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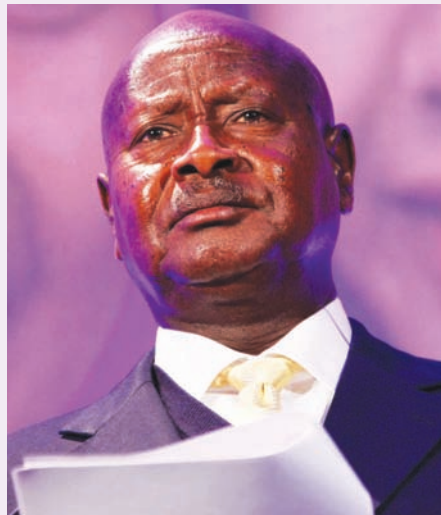
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Four Seasons in Irving cancels Ugandan president's stay

After a post appeared in Dallas Voice's Instant Tea blog on Wednesday, Sept. 17, the Four Seasons Hotel in Irving canceled Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's accommodations. Museveni has pushed for the so-called "kill the gays" bill in his country.

The Irving Convention Center and Irving police are also concerned about the controversial head-of-state's visit. Museveni is supposed to attend a religious service at 10 a.m. and speak to potential investors at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21 at the Irving Convention Center.

Earlier, the Voice reported that Museveni was seeking accommodations at Gaylord...Their Director cited logistical issues to explain why they turned him away.

Uganda's "Kill the Gays bill" criminalizes not just being gay but protecting family members or friends who are gay. Uganda even asserts the right to extradite gay Ugandans from other countries. The Ugandan court declared the law unconstitutional on a technicality in August, but was immediately reintroduced in the Ugandan Parliament. The legislation was originally proposed by American "Christian" pastors, including David Dykes from Tyler.

— David Taffet

DIFFA donates \$428k to HIV nonprofits

DIFFA/Dallas awarded \$428,000 to HIV/AIDS organizations at a party on Sept. 11 at Roche Bobois. Among the recipients of funds from the 2013-14 DIFFA season were AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services of Dallas, Bryan's House, Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice, Resource Center and The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

The 2014-15 season kicks off with Burgers & Burgundy on Oct. 3, followed quickly on Oct. 15 with an announcement party revealing this year's Style Council ambassadors. Clint Bradley is once again the chairman of DIFFA/Dallas, and the spring Collection will return to the Omni Dallas Hotel.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Arlington woman executed for killing girlfriend's son

The state of Texas on Wednesday, Sept. 17 executed a woman convicted eight years ago of intentionally starving her girlfriend's son to death. Lisa

Ann Coleman, 38, was pronounced dead at 6:24 p.m. CDT, 12 minutes after Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials began administering a lethal injection.

Coleman and her then-girlfriend, Marcella Williams, were arrested in 2004 after calling paramedics to their home in Arlington to treat Williams' 9-year-old son, Davontae Williams. Paramedics found the child already deceased and in rigor mortis. They said they were shocked to learn how old he was since the child, at the time of his death, weighed only about 36 pounds.

Coleman's attorneys claimed at trial that the boy's death was an accident and that his injuries and malnourishment were a result of Coleman's and Williams' misguided efforts to discipline the boy. They also claimed that Davontae may have had mental health issues that made him hard to handle, and that Coleman and his mother didn't know how to deal with him.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld Coleman's conviction in 2009, and the U.S. Supreme Court today rejected a last-day appeal.

Marcella Williams agreed to plead guilty in connection with her son's death, to avoid the death penalty, and was sentenced to life in prison. Now 33, she is not eligible for parole until 2044.

— Tammye Nash



Spiller wins LGBT play fest

The inaugural PlayPride LGBT Festival, sponsored by Oak Cliff's TeCo Theatrical Productions, just finished its two-week run at the Bishop Arts Theater, and the winner of the six-playwright competition is Dallas writer-actor Buster Spiller. Spiller's play, *Pot Liquor*, netted him the most votes of attendees, a one-year membership in the Dramatists Guild and a \$1,000 stipend donated to his specified nonprofits, Living Faith Covenant Church and Abounding Prosperity. Congrats, Buster!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Adam Medrano judges Dallas Salsa Fest

Last night, I went to the Underpass Tavern in Deep Ellum to watch three folks — food blogger Teresa Gubbins, City Councilman Adam Medrano and occasional Voice contributor Jose Ralat — woof down 28 different salsas in categories from "mild" to "green" to "exotic" (bacon salsa!) to "hot." I shadow-tasted, picking my own fave among the contenders. Which ones won? Well, you'll have to go back on Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. to learn, but you can also enjoy the salsas on your own.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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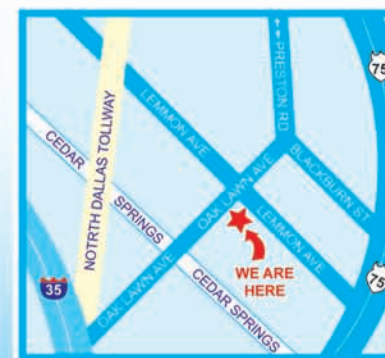
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localbriefs

Gaybingo celebrate 150

Proud Mary Gaybingo on Pride weekend celebrates the 150th Gaybingo event. Jenna Skyy is back on the Gaybingo stage with Patti Le Plae Safe and Chanel Champagne in the Rose Room and Chris Gregory and friends in the Rumpus Room. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, 6 p.m. on Sept. 20. Tickets available at MyResourceCenter.org.

Outrageous Oral celebrates women

Cece Cox, Lory Masters, Emma Colquitt tell stories about their contributions to LGBT history in Dallas in the latest edition of Outrageous Oral. Cox is CEO of Resource Center and has been an HIV and LGBT activist for 30 years. In addition to her company, Master Realtors, that sold so much property in a slice of North Dallas that part of the area is still known as Loryland, Masters helped found Dykes on Bikes, The Women's Chorus of Dallas and many other organizations. Colquitt is president of Cardiac Dynamics, a mobile cardiovascular lab specializing in diagnostic procedures such as echocardiography, stress echo and vascular studies.



Lory Masters

Outrageous Oral is an oral history project of The Dallas Way. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 25.

Dallas Yoga Center celebrate 25 years

In honor of its 25th anniversary, the Dallas Yoga Center, 4525 Lemmon Ave. Suite 305, remains open for 25 continuous hours, fully programmed with wellness and yoga events. Activities will go on throughout the night and spill over into Craddock Park in the morning, complete with Sunrise Yoga, food trucks, and a community picnic. Since 1989, The Dallas Yoga Center has been a yoga and integrative wellness center dedicated to nourishing the body, mind, and spirit.

Rainbow LULAC presents Tejano Pride Summit

LULAC 4871 — Rainbow Council presents its third annual Tejano Pride Summit at Dallas County Schools Technology Building, 5151 Samuell Blvd. at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 20. Interactive workshops on spirituality, health and wellness, family acceptance and LGBT estate planning will be led by experts on the topics. Free health and wellness screenings will be offered. The kickoff reception features Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins at Havana lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Road, at 6 p.m. on Sept. 19.

pet of the week / ANABELL

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Pride. And Pride again

PRIDE 2014

Tavern Guild ED explains the need for corporate sponsorships in staging Pride parade while QueerBomb plans alternative Pride dedicated to inclusion and self expression

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, it cost the Dallas Tavern Guild about \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year to stage the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade every fall. The parade was free; the Festival in Lee Park following the parade was free, and the Tavern Guild usually had money left over after all was said and done to donate to nonprofit organizations designated as parade beneficiaries.

But after 9/11, thanks to new security measures and new city requirements, costs surrounding the parade began to skyrocket, Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman said this week. The price tag for this year's parade and festival, in fact, hovers around \$130,000.

Most of the funds to cover those costs, Doughman added, are coming from corporate sponsors, and the largest chunk is coming from a single source — Andrews Distributing, which has donated \$100,000 in cash and in-kind donations.

For the Tavern Guild, Andrews' financial support has been a godsend that has kept the parade afloat. But for others, like QueerBomb Dallas' Daniel Cates, Andrews' Distributing is more — much more — than a little problematic.

QueerBomb has called on the LGBT community to boycott the Pride parade on Sunday, the 22 bars that are Tavern Guild members and Andrews Distributing. The activist group has also organized an alternative Pride event for Sunday, "Dirty Shame," taking place.

As reported in the Sept. 5 issue of Dallas Voice,

Andrews Distributing founder, Chairman and CEO Barry Andrews was holding a fundraising event in their home to benefit Dan Patrick, the Republican candidate for Texas lieutenant governor this year. A member of the Texas Senate since 2007, representing northwest Houston and suburban Harris County, Patrick is a former sports broadcaster and conservative radio talk show host.

Never one who was likely to be mistaken for an LGBT ally, Patrick cemented his anti-gay credentials recently by signing onto — along with 62 other Texas Republican legislators — an amicus brief to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in a marriage equality case out of Texas. The brief links same-sex marriage to bigamy, incest and pedophilia.

Andrews President Mike McGuire told Dallas Voice that Barry Andrews' personal financial support for Patrick revolved around Patrick's stance on issues in the Texas Legislature involving the liquor industry and had nothing to do with Patrick's position on LGBT rights.

"In the last Legislature alone, there were 92 alcohol-related bills introduced and 95 others that could have impacted the beer business and its customers," McGuire said. "Candidates must understand and be willing to listen to the views of the beer industry, its importance to Texas, and have a commitment to protect beer consumers, a highly diverse community in Texas."

That "highly diverse community," he added, spans the spectrum from NASCAR and football fans to LGBTs at the Pride parade.

McGuire said that the Pride parade is one of the "myriad causes" that Andrews Distributing supports, and that the company has a long-term partnership with the Tavern Guild "characterized by an open line of communication and a joint commitment to build an even stronger future for events such as the Pride parade. ... our work together has been extraordinarily successful."

Doughman agreed. The Tavern Guild director said that Andrews' support of the annual parade and other events "has always been strong and solid. They're always first to the table."

"The cost of putting on the parade goes up each year," Doughman said. "Since 9/11, the city requires us to pay for more security. We have had to start paying for the barricades to keep people out of the streets. There are permits we have to have, and many, many other expenses. There's no way we could afford to have a parade without the support of our sponsors, especially Andrews Distributing."

But for Cates and the other activists with QueerBomb Dallas, if having a parade means taking money from Andrews, then there shouldn't be a parade.

"To continue a partnership with a business that is raising funds for politicians who fight tooth and nail to deny our community basic dignity is completely obscene and highlights the true values of Andrews Distributing and the Dallas Tavern Guild," Cates said in a press release this week. "The time has come for the community to take back the power and image of Pride from the rainbow-washed, money-grubbing clutches of corporations and the Dallas Tavern Guild."

But QueerBombs problems with the Pride parade and the Tavern Guild don't stop with Andrews. Cates also criticized the Tavern Guild for allowing entries by Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and JPMorgan Chase and Heineken to participate in the parade.

Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, he said, "create weapons that kill thousands of innocent civilians each year," while "JPMorgan Chase's unethical financial practices caused the 2008 U.S. financial collapse." Heineken, Cates said, excludes transgender people from its employment protections.

These companies, he said, participate in activities and enact policies that "affect real queer lives every day."

Cates said that Pride events organized by the Tavern Guild fail to include the full diversity of the LGBT community, pointing out that there has never been an African-American nor a transgender person elected as parade grand marshal.

"The very fact that we have so many different and separate Pride celebrations here [such as Black Pride events planned later this month] should be the first warning sign that something is wrong, that the Pride parade is not accepting and inclusive," he said. "The Pride parade is all about making a profit for certain sponsors and for the Dallas Tavern Guild bars and about presenting a specific image to the rest of the world. We've been rainbow-washed."

"It's all about military, matrimony and money," Cates said of the parade. "It's put on by a group of well-off white men who exclude and alienate the rest of us. And we plan on taking them to task for it."

To do that, QueerBomb Dallas, in the last week, organized an event they call "Dirty Shame," taking place Sunday evening at Main Street Garden in downtown Dallas. This alternative "Pride promenade" will include "performers, speakers, fun and heart-stirring queer fuckery," according to information the group released earlier this week. And in response to ongoing controversy regarding rules of dress and behavior for Pride parade participants, Cates stressed that QueerBomb's event will be open to everyone and that all manner of dress and self expression are encouraged.

Cates said that the alternative Pride event will be "completely free," and that any costs will be paid for through public donations rather than corporate sponsorships. He said that gathering and planned march down Main Street sidewalks require no city permits because they are covered under the umbrellas of free speech activities, and that officials with Downtown Dallas Inc., the nonprofit that manages Main Street Garden, is aware of QueerBomb's plans.

Downtown Dallas Inc. representatives did not return Dallas Voice's calls seeking comment.

Doughman said this week that grand marshals for the Pride parade are chosen by public ballot, and have been "for the last several years," and that no African-Americans or trans people have been chosen because none have ever been nominated. He said that parade organizers decided "several years ago" to take the nominations and voting out

PRIDE EVENTS ON SUNDAY

• 31st annual Alan Ross Texas

Freedom Parade

Line-up starts along Wycliff Avenue at 10 a.m. Streets close at 11 a.m. Parade steps off at 2 p.m., moving down Cedar Springs Road from Wycliff Avenue to Turtle Creek Boulevard, ending at Lee Park. Free and open to the public.

• Festival in Lee Park

The park is fenced-in, per city of Dallas requirements, for the festival which begins at noon and closes at 7 p.m. The festival includes entertainment, food, drinks, vendors, games, arts and crafts, and more. No coolers, backpacks or glass containers allowed in the park. Admission is \$5.

• Dirty Shame Pride Promenade

Dirty Shame rally begins at 5 p.m. at Main Street Garden, 1902 Main St. in downtown Dallas, and includes performers, speakers, performance art and more. The Queer Pride Promenade down the Main Street sidewalks begins at 6:30 p.m. Those attending are encouraged to bring blankets, picnics, signs, banners, flags, noise makers, musical instruments and their friends. QueerBomb is a safe and affirming space promoting body positivity and self expression, and attendees are encouraged to "wear anything you have ever wanted to wear or as little as the law allows." The event is free and open to the public.

of the hands of the Tavern Guild members specifically because that was limiting diversity.

"The title of grand marshal is to honor those who have made significant contributions to the LGBT community, and I know of many people, including African-Americans and transgenders, who meet that requirement. But I am not free to just put whatever names I see fit on the ballots," Doughman said. "But when someone is nominated, we will certainly put them on the ballot."

Doughman also said he wholeheartedly supports the idea of an alternative Pride celebration, even one planned for the same day as the Pride parade.

"I absolutely believe in entrepreneurship, creativity and independence," he said. "If that's how they feel Pride should be celebrated, then I certainly encourage them to do that. I think it's a great idea. Pride should be about everybody celebrating in the way they think is best." ■



Michael Doughman



Daniel Cates

Black Tie Dinner adds Prop 8 lawyers, out athlete to roster

PRIDE 2014



TOP NOTCH ATTORNEYS | David Boies and Ted Olson, attorneys in the lawsuit successfully challenging California's Proposition 8, will attend Black Tie Dinner to accept the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award.

Boies, Olson to receive Birch Award; special appearance set by NBA star Jason Collins

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Black Tie Dinner has added five guests to an already packed to a line up for the 33rd annual event, set for Nov. 15 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, creating what Black Tie organizers called a "dream team" of guests.

Brooklyn Nets center Jason Collins, the first out athlete to serve in any major professional sports league, will make a special appearance at the dinner, joined by David Boies and Ted Olson, the legal team that successfully argued against California's Proposition 8.

Organizers this week announced that Boies and Olson are this year's winners of the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award in recognition of their outstanding service to the LGBT community. Joining the two attorneys at the dinner will be Prop 8 plaintiffs Sandy Stiers and Kris Perry, who will present the award.

Collins, Boies Olson, Stiers and Perry join a previously announced line-up that includes comic Dana Goldberg, singer-songwriter Steve Grand, WFAA TV sports anchor Dale Hansen and Mike Anglin, this year's Kuchling Award winner.

"We're really excited how our line-up is turning out. It's as strong as last year's," said Ken Morris, event co-chair. "We are calling the program our



Jason Collins

'Dream Team' because Collins joins Dale Hansen, which will undoubtedly please sports fans. Plus we have no better example of teamwork on behalf of our community than Boies and Olson, who, though from opposite ends from the ideological

and political spectrum, view same-sex marriage as an issue that transcends affiliation and labels.

"These straight allies helped convince our courts and our country that loving who you want to love is a fundamental right," Morris said.

Over the last 33 years, Black Tie Dinner has raised \$18 million for North Texas LGBT organizations. This year's beneficiary roster includes a new addition, the LGBT theater group Uptown Players.

"They meet our target demographic and fulfill our mission statement. They are a perfect fit," Morris said.

This isn't the last of the announcements, Morris said. "Just hold on, there's more to come."

Tables are still available for groups of 10 or more. Information for "team captains" wanting to secure a table for a group of 10 or more should visit BTDD's website for more information. Table selection begins Sept. 22. Any remaining individual tickets will go on sale in October.

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Liebe releases confidential DISD report detailing charges against him

PRIDE 2014

The investigator who was fired earlier this month and wasn't told why until late last week has responded with charges of his own

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Fired Dallas Independent School District investigator Jeremy Liebe said this week that none of the charges against him would have been leveled had he not discovered that his supervisor lied on her employment application by concealing a criminal past.

At the time of his suspension earlier this summer, Liebe had heard of no complaints pending and when he was first put on administrative leave, school officials gave him no reason why.

This spring, Liebe investigated coaches and staff from two schools that had illegally recruited football players. Two students from outside the district were living together in a South Dallas apartment and attending different DISD schools. One of the students allegedly killed the other.

The coaches and staff involved in the recruiting incident were fired. Liebe said his supervisor, Tonya Grayson, signed the termination letters and



Jeremy Liebe

she would be a material witness in the former employees' hearings.

Liebe said he began looking into Grayson's background because rumors about her were running rampant.

"That's something attorneys need to know and deal with up front," Liebe said, adding that he had no problem with or grudge against Grayson.

"It's something I've dealt with in the past with police officers," he said. "It's a routine part of the court process."

While checking out her background, he discovered a list of several hundred DISD employees with background problems and began the process of looking into those as well.

After he was suspended, an attorney was hired to look into a number of charges against him. During the summer, Liebe said he spoke to the attorney conducting the investigation, but he was never told what the charges were.

Among the seven allegations detailed in a report sent to Liebe last week was a charge of recording students without parental permission.

"An employee shall obtain written consent from a student's parent or guardian and from his or her principal before the employee may make or authorize a videotape of a student or record or authorize the recording of a student's voice," the district wrote.

Liebe said there are clear exceptions. His investigations regarded child abuse by district employees. He said those cases were given top priority.

"Those investigations are conducted for the safety of the child," Liebe said.

He said he never heard an objection from a principal when he or one of his investigators showed up at a school to interview a child.

Liebe said he or one of his investigators would go to a school and the principal and a counselor would arrange the interview with the student. He said the principal is responsible for contacting the parent, but because the charge was child abuse, permission was not necessary under state law.

Liebe said the rule about recording students re-

lates to things like a teacher pulling out his cell phone and posting a video of an unruly class on Facebook.

Another charge against Liebe involved his district-issued laptop. The claim is he remotely wiped the hard drive clean after leaving the district.

"My laptop had sensitive files on it because I worked 14 to 16 hours a day," he said.

Because those files involved students, Liebe said he also installed software that would clear his hard drive if the laptop was stolen or tampered with.

"When they locked my account, it triggered the software to delete files and email," he said. "If my password was disabled, how could I have logged in to delete anything?"

He said all files and email remain on the district's servers, so no correspondence or information was lost.

The district claimed in another charge that Liebe was aggressively trying to get one of his investigators to file a complaint. The employee complaint had to do with docking pay of an employee for the week of July 4 because she didn't have accrued vacation time yet.

Both sides seem to agree on the facts relating to the pay dispute, but the difference is in tone.

"I have an assertive personality," Liebe said. "Some people mistake assertiveness with aggressiveness." ■

Garlow's up for sale in Gun Barrel City

Owner says he is in no hurry and will hold out for a buyer who'll keep the club gay

DAVID WEBB | Contributing Writer
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GUN BARREL CITY — There's been a gay bar on Cedar Creek Lake for two decades, and there always will be one, if Garlow's owner Michael Slingerland can help it.

Slingerland listed his five-year-old nightclub for sale with Coldwell Banker American Dream Realty in Gun Barrel City a week ago. But there is no hurry to unload the property, he said. The bar owner said he plans to hold out for an LGBT buyer who will continue to operate it as a gay bar.

When asked what the odds were that it would continue to be a gay bar, Slingerland answered, "100 percent."

"This is not a moonlight madness sale," Slingerland said during an interview at the nightclub Sept. 16. "I'm not in a rush to sell it."

The new owner would not have to continue with the Garlow's name and theme, but they can if they want, Slingerland said.

The nightclub's motto is "Where friends become family," and it hosts regular drag benefit

shows that are attended by both LGBT and straight clientele. The shows frequently benefit Celebration on the Lake Church, a thriving LGBT church located a few miles down the road.

"I don't know why anyone wouldn't want to continue with the same theme because it is successful," Slingerland said. "We've been a success since the day we opened."

That's not the case with all nightclubs on the lake that have often struggled to stay open. Friends, another gay night club that operated for 15 years on the lake, closed because of slow business about three years ago.

New owners bought the building and transformed it into a straight nightclub. That club recently closed too, and the marquee's neon sign now announces it is for sale or lease. Another straight nightclub down the road also closed recently.

"You have to make your profit during the spring and summer to get through the winter," Slingerland said. "If you don't make enough money before winter, you aren't going to make it through the year."

The bar owner said Garlow's is "doing fine" financially, and it will be business as usual until a new owner steps up with an acceptable offer. "I want a lot for it," he said.

Garlow's will have an entry in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on Sunday, Sept. 21, and a

"Toys for Tots" benefit featuring Linze Serrell and a "Bevy of Beauties" will be held the night before the parade — Saturday, Sept. 20 — at 9 p.m.

The asking price is \$240,000 for the "cash-flowing bar" on Highway 334 near the intersection of Highway 198. The building is 2,500 square feet, and it sits on almost an acre of land, so there is plenty of room for parking.

In back, there is a landscaped courtyard with tables and chairs, lighting and a bar. Inside there are tables and chairs, pool tables, game machines, a dance floor, a stage and — of course — a big bar with bar stools. All of it will be sold as a package.

The nightclub and its patrons are well accepted by county and city officials, and everyone knows that Cedar Creek Lake has a large population of full-time and weekend LGBT residents, Slingerland said. Earlier in the year, a "rogue" police officer stopped residents as they left the parking lot. But complaints to city officials led to a promise there would be no more harassment, he said.

The mayor at the time, Paul Eaton, apologized to Slingerland and to the LGBT community in the local newspaper.

"The new mayor and his entourage came in not long ago," Slingerland said. "He told me that he appreciates the business and our customers."

Gun Barrel City operates mostly on sales tax income because it currently has no property tax. That means thriving businesses are essential to the



Michael Slingerland

city's financial well-being.

Slingerland said he decided to sell the nightclub because he wants to do something different, like travel the world. "I'm not dying or anything," he said. "I'll turn 65 next year, and I just want to be free to do whatever I want."

Slingerland said he plans to retain his residence in Gun Barrel City as home base, and he would probably visit the nightclub as a customer. "I love this bar," he said.

Slingerland said that even though the bar was listed just a week ago, he has already had several inquiries about it. ■

Will Cowboys add protection for all employees and fans?

PRIDE 2014

Openly gay Cowboys player Michael Sam has employment protection through his union contract, but Dallas LGBT leaders want those same protections offered to the rest of the Cowboy staff

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox and Fairness Fort Worth President David Mack Henderson sent a letter to the Dallas Cowboys this week thanking team officials for signing openly-gay player Michael Sam. The letter also asked for the team to extend employment nondiscrimination protections to all its employees.

"We are writing you today regarding an issue of fairness and equality for all employees of the Dallas Cowboys," they wrote in the letter, addressed to Cowboys' Vice President and COO Stephen Jones and Chief Human Resources Officer Heidi Weingarten.

Cox and Henderson say they are "thrilled that our team" signed Sam to its practice squad and that they look forward to seeing Sam on the field

later this season. They also note the 2011 labor contract between the players association and the NFL that includes nondiscrimination protections based on sexual orientation.

Those protections, however, only extend to the players and do not include other staff.

