28: Beyond Vanilla XXIV.

Host hotel is Crowne Plaza — Downtown, 1015

Elm St. Overflow hotel is Hotel Lawrence, 302 S. Houston St. Events at the Crowne Plaza and at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. BeyondVanilla.org.

• **Sept. 26: 5 Factor**
7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 107. 7-9 p.m. \$50. MyResourceCenter.org

• **Sept. 27: Jackie K. Jones Memorial Ride**
Revlon Courtyard, 720 N. Lancaster Ave. to White Rock Lake and back. 9:30 a.m. Benefits AIDS Service Dallas. AIDSDallas.org

• **Sept. 28: 'Same Love, Same Rights' LGBT Wedding Expo**
150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Ste. 107, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Event is free but donations of \$5 requested. For information call 828-645-8750. RainbowWeddingNetwork.com.

• **Sept. 30: GLBT Business & Community Expo**
Warwick Melrose, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave., 4-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Free admission; exhibitor tables \$100 each or \$75 for a shared table. For information contact Tony Vedda by phone at 214-865-6516 or by email at tony.vedda@glbtchamber.org. GLBTChamber.org.

October

• Oct. 2: Teen Pride

Music, dancing and pizza for ages 14-19. Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave, Fort Worth. 6-8 p.m. Celebration-Community-Church.com

• **Oct. 2-4: Southern Regional Health Disparities & Leadership Conference**
Crowne Plaza, 1015 Elm St. BHAPConference.org

• **Oct. 2-6: Dallas Black Pride Weekend**
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1015 Elm St. DallasSouthernPride.com

• **Oct. 4: Tarrant County Pride parade, festival**
Parade steps off at Weatherford and Houston St. Noon-6 p.m. TCGPWA.org

• Oct. 5: LifeWalk

Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Register 11 a.m. Walk at 1 p.m. LifeWalk.org

• **Oct. 5: Tarrant County Pride Picnic**
Trinity Park, 2987 Trinity Park Dr, Fort Worth. Noon-6 p.m. TCGPWA.org

• Oct. 9-12: QCinema Film Festival

QCinema.org

• Oct. 16: Great Gatsby Party

Benefits AIDS Interfaith Network. The home of Faye C. Briggs, 5909 Desco Drive. 3-6 p.m. AIDSInterfaithnetwork.org

• Oct. 18: Spooktacular

Fundraiser for the GLBT Leadership Education and Advocacy Program (GLBT LEAP), 6-9 p.m., at ilume 2, 3109 Douglas Ave. For information call 214-865-6516.

• **Oct. 17-18: International Gay Rodeo Finals**
John Justin Arena, 1051 Rip Johnson Road, Fort Worth. \$15 one day, \$25 two days. IGRA.com

• **Oct. 25: Halloween on Cedar Springs Road**
Facebook.com/Events/776039205742083

November

• **Nov. 14: Wanda Sykes with Keith Robinson**
Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. Tickets available at TicketMaster.com

• Nov. 15: Black Tie Dinner

Dallas Sheraton Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. \$400. 6 p.m.-midnight. BlackTie.org

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance**
Details of local observances to come. Facebook.com/TransDOR.Dallas.



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Giving Day benefiting local LGBT, AIDS nonprofit organizations

Communities Foundation of Texas hopes North Texas Giving Day will break national records — again

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

At least seven area AIDS agencies, three local choruses and a variety of other nonprofit organizations staffed by or benefiting the LGBT community are among the beneficiaries of North Texas Giving Day on Sept. 18.

During one 18-hour period, Communities Foundation of Texas hopes to break last year's record of giving, when 75,369 donations totaling \$25.2 million were donated to help 1,350 local agencies. The event broke national records for a single-day, community-wide giving event.

According to Carol Goglia, communications director for Communities Foundation of Texas, last year's donations came from all 50 states and 35 countries.

When it started in 2009, the Dallas giving day was one of the first three such events in the country. Similar fundraising efforts are held in 60 cities now.

Goglia said reporters from other cities have called her to talk about the success Dallas has had in this cooperative fundraising effort. She said in Dallas, groups are good at working together. Black Tie Dinner, which funds up to 20 local organizations and Human Rights Campaign in D.C. by working cooperatively to raise money, is a good example of that.

"A rising tide lifts all boats," Goglia said. "We support each other."

The majority of gifts are under \$100, but some

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GETTING CREATIVE | Some groups use creative methods to generate donations on North Texas Giving Day. Caroline French, Turtle Creek Chorale marketing director, center in blue tutu, pledged she would make her dance debut with the group at last year's Naughty & Nice holiday concert if their donations topped \$25,000. (Michael McGary/Courtesy Turtle Creek Chorale)

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are over \$50,000.

When the event began, 345 nonprofits from Dallas participated. This year, more than 1,600 agencies from a 16-county region across North Texas are registered.

Goglia said some are just listed so they can receive money in case anyone is looking for them. Others send emails to their donor base to let them know about the event.

Then there's the Turtle Creek Chorale.

In its first year, the chorale held a pajama party at midnight when the donation page on the website opened. The next year, donation time was pushed up to dawn, so the chorale had a "Get Up and Give" party. In 2011, that party was upgraded to a "Bring Your Own Bed to Get Up and Give," with themed bed vignettes.

Goglia called the chorale's promotions very funny and very effective.

Last year, the chorale marketing and development coordinator, Caroline French, said she'd dance on stage at the holiday concert if they raised \$25,000. Donors met the challenge and French made her dance debut.

"We're always looking for innovative ways to participate," French said.

She said there's a new challenge on tap for this year, but wasn't ready to reveal what that is.

Dave Chaos is station manager of 89.3 KNON-FM, which has aired LGBT talk show *Lambda Weekly* since the station went on the air in 1983. The station is mostly funded through on-air pledge drives.


Throughout Community Giving Day, Chaos said the station will air announcements about North Texas Giving Day and direct listeners to the community giving website.

Chaos said he thinks the donors on that day differ from pledge-drive donors.

"People take the fact we're here for granted," he said. "Some people tune out during pledge drive."

He said the giving day donors who respond to the one-day event feel they're part of a community-wide event and don't necessarily respond to the station's individual appeals. Some who donate, though, may include the station in multiple donations they're making.

According to Goglia, half the donors that participated last year donated to more than one charity. One out of every four donors was giv-





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Welcome back, Michael Sam

■ **SAM**, From Page 8

bia. Dallas certainly fits the bill of a pro-LGBT community."

Despite the perception of the NFL as a macho fraternity house, assumed homophobia shouldn't change the overall product, according to Eric Yorkston, an associate professor of marketing at Texas Christian University.

"Sam's orientation doesn't essentially change the identity of the overall product. Only people who are very anti-gay and come in with precon-

ceptions will see the team differently," Yorkston said. "Fans will be happy as long as the team performs well."

But to Paula Reeves of Fort Worth, that sentiment isn't entirely accurate. While it makes her "proud to be part of the Metroplex, there are many times when it feels like Texas doesn't want me here because I'm gay."

Her girlfriend, Carlie Threlkeld, also of Fort Worth, believes Sam will change the perception not just for LGBT people but for others, too. An out and skilled football player "will show people

that this community is made up of strong people that are unafraid, but also that we are human beings."

Whenever King, his partner and two other gay friends go to a game, they



can't help but get excited when celebrating their favorite team's win. Just like everyone else, they hug one another; hold up their prideful "No. 1" foam finger.

But unlike others, who may show signs of affection, "We scale it down to our level of comfort." They don't want to offend audience members by kissing, the way Sam kissed Cammisano after he signed with the Rams.

"Hopefully in the future it won't have to be like that," King said.

Hopefully, Michael Sam is helping pave the way to that future. ■

■ **OFFICER**, From Page 9

public without being able to comment, because DISD doesn't comment on personnel issues.

"The review, conducted by outside counsel, found multiple instances of poor behavior and decision-making, and violations of law and the Texas Education Code that warranted the termination of Jeremy Liebbe, who had managed the Professional Standards Office since March of 2014," Riley said.

With accusations against him unanswered, Liebbe said he's in limbo. He's unable to apply for jobs elsewhere.

For the past several years, Liebbe has headed security for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and Festival in Lee Park and, despite what happened with DISD, he retains his private security license and will perform that job again, this year out of uniform.

"He's very letter of the law," Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman said.

He said Liebbe screens officers and only uses those who are comfortable being there. Before Liebbe took over managing security, some of the officers at the Dallas Pride celebration were obviously uncomfortable interacting with parade attendees, Doughman said.

"He's very efficient," Doughman said. "He brings the very best officers and makes sure they're completely comfortable with the event." ■

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SIGNING ON | Surrounded by LGBT supporters, President Barack Obama signs executive orders in July protecting LGBT employees from federal workplace discrimination. (Jacquelyn Martin/Associated Press)

Trans in the job market: Why we need ENDA

I remember vividly a conversation I had with a longtime friend and mentor in the radio business. She had come out as transgender some 20 years ago, and when I shared with her that I was on a similar path she offered these words of encouragement and warning: “You work for probably the best company to try and pull this off, but if you do, you’ll be the first.”



Leslie McMurray
Contributing Columnist

She was referring to a transgender person holding down a regular full time air shift or holding the job of program director.

I didn’t make it; I was let go three months after beginning hormone treatment and literally the day before I had planned to come out. (I had written the letter and was prepared to present it when my plans were changed for me.)

Since my departure, I have found the job climate to be quite different. Before I transitioned, I was seldom out of work for more than a few weeks. Now, I can’t get a phone call returned.

A prominent consultant and program supplier told me that since I have transitioned, I’m considered “High Risk.”

I have a 33-year track record in the radio business that includes stops in Sacramento, Kansas City, Atlanta and nearly five years doing the morning show on The Buzz in Houston. In 2011 I came to Dallas.

I haven’t forgotten how to do what I do.

I point this out for two reasons.

One is to explain that I’m not having a difficult time breaking into a new career. I’ve been there and done that.

The other is that while I can’t speak with authority about other industries and their track record for hiring transgender people, I have some insights into radio.

On July 20, President Obama signed the Executive LGBT Non-Discrimination Order, which prevents government contractors from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity and protects federal employees from discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

That’s awesome! That’s groundbreaking! It’s a step in the right direction!

It’s also not enough.

As I alluded to, there isn’t a single transgender person employed as a program director or full time announcer (that I’m aware of) at a commer-

cial radio station in America. There are more than 10,000 radio stations; you’d think there’d be one or two trans announcers or program directors.

There may be some in public radio or even on satellite. But there is certainly no consistent transgender voice on the radio.

LGBT protection in policy manuals is nice but if companies don’t hire anyone to protect, it doesn’t mean much, does it?

Last October, Vice President Joe Biden said, “Transgender discrimination is the civil rights issue of our time.” I can’t express how wonderful it was to hear those words coming from one so high up in the government.

Coming out at work is one of the major hurdles for anyone going through transition. It causes stress that can’t be overstated. There is so much fear — even for those working for accepting companies like AT&T — that we are a wreck for weeks before finally summoning the courage.

Protection is necessary. Transition is an inherently difficult and sometimes awkward process. There is the obvious — like how you present yourself to your co-workers and changing your name in all company records, including insurance. But there are other factors that can be just as significant, like scheduling electrolysis.

This requires you to grow your facial hair for three to four days and then spend several hours in the electrologist's chair, followed by a few days of swelling and redness. This process is repeated every six to eight weeks for a year or more.

A company that has your back through this difficult process is worth its weight in gold. Imagine the kind of loyalty that would be created with that employee.

The percentage of transgender people living below the poverty line is enormous. A good first step in remedying the problem would be including a gender identity question on census forms.

Right now, the question isn't asked, so we really don't have access to consistent and accurate information. But we know it's high.

In 2007 The Williams institute issued a report titled "Bias in the Workplace: Consistent Evidence of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Dis-

crimination," and the estimates in that report ranged as high as 64 percent of transgender people reporting earning less than \$25,000 per year, with high rates of unemployment.

So hurry for government employees and those of the federal contractors. But make no mistake: protection is needed for the rest of us. I certainly don't wish for an unfair advantage over anyone else, but a level playing field would be nice.

It's time to pass ENDA without the religious exemption. It has cleared the Senate and I feel certain the president would sign it, but a stubborn Speaker of the House has refused to even permit a vote.

Come on Speaker Boehner, all workers deserve to be treated equally. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at <http://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com>.

Letter to the Editor

Stonewall Dems warn against Patrick

The Stonewall Democrats of Dallas are very disturbed to learn via, Dallas Voice, that the founder of Andrews Distributing, Barry Andrews, is hosting a fundraiser for Dan Patrick, the Republican nominee for Texas lieutenant governor.

Mike McGuire, president of Andrews, explained that Barry Andrews' support of Patrick had to do with liquor industry issues — which are business issues — and not with social issues, a position that we can understand. Unfortunately, Mr. Patrick's stated social positions and his outright hostility toward the LGBT community cannot be extricated from his economic positions. And that, in our opinion, makes him a very dangerous and risky candidate for the LGBT community.

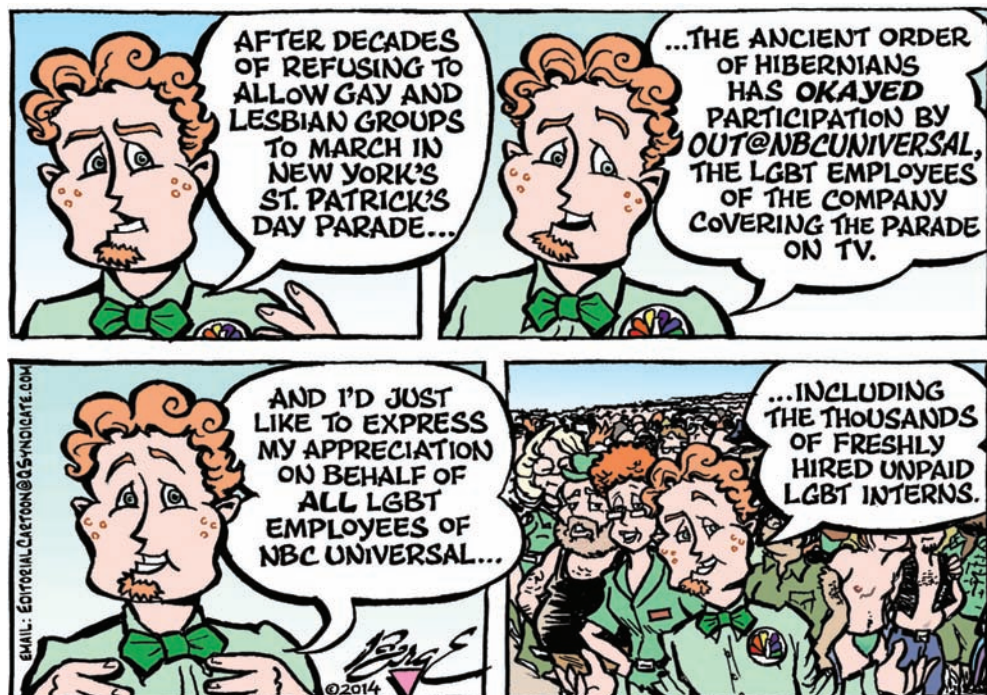
Dan Patrick has even gone so far as to sign onto an amicus brief asking the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold Texas' unconstitutional ban on marriage equality. He is no friend to our commu-

nity.

Dan Patrick is a far-right-wing social conservative who believes that government should be theocratic in nature. The voters of Texas need to be informed and made aware of this so that they can make an informed and rational choice at the ballot box in November. The office of lieutenant governor is a far too important and powerful position in state government and the legislative process for us to remain silent.

It is the position of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas that Leticia Van de Putte, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, has a much more progressive and enlightened position on social issues in general and the LGBT community in particular, and we believe she is far and away the superior candidate for this important office and more importantly, for the LGBT community at large.