Henderson and Cox point out in their letter that there are no municipal nondiscrimination ordinances that protect Cowboys staff at AT&T Stadium in Arlington or at Cowboys offices in Las Colinas. Nor are there municipal ordinances in either Irving or Arlington that protect Cowboys fans against discrimination in public accommodations.

Resource Center spokesman Rafael McDonnell said NFL teams first adopted a nondiscrimination policy for players in 2011. that year. Attorneys Ted Olsen and David Boies were representing the players and owners respectively. That team is best known for winning the California Proposition 8 case in the Supreme Court last year.



Cece Cox



David Mack Henderson

Adding those protections seemed obvious to the pair and sexual orientation was added to the contract without dispute.

McDonnell said around that time, gay sports bloggers looked into the policies of the teams and found that only the 49ers protected its employees.

"Today, Michael Sam, by virtue of his union contract, can be out at work," McDonnell said. "It seemed the right time to ask, hey, what about everyone else?"

"Our sports teams serve as role models for fans of all ages," Henderson said. "As a community barometer, the Dallas Cowboys have often led the way in corporate citizenship."

Henderson said that bringing on Michael Sam demonstrates what the Cowboys value as an organization: "What matters in the workplace is quality performance."

Team owner Jerry Jones answered similarly when asked why he signed Sam after passing on

him in the draft. Jones answered that he watched Sam's performance and saw how hard he worked as he practiced with the Rams.

Henderson said he hopes "this high road standard has a ripple effect both on and off the field. Our kids are eagerly watching for their example."

Henderson said he hopes to see the Cowboys organization issue a statement that includes assurances that all fans are welcome at AT&T Stadium. He pointed out that AT&T has a 100 percent rating with Human Rights Campaign in its Corporate Equality Index.

"As more LGBT people and our families openly identify in all life matters, it's crucial the Cowboys signal that every fan is welcome at AT&T Stadium," Henderson said.

He said the letter is not in response to any complaints from Cowboys staff members or reaction to incidents among fans at the stadium. Henderson said when he and Cox wrote the letter, they wanted the Cowboys to set the best example for our community just as they did for the NFL by hiring Sam.

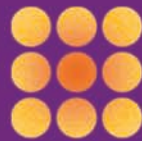
"High standards and practices are what matter most," he said. ■

The letter was sent via fax and U.S. mail on Tuesday and as of press time in Thursday, neither Henderson nor Cox had received a response from the Cowboys.

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What is STRIBILD?

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

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

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

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

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

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

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

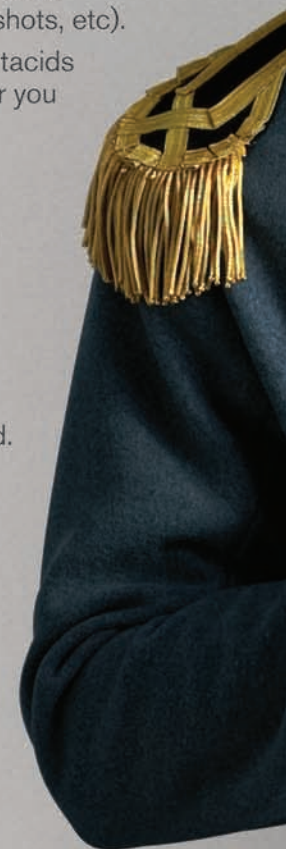
The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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





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

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Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

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Patient Information

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild)

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

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

What is STRIBILD?

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

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

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

Who should not take STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

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

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

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

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

- flecainide (Tambocor[®])
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent[®], Flonase[®], Flovent[®] Diskus[®], Flovent[®] HFA, Veramyst[®])
- itraconazole (Sporanox[®])
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- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal[®])
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal[®])
- phenytoin (Dilantin[®], Phenytek[®])
- propafenone (Rythmol[®])
- quinidine (Neudexta[®])
- rifabutin (Mycobutin[®])
- rifapentine (Priftin[®])
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- salmeterol (Serevent[®]) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus[®], Advair HFA[®])
- sildenafil (Viagra[®]), tadalafil (Cialis[®]) or vardenafil (Levitra[®], Staxyn[®]), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca[®]), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
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Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

Issued: October 2013



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World Series returns to Dallas

PRIDE 2014



NO STRIKES | The Gay Softball World Series returns to Dallas for the first time in a decade and promises to offer a week filled with more events at better venues than other cities have ever offered. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

Players from 45 cities representing 168 of the 800 NAGAAA teams will be in Dallas for the week-long Gay Softball World Series

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

More than 4,500 softball players and fans from 45 North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance member cities are expected in Dallas Sept. 22-27 for the 2014 Gay Softball World Series. Many of those players plan to arrive early to attend the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and Pride Festival in Lee Park on Sunday.

Of the league's more than 800 teams, 168 will be in Dallas to compete. That includes nine teams from Dallas' Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association competing in four of the five divisions in one of the world's largest annual LGBT sports events. Playing with home field advantage in the Masters Division is Dallas Woody's Real Master Batters.

Teams from Austin and Houston will also compete. San Antonio's league is still forming and doesn't qualify for World Series play yet.

Regular games will be played Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Thursday, Sept. 25, on fields in Oak Cliff, Grand Prairie and Euless. Each team is guaranteed

to play a minimum of six games. So fans can follow specific teams, a schedule of where they will play will be posted online at DallasSeries2014.com.

While Euless sounds far, the host hotel is the Hilton Anatole, just a 20 minute ride from Softball World in Euless. Some cities have used fields as far as an hour-and-a-half away.

Double elimination rounds will be played Friday, Sept. 26, and championship games are set for Saturday, Sept. 27. Games will be full seven-inning games, using standard American Softball Association rules.

World Series organizer Matt Miller said he expects this year's series to be one of the best in the event's history.

"Not all cities can afford to do things we've been able to finance," Miller said.

From opening ceremonies in the Arts District to a block party closing ceremony, the week is filled with more events at better venues than other host cities have been able to offer.

Opening ceremonies begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 22 at Annette Strauss Artist Square in the Arts District.

"We hope to get people to go downtown early, enjoy the new deck park, eat in the Arts District restaurants and then enjoy the ceremony," Miller said.

He said Artist Square was very reasonably

DALLAS TEAMS

Masters Division

Dallas Woody's Real Master Batters

Division B

Dallas Hidden Door Assault

Dallas Woody's X-Plosion

Division C

Dallas Alleycats

Dallas Round-Up Synergy

Dallas Woody's Wreckin' Crew

Division D

Dallas DIVE!

Dallas Drillers D

Dallas Woody's Demolition Crew

FIELDS

Kiest Park, 2324 West Kiest Blvd.

at Hampton Road, Dallas

Softball World, 1375 W. Euless Blvd, Euless

Mike Lewis Softball Complex,

North Carrier Parkway & Parkwood Drive,

Grand Prairie

GAMES

7:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Tuesday–Saturday

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

• **Monday, Sept. 22** - 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Opening Ceremony at Annette Strauss

Artist Square

• **Tuesday, Sept. 23**

10 p.m. to midnight: Miss Gay Softball

World Series Pageant at JR.'s Bar & Grill

• **Wednesday, Sept. 24** 8 p.m.–11:30 p.m.

Silent Auction and talent show benefiting

Legacy Counseling Center at S4/Rose

• **Thursday, Sept. 25**

7 p.m.–10 p.m.: Hall of Fame Dinner and

2014 Induction Ceremony at Belo Mansion

• **Friday, Sept. 26** 7:30 a.m.–7 p.m.:

Double elimination for all divisions

• **Saturday, Sept. 27** 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Championship Saturday 7 p.m.–midnight

Championship Celebration Block Party and

Closing Ceremony on Cedar Springs Road

priced and would provide a venue for the opening ceremonies unparalleled in the history of the World Series. When Dallas hosted the World Series in 2004, opening ceremony was held in Lee Park.

Dale Hansen is the special guest. DJ Tiffin Ryan provides the music and 103.7 KVIL afternoon drive-time personality and PSSA player Kory appears. Players participate in a traditional city shirt swap. The after-party takes place at the Round-Up Saloon.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10 contestants will compete for the Miss GSWS crown at JR.'s Bar & Grill at 10 p.m. Three cash prizes include \$500 to the winner. Judging the competition are Miss Gay USofA 2014 Jenna Skyy, Miss Gay Dallas State at Large 2014 Onyx and Miss PSSA 2014 Britney Queers.

The first 10 to register get to compete. Registra-

tion begins at 8 p.m. in the Vixen Room at Sue Ellen's.

Wednesday, Sept. 24 is NAGAAA's Got Talent show night in the Rose Room at S4 at 9 p.m. Miller said they're hoping to attract the best talent so a grand prize of \$1,000 is being offered.

"No one's ever offered prize money before," Miller said.

A silent auction begins at 8 p.m. with proceeds, including all ticket sales, benefiting Legacy Counseling Center. The evening is hosted by Queen of the World (World Series 2002, that is) Selma Sue with guests Alyssa Edwards and Laganja Estranja.

In 1997, the then-20-year-old North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance started its Hall of Fame by naming six players. Since then, two players from Dallas have been inducted — Bill Smith in 2003 and Miller in 2006. This year, the number of Hall of Fame players from Dallas will double.

Greg Smith, better known in the community as SheGotta Mustache, and Johnny Russell are the new Dallas entries. Smith died in 2011. Nine others from around the country will be inducted with them.

"We have two local inductees," Miller said. "It's the nicest venue it's ever been held at."

This year's Hall of Fame dinner will be held at the Belo Mansion on Thursday, Sept. 25.

On Friday, Sept. 26, Woody's Sports & Video Bar hosts the Championship Eve Bash.

The championship games on Saturday, Sept. 27 will be played at Kiest Park. Play should be over by 6 p.m.

At 7 p.m., Cedar Springs Road will be closed off from Reagan to Knight streets for the closing ceremony and block party.

Deborah Cox is performing on the main stage on the north end of Cedar Springs Road that night. Sandy Anderson as Dolly Parton opens for Cox.

The championship teams will have a police escort to the stage.

A dance tent features San Diego DJ Drew G. Vendors on the street include artists, T-shirt and candle vendors and others. Cedar Springs Merchants Association Executive Director Dave Berryman said he wasn't sure how many vendors would be out on the street that night because applications were still coming in. He encouraged anyone participating in Pride in Lee Park or who has had a booth at the Cedar Springs Artsfest to contact him.

Food trucks will be on the street and beer will be served by local softball players.

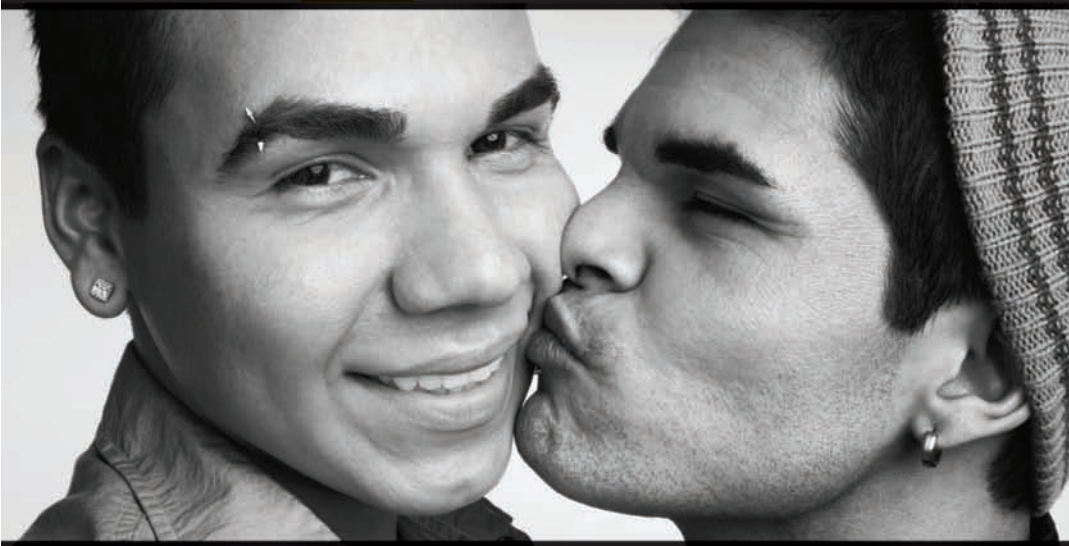
Frank Libro, Dallas Visitor and Convention Bureau vice president for communications, said he expects the World Series to have a \$5.5 million effect on the Dallas economy. He said CVB estimates are usually conservative and that number could go higher.

"We're excited to host this event and show these athletes everything Dallas has to offer," Libro said.

He said the 4,500 people coming from out of town translates into 5,400 room-nights in Dallas hotels.

"It's a great opportunity to expose these athletes to our diverse city with a thriving LGBT population," he said. ■

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Pride around North Texas

PRIDE 2014

Pride in the Metroplex doesn't begin — or end — with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on Sunday

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Teen Pride

Organizer Amanda Robinson hopes for a big turnout for this year's Teen Pride. And if the turnout for the Sept. 14 "Inspirational Sunday" event at Cathedral of Hope is any indication, she doesn't need to worry.

The theme for this year's Teen Pride event is "Under the Big Top." On Saturday, Sept. 20 at CoH, there will be a big tent, clearly indicating a lot will be going on. Robinson, the co-founder of Real Live Connection, the organization putting on Teen Pride, said the family-friendly event includes vendors, performances, food and the chance for families to be together.

"A lot of organizations will be offering services that people may have not even be aware of," such as banks offering credit counseling, and JobCorps, which offers job opportunities.

Robinson said she couldn't pinpoint one particular thing that drew youth and young adults to last Sunday's event. "They just came," she said. "Just our word-of-mouth outreach and social media presence alone" got people interested.

With ambitions for her organization to hold events year-round, Robinson said she couldn't be more grateful for the attention.

Teen Pride takes place on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 2-7 p.m. at CoH. Admission is \$5, or free with a student I.D.

Tejano Pride Summit

This year's Tejano Pride Summit, organized by LULAC — Rainbow Council, on Saturday, Sept. 20, continues the summit's tradition of building bridges across identities within the Hispanic and LGBT communities. The free, day-long event features interactive workshops, informational sessions, food and entertainment.

"Whether it's between people of faith and non-believers, or between indigenous and modern Hispanic identities, we'll be reaching out and connecting identities," said Omar Narvaez, the summit's co-chair. "The question is how do we bridge those divides?"

Now in its third year, the summit is an opportunity to bring LGBT people and allies together to discuss ideas and collaborate on projects. The ultimate goal is to build a statewide network to advance civic engagement and participation, the health and wellbeing and acceptance of LGBT people. Interactive workshops will discuss and engage attendees, while performances and meals will bridge the divide between the indigenous and modern Hispanic identities.



PRIDE WITHOUT BORDERS | Tarrant County Gay Pride's annual parade on Oct. 5, is one of many events across the metroplex this year.

The summit will kick off with a reception on Friday, Sept. 19, at the Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs, at 6 p.m. honoring Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

The third annual Tejano Pride Summit On Saturday, Sept. 20, takes place from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Dallas County Schools Technology Building, 5151 Samuell Blvd.

Dallas Southern Pride

Dallas Southern Pride's black Pride event wants everything to be gold from Oct. 2 through Oct. 6. With events, educational opportunities and parties packed into four days, there should be something to appeal to everyone in the more than 10,000 people expected to participate.

"Dallas Southern Pride: All Gold Everything!" is designed to promote positive awareness and foster support for organizations that are addressing health, education, economic and social issues affecting the local LGBT communities of color," said Kirk Myers, DSP's business advisor. "The weekend's events will serve as an excellent chance to raise awareness on important issues and to have some fun."

Among the regular events are the pool party, 24 Karat Ball and the Southern Regional Ball/House and Pageant (B/HAP) Communities' Leadership and Health Disparities Conference, now in its third year. Participants are expected from nearly 20 states across the country. This year

the conference is emphasizing the health disparities among African-American and Latino men as well as transgender male-to-female individuals.

But this year there are some changes too. Both the welcoming reception and closing day BBQ will be free. Among pre-pride events are some game-changers, too. For the first time, his group will be participating in the Alan Ross Freedom Parade.

Tarrant County Gay Pride

The organizers and volunteers for this year's Tarrant County Gay Pride week are once again putting the "unity" in "community." They're also making it a little longer than a week.

On Sept. 13, the association took betting types for \$30 a seat Louisiana for a day-long trip to a casino. Proceeds benefit the all-volunteer organization's efforts.

The organizers have planned something for everyone between Oct. 2-19, reaching all facets of the community. Gray Pride happy hour for LGBT people over 50 at the 515 Bar (formerly Crossroads) at 515 Jennings kicks off the celebration on a jam-packed Thursday, Oct. 2.

Participants can walk across the street to the Rainbow Lounge, 651 S. Jennings, for a wedding celebration for same-gender couples, or head to Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. for a youth event in collaboration with LGBTQ Saves. Meet the parade's grand marshals

and Raina Lee award winners at Club Reflections, 606 S Jennings Ave.

The long weekend officially kicks off with the Showboats & Show Girls benefit. Keep your weekend free if you hadn't already, because on Oct. 4 you'll need to visit the annual parade in downtown Fort Worth and Oct. 5 festival in Trinity Park. Other partner events include the 16th annual QCinema film festival and the International Gay Rodeo finals.

QCinema's schedule alone could overwhelm even the most enthusiastic of Pride-goers with 23 movies, live comedy shows and more.

While many events are traditions, this year also marks a year of firsts. Among the firsts are two of the grand marshals: Sharon Herrera is the first Latina and Tori Van Fleet-Kujala, is the first trans grand marshal and only the third in Texas. They will be marching with Allan Gould, the former executive director of the AIDS Outreach Center.

Since its founding in 1981, the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association has maintained a distinctly Fort Worth identity. According to the TCGPW website, founder Gary Taylor, who also went by the drag name Raina Lee, hosted gatherings for her LGBT family at Forest Park's Shelter House, "a place to gather, out in the open, in public, where we could be exactly who we were, without discrimination, without judgment and without fear." That gathering became the current Pride Picnic, a large gathering in the even larger Trinity Park. ■

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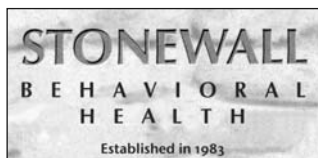
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PRIDE 2014



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS | Rick Barton, second from right, and his brother, David, started Huncky's when Oak Lawn was still a baby gayborhood.

Huncky's celebrates 30 years of business in two booming locations

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Cedar Springs was a rough street when brothers Rick and David Barton opened Huncky's Hamburgers 30 years ago. But on a recent Friday afternoon, Rick credited David, who has since died, with being the one to see what was then emerging as a gay neighborhood.

"He had the instinct that it would be a gay neighborhood. And a gay neighborhood needed a burger place," Rick said.

He not only gives his brother credit for the location but for the name as well. "I hated it at first," he said with a laugh. "But I did some research and asked my gay and straight friends [and] 99 percent of them loved it," Rick said. It was also a milder name than Huncky's predecessor, Captain Billy Whizbang's in Arlington.

But when David mentioned to Rick he wanted to move his restaurant to the burgeoning Oak Lawn neighborhood, the name ultimately did not matter. Rick was working in the corporate world and looking to get out. "It wasn't my cup of tea."

The restaurant immediately flourished with both LGBT and straight customers. "It was a place for people to come out," Rick said, where LGBT and straight people could be comfortable around one another.

There were hardly any incidents of bias despite it being the early 1980s in Dallas, a time that Rick recalls as being particularly hostile for the LGBT community in Dallas. But the city let the neighborhood emerge on its own, he said.

Over the years, Rick and David exchanged managerial responsibilities. Rick moved to New York City, then came back. After David died, another partner joined Rick in managing the restaurant. But Rick eventually acquired full ownership and has run Huncky's since.

As the restaurant's business grew, Huncky's needed more space. In 2010, it moved to a larger location in the former Crossroads Market, across Cedar Springs Road from JR's Bar and Grill, and across Throckmorton Street from Huncky's first location.

In 2006 Barton noticed a trend: The restaurant's longtime patrons were growing older and moving to Oak Cliff.

"It reminded me of Cedar Springs in the '80s, but more polished," Rick said. The area's historical conservation designation helped it keep its funky charm. It helped it was also re-emerging as a neighborhood.

After Rick spent about four years looking for other locations, including in Oak Cliff, "everything fell into place," he said. A second location that had just been a fleeting idea opened within the year.

David's instincts must have rubbed off on Rick, because as soon the restaurant opened, other LGBT businesses followed. The numerous patrons who once frequented the original location are now regulars in Oak Cliff.

Despite the two new spaces, Rick admits little else has changed since Huncky's first opened. The menu is the same, as is the character.

Turnover is low; some employees have been with him for two decades now. And the loyal clientele has also stayed the same. And after 30 years, Rick said he's seen long-time regulars' children grow up. "You saw them when they were kids and now they're freshmen in college." ■

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Will Oklahoma have a gay congressman before Texas?

PRIDE 2014

Al McAffrey, the first out legislator in the Oklahoma House and Senate, runs for U.S. Congress

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Oklahoma state Sen. Al McAffrey finished in second place in his June primary race for the nomination for U.S. representative from the state's 5th District, it was the first time the openly gay politician hadn't won an election with at least a 10-point margin.

After the primary, McAffrey said he knew what mistakes he made and put new campaign staff in place for the August runoff.

"We assumed people knew us," he said. "They didn't."

Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District covers a much larger area than his current state senatorial district. This larger district includes three counties — Oklahoma County, which includes Oklahoma City, and Seminole and Potawatomi counties. Potawatomi County just barely touches Oklahoma County on its southeast corner and Seminole is to the east of Potawatomi.

Although his senatorial district is the largest portion of the congressional district, the votes he earned there weren't enough to win the primary. In the runoff, McAffrey targeted the neighborhoods that voted for the candidate who came in third, sending mailers and block walking. That strategy worked. His opponent picked up few votes and McAffrey won the runoff by his usual, comfortable 10 percent margin.

McAffrey said he knows he has a tough race ahead; the district hasn't had a Democratic congressman in 40 years. But he sees this as a good year for Democrats in Oklahoma.

"The governor's race is neck-and-neck," he said.

Republican Gov. Mary Fallin is facing a stiff challenge after several controversies including a botched execution and her refusal to extend benefits to same-sex spouses of National Guard troops, a decision that was overturned by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Democrats gaining votes at the top of the ticket should help in down-ballot races including his, McAffrey said.

His campaign is budgeted at \$750,000. Money for his race is coming from around the country. A fundraiser is planned in San Francisco and another in D.C.

"Tulsa's been a big help," McAffrey said. So has Dallas. Last spring, a big fundraiser was



YOU'RE DOIN' FINE OKLAHOMA | Oklahoma state Sen. Al McAffrey, left, and his partner David Stinson have made several fundraising stops in Dallas during McAffrey's current campaign for U.S. Congress. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

held at the Round-Up Saloon featuring actor Leslie Jordan. Local entertainer Mark Alan Smith performed and morning show host Ron Corning emceed.

One source of income that won't be helping in this campaign is the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, although "They endorsed me in the past," McAffrey said.

Victory Fund doesn't comment on races where they haven't endorsed a candidate.

While running as an openly gay man in Oklahoma could have a negative impact on his election, McAffrey doesn't see it that way. One bit of advice he got from Victory Fund before his first race was to be open and honest about who he is.

"I ran as openly gay for state rep in 2006 and for state senate in 2012," he said. He said his constituents appreciate that he's open and honest about who he is, and his colleagues in the legislature found "We're not any different than anyone else."

In both the state House and Senate, McAffrey was effective in derailing any anti-gay legislation that was introduced. He said none of the "bad" bills ever made it to the chamber floor.

McAffrey believes he can energize his liberal downtown Oklahoma City district and get Republican votes from those who won't vote for a Tea Party candidate. He's already preparing for a move to Washington by selling the mortuary business he has owned for more than a decade.

While McAffrey won't be representing Texas, he and his partner, David Stinson, are in Dallas often. If he wins, he wants the LGBT community to feel like representation is close by.

"Our door's always open," he said. "You have a friend in Oklahoma."

He said leaving the state Senate was a tough decision because he's enjoyed serving there, but the open U.S. House seat presented a unique opportunity.