Jay Narey, president
Stonewall Democrats of Dallas



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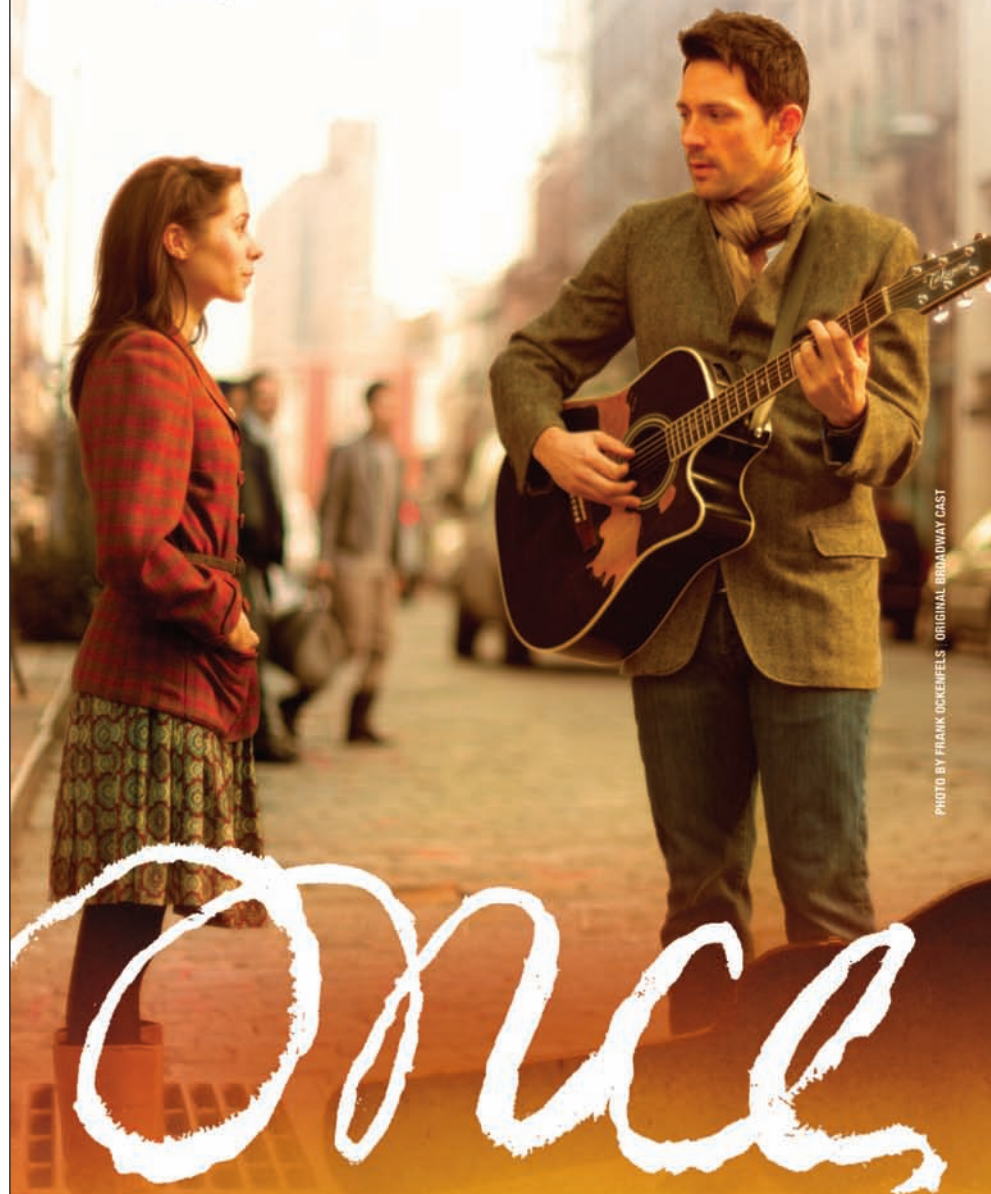


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Adore Delano, a finalist on the last season of 'RuPaul's Drag Race,' brings her quirky unconventionality to Dallas' Red Party

Austin Young

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

Most fledgling drag queens learn the finer aspects of female impersonation — including advice on makeup, hairstyles, costumes and how to accessorize — from veteran mentors, known affectionately as drag mothers. But gender-bending songstress Adore Delano — alter ego of former *American Idol* contestant Danny Noriega and *nom-de-camp* of the *RuPaul's Drag Race* finalist — did not have the benefit of such one-on-one coaching.

"I'm a drag orphan!" Noriega boasts. "I had more of a gender-fuck, Pete Burns kind of style. My version of beauty was just not what everyone else thought beauty was. No one taught me. All the drag queens hated me. I used to beat them all, though, so it was OK."

With such intrinsic passion for spirited competition, it is no surprise that Noriega auditioned for — and made the top 3 of — Season 6 of *Drag Race*. The performer considers the once-in-a-lifetime experience a turning point in his career.

"It's changed my life," Noriega says. "I get to see the world. I'm in London right now. I am going to be in Spain and Sweden, and then I'm doing an Australian tour all over again."

And, of course, Dallas. Adore Delano is the headliner at the sixth annual Red Party, a fundraiser for Legacy Counseling and Founders Cottage. Other than promising a "shit show mess," the mercurial artist never knows in advance what he will wear, let alone perform.

"I am very unpredictable," he teases. "I get these weird phases. Last night I was such a mess in London. Tonight I will be polished. I am very bipolar. It just depends on my mood."

Noriega remains in touch with his *Drag Race* castmates, espe-

ADORABLE YOU | The gender-bending Danny Noriega aka Adore Delano says life is not a drag. (Photo courtesy Austin Young)

cially those in the top 4. The friends make efforts to communicate frequently, even when they are on different continents.

"We are all so fucking close," Noriega says. "We talk every single day. The bitches don't shut up sometimes. I wake up to like a hundred new texts."

Noriega does not, however, speak much with the show host and namesake, even though he holds great esteem for the veteran drag queen.

"RuPaul is, like, on a different realm," Noriega says. "It's not

like I have his number and we chill. He worked his ass off and we worked our asses off for him. He gave us amazing opportunities and I love him for it. He is a really sweet and amazingly smart man."

RED PARTY

The Globe, 525 Riverfront Blvd.
Sept. 19, 9–11 p.m.
2014RedParty.eventbrite.com.

Noriega grew up in the predominantly Mexican-American community of Azusa, Calif. It was from his neighborhood that he picked up the name Adore. A graffiti artist friend of his brother had used the name as her tag. While the wisecracking Latino says that his early years were not without struggle, he always knew that his family stood firmly behind him.

"My family is a little too supportive," Noriega gushes. "My brother has a big picture of Adore in his living room. My other brother watches over me. They all came to the [*Drag Race*] reunion."

In addition, Noriega considers his mother — with whom he is exceptionally close — his greatest ally. He describes her as both a fearless supporter and a grounding influence.

"My mom says, 'The way you act reflects the way I raised you,'" Noriega says. "When I was in high school, she would help me shop for makeup and stuff. My mom works a lot. She spends



time at home with my nieces and nephews and being a grandma. I could be going through anything and I could just talk to her. She is my best friend."

Indeed, it was his mother who suggested that Noriega, who since his early teens had dressed as a girl, butch it up for his run on *American Idol*. Despite the wardrobe makeover, though, the artist was perhaps still a little too flamboyant for mainstream tastes.

"I always wanted to audition for [*American Idol*]," Noriega says. "I knew I wouldn't win because I'm a gay-ass motherfucker, and it airs on Fox. I always wanted to get on the show for ex-

posure so I could make an album and tour. My intentions were to go on there as like gender bending Danny, but that wasn't the case."

Even though Noriega was eliminated prior to the final rounds of *American Idol*, his dreams of an album debut recently came true. *Till Death Do Us Party*, was released over the summer under the name Adore Delano. To guarantee authenticity, Noriega insisted on participating in songwriting.

"I wanted the words to come from me," Noriega says. "So when [producers] said we are going to get you a writer, I said no. I wanted it to be personal. I am not a big fan of having songs that were written for me. I want them to be a touch of me, at least."

Like the fabulous diva under whose name it is issued, the energetic 11-track party album — with songs titles like "DTF" and "I Look Fucking Cool" — is both a little raunchy and a lot of fun. It is also groundbreaking.

"I have an album that debuted at No. 59 on the Billboard charts," Noriega says. "No drag queen has ever done that before, so I think that's pretty awesome."

Noriega enjoys the process of writing and recording songs. In fact, he plans to issue a follow up album next summer. However, his first love remains the stage.

"I like live performance," Noriega says. "It's more intimate. There is more to do. There is more fun to have. That's why we all do what we do — to see the faces that buy the albums and that write you on Twitter. I love the crowd." ■

Babs and friends: 'Partners'

Ever since Frank Sinatra released his first *Duets* CD more than 20 years ago, the powerhouse musical matchup has become a feature in the recording industry; there's even a special category for it at the Grammy Awards now.

That first Sinatra CD featured a duet with Barbra Streisand — already then a legend in her own right, but ensconced more so now — such that she's the anchor to her new CD *Partners*, which pairs her with the likes of Michael Buble, John Mayer, Babyface and more.

Like Ol' Blue Eyes, Babs features songs that she both originally popularized and those that she has covered. Streisand, by reputation, isn't known as being a great sharer of the spotlight, so it's a surprise that she agreed to pair up with anybody on signature songs like "People" and "The Way We Were" (with Stevie Wonder and Lionel Richie, respectively). Of course, she accomplishes this by doing all new arrangements, which make — especially in the case of "People" — the versions so significantly divergent from her own, it barely feels like the same song at all.

The tracks run the gamut, from Great American Songbook standards like "It Had To Be You," "Come Rain or Come Shine" and "How Deep is the Ocean" (with son Jason Gould, who has his mom's gift in microcosm) to Sondheim's "Somewhere" or even "New York State of Mind" — a song Barbra recorded successfully after its composer, Billy Joel, failed to make his own version a radio hit. So who does she pick the team up with on that one? You guessed it: It's a diva-off with Streisand and Joel both laying claim to the best interpretation ... and the union is a smash, playful and melodic.

Wonderfully and unexpectedly, however, the songs don't feel dominated or even gimmicky (at least until the "duet" with Elvis — don't ask). Barbra, it seems, is as giving and collaborative as you'd hoped she would be given, the level of powerhouse performers she synced up with.

Purists may object to the jazzed up orchestrations; others may feel older songs are in great need of an updating to make them fresh and relevant again. In any event, Barbra's voice is clarion-clear as always. She still belts like the Broadway baby she is ... which isn't to everyone's taste, but when it comes to classic song making, there is La Streisand, and there's everybody else.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Three stars; available Tuesday.



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Playful Pride

Dan Savage, Steven Crabtree and other favorites return for Uptown fest



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Uptown Players, Dallas' gay theater company, is back again with its annual Pride Performing Arts Festival including musicals, plays, comedy and spoken word performances, with an opening night gala show Sept. 12, and performances every day through Sept. 20. Here's a rundown of everything you need to know to enjoy the entire festival.

All performances at the Kalita Humphreys Theater 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd., both mainstage and upstairs at Frank's Place. Prices for Frank's Place shows, \$12-\$18; a festival pass provides admission to all Frank's Place shows plus the opening night performance. UptownPlayers.org.

Mainstage productions

The Last Session: The Concert Version. Back during Uptown Players' first season, this show became an early hit, with M. Denise Lee, Sara Shelby-Martin, Jeff Kinman and Scott Eckert in this heartfelt musical about a gay musician dying of AIDS but intent on one last recording

session. Lee and Martin reprise their roles with Peter DiCesare and Gary Lynn Floyd stepping in for Kinman and Eckert for this one-night-only, opening-night concert staging of the hit show. Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. \$22-\$33.

Savage Love Live. The Pride Fest ends with gay sex columnist and It Gets Better Project co-founder Dan Savage doing the live stage presentation of his popular Savage Love advice column. It's the cherry on the top of the festival, coming the night before the parade. Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. \$29-\$44.

Frank's Place productions

Commencing by Jane Shephard. Kelli and Arlin are women set up on a blind date ... although neither is right for the other. Still, they figure out exactly how women's culture (gay and straight) affects the search for love. Sept. 13 at 2 p.m., Sept. 15 at 8 p.m., Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

From White Plains by Michael Perlman. An off-Broadway hit last year, this comedy explores four men (some gay, some straight) as they reexamine the choices that got them where they are. Sept. 13 at 3:30 p.m., Sept. 14 at 2 p.m., Sept. 19 at 8

p.m., Sept. 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Mythical Beastie by Bruce R. Coleman. Local director, designer and playwright Bruce Coleman conceived of and executes this comic romp about former college roommates reunited after a years-long estrangement only to discover something new about each other. Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m., Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 16 at 8 p.m., Sept. 20 at 2 p.m.

Falling Man by Will Scheffer. What do Jeffrey Dahmer, a gay hustler taken over by the spirit of Tennessee Williams, a cha-cha dance champ and a former drag queen have in common? They are the diverse characters played by Brandon Simmons in this play that examines the lives of an unlikely cross-section of gay men. Sept. 13 at 8 p.m., Sept. 14 at 6 p.m., Sept. 18 at 8 p.m.



SEXY BEASTIE | Nikki McDonald, Blake Blair and Greg Gerardi, above, star in local playwright Bruce Coleman's new play; opposite, M. Denise Lee and Sara Shelby-Martin recreate their original roles with Peter DiCesare and Gary Lynn Floyd stepping in for the concert revival of 'The Last Session.'

Dysfunctional Divas by Steven Jay Crabtree. Dallas comedian and performance artist Steven Jay Crabtree inhabits a series of wacky female roles (including Trayla Park and Martini Glass) in this one-man standup tour de force. Sept. 13 at 9:30 p.m., Sept. 14 at 4 p.m., Sept. 17 at 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF: 'Fiddler on the Roof,' 'Nice Work If You Can Get It'

In many ways **Fiddler on the Roof** — which debuted an amazing 50 years ago — rewrote the book on musicals. It was a comedy, with a bubbly score that also incorporated ethnic melodies and traditional dances while it took heart-breaking turns. Set at the turn of the century in a small Russian village, it's a slice-of-life peek at Jews living a precarious existence (like a "fiddler on the roof") until pogroms will eventually pave the way for the Holocaust. And it resonates as strongly today as it did in the 1960s.

Lyric Stage's production, which recreates (as has become their style) the original arrangements with a 35-piece orchestra (led by Jay Dias) and a cast of 40, proves again they "get" what a classic is, and why it has become one. Sometimes it feels unfathomable not just that founding producer Steven Jones and director Len Pfluger were able to find three dozen (mostly) local actors who can sing *and* dance *and* act, but that they are all right for their parts. Jason Kane leads the way as Tevye with a hulking gait and a strong voice, which actually resonates stronger in Act 2 when he should be feeling worn out. But this exquisite show moves along (even at three hours) like gossamer in the wind.

Nice Work If You Can Get It has an easier time at seeming light-hearted. Based on the songs of George and Ira Gershwin (most originally composed for the 1920s trifle *Oh, Kay!*), this recent B'way hit (with a new book by Joe DiPietro and a revived staging from Dallas Summer Musicals) soars on the conventions of musical comedies: Gangsters, gadabouts, gasbags and chorines, all toe-tappingly energetic among the frivolity.

Don't downplay the positives of frivolity, though. This production (the start of a national tour and, sadly, non-Equity) manages panache and good doses of humor, and if it isn't quite the classic that *Fiddler* is, well, the Gershwins have stood the test of time, and for good reason.

— A.W.J.

Fiddler on the Roof runs through Sunday. LyricStage.org. *Nice Work If You Can Get It* runs through Sept. 21 in Dallas and Sept. 23–28 in Fort Worth. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.



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The ol' college try

For back-to-school month, we list 7 great college towns for gay travelers

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CHAMPLAIN AND CAVIAR | Scenic Burlington is home to the University of Vermont and lies on the eastern shore of picturesque Lake Champlain. (Photo courtesy Andrew Collins)

ANDREW COLLINS | Contributing Writer
outoftown@qsyndicate.com

The next time you find yourself seeking a gay-friendly, reasonably priced, manageable vacation destination that would be ideal for a two- to three-day vacation, consider choosing one of the nation's hip and vibrant college towns. These communities tend to offer plenty to see and do in terms of cultural attractions, cool dining and nightlife options. And many cities dominated by academic institutions tend to be overwhelming progressive and gay-friendly — easy places to feel comfortable walking arm-in-arm with a same-sex companion, or perhaps to meet new friends.

Here are 10 favorite towns and small cities around the United States where the collegiate vibe is strong, especially in autumn, with students back on campus (organized basically from east to west across the United States).

Burlington, Vt. (Vermont.org). The largest city in one of the top states in the country when it comes to gay rights and LGBT-welcoming attitudes, Burlington (pop. 43,000) is home to University of Vermont and claims the state's most visible queer community. It's just 90 minutes south of Montreal and enjoys a stunning setting, with Lake Champlain on one side and the rugged Green Mountains on the other. Visitors appreciate the vast opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, plus downtown's network of red brick sidewalks, cozy coffeehouses, great music and bookstores, and cheap eateries.

Stay: Modern yet rustic Hotel Vermont (HotelVt.com) enjoys a handy downtown loca-

tion overlooking Lake Champlain and, in the distance, New York's Adirondack Mountains (try to reserve a room with this view). The décor in both guest room and public areas is artful and urbane, utilizing natural materials and earthy tones.

New Haven, Conn. (VisitNewHaven.com). This coastal Connecticut burg, just 90 minutes by train from New York City, enjoyed a dramatic renaissance over the past decade. New Haven (pop. 130,000) is a cultural powerhouse, with a rich history, dynamic and in some cases cutting-edge architecture, a critically acclaimed theater scene, and Yale University's academic prestige. More recently, New Haven has seen an influx of fantastic restaurants, hip shopping and trendy nightspots, making this gay-friendly, well-educated city a highly appealing weekend retreat.