He said Oklahoma won't be losing LGBT representation with his departure. Kay Floyd, a lesbian who replaced him in the House, is running for his Senate seat and favored to win. ■

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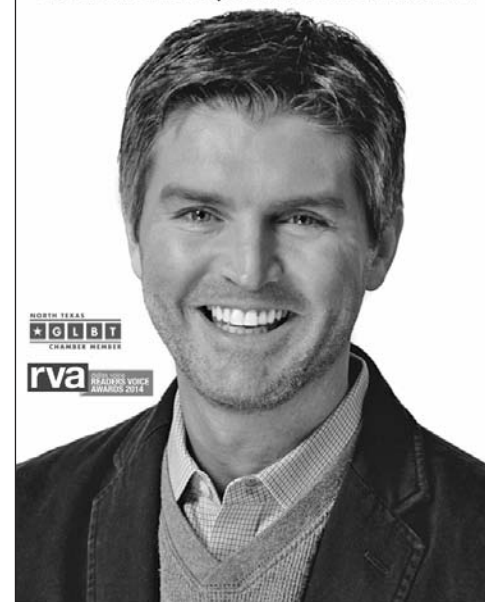
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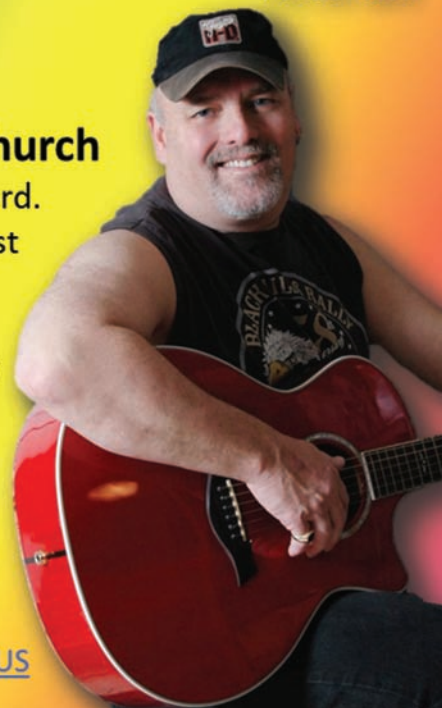
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Support times 5

PRIDE 2014

Resource Center recognizes supporters, LGBT allies with 5 Factor Awards



Dale Hansen, left, Phillip Kingston, middle, Abraham Salum, right.

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Since Resource Center began honoring people who've supported the agency with the 5 Factor Awards, the categories have changed. What hasn't changed is how a variety and combination of talents blend to make Resource Center successful.

"We couldn't do our jobs effectively without strong community support," said Resource Center Communications and Advocacy manager Rafael McDonnell.

This year, Resource Center honors three people, one company and a philanthropic organization. The categories are media, government, commerce, culinary and philanthropy.

Dale Hansen is this year's media honoree. Earlier this year, his commentary about Michael Sam and the NFL draft went viral.

"In Dale's career here in Dallas, he's never been afraid to speak his mind on any topic," McDonnell said. "It didn't surprise me he chose to speak so forcefully on behalf of Michael Sam."

What may have been surprising is that Hansen was the only sports commentator in the country who said anything about the outrageous amount of discrimination Sam faced.

McDonnell wasn't that surprised.

"We rarely see commentary on the air," McDonnell said.

He said Hansen, who's been on the air in Dallas since 1980 — such longevity in itself a rarity — was in just the right position to be that one, lone voice to speak up for Sam. And while Hansen's work wasn't specifically aimed at Resource Center, McDonnell said, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

Hansen will be honored by the LGBT community a number of times this fall. He'll be the special guest at the Gay World Series opening ceremony on Monday, Sept. 22, and he's a guest speaker at Black Tie Dinner in November. Although he was asked to be an honorary grand marshal for the Dallas Pride parade, the Cowboys are in St. Louis on Sunday, Sept. 21, when the parade takes place, so Hansen will be out of town.

The other four 5 Factor honorees are more directly linked to Resource Center.

City Councilman Philip Kingston is being honored in the government category. His district ends several blocks from Resource Center, since Cedar Springs Road is the dividing line between his and Councilman Adam Medrano's districts.

"Philip reached out to us very early during his campaign," McDonnell said. "He made it clear he wanted to work with us and the LGBT community."

Kingston was one candidate in a crowded field of newcomers.

McDonnell said he's worked with Kingston on a number of nondiscrimination issues affecting various governmental agencies and Kingston proactively reached out to Resource Center on the Dallas Federal Reserve's lack of nondiscrimination protections.

Abraham Salum is the culinary category honoree and the only one who will be working during the event. Salum owns two restaurants — Salum and Komali on Cole Avenue at Fitzhugh in Uptown.

"He's helped us with every major event," McDonnell said. "And we're not the only organization he supports."

Salum has participated in Toast to Life, 5 Factor and Lone Star Ride. For this year's 5 Factor, he's one of eight restaurant stations offering food along with Trulucks, Bridge Bistro, The Palm, Wendy Krispin, Starbucks, RND Kitchen and the Original Cupcakery.

McDonnell described Whole Foods as a company that's always been there for Resource Center but last fall made a special effort to help the Food Pantry through a real problem. Last September, during the government sequester, a slowdown of donations before Pride and a lack of donations to the North Texas Food Bank combined to cause the shelves at the pantry to be bare.

A number of groups stepped up with food drives and Whole Foods came through with a donation of \$5,000 worth of food. That was just part of a broader partnership, McDonnell said.

"They've been steadfast supporters for many years," he added.

Salads and unsold produce from Whole Foods have been part of the hot meals program for years.

DIFFA is the design industry's AIDS fundraising organization. Since the Dallas branch opened in 1988, it's donated more than \$7 million to Dallas AIDS agencies. Last week, McDonnell said, DIFFA contributed \$22,500 to the nutrition program.

Over the years, DIFFA has funded a number of projects at Resource Center. One of the earliest donations it made was to outfit the kitchen so Resource Center could begin its hot meals program.

McDonnell said tickets to 5 Factor as well as sponsorship opportunities are still available on the website. Raffle tickets form a chance to win a \$1,000 American Airlines gift certificate can also be purchased online. ■

5 Factor takes place at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 107. 7-9 p.m. \$50. MyResourceCenter.org



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Ready for the big leagues

Dallas businessman Dr. David Alameel takes on incumbent Sen. John Cornyn and 'the establishment' in both parties

PRIDE 2014

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Dallas businessman and dentist David Alameel is no stranger to Texas politics. He has donated to both Democrats and Republicans and in 2012 ran for the Democratic nomination for a new congressional seat. After he came in fourth in primary, he didn't just have misgivings about Sen. Cornyn but about both parties. Alameel recently sat down with the Dallas Voice to discuss his campaign. ■

Dallas Voice: Your opponent, incumbent Republican Senator Cornyn was seen as vulnerable to a far-right candidate. But he clobbered his multiple opponents in the March primary. Now analysts say he's a shoo-in for re-election. So if you're not a threat, why run? Dr. David Alameel: Of course I pose a threat. Otherwise he wouldn't send trackers to follow me around the state. He's nervous because someone is finally putting him to task.

He's in it for himself. Wall Street pretty much bought him out. He basically works for Wall Street and is part of the bipartisan coalition pushing policies that help big corporations. He is part of the destruction of the American Dream. I refuse to accept that. I want to expose people like him, "the establishment."

About 10 years ago you and your wife gave a substantial amount of money to Sen. Cornyn's campaign. What changed? I wasn't that political then. I cared more about issues and not races. I saw the differences when I worked on foreign policy issues with non-profits as far back as a decade. The Democrats and Republicans diverged on immigration. I saw racism flourishing in the GOP. The 2008 financial crisis changed me though. As of then I have not dealt with the GOP. They've gone over the deep end. They thrive on attacking groups. Discrimination sickens me. It is totally against my beliefs.

But those beliefs run counter to many Texans on LGBT issues. For example, if you were elected to the Senate you would serve alongside vocal LGBT opponent Sen. Ted Cruz. The Republican Party has been pushed so far right they can't do anything even if they know it is wrong. But I'm willing to debate him on these issues because I support the LGBT community. When I get to the Senate, I'll support them with whatever they ask. Politicians should not be playing political football. The GOP is unnecessarily setting up obstacles and attacking them. They are wrong. From a religious and constitutional interpretation the LGBT community shouldn't face any obstacles. It's not a talking point. I don't dodge it. I just don't talk about it because I want people to know about the de-



Dr. David Alameel

struction of the greatest economy on Earth. **Were you raised among LGBT people?** I'm 62 and was born in Israel. If I grew up with LGBT people no one said anything. I have gay friends. My kids have LGBT friends whom I cherish. I'll be in their weddings. I don't judge people whether they are white, brown, straight or bisexual. I judge them by how good of friends they are to my kids. I didn't discriminate with my employees. I will never forget telling the LGBT group in Houston that I support same-sex marriage.

Polls show that people's views about the LGBT community change when they meet a LGBT person. If you didn't have that experience, then what shaped your views? I was raised Catholic in a tight family. Compassion is the Christian — and human — thing to do. If you can't extend love to your family you can't extend it to others. It's not up to us to go around and say some citizens are worth more than others. God judges by one's character and deeds. I don't think it's good character to discriminate. I believe LGBT community members were born that way. Studies prove it. If God said we are born that way, who are we to judge?

You said Senator Cornyn is "the establishment," and "the establishment" is the problem. Did you have a different experience growing up? I succeeded but in a different time. I don't see my family, friends and the American public succeeding. Today I'd be poor and working in a gas station. We have kids graduating with enormous debt, moving back in with their parents and getting service industry jobs. Cornyn says we can't afford Social Security or Medicare. They're programs that contribute to good middle class lives. When he makes a deal about social issues, he just wants people to turn a blind eye to the fact that he invested in companies that do business in China and then send jobs there. It's elected officials like him who are making us into an indebted third world country. Right now that's America.

What are the biggest issues facing Texans though? It's not all Wall Street down here. We need to reform the tax code. Big corporate handouts are anti-American. Outsourcing is anti-American. It's not too much to ask for the greatest country on Earth for our citizens. When you ask anyone what matters they say their children's future. He fails on education.

We also need to become energy independent. I support energy initiatives of all kinds. We need solar and wind. But the most important energy source around today is oil and gas. If Texas could produce more oil and gas than most other countries combined, we could export it. We could possibly double our economy alone. It's also a national security issue because of wars. The wars are all about ac-

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cess to energy. Today we have wars going on that are all about oil and gas. We have wars going on just where the pipeline might go.

Those resources also are a boon to our defense industry, another major employer in Texas. Just because I don't want to go war for oil doesn't mean I don't want a strong military. I want the United States to have the best military in world so we can protect us, not to start wars so we can go bomb places and remake them. We are the guidepost of world; without us there would be chaos.

But haven't we contributed to that chaos?

What has influenced your foreign policy?

I chaired the Lebanese American League in the 1980s and 1990s. We lobbied on causes related to Middle East. I see the same problems now. Iraq is back to its old habits. Whenever you give them a majority anywhere they start persecuting anyone who is not Muslim. Since I was 16 I've been aware of the dangers facing non-Muslims, like the Jews and Christians in the Middle East. We are facing that threat today with jihadists like al-Qaeda and ISIS. In last 50 years Islam has been radicalized. During Russia's war in Afghanistan, we built up al-Qaeda. They were our allies during that war. We seem to train and arm the wrong people. We could have avoided where we are today if we responded before we reacted to events. ISIS didn't come from anywhere. We are not good at forming clear policy that is long term and protect interests.

Of current sitting senators, whom do you admire?

I have two. The one I follow the most is Elizabeth Warren. Sherrod Brown in Ohio, too. When I first started witnessing the destruction of American Dream, no one else actually wanted to touch it. It bothers me when Democrats take office and nothing changes. Some of the worst policies were done in a Democratic majority, like bad free trade and deregulating Wall Street.

This is your second run for office. In 2012 you ran for a newly-created congressional district currently held by Rep. Marc Veasey.

What did you learn? Elitists rule the Democratic Party, too. I learned the Democrats do the same as the Republicans. Their agenda is not the same agenda that real Democratic voters have. They support fluff while people starve. Up in the higher powers they don't want to be challenged or shaken up.

You're not receiving much help from the Texas Democratic Party or Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, I imagine. I wasn't getting help from them in 2012 and I'm not now. They want to show I can win with my own money. Both parties are now so full of it! I'm not running in a popularity contests. I won't be a creature of D.C. I've done it all. I'm happy. I have my money. I'm not scared.



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An engine, an Index and frustration

PRIDE 2014

After months of getting nowhere with complaints to GM about problems with his car, gay Arkansan Todd Elkins questions why HRC's Corporate Equality Index doesn't also address customer service issues in its rankings

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer

russell@dallasvoice.com

Todd Elkins' 1999 Cadillac Deville was overheating.

In April and May, the Arkansas real estate agent had already replaced the cooling fan relay, radiator hose and thermostat. The vehicle's cooling system had also been flushed, "outside of warranty," he said.

But after the fixes, the car was still overheating. In May, after paying for the repairs, a mechanic told him the real problem: a cracked engine block. He referred Elkins to General Motors Service Bulletin #99086, issued in March 2002.

Among the impacted models listed in the bulletin were one Oldsmobile model and three Cadillac models, including the 1999 Deville.

A diagnosis at Cadillac of Bentonville confirmed the flaw. An authorized Cadillac dealer, they paid for the diagnostic fee but could not replace the engine under his warranty. They said they were not the guarantor of the warranty associated with the vehicle.

They told Elkins the repair would cost \$5000,

with the chance that even then it might not pass an engine block test guaranteeing its efficiency.

Elkins was not up to taking the costly risk. He was also confused about why he needed to pay for it. The vehicle he purchased in 2004 came with an extended warranty covering him up to 60,000 miles. Whenever he needed a repair, the warranty covered it.

According to the Workbench vehicle history provided by Elkins, as of July 11, 2002, five months after the bulletin was issued, his vehicle had 35,291 miles on it. The vehicle had already visited many mechanics by then.

Between 2000 and 2008, it was serviced 15 times. The car's battery alone was replaced twice between 2001-02; the generator was replaced in 2008. Other replacements included a car door, air conditioner and transmission plate.

But over the course of the servicing and replacing, various mechanics missed looking at its Northstar engine.

Soon thereafter, Elkins filed a complaint with Cadillac Customer Care, which is still working on the case. Having gained no traction there, he filed a complaint with the Arkansas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, which has since been in communication with Cadillac of Bentonville and GM.

But Elkins said his requests have gone nowhere.

As a gay consumer, he doesn't feel his experience with GM reflects the company's 100 percent rating with the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index, which measures large corporations' commitment to the LGBT community. Why doesn't the Index, seen as the benchmark of corporate LGBT policies, deduct points or include consumer

criticism in cases like his, Elkins wants to know.

"What concerns me the most is with ... a high corporate index score, General Motors has recalled more vehicles than they have sold over the past five years [and is] producing a product with more cover ups," he wrote in a complaint submitted to the Arkansas Attorney General. "Is it time for HRC to also review customer resolutions and customer satisfaction to GLBT consumers and adjust the score accordingly?"

The Northstar engine has since ceased production, which only complicates Elkins' case. But it has still stranded consumers like Elkins with the hefty cost of replacing it. As he navigates the complicated web of vague corporate and legal policies, he's reached a dead end. He just wanted his engine replaced.

"Terrible engine"

The 1999 Deville was recalled only once — for side air bags that might not deploy. Three people died due to that flaw.

General Motors has only issued 57 service bulletins since that may directly affect the 1999 Cadillac Deville, according to the National Highway Safety Administration's records, and 57 is a conservative estimate given that not all bulletins are posted online.

But of those 57, 16 have involved the engine.

"The Northstar was a terrible engine, just like a lot of GM's engines," said Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety, a consumer advocacy organization in Washington, D.C.

But the engine being terrible does not mean GM was legally obliged to recall the vehicle.

After he purchased the vehicle, Elkins contends he never received a letter notifying him of the bulletin. That's because a service bulletin, also known as a safety bulletin, is not for consumers, said David Morton, research director at Consumerautomativeresearch.com.

"They are sent by the manufacturer to notify dealers telling the dealers how to deal with a specific issue," such as a cracked engine block, which could be why Elkins never received a letter, Morton said. There are no statutory limits to bulletins because the flaw is not sweeping.

Recalls, however, are strictly tied to safety issues that could potentially harm or threaten the life of anyone in the vehicle. If a car is recalled, the manufacturer is authorized to replace it free of charge.

But that does not mean the government turns a blind eye. "The federal government takes complaints and monitors bulletins. If they see a pattern then they will take issue with it, if it is safety-related," Morton explained.

Whether or not an overheating engine warrants a recall or a service bulletin involves numerous issues, Morton said. An over-heating engine in cold weather could have a much different impact on a vehicle than one in warm weather, for instance. Issues could even differ among consumers. The decision to recall depends upon on whether or not the flaws are life threatening.

"If an engine is overheating but you can get off the road, then it is not a safety issue," Morton said. "But if your engine is overheating and it suddenly stops, you have a safety issue."

To the government and manufacturer, the difference between a recall and service bulletin may be the difference between safety versus inconvenience.



LEMON FLAVORED | Todd Elkins purchased a 1999 Cadillac Deville in 2004 and it's needed repairs ever since. (Photo courtesy of Todd Elkins)

Even when safety may not be a concern, cost is, however.

Ditlow describes the increasing use of safety bulletins as a loophole that benefits big manufacturers like GM. He calls it a "secret warranty," meaning the less you know, the less a corporation like GM has to lose.

But it is also an issue of federal transparency. Five states have taken action to close that loophole, requiring notification be sent to owners. (Arkansas and Texas are not among them.)

The Center for Auto Safety has been crucial to advocating for robust vehicle safety standards. In the past decade, Ditlow said, the NHTSA, the federal agency overseeing automobile and consumer safety automobiles, has eased restrictions on manufacturers, giving them more leeway to conduct service campaigns.

Unfortunately Elkins' case isn't rare. His confusion isn't either.

"When a company ends a product [like the Northstar engine], it leaves the loyal customer stranded," Ditlow said.

Even if a consumer complains, they often go nowhere. Complaints are directed to the Federal Trade Commission, which among other duties has jurisdiction over automobile companies. "But they often ignore a consumer complaint against the manufacturer," Morton said.

Seeking guidance — and hopefully an advocate as a gay consumer — Elkins turned to Joe LaMuraglia, GM's LGBT liaison, east coast broadcast manager and social media enthusiast. He put him in touch with Cadillac's alternative resolution department.

It's positions like the liaison that affirm GM's commitment to the LGBT community, and garners plenty of points on HRC's Corporate Equality Index.

Before he joined the corporation in 2010, LaMuraglia ran the website Gay Wheels, a gay perspective automobiles and the industry. GM always came first on his list for manufacturers with pro-LGBT practices, he said.

It's what attracted LaMuraglia to the job. He said he's taken the role further, pushing the boundaries while committing himself to the brand.

"I just don't want to check a box," he said. "We want to get LGBT people engaged and push the envelope. We also want them to experience our products."

Measuring the Index's limits

The Corporate Equality Index ranks the country's largest corporations on a 1-to-100 scale, based on a variety of data provided by the corporation. A criterion to be considered, for one, is if corporations have more than 500 U.S.-based employees.

It would be hard to measure something smaller, said Deena Fidas, who oversees the Index as director of the Human Rights Campaign's Workplace Equality Program.

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PRIDE 2014

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To achieve the coveted 100 percent benchmark, corporations must meet the maximum standards in five key areas: equal employment opportunities, employment benefits, organizational LGBT competency, public engagement and responsible citizenship.

The Index is not meant to be a holistic account of all practices, Fidas said. While the criteria for earning a high score are broad, "the [Index's] narrow scope is its strength."

Still, that doesn't mean the annual Index's data points are set in stone. Fidas cited the efforts by an advisor to the program, Diego Sanchez, who worked on standards relating to transition-related care for transgender employees. Feedback is welcome from the public and other organizations, though not all issues fall within the Index's scope, she said.

Fidas said the Index is a gentle nudge with a big impact. It could steer LGBT job-seekers and allies in making employment decisions. More importantly, it can also compel corporations to become more LGBT-friendly.

While participation is voluntary, the results for non-participatory corporations could work against them.

With so many corporations participating, the few who do not are still examined, as is the case with Irving-based ExxonMobil, which has consistently scored zero on the Index.

But the Index's free market approach to advocacy does not sit well with some.

Jerame Davis is the interim director of Pride at Work, an LGBT advocacy organization allied with labor unions based in Washington, D.C. He sees room for accommodation on broader issues with the Corporate Equality Index. But Davis does not believe the corporate benchmark should be sacked.

"Even though the [Index] doesn't look at labor issues, it is only a labor contract in [many] states that has any legal force to protect LGBT workers from discrimination," he said.

Right to work states, like Texas, limit unions' power to compel employees to join. Making union membership voluntary leaves the responsibility of LGBT advocacy to municipalities — and to corporations.

"In 29 states it's legal to fire someone for being LGBT and in 32 states it's legal to fire someone just for being transgender," Davis noted.

Just as pressing are the socio-economic issues the Index does not address.

"T-Mobile has a 100 percent rating [on HRC's Index], but they are also aggressive union busters," Davis said. "The pay disparity between the executives and laborers is also huge."

That's an issue for Chris Rabb, the social impact fellow at Temple University Fox School of Business' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute. He was not familiar with the Index, but considers it to be similar to others.

Confusing outputs with outcomes, indexes forget the explicit role of social justice, Rabb suggested. "Outputs are proxies, the 'warm and fuzzy' standards" that do not scratch the surface of the pressing issues.

"Outcomes are about social inclusion and participatory democracy," he added.

Outcomes give everyone a voice, he said: "While



Todd Elkins

companies may internally respect employees with pro-LGBT and racial employment policies, what if they're still destroying the earth? Do they get points deducted for that?"

He suggests an alternative to evaluating a corporation's social responsibility and commitment to social justice. Instead of narrow criteria evaluated by one organization, a collaborative effort by major civil and human rights organizations using broad criteria could be used in evaluating corporations.

Outreach vs. advocate

The two largest complaints received by Arkansas' consumer protection division involve vehicles and debt collection, said Arkansas' Assistant Attorney General and Division Chief Sarah Tucker. "They'll trade roles for top complaints every year," she said.

Elkins case was more complicated, however.

When a consumer files a complaint with the Arkansas consumer protection division, Tucker said they are often unsure of their desired resolution. Like Elkins, they're upset about a perceived raw deal.

While she is neither an attorney in private practice nor a consumer advocate, Tucker's office initiates "informal complaint mediation," where the consumer and corporation hopeful reach resolution.

The process usually takes a month and mostly reaches a comfortable outcome.

But Elkins' complaint involves two businesses — the dealer and GM — and the large corporation might not respond to inquiries by Tucker's office.

"If they are handling the issue directly with the consumer, they possibly see their process as adequate," she said.

On June 25, Cadillac of Bentonville, a service provider, replied that while they are authorized to repair the car, they do not dictate the parameters for repairs per the service bulletin. Elkins' request to have the warranty cover the engine repairs was ultimately denied.

"The scope of the repairs necessary to fix Mr. Elkins' car do not fall within the guidelines that GM sets forth for warranty repair," wrote Tim Martino, the dealer's fixed operations officer. He should contact General Motors directly.

Elkins took everyone to task for not being attentive to his issue.

"I have worked with Cadillac's Customer Care. I have tweeted Mary Barra, the new CEO of General Motors. I have called the executive offices of General Motors and also filed a consumer reports complaint," he said. And yet, five months later, he still has not heard anything. ■



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The long road home

PRIDE 2014

TRAC program for youth aging out of foster care gives LGBT young people a second chance to succeed

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

As of July 1, there were 1,750,000 homeless people in the United States, according to statistics from the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. Of those, statistics show, 7 percent were unaccompanied minors.

Other studies show that of that 7 percent — or about 122,500 unaccompanied, homeless minors — about 20 percent are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. Compare that to the generally accepted estimate that about 10 percent of all people are LGBT, and it is painfully obvious that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in the overall population of homeless minors.

And that's not even counting LGBT — and Q — young people over the age of 18 and no longer considered minors.

Jerry Sullivan, director of the Transition Resource Action Center at CitySquare, said it's his job to help at least some of these young people find a way off the street and into healthy, productive and safe lives.

Founded by Dallas businessman Jim Sowell in 1988 as the Central Dallas Food Pantry, the organization Sullivan works for was incorporated as a tax-exempt nonprofit in 1990. In 1994, the organization became Central Dallas Ministries. The name changed again in 2010, this time to CitySquare, an organization dedicated to fighting "the root causes of poverty through service, advocacy and friendship."