Stay: The comfy and contemporary New Haven Hotel (NewHavenHotel.com) has spacious rooms, a large fitness center and a great location within easy walking distance of gay bars, the city's atmospheric Little Italy (be sure to dine at historic Frank Pepe's pizzeria), the downtown Village Green and Yale's stately Gothic-style campus.

Chapel Hill, N.C. (VisitChapelHill.org). An idyllic, quaint university town prized for its charming downtown, Chapel Hill buzzes with great dining and shopping. The fast-growing city has a population of 58,000, many of whom are students at the prestigious UNC Chapel Hill, which is notable for its many historic, attractive buildings. Spend time strolling through the hipster-favored West End, with its many inviting restaurants and shops. You'll find gay bars in nearby Durham and Raleigh, cities also noted for

their university scenes, which revolve respectively around Duke University and North Carolina State.

Stay: Upscale and boutique-y, the Franklin Hotel (FranklinHotelNC.com) is set along Chapel Hill's liveliest thoroughfare and close to campus — rooms and suites are large and graciously furnished.

Boulder, Colo. (BoulderColoradoUSA.com). Attractive Boulder (population 98,000) lies just about an hour's drive northwest of Denver and offers an enchanting, tree-shaded downtown loaded with cool shops and restaurants. A favorite place to live and visit among fans of outdoor recreation, eco-consciousness and alternative spiritualism, this gay-friendly town is a cycling, mountaineering and hiking mecca — it's an ideal base for a visit to Rocky Mountain National Park and the even closer Eldora Ski Area. The University of Colorado Boulder accounts for the politically tolerant atmosphere and the strong appreciation residents have for the fine and performing arts. The city's philharmonic orchestra is highly respected, and several music festivals draw thousands throughout the year.

Stay: The sleek, contemporary St. Julien Hotel & Spa (StJulien.com) is just a couple of blocks from the lively Pearl Street pedestrian mall, with its great shopping and café-hopping. Ask for a room with a mountain view, and consider treating yourself to the signature Canyon Rain soak, scrub and massage treatment in the hotel spa.

Berkeley, Calif. (VisitBerkeley.com). About a third of the 112,000 residents of Berkeley work for or attend U.C. Berkeley, whose reputation for liberal politics and academic excellent date back

generations. This largely accounts for the heavy presence of lesbians (many of whom were among the pioneers of West Coast feminism) and gay men who have long resided here. Tourists sometimes overlook the city that's just across the bay from San Francisco, but Berkeley has plenty going for it and is an excellent — and somewhat more affordable — option for lodging. There's lots to do in this city that's famous not only for its free-spirited attitudes but also for a beautiful botanical garden, the esteemed U.C. Berkeley Art Museum, and Shattuck Avenue's "Gourmet Ghetto," a neighborhood of superb restaurants and markets headlined by Alice Waters' renowned Chez Panisse and the Cheese Board Collective, which is renowned for crispy-crust pizzas and olive focaccia. The city is also home to one of the oldest gay bars on the West Coast, the White Horse Bar.

Stay: The stylish and intimate Hotel Shattuck Plaza (HotelShattuckPlaza.com) has gorgeous rooms and close proximity to U.C. Berkeley campus and the stellar dining along Shattuck Avenue.

Eugene, Ore. (EugeneCascadesCoast.org). Home to the University of Oregon, this center for education, the arts and outdoors activities has a vibrant, politically active LGBT community. The Willamette River curves in a southeasterly direction through Eugene (pop. 160,000), fringed with bike trails and walkways and traversed by a couple of pedestrian bridges. Beyond hiking and biking, favorite activities include wine-touring in the surrounding Willamette Valley and exploring the locavore-driven dining, coffeehouse and brewpub scene downtown and, especially, in the up-and-coming Whiteaker neighborhood.

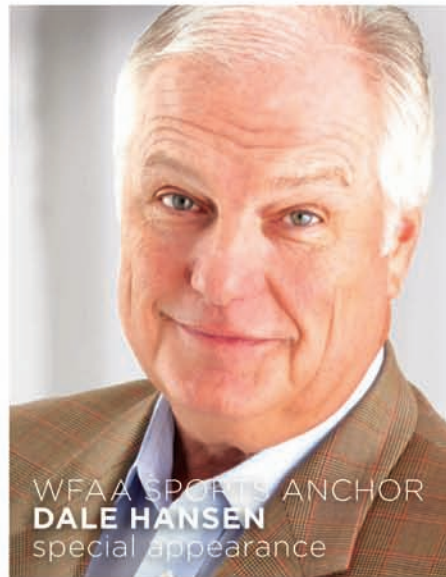
Stay: Steps from the indie shops and restaurants of Fifth Street Public Market, the hip and elegant Inn at the 5th (InnAt5th.com) has 70 rooms outfitted with gas fireplaces, cozy window seats, and high-tech amenities — on-site perks include a wine-tasting room and spa.

Bellingham, Wash. (Bellingham.org). The home of the pine-shaded, rolling campus of Western Washington University, outdoorsy and scenic Bellingham hugs the shoreline of Bellingham Bay, affording spectacular views of the nearby San Juan Islands. Just a 75-minute drive south of Vancouver and 90 minutes north of Seattle, this bustling city of about 80,000 has a lively downtown with craft breweries and artisan coffeehouses (the Woods Coffee, with a patio overlooking the water is an especially inviting hangout). In the historic Fairhaven section of town, you'll find several blocks of quirky boutiques and cafes. This is a wonderful town if you're a fan of hiking, biking and kayaking.

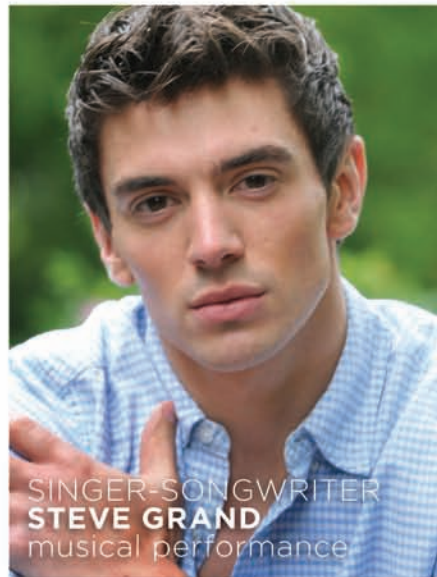
Stay: Perched on a bluff with commanding views of the waterfront and situated just a short walk from charming Fairhaven village, the casually elegant Chrysalis Inn and Spa (TheChrysalisInn.com) is a perfect roost for accessing Bellingham's great outdoors or simply treating yourself to a cushy spa retreat. ■



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Fluid mechanics

Sex, toilets & hygiene converge in the strange German comedy 'Wetlands'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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The first image of *Wetlands* is a cleft of human flesh. A woman's breasts? A man's buttocks? A bicep? It's sensual and erotic and you don't even know what you're looking at.

It's also a fantasy that takes place mainly in your head. The reality is far less sexy than you imagined, and quickly becomes downright vulgar. But then the camera dives into the imagined inner world or the life of a hair, and suddenly the universe — down to the insanely incomprehensible details we've just seen — feels like a more interesting place. (It has the most disgusting fascination with public toilets since *Trainspotting*.)

Wetlands toggles back and forth through these contradictions: energetic rock music during a stint on the loo, woozy, dreamlike images of a mother and child ... right up until the mom turns instantly, unfathomably cruel. (Did I mention it's a German movie?)

There's a lot of discussion of bodily fluids, a lot of gross-out behavior in the uncomfortable way *Kids* did.

It's also a comedy.

It kind of has to be. If it weren't for the quirky sense of playfulness, *Wetlands* would be very, very difficult to watch. The subject matter is aggressively non-commercial. (It even begins with a warning that this should never have been turned into a movie.) It's erotic *and* revolting, but with a strange, buoyant outlook that defies you to walk out.

Gay German cinema in the 1970s plumbed similar subject matter, with films like *Taxi Zum Klo* and much of Rainer Werner Fassbinder's gargantuan output. The cliché is to call a film like this "fearless," but it fits ... though maybe a better phrase would be "unrepentant." Kurosawa said the role of the film director is "to not avert his eye." *Wetlands'* writer-director David Wnendt seems to have taken this advice to heart.)

Helen (Carla Juri, who goes for broke) takes eccentricity and experimentation to new heights.