TRAC, Sullivan's branch of CitySquare, focuses on helping young people who are aging out of the state's foster care system. Many of them, he said, find themselves suddenly left without a family, without a home, without opportunities for furthering their education and without training — or the means to get training — to find a job.

"We are here to help all the youth in this situation, not just the LGBT youth," Sullivan said. "But it's important for the LGBT youth coming out of foster care to know that we are there for them, too, and that we will treat them fairly and with respect, no matter who they are."

Sullivan said that just as with the homeless youth population overall, LGBT young people are "absolutely over-represented" in the population of young people facing homelessness as they age out of foster care. In fact, he said, it seems that LGBT youth are more likely to end up in foster care in the first place, due to abuse or neglect from family members who refuse to accept the youth's LGBT identity.

And LGBT youth placed in the foster care system, Sullivan continued, are less likely to be

adopted or even to find stable, long-term foster care homes.

"Kids who are 'different' just have a harder time," he said. "They are less likely to be reunited with their [biological] families, and less likely to be adopted. It's even harder to get them placed in foster homes where they are accepted."

Because they are often shuffled from one foster home to another, LGBT youth in the foster care system often tend to form unhealthy attachments, or perhaps to learn not to develop any attachments at all, Sullivan said. They tend to find it harder to follow the rules, and often run away from their foster homes.

All that means, he added, that when their time in foster care ends, LGBT youth leave the system with fewer ties, fewer protections and fewer resources. Sullivan said that "the earliest someone can age out of foster care is 18," although some youths can stay in the system until age 22 if they meet specific criteria.

Sullivan said that "about 300 new kids a year" leave the foster care system in Texas. TRAC, he added, works with 800 to 900 young people a year between the ages of 16 and 25 who came out of the foster care system.

He said that there have been some Texas elected officials — Sen. Florence Shapiro, Sen. Jane Nelson and Sen. Royce West among them — who have "been powerful voices for foster youth in general over the years." But still the system is fraught with flaws.

The purpose of TRAC, Sullivan said, is to help these previous foster children to move beyond the shortcomings of the foster care system and set them on the road to a better life. To do that, TRAC offers its clients case management services, job training, basic life skills training and access to two different housing programs.

One of those two housing programs is "permanent supportive housing" program for young people with a mental or physical disability. The list of qualifying physical disabilities, he said, includes HIV/AIDS.

The second program provides transitional housing, with youth getting to share an apartment, rent free, with other young people in the program for three to six months. During that time, TRAC helps them find a job and develop a housing plan and resources that will allow them to move out and live independently, whether that means living on their own or with a roommate.

Sullivan said that while TRAC does what it can to help homeless and at-risk youth in all situations, what the program can do is limited by funding and funding source rules.

"Our programs are funded through different sources, and each source has its own rules about how the funds can be used," Sullivan said. "For instance, the work training program is funded through the foster care system, so only the young people coming out of the foster care system are eligible to participate. But one of the housing pro-

SUCCESS STORIES | Sarah Myers, left, and Starr Rodriguez say TRAC helped them get their lives on track. (Tammye Nash/DallasVoice)



grams is funded by [the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development]. Their rules are different, so we are able to broaden our reach a little bit there.

"But our goal, ultimately, is to expand our services to a broader population of youth — those com-

ing out of the juvenile justice system, runaways," he continued. "But to do that, we have to find diversified funding sources that will allow us to serve that broader population."

There are other resources around the Metroplex for homeless youth, Sullivan noted, adding that

TRAC works with those agencies when possible. Those resources include Promise House, which primarily services homeless and runaway teenagers, and Our Friends Place and the Juliette Fowler Homes' new Ebby's House, both of which provide housing for homeless girls.

Sullivan said Promise House welcomes LGBT youth and both Our Friends Place and Ebby's House accept lesbians. He did not know, though, if male-to-female transgender teens are accepted at the two housing programs for girls.

And even though these programs accept LGBT youth, the guidelines and accommodations are not necessarily comfortable for LGBT youth. "The question is, do our LGBT youth need a separate program just for them, or do they just need the existing programs and resources to be supportive and respectful?" Sullivan said.

"I think there is possibly a need for a small, transitional housing program just for LGBT youth, some place where they could really feel safe and feel like they are respected and understood," he continued. "I think if there was money available for such a program, there are organizations already in place that could come together to manage it — organizations like TRAC and Resource Center and Youth First."

(Youth First, formerly Youth First Texas, is a program for LGBT youth people that is part of Dallas' LGBT community center, Resource Center.)

"The goal, no matter how we do it, is to give these young people a place to live, a chance to work, so they are not living on the streets, turning tricks and getting addicted to drugs," Sullivan said.

Success stories

LGBT young people in foster care — and coming out of the foster care system — often start out with the odds stacked against them. But for two young women, TRAC has helped even the playing field.

Sarah Myers, now 23, said she "lived in foster care my whole life." She spent her first 12 years with a guardian who then rejected her, leaving her to be forced to "jump from one foster care home to another."

"Because of what happened with my guardian, I ended up with PTSD and some anger issues, and I had a hard time adjusting to new foster families," Myers said. "Sometimes the foster family wanted me to be moved, and sometimes I asked to be moved because the family was abusive, or because of religious issues."

At one point, she said, she discovered her biological family in Fort Worth. "But they rejected me, too, because I was gay," and that just added the stress of her life. She graduated from high school in Athens, Texas, and in August 2010, at age 19, she finally made her way to Dallas.

"I found Youth First, and I was so happy to finally know I wasn't the only gay person in the

world," Myers said.

That's also when she found TRAC, and "I finally got the break I needed," Myers said. "Because they were there for me, because they supported me, I was able to find an apartment. I have lived in my apartment now for two years, and it's all because of TRAC.

"You know, I suffer from severe depression, too, and I have been through some really bad times," Myers added. "And the people here at TRAC have been there for me through it all. I don't think I would have made it this far alive without them."

Starr Rodriguez, 19, also credits TRAC with pulling her through and giving her a chance at a brighter future.

Rodriguez spent six-and-a-half years in the foster care system without ever finding someplace she could settle down.

"I had always known I was different, all my life. And I was always trying to find myself," she said. "The foster families didn't like me because I was different, so I always ran away. I moved around a lot, from Austin to Houston, and then I came here, to Dallas."

She said she was living on the streets, with "no home and nowhere to go" when someone at Parkland Hospital told her to call TRAC.

"Now, because of TRAC, I have a job. I have a roof over my head. I have connections and resources," Rodriguez said. "I feel like I'm an actual person now."

But Rodriguez, who works as a cook and a server for Resource Center's hot meals program, isn't satisfied just finding a better life for herself. She wants to take the opportunities she's found through TRAC and Resource Center and Promise House and use them to help others young people who are where she used to be.

"I want to be as helpful to other people as the people [at TRAC and Resource Center] have been to me," Rodriguez said. "I love helping people, especially people like me, trans children like I was. I'd like to be a counselor, and I want to create a shelter for LGBT kids, give them a safe haven like I have found here.

"You know, when you are helping someone else, you have to open your hands," Rodriguez said. "And blessings can only come to you when your hands are open. I want to bless other people and be blessed myself." ■

• For information on volunteering with or donating to CitySquare's Transition Resource Action Center, contact Jerry Sullivan at 214-370-9300, ext. 3032.

• For information on volunteering with or donating to Youth First at Resource Center, contact Michael Cruz by email at jmcruz@myresourcecenter.org.

• For information on Juliette Fowler Communities' Ebby House, contact Ann McKinley at 214-827-0813, ext. 1336.

• For information on Our Friends Place, contact Sue Hesselstine at 214-520-6268.

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LHT celebrates 25 years

PRIDE 2014

Legal Hospice of Texas has slowly transformed from an agency that helped clients end their lives with dignity to one that saves lives

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Legal Hospice of Texas Legal Director Joel Lazarine has been with the agency for 20 years. He volunteered for LHT for several years before actually joining the staff, when his own partner was diagnosed with HIV and needed to get his legal paperwork in order.

Lazarine said in the early years, many of the calls he fielded were from people asking how they should approach their employer about their HIV diagnosis.

"They were very afraid," Lazarine said. "Afraid they'd lose their insurance. This was before the ADA."

(The American with Disabilities Act gives federal civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age and religion. People with HIV are covered by the ADA.)

Before ADA protections, Lazarine said many people who contacted the Legal Hospice were afraid to even give attorneys their full names. He recently came across some old files simply marked "John #1," "John #2" and "John #3."

In the early years of LHT, then called Dallas Legal Hospice, every case was handled as an emergency, Lazarine said. Simple legal tasks like writing a will were often done under pressure because the document had to be completed and signed while the person was still "of sound mind."

Many people dealing with AIDS-related illnesses dealt with the disease by not thinking about death until they were very sick. Lazarine said those wills and powers of attorney had to be drafted quickly before the client was no longer able to sign the papers.

Since its founding, LHT's mission has expanded from just serving people in Dallas with HIV to also providing legal services to anyone with a terminal illness, and the organization now covers a 16-county area of North Texas.

Executive Director Tony Lokash said a team of volunteer attorneys handles mostly estate planning cases, while staff attorneys deal with more complicated employment and disability cases. He said he'd love to expand his volunteer base so that he had one or two attorneys in each of the counties in LHT's jurisdiction.

Lazarine said in the mid-90s as more people got on medication, the case load shifted. Today, about a third of the cases are estate planning cases. Another third deal with employment, insurance, housing and credit issues.

As HIV has become a manageable disease, obtaining disability and getting social security bene-

fits has become more difficult and those are the final third of the cases LHT handles. Originally, much of the legal work by LHT helped people with AIDS die with dignity and helped a surviving partner remain in his own house. Now, some of the work LHT is able to do is saving people's lives.

Lokash described a case involving veteran's assistance.

"Dave is a U.S. Army veteran with AIDS," Lokash said. "He came to LHT asking for assistance with a disability claim he had filed with the Veteran's Administration."

At the time of his enlistment, Dave tested negative, but his disability claim was denied. The V.A. ruled it as a pre-existing condition. He became homeless and failed to file a timely appeal.

When LHT obtained Dave's V.A. file, the HIV test information was missing. An attorney investigated, located the lab that does the Army's HIV testing and got a copy of the original negative test.

Based on the new evidence, LHT got the case reopened and he's currently going through a V.A. disability review.

Lazarine told the story of another current client caught in a seemingly no-win situation.

"Robert came to us bed-bound, unable to advocate for himself and needing a double hip replacement because of bilateral AIDS-related hip necrosis," he said.

Robert was visiting hospital ERs regularly for pain management, but he lacked insurance and lived in Collin County, which has no public hospital and refuses to pay Parkland to care for its indigent residents.

"He came to us trying to secure a way to pay for his much-needed surgery," Lazarine said.

When LHT helped him reapply for Medicaid and Social Security, Robert was denied again because his condition was operable and not permanently disabling. Working with a doctor, LHT got him the necessary documentation to get approval for disability and insurance to cover his past and future hospital visits.

Currently he's waiting for Parkland to schedule the surgery that will be covered by his insurance. After surgery, doctors expect him to walk again.

Recently, Lazarine helped another client collect money as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy. The client is HIV-positive and helped take care of someone else battling AIDS. They were friends, but not partners, and the client expected to receive nothing when his friend died.

After his friend's death, the client found out he was the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. But to collect, he'd need a copy of his friend's death certificate. The friend's family refused to cooperate, possibly hoping they'd collect the money themselves, Lazarine said.

Lazarine said because the process was lengthy, the client was ready to give up, but he convinced his client

that a standard life insurance policy was usually \$5,000 and often \$10,000, so it was worth pursuing.

Through its connections, LHT was able to obtain a death certificate from the state and the client received his settlement — \$200,000.

Lazarine said the money changed his client's life. Unable to do his former job because of his own HIV-related condition, the client is back in school, training for work that's less stressful and less physically demanding.

Over its 25-year history, LHT has helped more than 13,000 people. That doesn't include the hundreds of calls they get every month from people asking a simple question or needing a referral.

Despite the agency having expanded its mission to serve those with any terminal illness, about 90 percent of LHT clients are HIV-positive.

In the past year, LHT has helped more than 600 people, and Lokash said the value of those services is estimated at \$611,000 delivered free of charge to the community.

Despite that, Lazarine wishes he could do more because of "the amount of need out there," he said.

Former LHT Executive Director Roger Wedell said Lazarine's priority has always been doing what's best for the client.

"He could be doing a lot of different things making mega-bucks," Wedell said. "But that's not where his passion or dedication is."

Lazarine said he gets something from working at LHT that he'd never see working elsewhere.

"The gratitude of our clients," he said. ■



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Oak Lawn Library to house 2nd largest LGBT collection in U.S.

PRIDE 2014



BOOK WORM | Oak Lawn Library branch manager Angie Bartula peeks out from behind a pile of books that will give her branch the second largest LGBT collection in the U.S. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

ilume developer Luke Crosland donated 6,000 books acquired from the Stonewall Museum and Archives in Fort Lauderdale

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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When ilume donates 6,000 volumes to the Oak Lawn Library on Sept. 20, Dallas will have the second-largest collection of LGBT reading material in the world, after the Stonewall National Museum and Archives located in Fort Lauderdale.

Luke Crosland, developer of ilume and ilume Park on Cedar Springs Road, acquired 6,000 books from the Fort Lauderdale museum. He then worked with Cynthia Smoot of Gangway Advertising to bring those books to Dallas.

"The Stonewall Museum is well known in the LGBT community for its archives, so it receives many donations throughout the year from people all across the country," Smoot said.

She said over the years, Stonewall Museum has received duplicates of 6,000 books, giving the Fort Lauderdale library a surplus. That's where Crosland came in.

Crosland said he made a donation two years ago to the Oak Lawn Branch of The Dallas Public Library to help build an LGBT literature collection there. Recently, "Through a resident of ilume, we learned of the Stonewall Museum collection availability and we believed the community and library would benefit from being able to expand its collection in one fell swoop," Crosland added.

Crosland was in Fort Lauderdale looking at property. While he was there, he met with David Jobin, executive director of the Stonewall Museum. That's how he learned about the duplicate

books in the library's collection.

"I believe that this is a significant milestone for Dallas in being able to house the largest collection of GLBT literature outside of the Stonewall Museum in the United States," Crosland said.

Ronald Radwanski, owner of the ilume Galerie, worked with Jobin and Angie Bartula, manager of the Oak Lawn branch of the Dallas Public Library, to facilitate the donation process.

To get the books here, Crosland flew two associates to Miami where they rented a truck, Radwanski said. Before loading the truck, he said, they pulled out several hundred of the most current titles as well as about 100 vintage books.

Bartula said they first heard about the availability of the collection in March but things began moving forward quickly in August.

Dallas Public Library Director Jo Giudice helped negotiate the logistics.

"There was some concern because it's a very large collection," Bartula said. "Oak Lawn doesn't have a lot of space."

She said the LGBT collection now is half non-fiction, adding, "We're excited to have some newer fiction titles."

Bartula said the Stonewall Museum people helped by pulling out what she calls "The Hot 500," which will be among the books available when the collection is dedicated on Saturday.

Because of the amount of staff time it takes to enter books into the system, the initial collection will be loaned on an honor system, she said.

Bartula is excited to have these books available for Pride weekend and said she's having a blast just going through all of the books she'll be able to offer.

"I haven't even had time to explore the vintage collection yet," she said.

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Equality Texas adds staff and board members

PRIDE 2014

Freedom to Marry is collaborating with the Austin lobby group to prepare for 5th Circuit marriage equality cases

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Equality Texas recently added two Dallasites to its boards of directors and increased its staff by three. The new staffers were brought on board to file amicus briefs with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and deal with municipal nondiscrimination ordinances.

For the new legislative session in January, Executive Director Chuck Smith said he hoped to add four to six legislative interns and policy analysts.

New staff

Among the new positions are marriage coordinator and faith outreach coordinator. Funded by the national group Freedom to Marry, these positions are temporary and scheduled to run through the end of this year. This week, each of those staff members filed an amicus brief with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans supporting marriage equality in a case pending before that court. No date has been set for that court to hear the case.

Durrel Douglas is marriage coordinator and working out of the Equality Texas Houston office. He is collecting stories of first responders throughout Texas affected by the lack of marriage equality in Texas.

"His work is in support of Texas couples who put their lives on the line," Smith said.

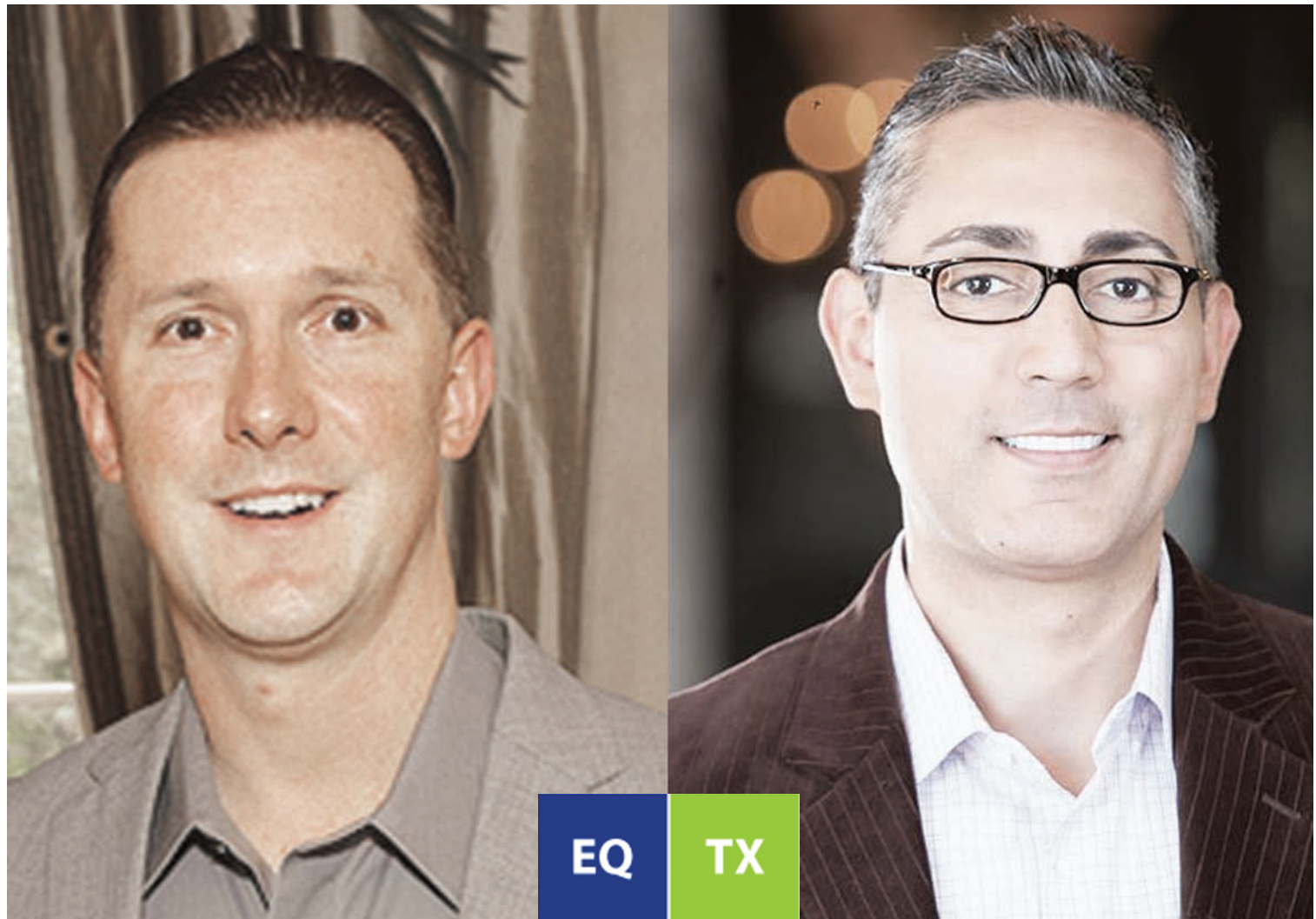
Fort Worth Police Cpl. Tracey Knight, FWPD's LGBT liaison, married her partner Shannon in California. They have a daughter. In an Equality Texas appeal, she wrote that it bothered her when she had to explain to her daughter why some people can marry in their home state and others can't.

For 20 years, she wrote, she has been honored to respond to 911 calls and, if she has to, put her life on the line. But, she added, "It bothers me that families like mine aren't granted the same basic freedom to marry as so many others in the state that we love and call home."

Other stories of first responders who've put their lives on the line, but can't protect their children should they be killed in the line of duty are included in the amicus brief to the court.

Daniel B. Williams of Austin is Equality Texas' new faith outreach coordinator, collaborating with Texas Freedom Network as well as Freedom to Marry. Coincidentally, this is the second Daniel Williams on staff for Equality Texas. Daniel Williams of Houston is an Equality Texas field organizer.

The new faith outreach coordinator is "finding voices of faith that can say they support equality because of their faith," Smith said.



DALLASITES FOR EQUALITY | Eric Johnson, left, chairs the Texas Equity PAC, and Joseph Hernandez joined the board of Equality Texas Foundation.

The brief that clergy are signing says, "Within our faith contexts, we are able to choose to perform or not perform marriages, and marriage equality will not change that fundamental principle. However, for those of us whose traditions allow, it will finally remove a long-standing obstacle to our pastoral care, allowing us to minister equally to all couples in our communities."

Among those who signed that brief in Dallas are the Rev. Jim Mitulski of Cathedral of Hope, the Rev. Jo Hudson, the Rev. Colleen Darraugh of Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas and the Rev. Eric Folkerth of Northaven United Methodist Church and others.

Smith said he expects marriage equality to come to Texas through judicial action, not by legislative process.

"A judicial decision doesn't change hearts and minds," he said. "Telling stories does elevate public support."

Robert Salcido is Equality Texas' new field organizer who opened a new San Antonio office.

"He's there to work on the next steps with the nondiscrimination ordinance," Smith said.

San Antonio passed an ordinance a year ago and two LGBT discrimination claims have been filed so far. Salcido's job will be to educate the

community on how to navigate the process and work on expanding the ordinance to cover all private employment.

Equality Texas has had a Houston office in place for more than a year, assisting with passage of that city's nondiscrimination ordinance. Because Dallas and Fort Worth have had protections in place for more than a decade, the priority has been to work with the two largest cities whose LGBT citizens have no protection.

For the new legislative session, Smith said protections in employment, housing and public accommodations are a priority. But until there's a legislature likely to pass such laws, Equality Texas will work on municipal ordinances to gain those protections for a million people — or less — at a time.

New board members

New board members include Eric Johnson and Joseph Hernandez from Dallas.

Johnson, chair of Texas Equity PAC, is an elementary school teacher who was a semi-finalist this year for DISD teacher of the year. He also co-chairs Lambda Legal's Dallas leadership committee.

"I was honored to be asked to serve as chair for the Texas Equity PAC — the PAC 'arm' of Equality Texas," Johnson said, adding that "2014 is an exciting year in Texas politics. I felt it was the perfect time to lead an organization that is supporting LGBT and LGBT-allies as candidates statewide in their races this election year."

Joseph Hernandez is the assistant vice president for compliance for a national mortgage lender who ran for Dallas City Council in 2007. He serves on the board of Equality Texas Foundation, the educational nonprofit arm of Equality Texas, and said he was honored to join the Equality Texas board.

"It's a privilege to have a seat at the table of such a worthwhile organization that is paving the way for LGBT Texans," Hernandez said.

He said in addition to adding staff, part of the organization's strategic plan is to increase membership. Targeting awareness in rural communities is also part of the plan.

"As our only statewide LGBT organization, Equality Texas is working hard to educate Texans about the tax consequences facing same-sex married couples and advocating towards legislative issues that impact our community in a positive way," he said. ■

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Working for change in the church

PRIDE 2014

Rather than leave the Catholic Church for a more liberal spiritual home, Cathy Gonzalez chose to stay and fight to make the church more accepting for her lesbian daughter and other LGBT people

RENEE BAKER | Contributing Writer
nash@dallasvoice.com

Cathy Gonzalez is not shy about speaking up to the Catholic Church on LGBT equality and justice — two words that have deeply personal meaning for her and her family.

When her own daughter came out as a lesbian 10 years ago, Gonzalez listened and she got involved. Though it wasn't easy at first, her journey toward understanding her daughter and her subsequent activism in the church has been worth it.

And she wants parents of other children coming out to also listen, to recognize they won't have all the answers at first and to still "love their children as they did before they came out."



Cathy Gonzalez

Born in post-Nazi Germany in 1952, and now a Little Elm resident, Gonzalez comes from a devout Catholic family. But her Christian family did not come through the World War II Holocaust unscathed. Gonzalez' mother was sent to a concentration camp for being sympathetic to Jewish families — helping the local priest provide desperately needed food and clothing. Unfortunately, her less-than sympathetic husband, an SS officer, reported the activist mother as well as Gonzalez' aunt to the authorities.

Gonzalez' aunt, an outspoken woman, was shot in the head by a camp guard for "demanding

rights as German citizens." Seeing her sister's execution first hand, Gonzalez said her mother "shut down, emotionally and verbally" and ultimately was not able to raise all of her nine children. Eight were given up for adoption, and the ninth "was really more of a mother than my mother was," Gonzalez said.

Naturally, the family was no longer intact and this had great "mental health ramifications" for everyone, she said.

Gonzalez said, "Knowing the details of my birth mother being sent to a concentration camp was one of two things that were pivotal for me. I first developed a strong sense of the horrors of segregation and racial profiling."

"Secondly," she continued, "I witnessed the racial strife growing up in Texas — separate bathrooms and water fountains, cousins talking disrespectfully to their black housekeeper, and the infamous race riots."

All of these unjust events served to only steady Gonzalez's "moral compass," knowing as she already did that "the injustices went against the teachings that I was learning at church, that Jesus loves everyone."

And Gonzalez knew that this included her lesbian daughter, too, even if the Catholic Church doctrine had dissenting views on same-sex behavior. She said her daughter, who chose not to be included in this article, was at first upset with her for choosing to stay with the Catholic Church. Today, the church still holds that while same-sex desire is not a sin, acting upon it is.

Gonzalez, who now attends the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Frisco said, "I felt I had two choices. Either I could leave the church and go somewhere more liberal, or stay in my Catholic Church and affect change."

She chose the latter, and is optimistic about church growth.

"With Pope Francis publicly stating 'Who am I to judge?'

when it comes to gay matters," Gonzalez said, "I am continuing to see small changes being made within the church." She said she considers the new pope to be a true humanitarian.

Gonzalez, who is working on her doctoral degree in Christian counseling, said she finds that many parents of LGBT children are afraid of losing their church families and afraid their children will lose their souls.

"Family members are worried about rejection from their spiritual family if they love their [LGBT] child," she said. And as such, she said she "most definitely finds families do reject their children on

this basis to stay in church."

The 62-year old-mother and ecumenical singer said these are mistaken theological beliefs. To try and help families understand that their children are always "children of God" and "still part of the church family," she has given numerous talks on the subject.

To further her work, Gonzalez is focusing her doctoral dissertation on opening up diverse boundaries in the church promoting inclusivity. She is also currently developing an LGBT education curriculum, focused on bullying in schools, that she hopes will be approved for teaching 'tweens and teens in Catholic schools.

Gonzalez' activism has taken her beyond the church, too. Known by many in the Metroplex LGBT community, Gonzalez has served as co-chair of the former board of directors at Youth First Texas and is a former director of the Ally Program at the University of North Texas in Denton.

When Gonzalez first reached out after her daughter came out, she turned to the Dallas chapter of PFLAG — Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The local chapter was able to provide her with a vast array of resources to help her come to terms.

Of the spiritual teachers she found helpful, she singles out the books of the late Harvard theologian the Rev. Peter Gomes, especially *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. Gonzalez said Gomes' teachings shed new light on LGBT matters. (Gomes was declared "an accidental gay advocate" by the Huffington Post after being targeted and harassed by homophobic Harvard students that tried to remove him as university minister for being gay, even though he was celibate.)

Today, Gonzalez said, she actively prays "for the safety of all LGBT people and for change in the doctrine of the Catholic Church." She said she hopes that "priests will adapt and share the correct [LGBT teachings] on Catholic theology with their congregations."

Until the church comes around, Gonzalez said, children remain at risk.

"Many LGBT youth today lose their primary support systems due to rejection and that is heartbreaking to me," Gonzalez said.

Still, she remains optimistic, hoping that others will come forth and become allies, to humble themselves, and to work with youth, to lend their voices to the political processes and to speak out in their spiritual community.

Gonzalez said she never really knew her German-speaking birth mother because she was adopted by American parents. But she did briefly meet and hug her birth mother when she was 80 years old, not long before she died. In a similar spirit to that of her mother's desire to help others, even in the face of adversity, Gonzalez continues the quest for equality and justice.

She does so, she said, "because it is the right thing to do."

Renee Baker is a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern and can be reached at www.Renee-Baker.com. ■



LIBRARY, From Page 46

She said she'll put as many books out in the stacks as she can, and then talk to other branches about adding books on their shelves. The North Oak Cliff branch also offers an LGBT collection. Many LGBT titles are kept downtown as well, though not in one designated section.

The Stonewall National Museum and Archives has about 25,000 books in its collection dating from the 1950s to the present. The collection began in 1973 by a student at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He stored the collection in his family home in Hollywood, Fla.

When he moved to New York in 1984, the collection had grown too large to take with him, so he found a permanent home for it at the Metropolitan Community Church.

After more growth and several more moves, the museum, archives and library now offers a distinguished author lecture series, film programs, writer's workshops, art exhibitions and has a community space that receives more than 8,000 visitors a year. ■

Stonewall National Museum's curator and director, David Joban, will attend a cocktail party in the lobby of ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. at 6 p.m. on Sept. 19. The formal dedication of what will be known as the ilume® LGBT Collection takes place at the Oak Lawn branch, 4100 Cedar Springs at 11 a.m. on Sept. 20.

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PRIDE Calendar

PRIDE 2014



LifeWalk on Oct. 5.

September

• Sept. 19-20: Pride Performing Arts Festival

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

• 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: CinèWilde Presents “Longtime Companion”

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. rlc365.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. 20: Building Powerful and Healthy Relationships: HIV Testing

Workshop at St. James A.M.E. Church, 1107 E. Oak St., Denton. Noon–3 p.m.

• 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: National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

• 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: Evening benefiting the Dallas County Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign

Beverages and food trucks. 401 Exposition Street. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

• 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. 3: Festive Fall Gathering

Private home, 3905 Summercrest Drive, Fort Worth. \$75 benefits Equality Texas. Rep. Marc Veasey is special guest.

• Oct. 3: HRC Reception for Rep. Krysten Sinema

1400 Hi Line Drive, 6th floor. VIP reception: 5-6 p.m., reception: 6-7:30 p.m. \$250-2,600. 214-269-7761.

• Oct. 3: Burgers & Burgundy

Private home, 4637 Meadowood Road. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Chefs John Tesar and Blaine Staniford in a foodie fundraiser for DIFFA.

• Oct. 4: Tarrant County Pride parade, festival

Parade steps off at Weatherford and Houston St. Noon-6 p.m. TCGPWA.org

• Oct. 4: Inclusive Counseling's LGBT Adoption Options

Jonathan's Place, 6065 Duck Creek Road, Garland. 11 a.m. RSVP therapy@inclusivecounseling.com

• 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

Rose Marine Theater, 1440 N. Main St., Fort Worth. Qcinema.org

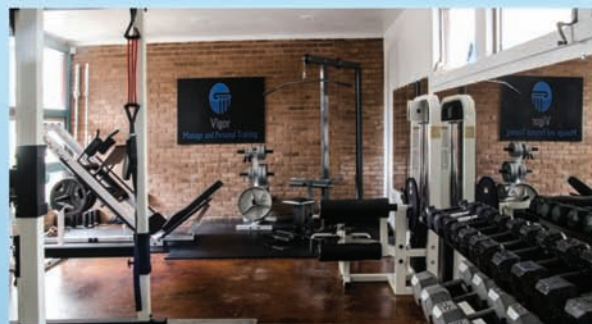
• Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day

• Oct. 12: Jennings Street Festival

Jennings Avenue between Pennsylvania Ave. and W. Cannon. 2-8 p.m. benefits AIDS Outreach



Jackie K. Jones Memorial Bike Ride, Sept. 27.



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PRIDE Calendar

PRIDE 2014

■ CALENDAR, From Page 53

Center.

- **Oct. 12: Spirit Day**
Stand with LGBT youth against against bullying
- **Oct. 15: DIFFA Style Council party**
Announcement of the 2015 Season Style Council and Legends members. Neiman Marcus, 1618 Main St. 6 p.m.
- **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. 19: Great Gatsby Party**
Benefits AIDS Interfaith Network. The home of Faye C. Briggs, 5909 Desco Drive. 3-6 p.m. AIDSInterfaithnetwork.org
- **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](https://www.facebook.com/Events/776039205742083)

November

- **Nov. 13: Holiday Wreath Collection**
Galleria Dallas, 13350 Dallas Parkway. 6:30 p.m. \$50.
- **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](https://www.facebook.com/TransDOR.Dallas).

December

- **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day**

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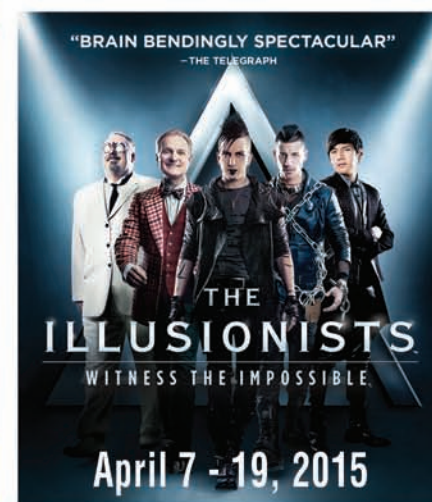
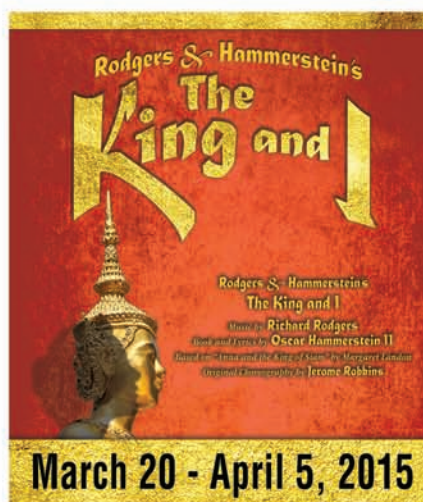
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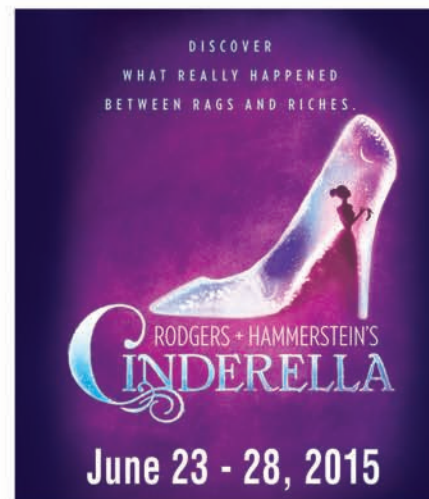
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Reclaiming our joy



MARCH ON WASHINGTON | Participants in a march sponsored by the National Gay Task Force file past the White House in Washington, Oct. 14, 1979. (Dennis Cook/Associated Press)

We've been through so much and the struggle continues. But we can't forget to truly celebrate ourselves and our community

I didn't sleep much that night. The sounds of my three roommates snoring and having sex kept me awake — well, that and the excitement of the event we were about to attend made sleeping an optional activity. Such is youth.

Later that morning I joined several hundred fellow Texans and several hundred thousand other Americans as we marched through the streets of Washington to the National Mall where the 1979 March on Washington held its rally to demand lesbian and gay rights.

We were still working on just who we were as a people and "LGBT" had yet to become the moniker. We had put lesbian first out of deference



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

to the "male privilege" that we had only recently come to understand.

This was only 10 years after the Stonewall Riots and the movement was still defining itself.

I was reminded of this momentous occasion recently when I received a gift from a friend. It was a copy of the program for the march, and it brought back a flood of memories, both good and bad.

As I read through the pages of the program, I realized that not only had our movement grown and matured, we had still failed to produce the results that first march demanded.

As I read them I realized how few had actually come to pass. They seem like perfectly reasonable requests. They are simple and straightforward and, frankly, if met would solve most of the problems still facing us today, 35 years later:

- Pass a comprehensive lesbian/gay rights bill in Congress.
- Issue a presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal government, the military, and federally contracted private employment.
- Repeal all anti-lesbian/gay laws.
- End discrimination in lesbian-mother and gay-father custody cases.
- Protect lesbian and gay youth from any laws which are used to discriminate, oppress, and/or harass them in their homes, schools, jobs and social environments.

Depending on the state in which you live, some of these may already be moot. But here in Texas, that is not the case.

The organizers of that 1979 march realized that a state-by-state reform would only delay true equality and the incremental victories would only reinforce the inequality.

If things were going to really change, they knew back then, that change had to be at the federal level.

With the exception of adding "bisexual and transgender" to the "lesbian/gay" wording, this list of needs should still be our goal today. Instead, we are squabbling over same-sex marriage as though it would solve everything. It won't. Though there are legal protections and privileges that marriage grants, it is not full and equal protection under the law.

The other part of the program that really affected me was the closing paragraph:

"Today in the Capital of America, we are all here, the almost liberated and the slightly repressed; the Butch, the Femme and Everything In-Between; the Androgynous; the Monogamous and the Promiscuous; the Masturbators and the Fellators and the Tribadists; Men in Dresses and Women in Neckties; those who Bite and those who Cuddle; Diesel Dykes and Nelly Queens; Amazons and Size Queens, Yellow, Black, Brown, White, and Red; the Shorthaired and the Long, the Fat and the Thin; the Nude and the Prude; the Beauties and the Beasts; the Studs and the Duds; the Communes, the Couples, and the Singles; Pubescents and the Octogenarians. Yes, We Are All Here! We Are Everywhere! Welcome to the 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights!"

In that paragraph was the spirit of the march, and it's something we need to re-read today. The

joy and celebratory tone was dampened by the intervening year of the HIV/AIDS crisis, and it is something we should claim as our own beyond our legal rights as citizens of the United States. It is joy!

We must not let our sexuality and our identity become too grim. Yes, we have faced oppression. Yes, we have been ravaged by an epidemic. Yes, we have been demonized and mocked and chided. Yes, we have been struggling.

But we are still here and we are still everywhere.

America is still uncomfortable with us, and some would say that if we just blended in and disappeared we would have fewer problems. I say that is America's problem, not ours.

We deserve the right to be different and still be treated as equal under the law. We deserve the right to our culture and our own definition of family without being discriminated against under the law. We deserve the freedom to express our sexuality, our originality, our creativity and still be treated with equality.

It is our birthright as Americans.

We are talking about human rights, and that is something we shouldn't have to struggle for. But those rights are worth every bit of effort, heartache and pain.

We will win eventually. We can do it with grim determination or while celebrating the crazy sexy rainbow people we are. I vote for the latter.

After all "gay" means happy, too. ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



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New gay stars

Emerson Collins suggests its time to create our own out gay icons

We would have far more gay stars if we would make more gay artists into stars. It really is that simple. The impact of the gay community on our culture — through our disproportionate influence in the media, pop culture and news, along with our much-buzzed-about buying power — should make it extremely easy to propel gay artists to the forefront of the American cultural conversation.



We have done so in many areas already. We are significantly and successfully represented by respected experts and geniuses at the pinnacle of many of the arts, especially in fields where the artist is the driving force behind the work: Writers (including screenwriters, novelists, playwrights, journalists, non-fiction and activist writers); visual artists; behind-the-scenes types in film and television (directors, producers and series creators and the accompanying creative departments). There are choreographers, fashion designers and the catch-all “creative directors” in nearly every industry. We’ve exploded most noticeable in the area of “personalities” as talking-heads experts on a myriad of topics and as the standout characters from all avenues of reality programming.

Where we continue to be under-represented, despite the recent trend of higher-profile nonchalant coming out adventures, is in the two areas that allow the opportunity for the greatest level of cultural saturation: singer (or musician) and actor.

For better or worse, these professions sit atop the pyramid of celebrity and influence in modern American culture. While we fill the ranks of the support systems of these two professions, we are not represented as we could be — and should be — as the talent out front.

(Resist the urge to count off currently notable out gay musicians and actors. The fact that it is possible to name nearly everyone of note in both categories does not counter my point, but reinforces it.)

Why is this the case? Certainly the resistance of certain swaths of Duck Dynasty America to embrace gay on any level has kept those that hold the purse strings from introducing gay artists because it brings an unknown factor that has little to do with the TV show, film or album being promoted. Openly gay actors and musicians could fill a volume of encyclopedias with horror stories of being shut down by casting directors, filmmakers, music venues, labels, etc., unwilling to take the “risk” on a gay artist. The motivations behind the business side of the delay are sadly not a mystery.

No, what I’m interested in the lack of enthusi-

asm and support *by the community* for fledgling gay singers and actors. As a community, we will fangirl like Beliebers for singers, actors and projects with a gay sensibility. Every diva has her diehard gay fanbase, esteemed actresses of any era can induce hour-long monologue tributes to the greatness of their ranges and shows, films and albums with gay-friendly themes or camp appeal are often defended to the death.

But things that are directly, outright and completely gay? Those we seem permanently ambivalent or outright derisive about. Bravo (which, full disclosure, I appear on via *The People’s Couch*) and HGTV have legions of loyal gay fans. Logo has received sneers for its entire existence (*Drag Race* being the exception). Films with gay storylines from straight filmmakers with straight actors receive our thunderous applause, while gay films from gay writers and directors, *with* gay actors — if not snubbed completely — rarely register. If you’ve never heard “ugh, all gay films are terrrrrrible” said before, then you’ve never been in a discussion about gay films.

Whitney, Mariah, Gaga, Madonna, Justin Timberlake or John Legend make new music and a massive gay following goes all One Directioner-level crazy. Adam Lambert? He’s all right. Clay Aiken? Ha-ha-ha (insert punchline). TV series with a gay sensibility like *Girls* are heralded as the best thing on television. *Looking*, by all accounts from the gay blogosphere, was basically on par with *Sarah Palin’s Alaska*.

There seems to be a permanent refrain cheering loudly for token storylines on popular vehicles and celebrating the gay-friendly rather than working to find and promote the actually and absolutely gay. We’ve taken our adoration for the celebrity straight ally into nearly fetish territory. Sexy, straight allies get our covers and huge feature stories because we’re so glad that Adam Levine or Josh Hutcherson like us.

I’m not knocking our allies or the importance of reinforcing our support for them when they step up and publicly support us. Wielding our influence to show them we appreciate them being in this fight with us is important. I’m simply saying that at the absolute least, showing the same level of enthusiasm for those that *actually and directly* represent us because they *are* us should be easy to do. And we don’t.

A straight guy plays gay and we laud him (well, if he’s hot) and he gets to be the featured story across all gay media. Gay actors and gay musicians and gay filmmakers and gay films do not receive equal time and attention, even from gay media and press. They never have. I realize the reality is, gay media and news outlets need sales and clicks so they continue to exist to tell our stories at the level they do. They have a business to run.



THE OUT LIST | LGBT musicians Steve Grand, Sam Smith and Frank Ocean, and actors Laverne Cox, Neil Patrick Harris and Jane Lynch are all out and proud ... but why aren’t there more we embrace?

However, the rest of us could show them that stories that don’t just recycle the entertainment news from every other news site and blog, but with a gay twist or perspective, are actually interesting to us by paying attention. If we showed up, showed we cared about new and definitively gay artists, actors and content that cannot be found in any other aspect of the news media ... they would give us more of it.

So while straight actors tell our stories, gay actors don’t get to play gay often because they aren’t well-known enough and so many established straight actors are now thrilled at the chance to do it because it’s so “brave.” Gay actors also rarely get to play straight either, again — not famous enough, and of course there’s the scary risk that the audience “might be able to tell” or worse, if they know he’s gay, they “won’t buy the story.”

A straight rapper puts out an LGBT-affirming track and wins every award known to music. A gay singer sings about that actual experience from the inside, and he struggles to get booked in the terribly-attended afternoon slots at Prides. Can you name five openly gay musicians beyond the standard 10-or-so listicle tokens? Or two? Or even

one that you are as passionate about as the gay-friendly ally musicians?

The immediate response I regularly receive to this particular soapbox amounts to some variation of self-righteous tastemaker indignation stating, “we shouldn’t have to like something just because it is gay!” ... as though there is some code of ethics we must adhere to as arbiters of taste lest we lose our credibility as the great Columbus of all things new and wonderful in pop culture America. Like defending a work or artist that is gay but has imperfections, or isn’t fully-formed as an artist, will destroy our integrity because we appear to like it just because it’s gay.

Oh shut up. Seriously. Shut up.

We will defend to the death the rough edges, plot problems and personal issues of our films, shows and artists of choice because we see the inherent genius in them despite the flaws. However, when it comes to similarly championing something or someone actually gay, we are unwilling to do so if they aren’t the perfect specimen of all that is gay, along with being a similarly perfect human being and activist.

Eloquent but not arrogant. Stunningly gorgeous but not caught up in it. Spectacularly gifted by just the right amount of humble. Harvey Milk meets Laurence Olivier meets John Lennon with a six-pack and bedroom eyes.

While we wait for that never-going-to-happen guy to appear, we go overboard to show just how completely aware we are of its flaws by rushing to be the harshest critics and the first to be “so not impressed.” We stand with our arms crossed, one hip popped out, and an eyebrow raised while projecting an air of, “all right homo, impress me.” When we aren’t impressed, we eat our own. With relish.

This is the crux of the issue. The greatest inhibitor to using our massive cultural reach to actually push some of our own to the levels of stardom that create icons is seems ultimately to be a resistance to seeing one of us succeed beyond the rest of us. We all struggled. We all worked to become confident in who we are. We’re all special. Why should one of us be more special than the rest of us? That hot straight guy we want to be or want to bed — he’s special. That diva we want to be who sings the song that lives in our soul — she’s special. That actress who stands up to the same men we have to stand up to and chews the scenery off the walls — she’s special. That homo who might have a talent in these areas we all consider ourselves to be experts on? Yeah, he’s probably not that special.

Part of our collective stereotypical charm is the cutting wit that makes us great purveyors of the good, the truly terrible and the absolutely fabulous in pop culture. The result is we carefully choose the very specific and rare moments in which we unabashedly gush over something or someone. We just have not committed to regularly doing that for our own.

We whoop and holler (when we aren’t begrudging how long it took them) when those who are already famous come out to represent “our team.” Especially if they’re hot. Well, mostly if they’re hot. But what if we started even earlier? What if we found gay artists — YouTube, gay film festivals, shorts films and web series are littered with them — and discovered our own next generation of stars and celebrities? Ones who never needed to come out because they started “out?” What if Pride headliners were not gay-friendly superstars but *actually* gay stars? What if we stopped giggling at that gay boy online who made a cheesy video for his new dance track because it’s all he could afford and heard the talent in the voice and supported him into a place where he could afford to make videos he and we both would love? What if we fought for gay actors to play most of the gay roles until it becomes commonplace for the industry to not see it is a problem in casting them in straight roles?

Steve Grand should not stand as a singular exception as a gay star who arose without the help of the great machine, with the pointed caveat that the first BuzzFeed article promoting this brand-new, never-before-seen performer allowed us to find him to champion. (And yes, he’s one of the ones that establishment gays have rolled their eyes at for “needing to be shirtless” or having

“mediocre talent” while all I could think was “good for him!”) You don’t like Steve Grand? Or Clay Aiken? Or Matt Dallas? Or Luke McFarlane? Or the newly-minted Sam Smith? Fine. Find a few that your sense of “this talent is genuinely worth supporting” and introduce him to the rest of us and let’s make him a star!

We are one of the only major minority groups regularly represented in entertainment that doesn’t fiercely support the artists that can represent it. The ALMA Awards recognize Latino artists exclusively. The NAACP Image Awards do the same. It’s telling that there is no LGBT equivalent ... and I’m *not* talking about the GLAAD Media Awards, which love to laud allies with all the honors while real gay folks struggle for attention. I’m talking where you have to be a *member of the minority group* to receive the award. Imagine a best actor in a film award race at the LGBT Awards with a five gay guys — one black, one white, one Japanese, a bisexual Puerto Rican guy and a Korean trans man — all phenomenally talented? (OK, I PC’d that awfully far, but a boy can dream, and how legit exciting would that be?)