SECRETION LOVE | Helen enjoys a little taboo public sex in the German comedy 'Wetlands,' which finds humor in a series of revolting situations.

She seems to revel not just in risky sex, but free-spirited wackiness. She lies about everything, just to see what the reaction will be. She enjoys the experience of being as gross and unhygienic as possible; she obsesses about her hemorrhoids; she shaves her legs like she butchering a pig. It's all very unpleasant, like fetish porn for a fetish you're not into.

And that's the conundrum. It's difficult to recommend *Wetlands*, even as you admire its commitment to a (sadly) believable if on-the-fringe story. But just how much anal leakage, dirty underwear, genital shaving and secretions are the right amount?

Personally, I tapped out before the end. There's only so much "art" one man can take. ■



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Must-see LGBTv

What's gay on the upcoming season of cable and network TV? Quite a lot

With summer 2014 unofficially over, the fall TV season is just starting to heat up. There's a silver lining to trading in lazing in the sand for lounging on the sofa: There are plenty of programs with LGBT characters to tune into right now. Which returning shows and series premieres should be on your gaydar? Peep this shortlist of inclusive shows that run the gamut of genres to make your picks.

Utopia (Fox). Basically *Big Brother* outdoors, this reality series has 15 strangers create a community, includes a single "polyamorous" woman. But the cast can change throughout the run, so gays may be added. *Just premiered.*

Dancing with the Stars (ABC). Out judge Bruno Tonioli is back, and castmembers this season include gay fave Antonio Sabato Jr. *Series premieres Sept. 15.*

Red Band Society (Fox). While there aren't any gay teens (so far) on this dark dramedy, at least we have out actor Wilson Cruz's Kenji Gomez-Rejon, an openly gay (and of course sassy!) nurse. *Sept. 17.*

The Big Bang Theory (CBS). TV's No. 1 sitcom stars openly gay four-time Emmy winner (and native Texan) Jim Parsons as the infuriatingly funny Dr. Sheldon Cooper. It moves this season from its secure spot on Thursday to anchor Mondays. *Sept. 22.*

Modern Family (ABC). LGBT fans of this consistently hilarious and award-winning comedy (It just won its fifth consecutive best comedy series Emmy, tying the record) are finally satisfied that Cam and Mitchell tied the knot (it wasn't long ago that the Internet was making a big deal about why the couple never kissed on camera ... until they did), so it'll be interesting to see how they manage married life, for better or worse. *Sept. 24.*

Scandal (ABC). If you can get past Olivia Pope's annoying, incessant bawling, you might find solace in the ruthless-but-fragile Cyrus Beene, this fictional White House's first gay chief of staff. Brush up on the previous WTF seasons online and on demand before Season 4 bows. *Sept. 25.*

Brooklyn Nine-Nine (Fox). Andre Braugher won an Emmy nomination playing the uptight, openly gay leader of a misfit police precinct for the first season on this single-camera sitcom starring Andy Samberg. The show moves to Sundays this season. *Sept. 28.*

The Vampire Diaries (The CW). Gay fans of this show were more than eager to sink their teeth into news that a recurring gay character was coming to Mystic Falls toward the end of last season. Tune in to unravel more of Luke Parker's mystery when the series returns for its sixth season. *Oct. 2.*

American Horror Story: Freak Show (FX). Out producer Ryan Murphy continues this reinvents-itself-each-season miniseries about the supernat-

ural, this time set in a circus. Expect lots of gay stuff. *Oct. 8.*

The McCarthys (CBS). Recently out Ronny McCarthy is about to accept a teaching job in Rhode Island when his basketball-coach father asks him to stay in Boston to be his new assistant. The rest of his tight-knit, sports-loving siblings cry foul over the decision, and hilarity is expected to ensue. Early reviews for this freshman series are mixed, but at least we get to watch Laurie Metcalf and Joey McIntyre for a half hour. *Oct. 30.*

Series with no announced premiere dates:

One Big Happy (NBC). From executive producer Ellen DeGeneres comes this hopeful comedy about two tired-of-being-lonely-and-single best friends — one a straight guy, the other a gay girl — who decide to have a baby together. Of course, this new relationship gets trickier when the straight guy unexpectedly falls in love and marries ... just when his gay best friend announces she's pregnant with his child.

Shameless (Showtime). Ian Gallagher gets around. In Season 1, the fire-haired high school student was shtupping Kash, the owner of the



THAT'S CAPTAIN QUEER TO YOU | Andre Braugher plays a gay cop on 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine.'

convenience store at which Ian works ... until juvenile delinquent Mickey Milkovich came along. Ian cooled things off with Kash as his relationship with Mickey heated up, then Ian started fucking Lloyd and Maxine and ... oh, who cares, the kid's adorable and the show is awesome. *Early 2015.*

Parks & Recreation (NBC). Openly gay comedian Billy Eichner's Craig Middlebrooks didn't get major screen time when he was introduced in Season 6, but his penchant for blowing things out of proportion and over-the-top delivery

should be put to better use as the mocku-comedy enters its final, seventh season. *Early 2015.*

Undateable (NBC). A surprisingly funny comedy scheduled as a midseason replacement, this sitcom provides eye candy in Chris D'Elia's Danny Burton and ample gay jokes from David Fynn's Brett, the refreshingly very-average-Joe resident bartender.

— Arnold Wayne Jones and Mikey Rox



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Photo by Brian Guillaux

Saturday 09.13 Sunday 09.14

Bruce Wood Dance Project continues with 2 shows

I recently attended a rehearsal of Lovett+More, the latest production from the Bruce Wood Dance Project. As soon as the dancers began to move to the steps of the late Texas choreographer, I teared up. I remembered the first time I saw the work, and the loss of Wood to AIDS earlier this year hit me hard ... again. The company continues on, with two performances this weekend of classic works by Wood (I'll be hosting the post-performance discussions at both), and if you didn't get to experience the majestic artistry and heartbreaking beauty — as well as whimsy — that is a Bruce Wood dance.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2420 Flora St. Sept. 13 at 8 p.m., Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Monday 09.15



Lily Allen performs at House of Blues

Outspoken and fearless, Brit pop star Lily Allen takes on all comers with songs titled the likes of "Fag Hag" and "Fuck You." But the champion of gay rights delivers in live performances, as fans can learn this week when she arrives at HOB in support of her third studio album, *Sheezus*.

DEETS: House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. \$38-\$60. HouseOfBlues.com/Dallas.

A toast! DTC opens season with 'Rocky Horror Show'

Before it was a cult film, *The Rocky Horror Show* was a cult stage musical, with cross-dressing, rock songs and more camp than a Boy Scouts jamboree. Dallas Theater Center aims to recreate the silly naughtiness as well as the freakazoid energy of the material in a new production, directed by Joel Ferrell. Previews start this weekend, with official opening night, conveniently enough, on Pride Weekend and runs also until Halloween. Need directions to the theater? It's just a jump to the left. ...

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 19 (in previews through Sept. 18). DallasTheaterCenter.org.



Friday 09.12



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ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Pride Performing Arts Festival. Uptown Players' annual assortment of plays, musicals, comedy and spoken word. Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sept. 20. UptownPlayers.org.

Play Pride Festival. Six local playwrights compete for top honors (and a cash prize) with short plays about gay themes. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 N. Tyler St. Through Sunday. \$15-\$20. TeCoTheater.org.

Appointment with Death. Stage version of the Agatha Christie mystery with sleuth Hercule Poirot. Garland Civic Theatre, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland. Through Oct. 4. GarlandCivicTheatre.org.

Beyond Therapy. Christopher Durang's absurdist romp about sex, psychiatry and the meaning of life. With area favorites Mark Shum, Dana Schultes and Jakie Cabe. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 28. StageWest.org.

Fiddler on the Roof. Lyric Stage launches its new season with this long-running hit, one of the most iconic musicals in history. *Reviewed this week.* Final weekend. Irving Center for the Arts, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. LyricStage.org.

God of Carnage. Only three performances of this controversial comedy of manners. MCL Grand Black Box Theater, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Sept. 12-14. OurProductions.org.

Next to Normal. The musical about a troubled family that won the Pulitzer Prize. Onstage in Bedford, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Sept. 28. OnstageInBedford.com.

Nice Work If You Can Get It. An original musical by Joe DiPietro provides a showcase for the songs of George and Ira Gershwin. Presented in Dallas by Dallas Summer Musicals and in Fort Worth by Performing Arts Fort Worth. *Reviewed this week.* Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave., through Sept. 21; Bass Performance

Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Sept. 23-28. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

Out of Order. Theatre Britain presents this wily sex farce. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Sept. 12-28. Theatre-Britain.com.