It’s not favoritism or nepotism or any kind of other -ism that would suggest lowering the standards of quality by focusing only on our minority group. If anything, what other minority groups understand, that we so often do not seem to, is that this kind of specific celebration is actually a promotion and celebration of how much quality there is in the work of performers and entertainers from that minority group that those outside it may not be familiar with. Yet.

I’m not asking anyone to lower his standards — heaven forbid. My point is not throwing taste to the wind to willy-nilly support any homo who claims to be a great singer, musician or actor. But with the wealth and depth of LGBT artists and actors waiting in the wings for their opportunity, choosing to promote the best of them with collective zeal would not require any lowering of standards. There are so many more than enough for us to have dozens of each to be championing without feeling as though our pop culture perceptiveness is being compromised by doing so. The best of ours can certainly compete with, and often beat, the best any other group has to offer. Let’s put in a little effort to find them, support them, promote them and prove it.

After all, fangirling over our own should be an easy source of pride. We found them, we brought attention to them, we supported them and used our influence to make the rest of our culture pay attention to what they have to offer. We talk so often of Pride, and finding and cheering our own is something we can all be proud of if we just go the extra mile to do it. Driving the cultural commentary is important, and having more of our artists at the center who are shaping that culture would benefit our community, our society as a whole, and our continued journey to being more — and better — represented within our culture.

We can do better. We should do better. And with all of the power we truly do wield, we simply have to decide to do better. ■

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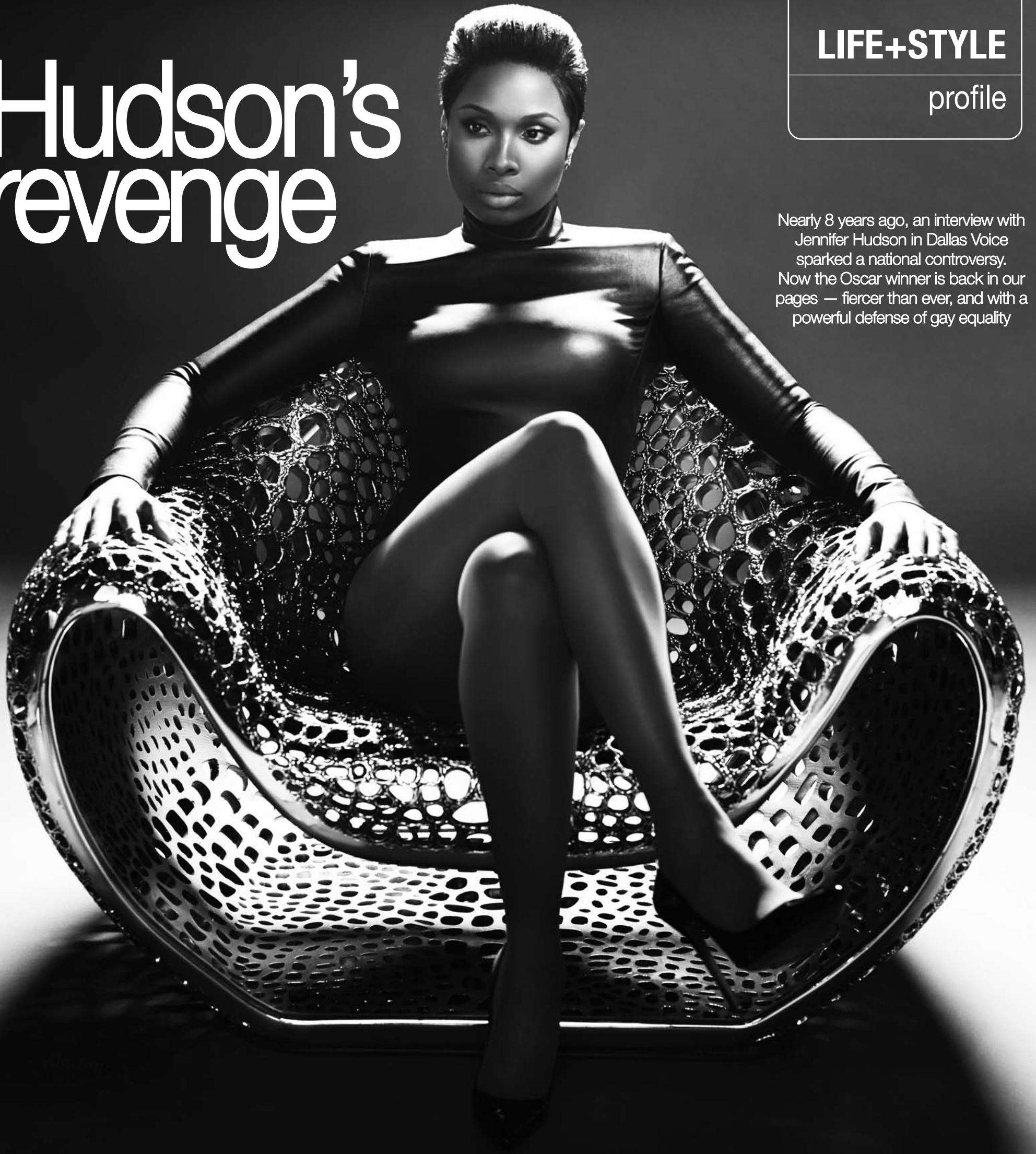
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Hudson's revenge

LIFE+STYLE

profile

Nearly 8 years ago, an interview with Jennifer Hudson in *Dallas Voice* sparked a national controversy. Now the Oscar winner is back in our pages — fiercer than ever, and with a powerful defense of gay equality



Who is Jennifer Hudson? It's a question she knows you've asked — and one she's ready to answer with *JHUD*, the *American Idol*-hopeful-turned-Dreamgirl-sensation's third studio album, which drops on Tuesday.

Having Hudson in the pages of *Dallas Voice* is a welcome return. In a 2006 interview with us, a quote about gays snowballed into a controversy that even landed her on the cover of *The Advocate*. But any suggestion that Hudson is not a full-throated supporter of the LGBT community has long since been dispelled.

During our candid interview, the Oscar- and Grammy-winning powerhouse went back to her roots — the gay clubs — and opened up about the drag queens who inspired her fierce new outlook (“I’m 32 years old — I don’t think I need your permission”). Hudson, who also answers those lesbian rumors and chimes in on gay marriage, isn’t kidding when she says, “I’m a be me, I’m a do me.” ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: When you’re doing Pride events like the ones you did earlier this summer, does that mean you gay it up? Jennifer Hudson: Yes, definitely! It’s just so fun, first of all. I really enjoy myself. It’s something I really wanted to do, and yeah, you can just give it. It’s that type of audience, so you shouldn’t hold back. And I try not to, you know?

You’re able to let your hair down ... or what hair you have left, anyway. [Laughs] Exactly! You said it best.

You performed “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going” from *Dreamgirls* for the gays in Chicago. What is it about that song that still gets such a reaction out of the LGBT community?

The song has its own spirit. It has an effect on everyone, but definitely on the gay community. I think they relate to it in a different type of way — in a special way. A lot of gay men I’ve met, they’re like, “In my heart, I am Effie.” I relate to Effie, and I think that’s part of the connection. It’s a real situation that we all go through.

What do you think your career would be like without the gay community?

I don’t know if I would have one, to be honest. That’s why I recently did a couple of gay clubs, and I wanted to do more because that’s where I started. I was just literally looking at old pictures a few minutes ago, and I saw a picture of me performing in a gay club and a picture of being dressed. Drag queens used to dress me, and then I would go and perform. That’s where I started, so there’s definitely a connection there. I wanted to make sure that I reconnected.

Having performed in gay clubs when you were a teenager, you connected with the LGBT community at a very young age. To what do you attribute that relationship? What I’ve always admired about the gay community is the independence and the confidence. Just that attitude. I’m so inspired by that, and I feel like, for me, that is my connection. I’ve never understood, gosh, what does the gay community see in me? You know what I mean? Because again, I grew up around a lot of that and that’s the world that embraced me first, so that I’ve never fully gathered.

When it comes to strength, do you see your relationship with the gay community as a reciprocal exchange? Yeah, I definitely draw strength from them. I love a big personality, and just the self-assurance and the sexiness in it — actually, I think that’s where I got a lot of it from! [Laughs]

What did you learn on how to work a crowd from hanging out with so many drag queens? Owning it. My kings and queens, they own stuff and give 100 percent. You’re gonna be a queen? Be a queen. If you’re gonna perform, perform. Whatever you’re doing, make sure you’re serving 100 percent.

How did you reconcile performing for gay people with your Baptist beliefs? Well, I grew up around a

lot of people who probably had issues with it, but I never did. People are people. Mind your business, that’s how I’ve always felt. Whatever makes you happy. If you’re happy, I’m happy, so it never really mattered to me. I never looked at it as a ... you know what I mean?

As a conflict? It was never a factor. It doesn’t matter to me either way.

When I saw you perform “Same Love” with Macklemore and Mary Lambert during the 2013 MTV VMAs, I remember thinking, “Is Jennifer trying to tell us something? Is she coming out as lesbian?”

If someone ever questions or thinks that, I don’t care what you think. It shouldn’t matter. And I did get that! People were like, “Is Jennifer trying to tell us something?” Hey, I wasn’t, but if you wanna think that, it’s all right with me. When I got the call [to do that performance], I was like, “Oh my god, I definitely wanna do this. A powerful statement is being made and I wanna be a part of that.”

Does your support of the gay community extend to gay marriage? Yeah. Ain’t much else to say about that, because what’s the big deal?

You’ve had your share of trials and tribulations.

When was a time in your life that you found yourself leaning on a gay best friend? My whole life! Every day! My best friend [Walter Williams] is my assistant and we’ve been friends since sixth grade. He’s the one I bought the house for this past Christmas, and he’s my life partner. We go through everything together. We’re each other’s backbone every day, and still to this day.

You’re showing off a sexy new sound on “Dangerous,” a single off *JHUD*. You’re also looking sexier than ever. Do you feel sexier than ever?

Mmm, no — I’ve always felt sexy! It’s just the space I’m in right now, and this is what this album represents. I’m just in my moment and I attribute that to my 30s more than anything. I feel settled, and it’s not an issue of what you think, what she thinks, who all says this — I don’t give a damn! The truth is, I’m grown. Before it was like, “Oh, is this OK? Is this all right? What does such and such think?” I don’t care! [Laughs] I’m more settled, more sure. I’m 32 years old — I don’t think I need your permission. Keep it moving.

Spoken like a true drag queen. And that’s what I’m talkin’ about! That’s exactly what I love. It’s a gift to have that type of attitude. As a black woman, we get that same thing: rejection. People “yay” and “nay” you and things like that, and I’m still walking through life, honey. I’m a be me, I’m a do me, and I’m not concerned about how you feel about it.

Some of this album takes me back to ’70s gay club music. How much did the gay community influ-



■ HUDSON, Page 94

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Up & Andy



Andy Butler, the openly gay founder of the edgy electronic dance music project Hercules & Love Affair, talks about live performance vs. studio work, influential DJs and support (or lack thereof) from the gay press

As a student of Greek mythology, Andy Butler was captivated by the homoerotic nature of some of the love affairs of Hercules, the world's strongest man. The notion had such a lasting impact on the musician that he revisited it when naming his ever-evolving musical mission, the electronic music project Hercules and Love Affair.

We spoke with the openly gay DJ and electronic dance music ringmaster about HALA's recently released third studio album, *The Feast of the Broken Hearts*, and their gig at Club Dada on Thursday, a stop that kicks off an international tour supporting the album.

— Scott Huffman

Dallas Voice: Hercules & Love Affair seems to be an ever-evolving collaborative effort with you as the constant and other producers and artists as variables. Is this to keep things fresh and edgy?

Does it create a bit of an identity crisis? Andy Butler: Hercules & Love Affair is a musical project born to realize my music via collaborations with other artists and co-producers. It is the ultimate experience in terms of artistic freedom. I am constantly learning and encountering new perspectives and challenging myself. The fact that Hercules evolves does not incite any "crisis" in me although it might cause one for journalists who need an easy story or an audience that wants the traditional personality-driven rock star set up in a band.

The Feast of the Broken Heart is the third album for HALA. Describe the feel of the album and your inspiration for it.

The theme is a recurring one with Hercules. It is about transforming brokenness into strength and celebration. This story is in the name of my project and has been reappearing throughout three albums now. Aesthetically, it is driven by my personal memories of house music and techno in nightclubs that I went to as a teenager.

What can we expect at your Club Dada appearance? It will be a definite party. We try to transmit an uninhibited celebratory vibe. There will be big voices and a big banging sound. I think that we offer spectacle, but we encourage closing your eyes and dancing your butt off.

The video for the single "My Offence" feels like an edgy art-house documentary supported by a fierce soundtrack. It educates the mainstream about underground culture — in particular the underground use of the word "cunt." What was your creative vision for this piece? I think challenging listeners and fans is a perhaps something not to pretentiously do but should happen at some point in an artist's career — if they are speaking from their authentic voice. I am not too concerned with keeping people comfortable. This video far surpassed my expectations of it, and I think it is totally beautiful. The reaction has been mixed. For instance, in trying to find a platform to premiere the video, we encountered a lot of resistance because of it being too "controversial" or "too sensitive of a subject matter." This was coming from sites that I could not imagine saying such a thing, considering their young "hip" demographic and "fearless" approach to journalism.

Also surprisingly, the gay press has been quite uninter-

CENTER OF THE STORM | The bandmembers of Hercules & Love Affair continue to rotate, but frontman Andy Butler is the constant in this edgy dance music group, which features vocals from out singer John Grant on their latest album.

ested ... though I would argue scared. Advertisers rule the roost, though. I get it. Publicly, it seems some people understand where I am coming from, and of course there are those people that don't. There are women who think I am speaking on something I have no right to because of my given sex. There are some music lovers who have criticized the fusion of documentary and music video, complaining the song had been butchered. I say allow them to speak.

Which do you like better: studio work or live performance? I enjoy both, but probably studio work. I love the solitude it offers, and I enjoy the feeling of decoding the puzzle that it offers.

You are an openly gay artist. Has this been difficult or empowering? I have been out since 15 years

old. I would not purposely start to hide for any reason I can imagine. Maybe, if my life were at risk, but certainly not for success.

Which DJ has inspired you the most in your career and why? Either Alex Gloor from InFlagranti be-

cause of his "fuck-it" attitude, or Derrick Carter because of the impression he made technically and through his tasteful inclusions of stuff that exists a bit outside of the box.

When did you first realize that you had first "made it" in the business? I first felt I made it when I had the opportunity to get on a plane and travel to bring my music elsewhere. So, I guess when I left NYC for the first time and was flown to Vermont and played at a party!

If you had not been able to earn a living in music, what would you have done with your life instead? [I would be] teaching kids or [doing] some sort of service/volunteer work.

Do you have any particular favorite song to perform? If so, what makes it your favorite? I enjoy playing a song from the new record, "543 to Freedom." It has a great energy and can really feel like a rocket ship taking off when it works.

Of what achievement or moment in your life are you most proud? There are many, but maybe the "My Offence" video from this year, playing Meltdown Festival or our recent Boiler Room performance.

Do you have any particular regrets or projects that you would like a chance to do over? Regrets? Well, I just try to learn from the negatives and mistakes made but try to focus on the positive. Things happen for a reason I believe, and there is always a chance to learn in these moments.

Disc-ussion

Reviews of new music from Ariana Grande and Counting Crows

Ariana Grande, *My Everything*. Ariana Grande doesn't wanna be your "next Mariah Carey." Shattering the classic-Carey image, she somehow became known for (aside from a honeyed coo here and there, I still don't get the comparison), Grande's likable-if-weightless sophomore album, *My Everything*, signals her transition from buzz-worthy Disney wonder to major mainstream mainstay.



A sizable entourage of radio fixtures riding shotgun doesn't hurt. With Iggy Azalea, Big Sean and, on the deluxe edition, Nicki Minaj (who, alongside Jessie J, works "Bang Bang" into a bad-girl vocal orgy) helping to turn Grande into a bona fide pop princess, the singer sheds her vanilla wholesomeness — though she knows you love the way she grooves a slowie. The Ryan Tedder-produced power-ballad "Why Try," the piano-led "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart" and the tender title track fill that quota, but the slick bounce bait on *My Everything* aims for mass appeal. Paying tribute to the divas who came before her, a sample of Diana Ross' "I'm Coming Out" on "Break Your Heart Back" is as fun as it is unnecessary. It's an issue Grande contends with herself.

Having written very little of *My Everything*, what exactly does the 21-year-old bring to music besides runs? Not that there's anything wrong with the fluttery "Love Me Harder" or the sprightly "One Last Time" — and the R&B-influenced "Be My Baby" serves '90s Brandy-esque awesomeness — but I still don't know Ariana beyond her better-than-average pipes. She's a product without any character. A ponytail with a voice.

Counting Crows, *Somewhere Under Wonderland*. The casual drawl of Adam Duzitz, dreadlocked Counting Crows frontman, is so distinct that it's more than a voice — it's the sound of an era. More specifically, the '90s, when the Crows were perched atop the pop-rock zeitgeist. One of the band's strongest outings since their heyday, the nostalgic *Somewhere Under Wonderland* is a Southern-influenced doozy that bursts at the seams of its heart. As the poetically wistful "Possibility Days" closes out *Wonderland*, all those emotions you felt the first time you heard "A Long December" resurface like they never even left.

Also out recently: Ryan Adams, *Ryan Adams* (no wonder the album is eponymous — it's as if his whole solo career was leading up to this disc) ... **Maroon 5, *V*** (empty-calorie ear candy ... although fortunately it comes with a few inspired moments).

— Chris Azzopardi

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Ruthie Foster — out blues diva, Grammy Award-nominee and native Texan — isn't in the habit of letting much time pass between studio recordings. Her newest album, *Promise of a Brand New Day* (Blue Corn Music) brings all of the essentials we've come to expect from her in one place, while subtly adding fresh, new elements. She belts the blues like nobody's business, states her case in heartfelt message tunes and even performs two of her most perfect pop compositions to date. In fact, it would be safe to say that Foster's "Learning To Fly" and "Complicated Love" are among her best creations, potentially positioning her for crossover acclaim.

We spoke with Foster prior to her North Texas appearance, and learned the difference between gospel and blues, and how her teaming up with Meshell Ndegeocello was fate.

— Gregg Shapiro



Guitar shero

Openly gay musician Ruthie Foster brings her soulful Texas blues to the Metroplex

Dallas Voice: As a Texan, how would you say that Texas comes through in your music? Ruthie Foster: Wow, you started with a big question. Texas is in this place where we have so many different genres of music, especially here in Austin, growing up with blues radio and country radio and gospel and my family and everything in between. A lot of it came together for me as an early songwriter and learning to play piano and guitar. Blues was guitar-based and gospel was piano-based. In that way, that's how I incorporate the whole Texas sound instrumentally. I'll go and pick up a different instrument and it brings something different to what I do.

On the original tune "Singing The Blues," the opening track on your new album *Promise of a Brand New Day*, you manage to make the blues not sound so blue. What's the secret to that? I do get accused of that quite a bit [laughs]. Some people don't look at the blues as happy and soulful and spiritual and all of that. That is what blues is. It's about the connection. That's what it's done for me. I like me some lowdown dirty blues when I'm in a bad place and I love it when I'm in a good place, too. It's more a connection and a plugging in thing for me.

***Promise* features a number of message songs, including the same-sex marriage tune "It Might Not Be Right," co-written with William Bell. What can you tell us about that song?** I had a session with William a while back. He had these titles waiting for me when I got to the studio. He looked at me with a

twinkle in his eye and he had this grin. He knew where I came from and he knew where I was in my life. I really connected with that title. He's a genius when it comes to titles and hooks and grooves even. We started out with "It might not be right for the world/But it's all right for this girl." I thought that was beautiful and that we could go any direction with that. He let me work with it in my way, in more of a global way, instead of a boy/girl relationship, and I thought that was pretty cool of him to let me do that.

The flipside can be heard on the original song "Complicated Love," one of my favorites on the disc. I must have been in one of those places where I was connecting in a Lucinda Williams kind of way when I wrote that. I was digging a lot of her stuff. That song came about while I was listening to her and

Patty Griffin a lot. It's not even about my own life. I put myself in this place where this person didn't know what to do. I need to sit and write it out and ride it out.

You do a cover of "The Ghetto." I understand that you corresponded with Mavis Staple, who recorded the song with The Staple Singers in the 1960s.... Meshell [Ndegeocello], my producer, sent me a group of songs [including "The Ghetto"] that she thought would be good recommendations, or at least tunes to listen to, to see if I had something in my own library that was close to these sounds. I wrote her back quickly and said, "I just want to do that one." That one really stuck with us. We wanted to use Mavis' take on the song. At one point, the lyrics were

changed and we wanted to know what it was she was saying, that's how we got in contact with Mavis.

I'm glad you mentioned out singer/songwriter Meshell. She produced and plays bass on the CD; how did that come about? I have to give Mike Kappus of Rosebud Booking credit for that. He mentioned Meshell to me. I had been a fan of hers for years. I knew she was also signed with Rosebud at the time and I dreamed of working with her at some point. At one of my concerts, Mike said that he would love to see that collaboration happen, if he could have anything to do with it. I told him to give her my information. We kept running into each other for about a year. I basically sent her an email saying I would love to work with her. It finally happened!

You credit Meshell with helping you find a home for "Learning To Fly," another track. What did she bring to the song? She gave it wings! It was just one of those tunes for me. I took a summer off and went and stayed at the home of friends. They moved out and I moved in. They had this old piano and I would sit and write. This is one of those tunes I just pounded out late one night. It never made any real sense to me [laughs]. I never knew what to do with it. I sent the demo to Meshell not really expecting much response back. She said, "Oh, my gosh, we have to do this!" I went to L.A. to record. She had the basic tracks done. I was the only musician in the studio with her and an engineer. I did the vocal track to it and she told me to go get a drink of water and rest my pipes. I came back and listened to what she did with that track. She had put background vocals on it. She to-

tally surprised me. She lifted it from this place of nowhere to be, she gave it a home.

Another musical guest on the disc is out musician Toshi Reagon. How did you come to work together? That's one of my true "sheroes." I've loved Toshi for years. She and I did festivals together, including Michigan Womyn's Music Fest. I've been a fan and friend for many years. I remember telling her after our second meeting — we were at one of those conferences — that I wanted to be her when I grow up. She had a song that Meshell had been sitting on, something I thought would add to this material, and Meshell thought so, too. I don't even think it was finished. Toshi added the verse to it that she sings after I recorded it. It was totally just trusting what she wanted to do with the song.

You'll be touring pretty much through the rest of the year, including your gig this week in Arlington and then back to Dallas in December. What do you like best about performing live? I love performing live. It's more spontaneous. I get a chance to connect with the audience. I can tell more of my stories about my family between songs and really connect the songs so that you're not just listening to a record. You're seeing a concert where every song goes into another one. It's about my life and my learning about music and my journey. It's more a journey when you come to my live shows.

AM I BLUE | The Texas singer performs a free outdoor concert. (Photo by Mary Keating-Bruton)

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Paul Taylor
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Sat, Feb. 7, 8:00 pm



Arlo Guthrie:
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Fri, Feb. 27, 8:00 pm



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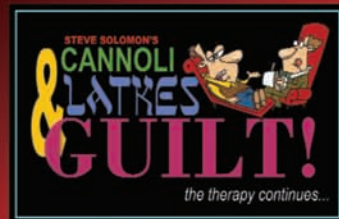


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L+S music



Summer Shuffle

An iPod with limited functionality is a virtual mix tape on a beach getaway

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

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I received an iPod Shuffle as a gift about a year ago, but I never used it. I didn't see the point. My iPod Touch still worked, and had all the music I needed there. But even I had to admit the Touch was a touch out-of-date, and it seemed like a good time — just prior to vacation — to put the Shuffle in use. I uploaded a few albums from my desktop without much thought. But I quickly learned there's a big difference between the platforms.

The 2GB Shuffle is bare-bones music playing: Nowhere near the hard-drive space of the Touch 8GB, it houses perhaps 500 songs. Buttons permit volume control, pause, "next track" or "replay." That's it. You can't program it much beyond that, and to my surprise, most songs were played in random order. Upload an entire album? You might listen for days and not hear every song from it. While others you hear over and over. And over.

And that last "over" made me a snob. I got tired of songs and punched through them after one — or less than one — listen. I replayed others over and over when I had them, because I enjoyed them. There was song mystery in not knowing what was coming next, and it made for a woozy week at the beach, my Shuffle pinched to the brim of my ball cap.