The Rocky Horror Show. DTC launches its new season with this cross-dressing classic about the sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania. Directed and choreographed by Joel Ferrell. Through Oct. 19 (in previews through Sept. 18). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in Theatre 3's downstairs space where the audience helps solve the crime. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Extended through Nov. 16. Theatre3Dallas.com.

[sic]. Modern comedy about neighbors wondering their places in the world. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Sept. 27. EchoTheatre.org.

Whodunit: The Musical. The Texas premiere of this musical mystery comedy by Ed Dixon. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Sept. 12-Oct. 5. TheatreArlington.org.

DANCE

MOMIX. The contemporary company plays for two days at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 12-13. ATPAC.org.

Bruce Wood Dance Project: Lovett + More. The late North Texas choreographer's exceptional piece, Lovett, is accompanied by more works in this production. Dallas Voice Executive Editor

GAY DAY AT SIX FLAGS EXPANDS | In previous years, Dallas Voice's Gay Day at Six Flags has always taken place on one day — the Saturday before the parade. But this year, you get to decide which day to make gay: Tickets are good for Sept. 13, 14 or 20. The price — \$35 — includes parking. Go to <http://is.gd/W00eKU> to purchase.



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Arnold Wayne Jones will lead the post-show discussion at both performances. City Performance Hall, 2420 Flora St. Sept. 13 at 8 p.m., Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

FINE ARTS

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

FRIDAY 09.12

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. The gay mixer open to anyone. Primebar, 2520 Cedar Springs Road. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 09.13

GALA

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Gala Concert and After-Party. The 2014 gala. Meyerson Symphony Center and Klyde Warren Park. 8:45 p.m. \$49-up. MyDSO.com.

Fort Worth Opera: Galactic Gala. The FWO's 54th annual celebration of opera, with music, cocktails, dinner, dancing and casino gaming. Omni Fort Worth Hotel, 1300 Houston St. 6:30 p.m. cocktails, 8 p.m. dinner and music. \$375. FWOpera.org.

Community Cast Party. WaterTower Theatre hosts this evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$50 (\$25 to those in the arts). WaterTowerTheatre.org.

MONDAY 09.15

BROADCAST

Dallas. The fall season of the Texas-set soap heats up. TNT at 8 p.m.

CONCERTS

Lily Allen. The popular British singer performs. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. HouseOfBlues.com/Dallas.

TUESDAY 08.16

FILM

Thoroughly Modern Millie. Before it was a Tony Award-winning stage production, this comedy about flappers, white slavery and the Jazz Age was a movie starring Julie Andrews, Mary Tyler Moore and, in a rare screen appearance, Carol Channing, who received an Academy Award nomination for her efforts. 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.

THURSDAY 08.18

BROADCAST

Project Runway. Season 13 continues with Heidi, Nina, Zac and Tim. Aired on Lifetime at 8 p.m.

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Billy Masters

Billy recalls his mentor, Joan Rivers

This week, I celebrated a milestone. I have been writing this column for 19 years. Yes, I know I barely look a day over 90, but that's not the point. The point is, if someone told me that I'd be writing this very column week in and week out for close to two decades, I'd have not believed it. But then again, nothing in my life has gone as planned. In fact, one of my earliest aspirations has yet to be fulfilled. I've never told you this, but when I was 14 years old, I ran away from home. I boarded a plane and flew to Orlando to pursue a career at DisneyWorld as one of the Seven Dwarfs. I wasn't picky as to which dwarf — at 14, it's unlikely anyone would have given me a job. Had I not gone home, I probably would have ended up penniless, on the street, a prostitute, a junkie, or worse. And yet, none of those unsavory possibilities could have prepared me for my current vocation. Ah, the road less traveled...

Like many of her fans, I first saw **Joan Rivers** on *The Tonight Show* and immediately fell under her spell. I followed her every move religiously, sent her fan letters and even jokes. She always graciously responded and sometimes even called from the road. Later, we got much closer. She opened doors for me and inspired me more than almost anybody in my life. Over the years, I've known many celebrities, but only a small handful have a way of making their fans feel special. Joan was that kind of person. She used to say, "I always have time for my fans — they're the ones who made me a star."

This was a great year for Auntie Joan. She had

another book on the New York Times bestseller list, returned to *The Tonight Show* after 30 years, had two hit television shows and at least two others in development. To top it off, during her last hours on Earth, she was onstage making people laugh. To me, Joan Rivers was like Mount Rushmore — something iconic and majestic that would withstand the test of time ... and whose face would never move. She was an original, she lived by her own rules, and she was vital to the end. We should all be so lucky. We may have sorrow for her family and for ourselves. But Joan lives on forever in our hearts and souls. There's nothing to mourn here — only something more to celebrate.

During my long relationship with Rivers, many of our special moments took place on the red carpet. The Emmys, the Oscars, the Golden Globes ... whatever the show, she was there and always made sure I had full access. In my early days going to the Emmys, I often saw a really cute guy with great hair. I remember thinking that he looked like he might become a star. In 2000, I took what I thought was a surreptitious snap of him. However, looking at the pic, it's clear he saw what I was doing. Now, years later, I came across this photo and realized who the anonymous hunk was: **Greg Rikaart** from *The Young and the Restless*. Greg recently received the Visibility Award from the Human Rights Campaign. Can I pick 'em or what?

Just as **Bryan Singer's** legal woes ended on one front, they've begun on another. It's been a rocky few months since **Michael Egan** filed his sexual abuse suit against the filmmaker. Although Singer never wavered in assertions of his innocence, Egan's story grew more and more nebulous with implausibilities rising. He was dropped by his lawyer around the time that Singer filed his own malicious prosecution law-

suit (Egan had to be served while hiding in the bathroom stall of a small Las Vegas casino). Egan's case was ultimately dismissed when he couldn't find another lawyer to represent him, and Singer was able to sigh in relief.

But that respite was short-lived. Singer is allegedly being investigated by the NYPD. According to a police spokesperson, a male in his 20s who was visiting NYC from Virginia allegedly met Bryan at XL nightclub, was plied with alcohol and taken back to the auteur's hotel room where he was "forcibly sexually assaulted." The case is being investigated by the Special Victims Unit.

Death doesn't protect you from legal woes, either. In Los Angeles, a 36-year-old man is suing the estate of **Michael Jackson** for sexual abuse. The accuser, **James Safechuck** — who appeared with Jackson in his famous Pepsi commercial — claims he was abused by Jackson over 100 times during a four-year period. Call me crazy, but after the first dozen or so times, wouldn't you just stay away? No, because the boy claims Jackson brainwashed him into thinking these were "acts of love." Oh, and did I mention that Safechuck was only 10 years old when the alleged abuse started? Reportedly, the sexual part of their relationship ended when Safechuck reached puberty, proving that even Michael Jackson had standards.

A contestant on VH1's *Dating Naked* is suing the



network for showing non-blurred footage of her crotch. Frankly, if you're on a show called *Dating Naked*, you shouldn't have a problem with nudity.

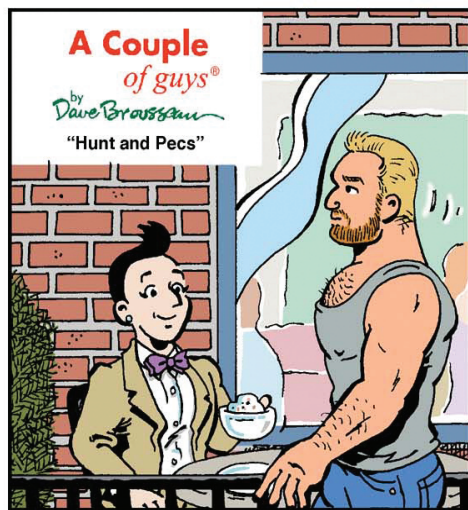
Reed Kelly and **Josh Canfield** will be appearing on the upcoming season of *Survivor*. You may remember Reed's name; he's one of the most gorgeous performers on Broadway and has previously been linked with **Clay Aiken**. He also has the distinction of being one of the top (so to speak) fundraisers for Broadway Bares. Canfield is his current boyfriend and is also a performer (and ain't so bad on the eyes). Much is being made of the fact that they are also both Christian, but I'm not sure why that's relevant. Perhaps those of you who watch the show will be able to fill me in.