I also learned something strange about myself. I have a lot of Scissor Sisters, George Michael and show tunes on this thing. My tastes are strangely varied, from hard rock to squishy pop to country.

Here, then, is what became, in essence, my *de facto* mix tape: the self-made album of favorites I listened to more than once and which would pass an hour on the beach (or by the pool) quite nicely.

"Free" by Matt Palmer.

"San Luis Obispo" by Scissor Sisters.

"Faith" by George Michael.

"Stay with Me" by Sam Smith.

"Oh my God" from the *Legally Blonde* original cast recording.

"Over You" by Daughtry.

"Back to the Earth" by Jason Mraz

"Put Your Records On" by Corrine Bailey Rae.

"Let's Have a Kiki" by Scissor Sisters.

"Undone (The Sweater Song)" by Weezer.

"When It Hurts Like That" by Drake Jensen.

"I Just Can't Walk Away" by Reeve Carney on the *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* original cast recording).

Drawing Dallas

Elliott Puckett was born to dance — sometimes in drag

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Elliott Puckett aka Perry Ellis, 21.

Occupation: Server and dancer.

Spotted at: Cedar Springs and Reagan.

Born to dance: Originally from Harrisburg, Penn., Elliott, moved to Ennis (just south of Dallas) at age 5 with his parents and four siblings. He was already dancing — he always loved to move to the sound of a beat and show off his flexibility. His mother would drive him 45 minutes twice a week for dance lessons, and he went on to study at Booker T. Washington High School for Visual and Performing Arts. Elliott has walked the runway at DIFFA for the past two years, and was in Dallas Summer Musicals' *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2004.

Crossing over: Elliott has always had an interest in female impersonation and different styles of performance as long as he could remember. When he was old enough to walk, he would take his mother's nightgown and tie a belt around his waist to make a homemade ball dress and would twirl through his living room. He started performing through a local charity organization at 14, doing shows at gay proms and fundraisers. When he turned 18, he started doing amateur nights at S4. "It's amazing to see the pros up close and to be able to ask questions and get feedback to better my performance."

Bully for him: Elliott struggled through school with bullying; at times, it was very difficult to stay positive. In 2011, he was part of the group Equality Texas that traveled to the state capital to participate in the annual Lobby Day to help pass an anti-bullying law.

Family support: Elliott has always had the support and love of his family. He can be seen out on The Strip with his mother as she screams for him while performing onstage. "She is my biggest fan, and isn't afraid to put a dollar bill in my bra." You can catch Elliott at the Alan Ross Freedom Parade performing in front of the ilume.

Favorite quote: "If ballet were easy, they'd call it football."

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FALL GAY GETAWAYS

7 gay-friendly off-season destinations that are easy on the wallet



LIFE+STYLE

travel



Summer has bid us adieu, but that's no reason to put your luggage away. There are lots of great LGBT-friendly destinations to consider this fall, many of which are more affordable than they were just a month ago. (Resort communities hate the term "off-season," but travelers love it.)

What new adventures should be on your itinerary? Peep our picks below, and start planning your getaway today, from warm climes to more autumnal.

Puerto Vallarta. With the majestic Sierra Madre Mountains on one side and Mexico's picturesque Bay of Banderas on the other, the four-Diamond, luxury beachfront CasaMagna Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort & Spa is a sight to behold. And now that it's become the first hotel in the area to earn a certification in LGBT Service Excellence from Out Now Global, there's no reason to consider any other accommodations. Available experiences include cultural immersion programs, tequila tastings, voluntourism opportunities like sea-turtle rescue programs, beachside dining, and more. *Rates start at an eye-rubbing \$89 per night so you can live la vida loca without going broke-a.*



Palm Springs. Did you know that it's estimated that between 30 and 50 percent of Palm Springs residents are LGBT? It goes without saying that this vacation destination is LGBT friendly, of course, but there's more to the famed desert resort city than meets the eye. For starters, it offers one of the largest selections of gay-owned and affordable B&Bs in the world; you really can't go wrong. Throw in the Cinema Diverse LGBT Festival (September); Greater Palm

Springs Pride Weekend (November); an array of cultural, outdoor, and low-cost adventure options, and you've got an autumn weekend to remember.

Charlotte, N.C. This probably isn't a place that pops into your head when you're considering a gay-friendly getaway ... but maybe it should be. The Queen City (how fitting, right?) recently hosted one of the largest gay Pride festivals in the Southeast with more than 100,000 attendees. And there are innumerable LGBT-friendly activities to fill your must-do-and-see list, like watching gay athletes in action on the Charlotte Royals rugby team and the Charlotte Roller Girls derby team; catching LGBT-focused performances by the Charlotte Pride Band and Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte; dining at historic local restaurants; and exploring the nightlife scene with stops at The Scorpio, Petra's Piano Bar & Cabaret and Bar 316.

Washington, D.C. The nation's capital might not seem like an attractive place to kick your merry gay feet up, but you might be surprised to learn that the District of Columbia was recently voted one of the most gay-friendly cities in America. The Embassy Row Hotel, located in the Dupont Circle gayborhood, embraces that title by welcoming with open arms LGBT travelers looking for a getaway with a splash of urban glitz and glamour. There are more than 80 restaurants, galleries and retail shops within steps of the hotel, and it now offers the only rooftop pool and terrace in the area. *Special deals run occasionally (like book two nights, get the third free), and the Drag Queen Brunch Package is three snaps in a Z-formation.*

West Virginia. Feeling a bit rugged this autumn? Roll up your sleeves in McDowell County, W. Va., where you can get down and

dirty with ATV riding, world-class trout fishing, railfanning, visits to historical sites like the Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine, state parks and forests and golf (which isn't that rugged, but still fun nonetheless). To lay your pretty homo head at night, consider the Elkhorn Inn & Theater, a 14-guest room, historic "Coal Heritage Trail" inn in Landgraaf, the owners of which say has "always been LGBT friendly!" *Rates start at \$120 per*

night for free continental breakfast and charming rooms that feature antique claw-foot tubs.

Finger Lakes, N.Y. If you're a fan of fall foliage and all the cozy activities associated with the season, you'll feel at home in the Finger Lakes region of New York, which has several LGBT-friendly hotels certified by PurpleRoofs.com. Take in the breathtaking views on land by biking or hiking, on the water via boat or soar high above it all with hot-air balloon and gliding rides. *Gay inclusive accommodations in the area start at \$99 per night and include The Inns of Aurora, Argos Inn, Black Sheep Inn, Vintage Gardens B&B, William Henry Miller Inn, and Blackberry Inn Bed & Breakfast.*

Vermont. For those who enjoy staying healthy and active, New Life Hiking Spa has just what the doctor ordered. This multi-award-winning, all-inclusive and affordable resort features packages that range from the two- to four-night Mini Vacation, five- to 10-night Jump Start Getaway, and the 11-or-more-night Weight Loss Retreat. *Packages start at \$219 and include lodging, meals, full days of activities, and spa services.*

P.S. If you're not the type to sit around and meditate, however, gay-owned Trevin Farms in Sudbury, Vt., is probably more your speed. At this "Green Hotel in the Green Mountain State," you can learn about today's small farms, milk goats, make cheese, and party like it's 1899 for \$110 per night and up.

— Mikey Rox



TROPICAL PARADISE | The CasaMagna Resort in Puerto Vallarta, above right, is a sight to behold, while Washington, D.C.'s Embassy Row Hotel, above, offers attractions of its own. (Embassy Row photo by Greg Power)



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L+S dining

Sous-lebrity chef

Jeweler Joe Pacetti puts bling in the kitchen as sous to a culinary star for the James Beard Foundation's Taste America Dinner



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Most people pay for meals at restaurants to have someone else — preferably a talented chef — cook a meal for them. But some people pay for the privilege of doing the cooking themselves.

That's the case, at least, for the local folks who

signed on to be sous chefs for a half-dozen professionals, donating \$1,500 to benefit the James Beard Foundation, the charitable organization for the foodie community named about the famed gay gourmand.

And when the chef they are paired with is one

FOOD DIAMONDS | Pacetti, above, picked out a necklace and bracelet to accompany his chef's coat for the James Beard Foundation's Taste America dinner, when he will work alongside one of Dallas' top chefs — among them Omar Flores, Matt McCallister, Janice Parigi, David Uygun, Stephan Pyles and Tim Byres, opposite. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



of the best in town, even the nation, it sounds like a bargain — all are James Beard Award winners or invitees to cook at the James Beard House in New York City: Matt McCallister (FT33), Tim Byres (Smoke), Omar Flores (Casa Rubia), David Uygur (Lucia) and Janice Provost (Parigi) will guide the volunteers through prep and presentation at an exclusive reception (only 300 tickets will be sold) at the Anatole on Sept. 26. Then everyone will sit down for a dinner created by the legendary Stephan Pyles and the all-star chef at The Inn at Little Washington, Patrick O'Connell.

Billed as “a once-in-a-lifetime culinary collaboration” between Pyles and O'Connell, it's a

TASTE AMERICA DINNER

Hilton Anatole Tower, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. JBFtasteAmerica.org.

fundraiser put on in cooperation with Café Momentum, with wines provided by Hall Winery. And it won't cost you as much as it cost the sous chefs to participate.

One of the luminaries who signed on to sous for his supper is Joe Pacetti, the energetic jeweler known as much for his charitable work as for his eye-popping bling. We tracked down Pacetti — who is currently in Normandy, staying at a 17th century castle with a centuries-old open-fire kitchen — to find out what his culinary bona fides are. Being Italian, he of course has stories. And being Joe Pacetti, you know it won't be just the plates that will dazzle diners. ■

Dallas Voice: Do you yourself cook much at home?

Joe Pacetti: I find I cook more in my New York apartment than I cook in Dallas.

With a name like “Pacetti,” people are gonna expect you to know your way around a kitchen — especially if pasta is on the menu. Did you grow up with an interest in cooking?

I have *always* loved food — especially being an Italian! I have had some wonderful examples to follow in the kitchen: my mom, Cleora, who cooked for me in Tulsa 30-plus years ago, and now Doris Woods in Dallas, who has worked with me for more than 23 years.

Your mom just passed away earlier this month.

What did she add to your culinary knowledge?

My mother passed away at a month [shy of] 98 years old, and she was *still* a great cook! We didn't have a lot of Italian cuisine growing up, but had more good ol' Southern comfort food.

Any more culinary mentors? Chef Connie Mullins has traveled all over the country for eight years with me, making me look good in front of my guests — and sharing her kitchen expertise with me, too!

Do you have a specialty dish? My specialty is my mom's baked beans, made with black strap molasses and accompanied by a great meat loaf and the richest mashed potatoes that have ever crossed your hips! To be really decadent, I'll make homemade shortcakes and use fresh strawberries and real whipped cream.

Being a sous chef to some high-powered culinary lions might require some mad skills. What's the most elaborate dinner you've ever cooked on your own? The most elaborate meal I ever created

was an all-venison dinner that Doris and I prepared from an 8-point buck that my 95-pound daughter shot while hunting in South Texas.

Sounds awesome and exotic. After surviving that, is there anything that would intimidate you in the kitchen?

All that intimidates me in the kitchen is a soufflé that won't rise or that falls [too soon].

Why did you sign up for this experience? I thought it sounded interesting, fun and intriguing, all tooled into one.

Did you know about the Beard House before you signed up? Ever been there? I have had no experience at the Beard House, but am anxious to be there, as I have always heard of it.

What is most exciting to you about what you'll be doing? What do you hope most to take away from the experience? I am excited to meet [the chefs] and learn some trade secrets! I want to learn from the experts. They say the way to a man's heart is through cooking, so I ideally I would like to learn how to “cook down” some sauces and make them replicate those I've sampled in France.

You're a jeweler by trade, so it was only fitting that you decided to add some bling to that plain white chef's coat. Describe for us what “cooking jewelry” you're planning. Usually your hands are soiled with what you are cooking, so that makes rings and bracelets very difficult to wear. The ideal “cooking jewelry” for me is a bib full of diamonds, in strands! Something glittering around your neck can hide a multitude of sins ... like a very soiled apron.

Agreed — nothing distracts the eye from a gravy stain like a sapphire.

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PHOTO BY KAREN ARONOW

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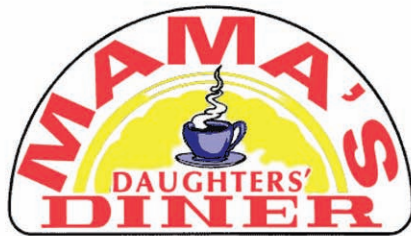
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L+S dining

Tasting notes

New flavors
at Malai; Knife
begins brunch



Malai Kitchen has been a fixture in the Uptown dining scene for four years, but the West Village restaurant known for its fusion of Thai and Vietnamese flavor profiles hasn't stopped evolving. With craft brewing all the rage, Malai has added its own beers to the menu.

The Thai-P-A — a clever twist on the classic India Pale Ale — has a hoppy bitterness with a refreshing hint of kaffir lime for a citrusy undertone. The Thai 1 On Rotator combines Asian hops with saison yeast for a refreshing Belgium pilsner. And the new Bia Hoi, a light rice-barley blend, came about when the owners visited Vietnam in 2012 and discovered the fragrant lager (and, at \$3 a bottle, a steal).

The beers are hand-crafted, so they aren't always available, but when they are, brewpub fans should take note. And mixologist extraordinaire **Jason Kosmas** has devised a menu of rotating specialty cocktails for the lounge set.

It's not just the beverage program that has received a makeover, however. Malai's take on the lamb shank is surprisingly light, with melt-in-the-mouth, bone-in braised meat with an appropriately spiced ragout over rice. The Vietnamese spare ribs will also give their more famous Korean counterparts a run for their money.

But many of the standbys are still standouts. I'm never disappointed by Malai's hot-pot curries: Served in a cast iron kettle and bubbling with spicy aromatics and taste-bud-taming flavors. And the version of coconut cream pie (with an accent of mango) turns American comfort food into a South Asian star.

Knife, chef **John Tesar's** hot new steakhouse in the newly rebranded hotel The Highland, will begin its promised lunch service starting this week. You can stop by for a burger or one of the

luscious ribeyes beginning Sept. 23. Brunch will begin the following weekend, and will benefit **Café Momentum**, the program from former **Parigi** chef **Chad Houser** focused on teaching at-risk youth kitchen skills and providing career opportunities. (Read more about them at CafeMomentum.org.)

Tesar will also be on hand for his annual **Burgers & Burgundy** party, a fundraiser for DIFFA. It takes place Oct. 3 from 6:30–9:30 p.m. Other participating chefs include **Blaine Staniford (Grace)**, **Brian Zenner (Oak)**, **Kent Rathbun (Abacus, Jasper's)** and **Tre Wilcox**. It takes place at 4637 Meadowood Road in Preston Hollow. Get tickets (\$100; \$150 for VIP butler service) at Eventbrite.com (search "burgers").

Wilcox first shot to prominence working at Abacus, and will return to the kitchen on Sept. 27 to cook alongside Rathbun again (and fellow alum **Omar Flores**) to mark the 15th anniversary of the celebrated Uptown eatery. Reservations are accepted from 6–11 p.m., and the four-course dinner will cost \$200/person. On Sept. 28, they restaurant will hold an anniversary party with craft cocktails, live music and food (cost is \$100).

October is a busy month for foodies beyond burgers as well. First, it's **National Pizza Month**, and you know, by law, you have to eat pizza every day. (Note: May not be an actual law.) Then on Oct. 26, gourmands will have to choose between attending the 22nd **Caesar Salad Competition** at the Westin Hotel or the **Chefs for Farmers Oyster Bash** at One Arts Plaza. Both run from 2–6 p.m., so you have to pick!

Monica Greene is back in North Texas — her **Pegaso Diner** is now open in Cowtown. And **Cedar Springs Tap House** is now pouring. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

LITTLE LAMB | The lamb at Malai Kitchen is one of the menu's new highlights, and now is accented by house-brewed beers like the Thai-P-A and Jason Kosmas-designed cocktails. (Photo by Kevin Marple)



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Queer Career

Horticulturalist Kyle Harger on potting — and pot! — and the dirty job he loves

While many of us spend the Texas summer in an ice-cold office with the A/C cranked up, 24-year-old Kyle Harger spends his workdays getting hot, dirty and sweaty ... and he wouldn't have it any other way. He's a greenhouse supervisor at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, who brings beauty to life before his eyes.

A recent transplant to Texas from North Carolina, Harger says while his job demands manual labor, it also requires intense study to keep the plants and flowers blooming and disease free. He also has advice for would-be daters about how choosing a plant can be a lot like choosing a life partner.

— *Jef Tingley*

Name and age: Kyle Harger, 24.

Queer career: Greenhouse supervisor, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Is this something you thought you would be doing as a child?

The first thing that I can remember wanting to be, looking back, was a pastor. I find it funny now because anyone who knows me would find the idea of me being a religious figure in a church hilarious, and so do I. After that, I wanted to be a nurse because that was what my mother was, but that dream was short-lived. My passion for horticulture started after my parents split when I was in eighth grade. My father then married one of those evil stepmother-kind of women that Disney likes to make movies about. She used to punish me by making me spend time with her weeding in the garden. We developed a friendship, and she took me to my first greenhouse. After that I was hooked! I worked for a small greenhouse operation in Wisconsin when I was in high school and have worked in greenhouses ever since.

How long have you been doing this work? [Knowing that I loved plants] I worked on achieving my bachelor of science degree in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin River Falls — also known as Moo U — Go Falcons! I was uncertain what I really wanted to do with my degree. I landed my first professional job right before I graduated, for the North Carolina Arboretum. It was there, working with all the amazing staff, that I found my calling: public gardens. I worked there for exactly two years, to the day. Being the young, career-oriented professional that I am, I realized it was time to advance, which led me to the Dallas Arboretum. I moved to Dallas in June.

How do you describe your job to people at a cocktail party? I tell them about what I do and why it is important for our community to have public gardens. When I tell them what I do, most people say they wish they had my job.

What's your favorite part of your job? My favorite part is when I see the public walking through the gardens and going crazy over something I have grown. Anyone who has worked in a public garden will tell you that every now and then, as staff, we need to "stop and smell the roses." I love when I am walking through the gardens and see people writing down the names of plants. I feel that the true purpose of my job is to help educate and inspire the public by introducing them to a wide variety of plant material.

Least favorite part? I am not sure if I should answer this! In general, I have not enjoyed washing pots or scrubbing algae off floors. Both are good at making you question your decision to become a horticulturalist. Sanitation in the greenhouse is one of the best ways to prevent disease and insect problems, so I just keep telling myself that when I am scrubbing. In all honesty though, my least favorite thing about my job is the horrible tan lines I get! I have noticed they are

AMONG THE FLOWERS | Kyle Harger has always loved plants, and while the job can be physically exhausting and dirty, he's passionate about horticulture. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

a lot easier to even out here in Texas.

What are the most common questions you get when you tell people about your job? I get a lot of people jokingly asking me if I could grow them some good pot. Just like any crop, I *could* research it and probably produce a high quality crop, but I like to keep it classy and stick to growing legal stuff.

What are the biggest misconceptions about your industry? As a grower, one of the biggest misconceptions I feel people have is the idea that we just stick seeds in pots and they become these beautiful flowers they see out in the landscapes and nurseries. If only it was that simple. There are so many different factors that have to be managed in order to grow a successful crop. We have to manage disease and insect problems, environmental factors (as best as we can), watering, feeding, height control, crop timing, etc. For a couple hundred plants, this would not be too hard. Here at the Arboretum, we are growing hundreds of different types of plants and some times thousands. I have lost many nights sleep worrying about crops that I was growing at the time.

I also feel that people have a hard time understanding all the hard work and sweat that my job entails. Most people just see the beautiful gardens and can't grasp the idea of how much work it takes to make them look great and keep them looking that way. There are days that all I do is fill flats with soil, wash pots, weed, transplant seedlings. Don't get me wrong, I love my job and working hard doing manual labor. I grew up milking cows in Wisconsin, so I have always been accustomed to hard work. But this type of work is not as glamorous as people may think it is.

What does your significant other think about your queer career? I have recently found a great man who has been working on changing careers the past couple of years from being a zookeeper to a registered nurse. He just bought a house with his sister and their yard is a blank canvas. We have been having fun working in the yard together doing different projects and learning together.

For me, the best part is that we both have (or had) careers that people just think about the fun parts but don't understand all the behind-the-scenes work. People think he got to just sit there and train animals but most of the time is spent just doing the non-glamorous stuff. I like it because when I go home I don't have to explain why I am tired and just want to sit, have some cold beers, and do nothing the rest of the night. He gets it.

You've said that working with plants is like being in a relationship. Explain that more. Think about owning and caring for plants as an intimate relationship, as your partner: Just like your partner, plants are not always going to tell you what's wrong. You will need to learn their love language and how to best accommodate their needs. The relationship, just like any real one, will take dedication, time, and sacrifice. We all know there are many different types of relationships. If you are a "serial dater" afraid of commitment, I suggest sticking to potted annuals. They are great at providing short-term season pops of color and require little maintenance. When they start to look tired or you get bored just get new ones, like you would dates. If you are ready to commit but not sure if you are ready to settle down and get married, try a vegetable garden. It requires more planning and care than the annuals, but is still seasonal. If you are truly ready to hunker down for the long haul, then I suggest a perennial garden along with the other options. A person's yard and/or plant choices can say a lot about them.

Do you know someone with an unusual or dirty job — a Queer Career — deserving of a moment in the spotlight (even if it's yourself)? If so, email your suggestion to jef@tingleycomm.com.



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Am-booze-ador

Style maven Steve Kemble embraces his new role as the first-ever U.S. LGBT brand ambassador for Stoli — and he plans a makeover of the tarnished brand

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Most liquor companies have “brand ambassadors” — folks who travel around promoting the value of their brand over another. The title “ambassador” is honorary at best. But in the case of Stolichnaya Vodka, it has ended up being far more accurate than they could have imagined.

It all started last year, during the ramp-up to the Sochi Olympic Games held in Russia this past February. The country’s abrasive ruler, Vladimir Putin, began cracking down on gay rights, going so far as to suggest openly gay athletes would be dealt with severely. The backlash in the U.S. led many in the gay community to protest ... and the protest target of choice was to boycott the Russian premium vodka popularly known as Stoli.

International politics and potent potables had rarely been so much in evidence in the club scene. And a special kind of ambassador was needed.

Enter Steve Kemble.

Kemble — sassy style guru, celebrity event planner, radio personality and North Texas’ most visibly outrageous bon vivant — was approached by Stoli last April to help the company repair its tarnished image.

“They handled [the backlash] poorly,” Kemble says frankly over a Stoli and tonic at the Meddlesome Moth. “They’d be the first to admit it. They came to me and said, ‘We have to correct this.’”

While Dallas’ gay community didn’t initiate the protests, it was one focal point, especially in the Southwest.

“[Dallas] certainly was the epicenter in the region. There was such a strong push that virtually every gay bar in Dallas dropped Stoli. And because Stoli [has headquarters] here,” they were particularly interested in rehabilitating their

brand, Kemble says.

Still, Kemble prides himself on his finely-tuned bullshit detector — he wasn’t going to get involved if only short-term damage control was called for. He wanted to make sure Stoli was committed to becoming involved in the gay community.

“They are serious about [their involvement],” he says. “I am so proud of them because they really are getting invested in the community, I think. I can tell by everything they have in place.”

And one of the things put in place was Kemble himself, who last month was announced as the first-ever LGBT brand ambassador for the spirit.

This is hardly Kemble’s first foray into the realm of makeovers. As one of the premier event planners in Dallas, and even the nation, he’s accustomed to presenting things in the best possible light and coordinating the details that create buzz. (He’s currently planning the wedding for local TV reporter Steve Noviello in New York later this month.) Kemble knew an occasional tasting and a few rainbow ads wouldn’t do the trick.

“It’s an education process,” he says. “It wasn’t just picking up the phone and talking to a few bars. You can even get it back into the clubs, but just putting it there doesn’t mean anyone is going to drink it.”

Kemble began working behind the scene with the brand even before the official announcement, first getting Stoli to sponsor Razzle Dazzle Dallas in June. The vodka is also a sponsor of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade Sunday, and its brand flavors will be the official liquor at the 33rd annual Black Tie Dinner in November.