When I'm looking forward to *Survivor: The Musical*, it's definitely time to end yet another column. By the time you read this, I'll be off on another adventure in an undisclosed country — hopefully not one that looks askance at journalists (as if I consider myself one). No matter where I am, you can get the best dish at BillyMasters.com, the site that's very international. If you have a question for me, send it along and I promise to get back to you before Bryan Singer turns up on a special episode of *Law & Order: SVU*.

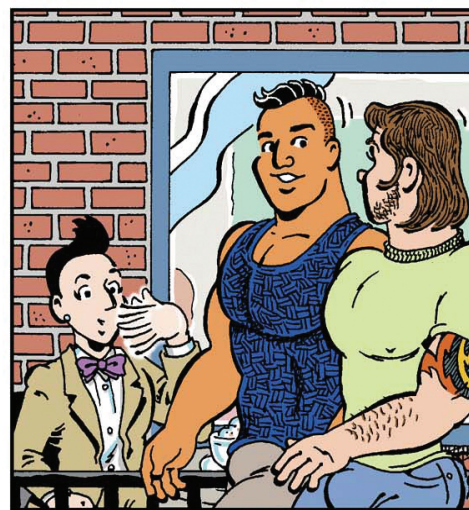
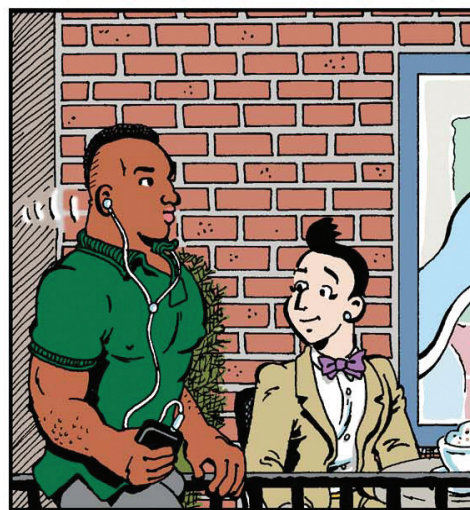
Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

Have a question for Billy? Send it to him at Billy@BillyMasters.com.

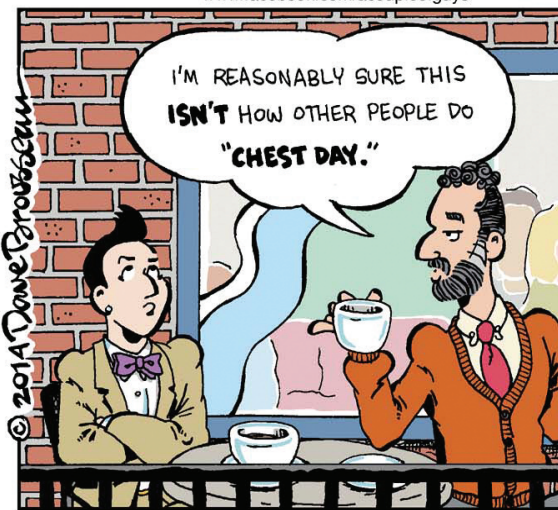
Cassie Nova will be back next week!



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this week's solution

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Sallt chills out on The Strip.



Petey at The Grapevine Bar.



James and Keith at Zipperz.



Guys night out at The Hidden Door.



Dale and Ross at Dallas Eagle.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Sept. 12-18**:

Alexandre's: **Walter Cunningham** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Shelia P and Infinity** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Lala Johnson** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. **Alicia Silex** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joel's: **Ivy Winters** at midnight on Sept. 13. Reserved tables available. Red carpet and meet and greet after the show. Tickets at the door.

Club Reflection: **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Turn About Show** sponsored by **Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington** and **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food** show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** candidate show at 6 p.m. on Saturday. **National Leather Association** club night on Saturday.

Round-Up Saloon: **Dallas Does Denim Customer Appreciation Party** with **Chaz Marie** at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Food, balloon drop and prizes.

Sue Ellen's: **Mi Diva Loca** on Friday. **Bad Reputation** on Saturday. **Bad Habits** on Sunday. **Jessica Grai** opens for **Backhand Sally** on Wednesday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Watch **Dallas Cowboys** at **Tennessee** at noon on Sunday. **90s Pride** on Monday. **Pride Showtunes** on Tuesday. **Little Chalupa's Pride Karaoke** on Wednesday. **Jada Fox Pride Show** on Thursday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: **Kat Haygood**.



Rocky, Chelsea and Amber at Pub Pegasus.



Ashley and Troy at Station 4.

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Sat, Sept 27th
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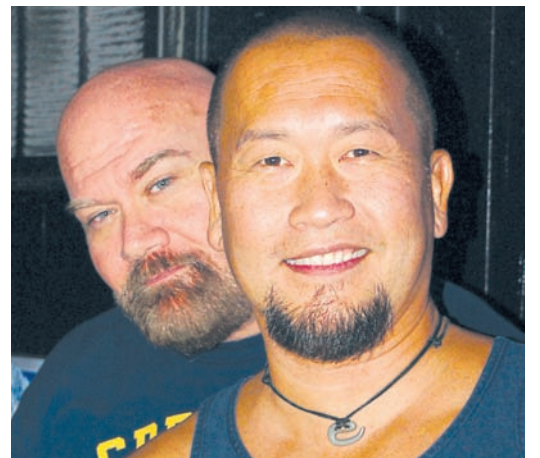
Tuesday night is Ladies Night at Marty's Live, with gorgeous girls strutting their stuff on the dance floor for you.



Harper, Patrick and Ryan at The Grapevine Bar.



Juno and Alex at Station 4.



John and Alvin at The Hidden Door.

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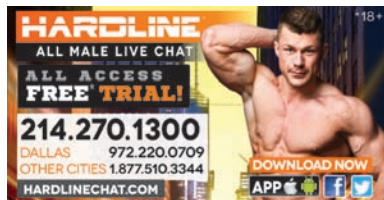
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OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP

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q-puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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57						58				59				
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68							69		

Man of Many Talents

Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Dike problem
- 5 Playbill lists
- 10 Setting for *At Swim, Two Boys*
- 14 Pull down
- 15 Islam's deity
- 16 Quotation notation
- 17 Not using the tongue
- 18 Gay rodeo accessory
- 19 Zipped
- 20 English film director, visual artist, and source of three items in this puzzle
- 23 He wrote *The Flies*, but not about zippers
- 25 Lubricating
- 28 Bard of boxing
- 29 Broadway Annie, and others
- 33 Govt. broadcaster
- 34 Language that may be vulgar
- 36 Kevin Bacon in *Footloose*
- 37 Gives the once-over
- 39 Like a muscle Mary's waist
- 40 River of Ghana
- 42 Straddling
- 43 Song title spelled in pantomime
- 44 Deep thrust receiver?
- 45 Costner character
- 46 What a beard pretends to be

49 Silky undies material

- 52 ___ Francisco
- 53 Winona of *Girl, Interrupted*
- 57 Part of a woody erection
- 58 Hurry, to Shakespeare
- 59 They won't pose for nude photos
- 60 Laying out
- 61 Pains in the rear
- 63 Opening amount
- 64 Not once, to Lord Byron
- 65 Deal with
- 66 Depilatory brand
- 67 Roseanne's pair
- 68 Toss off everywhere
- 69 Go down

Down

- 1 The Eagle, to NASA
- 2 Colette made a splash in it
- 3 Brian Sewell, for example
- 4 Acknowledged a queen
- 5 Thanksgiving V.I.P.
- 6 What Washington couldn't tell
- 7 Mound feature
- 8 "Catch you later"
- 9 Stone of *Basic Instinct*
- 10 Stand next to Klumpke
- 11 Where a top soldier wants to put it?
- 12 Lesbian opponent of Wade

- 13 Drop the curtain on
- 21 Club for Patty Sheehan
- 22 Lip service?
- 23 Like like seaman language
- 24 It arouses you in bed
- 26 Prejudice and homophobia
- 27 Intense sounds in the sack
- 30 List of alcohol percentages?
- 31 Rowdy type, or a book and film series
- 32 Marie of cake advocacy?
- 35 Idea person, or a book of artwork released this year
- 38 Sammy Davis Jr. song, with "The", or a book and film series
- 40 Remote target
- 41 Request for Vanna
- 47 What an octopus shoots off
- 48 Heston was its pres.
- 49 Bone from the back
- 50 Pilgrim John
- 51 Stories of the city
- 54 Enjoys a Star Canyon restaurant, e.g.
- 55 Name on a drag queen's compact
- 56 *Gone with the Wind* guy
- 61 Ends of letters
- 62 Spill one's seed

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