“The parade, Black Tie Dinner, the BTDA after-



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MR. AMBASSADOR | Russian vodka maker Stolichnaya — whose only flavors in its catalogue are the original, Blueberi, Razberi, Vanil, Oranj and the new ultra-premium Elit — tapped Dallas' Steve Kemble to reach out to the gay community and rehabilitate its image following controversial actions by the Russian government leading up to the Sochi Olympic Games. (Terry Thompson/Dallas Voice)

party — all are sponsored by Stolichnaya," he says. Part of his job, though, is more than just arranging signage and donations of alcohol; it goes deeper than that.

"There are still people who have [a negative] perception [because of the Russian treatment of gays]. But you have a corporation as big as they are admitting, 'We made a mistake.' And trying to correct it."

Kemble believes the gay community will have a forgiving attitude and embrace the spirit once it realizes the sincerity of the company's commitment to the gay community. And there is a secret

weapon of sorts.

"They are coming up with all kinds of specialty cocktails for Black Tie!" Kemble says.

Cocktail recipes — that's a language the gay community speaks that crossed over cultural differences. ■

 **online exclusive**

Check out some Stolichnaya recipes on our regular "Cocktail Friday" post at InstantTea on DallasVoice.com.

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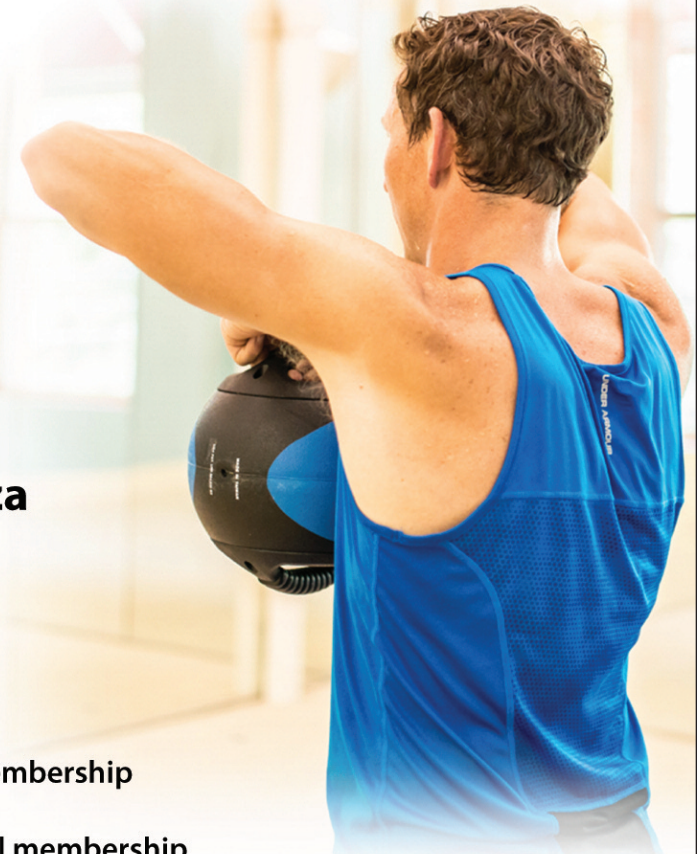
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Confessions of a bisexual cosplayer — and DFW's growing cos-munity

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Carrie Bradshaw would have a panic attack in my closet. Seriously — if there was ever a parody musical inspired by my life, it would undoubtedly be titled *Chaka and the Ridiculous Technicolor Nightmare Closet*. Getting dressed for work each morning is a feat that involves maneuvering around billowing superhero capes, neon-hued wigs, chainmail bikinis, beaded head-dresses, prosthetic wounds covered in synthetic blood and death-defying heels of varying widths and heights. I'm at the point where my costumes are starting to outnumber my actual clothing, and I can't decide if I need more space, a trip to Ikea or just a hobby that doesn't involve melting plastic or sanding gesso on the weekends.

I'm leaning towards more space.

My hobby is commonly called "cosplay," a mashup of "costume play." It's defined as the act of constructing costumes and dressing up as your favorite comic book, video game, anime or sci-fi characters — put simply, it's like celebrating Halloween year-round. Those have succumbed to the madness — and I number myself one — refer to ourselves as "cosplayers," and can usually be found posing for pictures at pop culture conventions that celebrate geekery in its many forms.

There's a lot of time, money and hot glue involved in taking a costume from two-dimensional concept to three-dimensional creation, and the actual process isn't always easy. But to me, cosplay is a walking performance art of passion that necessitates a level of devotion that you'd be hard pressed to find in any other subculture.

X MARKS THE SPOT | The author, opposite, as Marvel superhero Storm meets another cosplayer Maya FH as DC Comics' Wonder Woman, right. (Photos courtesy: Patrick Sun, Samaze, Unipx, Apature Ashley, Hell or Hugh Water Photography

Except for maybe live-action role playing (LARP) ... which is exactly what it sounds like, and trust me — it's doing the *most*.

LARPing aside, the celebration of creative expression inherent to cosplay culture is what makes it so attractive to geeks and nerds who identify as LGBT. It was at Dallas' A-Kon 2010 that I — emboldened by a weekend filled with photo-booth-style costume changes met with praise from my fellow con-going constituents — first came out as bisexual to my (entirely unsurprised) best friend. Surrounded by thousands of like-minded nerds who were proud of the qualities that made them different, I found myself brimming over with Pride as well ... and finally ready to openly accept a part of myself I'd secretly been aware of for years.

When I moved to Dallas-Fort Worth from Little Rock two years later, one of my first orders of business — second only to buying a mattress, and just barely — was to infiltrate the local cosplay scene, in search of queer, black, female geeks like me.

One of the first cosplayers I got to know after settling in was 26-year-old Ty Larson, known around the local circuit as Post-It Ninja. I hadn't even unpacked all of my boxes when Ty had me embark on my inaugural trip to the strip for Gaybingo. It was my introduction to the Dallas gay community, which was much larger and more vibrant than what I was used to back home in Little Rock. A few weeks later, Ty and I were cosplaying together at Dallas Sci-Fi Expo in Irving.

For many local cosplayers, Sci-Fi Expo is regarded as the con season opener, where everyone wears new costumes they've been working on all winter, effectively transforming the Irving Convention Center into the super-powered equivalent of New York Fashion Week. Again, I was impressed by the size and vibrancy of the



■ GEEK, Next Page

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QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
Cumberbatch as Queen Akasha, left; and sexy (and she knows it) with RedFoo, below.

■ GEEK, From Previous Page

community I'd moved into, and began to wonder about the gay to geek conversion rate in DFW. I mean, in Central Arkansas, you couldn't throw a stone in a comic book store without hitting a queer geek (or a derby girl, God bless 'em); would it be the same in North Texas?

Ty certainly seemed to think so. "The convention scene actually has a very strong showing of LGBT people working behind the scenes," Larson says. "There isn't a convention in Dallas that doesn't have several members of the [LGBT] community helping to run the show — this has really helped create a safer environment."

Larson, who identifies as "the G in LGBT," has participated in numerous contests and performances across the state with his cosplay group, Detail to Perfect Cosplay. "I think there are still a few conventions where a same-sex kiss onstage will get you kicked out of a competition under some 'family-friendly' rule clause," he says, "but those occurrences are becoming few and far between."

Curious, I started asking around to see how

other LGBT cosplayers felt about the North Texas cosplay scene. Maya FH, a 17-year-old lesbian cosplayer known as Classic-Maya with Puku Cosplay Productions, had some interesting insight on navigating conventions in the area as a younger fan.

"Anime conventions — specifically A-Kon in North Texas — tend to be more welcoming than the Comic arena," says Maya, who bought her first Pride poster at A-Kon. "This may be because anime cons have more of a unique, tight-knit community than comic conventions or because of the younger crowd. My love of comics is a strong one, but I enjoy my time more at anime conventions in North Texas."

Finding acceptance came a bit easier to Lady Tezra, aka 29-year-old Angelyn O'Brien of Dallas, who identifies as a "bi-gender, post-operative male-to-female transsexual lesbian." The stage manager of *Amber Does Dallas*, a live-performance "shadowcast," O'Brien has a different take on the situation. "I haven't noticed any cons or groups in the North Texas area being any less — or more — welcom-

Where to play at cos

Although there's no official cosplay "season," the number of events where you'll likely find cosplayers until the end of the year is dwindling ... though one of the big ones will arrive next month. Here's a rundown of some of the events you can attend to explore cosplay.

Retropalooza, Arlington Convention Center, Arlington. Sept. 20-21. Retropalooza.net.

Dallas Comic Con FanDays, Irving Convention Center, Irving. Oct. 17-19. DallasComicCon.com.

Burleson Anime and Manga Festival, Burleson Public Library, Burleson. Nov. 8. Find it on Facebook.

Anime North Texas, Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North, Fort Worth. Nov. 14-16. AnimeNorthTexas.com.

North Texas Comic Book Show, Doubletree Hotel Dallas Market Center. Nov. 15. ComicBooksDallas.com.



— C.C.

ing than any other," she says. "I feel that the cosplay community remains fairly constant regardless of convention. Many people have found acceptance in the cosplay community, whether it be for their 'nerdy' obsessions, 'crazy' hobbies or LGBT identity, and that often creates a pay-it-forward mentality. The cosplay community often looks out for its own and becomes quite intolerant of those who would mar its reputation as being accepting."

With California-based LGBT-centric conventions GaymerX and Bent-Con paving the way for similar events across the nation, it was encouraging to find that the queer geeks in North Texas are not only out in full force, but are working both on the main floor and behind the scenes to make conventions in Dallas more welcoming and accepting to those who identify as part of our community. However, I was interested to know whether or not local cosplayers felt a specific need for more LGBT-specific groups, gatherings or representation throughout the local cosplay scene.

For Maya, the need for LGBT visibility and inclusion was crucial for younger fans who may be in the early stages of coming to accept their identity. "I think it is extraordinarily important," Maya says. "Many LGBT kids turn towards the nerd community for support and escapism and cosplay is a big part of nerd culture. It's very important that those kids see their sexuality represented in a community they can relate with."

"LGBT visibility is important in general," Ty concurs. "In the cosplay community, it gives us a chance to interact with young members of fandom and show them that no matter who you are, or who you love, you can still lead a wonderfully fulfilling life doing the things you enjoy most."


O'Brien agrees, but cautions against putting too much emphasis on it. "I do feel that open and visible representation for LGBT cosplayers is important, but that does not mean that it needs to be over-emphasized," she says. "If the cosplay community reflects a world of natural friendship and coexistence between people of different orientations and identities, then it seems we're on the right path as it is."

All of the cosplayers I spoke to, however, agree that a more organized presence of LGBT cosplayers — similar to Dallas Gay Geeks or DFW Gaymers — would benefit the community.

"In Dallas, the majority of LGBT events are for adults," Maya observes, giving me pause to wonder about the last time I attended — or even heard about — an LGBT event that focused on or even allowed in people under the age of 18. "The teen and youth events generally have to do with counseling, outreach programs, or are for families with gay parents. There are not many opportunities for LGBT teens to just have fun within the LGBT community. Because people can enjoy cosplay at all ages, I think a cosplay group targeted towards the LGBT community is a great step."

From Larson's perspective, the reason we don't already have a dedicated group might have more to do with the fact that LGBT cos-

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Chevy SS versus Chrysler 200:
Real muscle confronts gay muscle

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
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There's gay muscle — like the kind you get working out in that air-conditioned cruise-by gym downtown — and real muscle — like your dad earned working in a hot factory or heaving bales of hay on the ranch.

Gay muscle looks good and usually gleams under tanned pecs and guns. Real muscle is shaded by God's tanning booth. One is perhaps a bit more femme than the other ... just like the Chrysler 200 and Chevy SS.

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SS: Doesn't need technical trickery because the chassis, powertrain, and Brembo disc brakes are born of piss and vinegar (or aluminum and carbon). Power comes from the rear, as it should.

Fly bridge:

200: Baby-easy infotainment, fly-bridge console, rotary shifter, and colors inspired by American locations like New York's 5th Avenue, Sausalito, Calif. and Detroit are more stylish than two boys' loft.

SS: All black and chrome, there's no doubt this car wants to skip the pleasantries and get dirty. Grab the meaty leather-wrapped steering wheel, slip into the rib-hugging seats and prepare for the ride of your life.

Plastic surgery:

200: Has about the most pleasing rump ever implanted on an American sedan. The smoother, sleeker shnoz announces the new face of Chrysler.

SS: From tip to tail, the sedan conveys its old-school power and new-age capabilities. Squint a little and you see the Pontiac G8 it used to be.

Suck it dry:

200: Fabulous and frugal, the sleek Chrysler goes up to 35-MPG hwy with a 4-cylinder.

SS: Hire a personal tanker because you'll need him often with 14/21-MPG city/hwy. Apparently, hard-working men need lots of nourishment. And this pissy bitch prefers premium.

Closely related:

200: Shares ancestry with other Alfa Romeo-derived vehicles like the Jeep Cherokee, Fiat 500L and Dodge Dart.

SS: Essentially a 4-door Camaro, the SS was raised down under alongside the deceased Pontiac G8 and home-market Holden Commodore.

Home gayborhood:

200: Detroit by way of Italy. A tumbled city boy with Euro manners.

SS: Australia by way of Holden. Explaining how a V8-powered muscle car with a Chevy emblem was bred and raised in Oz is too complicated to contemplate.

Cool tricks:

200: Automatically disconnects the rear axle from its all-wheel-drive system to conserve fuel. It can also parallel and perpendicular park itself. Alpine audio sings like mountain cherubs.

SS: Besides toasting its prowess with long strips of black rubber, Chevy's swift kick flaunts a color heads-up display and 220-watt Bose audio system. Yeah, and it can park itself too, pretty boy.

Laying green:

200: A cheap trick for just \$21,700, but add beauty and brawn, and you'll see \$30,000 stickers.

SS: You may be able to get the 200's fancy pants at the discount mall, but the muscular Chevy's \$43,475 base price is commensurate with its authenticity and capability.



SUPERCHARGED | Fuel economy and a powerful 240 hp engine provide a masterful balance in the T6. (Photo courtesy Volvo)

Volvo's new "Drive-E" powertrains demonstrate money put to good use. Two new supercharged and turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engines deliver 240 horsepower and 25/37-MPG city/hwy. (T5) or 302 horsepower and 24/35-MPG city/hwy. (T6). We tested the T6. Superchargers provide low-end torque for thumpin' acceleration; turbos enhance gusto during high-speed traveling. The combination of fuel economy and power is impressive. Both engines were engineered for application in future hybrids.

I've driven many Volvos over the years (including the S60) and they always feel solid and safe, but not particularly athletic. At times, on rough roads, they even felt clunky. Driving this S60, one immediately notices a lighter, more precise feel in the suspension and steering, helped by torque-vectoring that uses the braking system to cut a tight cornering line. Aggressive curves and rising crests are much more enjoyable.

Outside, it's an incredibly sleek car with a roof that ends almost at the end of the car, but design cues like a strong horizontal grille with logo, strong shoulders, and taillamps that wrap into the decklid tell you it's a Volvo. Subtle use of chrome adds class while cool alloy and dark gray 19-in. Bor Diamond Cut alloys look dashing. No gaudy spoiler is needed.

I'd buy an S60 just for the plush and supportive seats. By Swedish tradition, the cabin is comfortable and well-made, but not ostentatious. The thin control stack with storage behind, striated metal-look paneling, simple chrome, and new LCD instrument cluster with digital speedometer feel contemporary. A power moonroof, premium audio, Bluetooth calling/streaming audio and rain-sensing wipers dress the model.

Being a Volvo, you can bet the S60 comes packed with the latest safety gear. Besides a full array of airbags and body structure that aced the super-tough small-offset crash test, our loaded model has advanced electronics to

'15 S60 T6

Volvo. 320 hp., 2.0 liter Turbo-4. 24/35-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$47,925.

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Back in January, I drove the updated Volvo S60 during a preview in Las Vegas. Whether cruising The Strip or slapping down highways and mountain roads out in the desert, the changes were significant. I couldn't wait to get one home and slip it on. True to Volvo reputation and tradition, the S60 is safer than a condom — and a lot more stylish.

In the desert, there was time to stomp the throttle and run up to unmentionable speeds ... with the speed warning indicator blinking the entire way. Let's just say the T6 is very happy climbing through triple digits, unbothered by hot mountain air, and has the brakes and chassis to live there.

Safety with style

Volvo's reputation for craft obscures its bona fides as an appealing ride

■ VOLVO, Page 87

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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

Is it fair to date a man I don't really like that much only because he's rich? — Clay

Dear Clay,

To whom are you directing this question's moral dilemma, exactly: yourself, or the loaded sugar daddy you're hoping to marry?

If you're asking *me* whether Mr. Rich doesn't realize you're bedding down with him only for his money, then, you're naturally an idiot; moreover, if you're merely asking me whether dating affluent men, exclusively, makes you a smarmy gold-digger, then you would be correct.

The greatest thing about marriage equality still not being legal in most states (including Texas), is that — unlike your *straight* male counterparts — wealthy-fool homosexual men don't at all enjoy the privilege of getting ultimately bamboozled into subsequent divorce court via empty

marriages to hot, sociopath morons. Our moral here, of course, is this: The amazing thing about living in 21st-century America is how very few people can afford to be worthless anymore.

Dear Howard,

My erection favors a right curve that I'm *constantly* receiving complaints about whenever making love to my new boyfriend, Miss Priss, the dictatorial power-bottom. I've tried "correcting" it by only wanking with my left hand, but to no avail. Suggestions? — Arm-strong

Dear Arm-and-Hammer,

Yes, I have several suggestions: First, no man's masturbatory practices in any way "corrects" his God-given penis shape; secondly, unless your curve is equivalent to, say, the rigidity of a construction crane's 90-degree angle, then, whomever you're making love to — whether you want to hear this or not — doesn't love you back . . . you should inform "Miss Priss" that you hope your front door is perfectly well hung and straight enough when it hits his ass squarely on the way out.



Dear Howard,

When my brother, five years older, comes home from college, I sometimes sneak into his bedroom after he's asleep and start messing around with him. He's not gay, but he's never kicked me out, or called me a faggot (at least anymore, like he used to when we were kids). As soon as he cums, though, I always leave immediately and the next morning it's like I'm back to being a zero in his life that he barely even acknowledges over the breakfast table. — Chris

Dear Chris,

Incest is God's way of saying that you're not masturbating enough behind your own bedroom door.

Dear Howard,

My girlfriend and I got married two years ago in Iowa, where she's from. I'm from Louisiana, where we now live, but where gay marriage isn't legally recognized. I dream every day now of her dying in a car accident coming home from work so that I don't have to deal with legally divorcing the witch; even worse, now she's talking of us moving to California, a community-property state. How do I get out of this, Howard? — Beth

Dear Beth,

Hire a lawyer.

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer it!

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■ GEEK, From Page 83

players haven't felt persecuted or excluded enough to form one — which is a good thing.

"LGBT cosplayers seem to be so integrated into the cosplay community here already that there hasn't been much of a fight or cause to rally behind," he says. "I'm not saying that I wouldn't be one of the first to join if I ever heard of an LGBT cosplay group for North Texas popping up, we'd need somebody with the time and energy available to organize it."

O'Brien is on the same wavelength. "Those who identify as LGBT don't feel the need for one; they have found friends through this community that accept them and even found a community as a whole that accepts them for who they are," she says. "When you feel such inclusion, I believe there is less of a need to band together."

As the convention season starts to wind down for the year — Dallas Fan Days in October is the last sizable con of the year for North Texas — I've started reflecting on the people I've met, the things I've learned, and the closet I've been unable to tame since moving to Dallas-Fort Worth. While the North Texas LGBT cosplay scene isn't 100 percent comparable to the barely contained disaster area currently smoldering in the corner of my bedroom, it does have the same quirky, unpredictable, multi-colored glitter explosion qualities that makes venturing into the closet every morning an adventure unlike the day before. And I suspect that the deeper I delve into it, the more hidden gems I'll uncover. Like the Nowhere Men comic book shirt I bought at San Diego Comic Con last year and only just dug up yesterday after not having seen it anywhere for the better part of eight months. Magic. And the Jessica Simpson pumps I'd assumed were gone forever.

Carrie Bradshaw would *definitely* have a panic attack in my closet. ■

■ VOLVO, From Page 85

avoid using them. Lane departure warning, front and rear park assist (beepers with dash display), rear camera and cross traffic alert systems are as expected. Safe sex is up to you.

Volvo takes it further with a pedestrian and cyclist detection system that can completely stop the car if you don't. Adaptive cruise control keeps a safe distance on the highway and can also bring the car to a halt. In case you aren't paying attention, red lights appear as ever-brightening glowing embers at the base of the windshield, politely saying, "Uh, pay attention, darlin'."

A new Volvo design language begins arriving with the XC90 this fall, but the impressive Drive-E powertrains and an unassailable reputation for safety will carry on. Base S60 T5 sedans start at \$33,300, but our safety-enhanced T6 with the up-rated engine came to \$47,925 — fully competitive with cars like the Mercedes C300, Cadillac ATS 3.6, Buick Regal Turbo and Audi A4. ■

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Even better

Queer sex advice columnist Dan Savage brings his live Savage Love show to Dallas

JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer
jonanna.widner@gmail.com

Dan Savage began his career as the man behind the now-syndicated advice column Savage Love, which first ran in the Seattle Weekly in the early 1990s. When it began, Savage shocked many readers with his frank and often graphic answers to love and sex questions (which usually started with “Hey, faggot”). But it was this very frankness that garnered him a following, and his career blossomed: He’s now an author, activist (he and his husband Terry started the It Gets Better Project) and frequent television guest — and, on Saturday, a stage performer as the closing-night act of the Pride LGBT Performing Arts Festival at the Kalita.

He also is a target. The bigger his name gets, the more he’s singled out by those whose politics fall right of the dial. That was the case recently, when TK “Molotov” Mitchell insisted that Savage is a more damaging social presence than the Westboro Baptist Church.

“I don’t have a response to that,” Savage says, when I asked him about that. “It’s so ridiculous and obnoxious that it doesn’t merit a response.”

Mitchell himself may not warrant addressing, but Savage says the situation speaks to a bigger issue.

HEY FAGGOT | The co-founder of the It Gets Better Project, Savage is the closing night entertainment at the Pride LGBT Performing Arts Festival. (Photo courtesy LaRae Lobdell)



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"It's from the right-wing playbook," he says. "Because of the It Gets Better Project, my name is forever associated with anti-bullying, and so they want to turn around and say, 'No, no, no, he's the worst bully of all.'"

Anyone who has even a passing knowledge of Savage's personality knows he gives as good as he gets. When Savage Love debuted 23 years ago, it was a brash response to homophobia, provincial attitudes about sex and narrow-mindedness in general. In his responses, Savage was usually insightful and direct, but sometimes "brash" turned to "bratty."

As his career has evolved, however, Savage has maintained his edge and honesty, and tempered it with some perspective. As we chat, just a few days after Michael Sam was picked up for the Dallas Cowboys practice squad, you can hear it in Savage's response.

"You can see a real Jackie Robinson element, the grace with which he's handled himself," Savage says of Sam. "Sometimes trailblazers have to hack away at the underbrush because of the double standards in this culture, particularly with African-American men: You can't look angry and be 'the angry black male.' I think he's handled himself beautifully."

It's a soft moment for Savage before the topic switches to the challenges the LGBTQ community faces today. His edge hardens. The biggest

hurdle we face, he says, is the push for trans rights. "A lot of the anxiety that was once attached to gay people, and the

fear and loathing of gay people as this mysterious other," he says, "has shifted over to the new mystery boogie man, gender outlaw or transgressive, which is trans people."

Where once straight folks worried about being "gay by association," Savage says they now feel threatened by the perceived danger of being around a trans person. "It's grounded in this fear, this anxiety of it being predatory. That idea of some sort of blowjob vampires that will convert you has now attached itself to gender."

For many homophobic and transphobic souls, those vampires still prowl the night. But the good news is the rise of queer visibility has a momentum of its own, as more and more people come out or just skip the closet altogether.

"Our biggest advancement is our social visibility," Savage says. "Being out to friends and family and co-workers. When I first came out and first started making that point, the minority of queer people were out to their friends and family and now the majority of queer people are out to their friends and family."

It seems like such a basic thing, but Savage distills the concept that's direct and clarifying ... just like Savage Love, just like his books and just like his appearances on shows like *The Colbert Report*: "You've seen such rapid and radical shifts because people know queer people. None of the other things we want to achieve socially and politically are possible without people being out." ■

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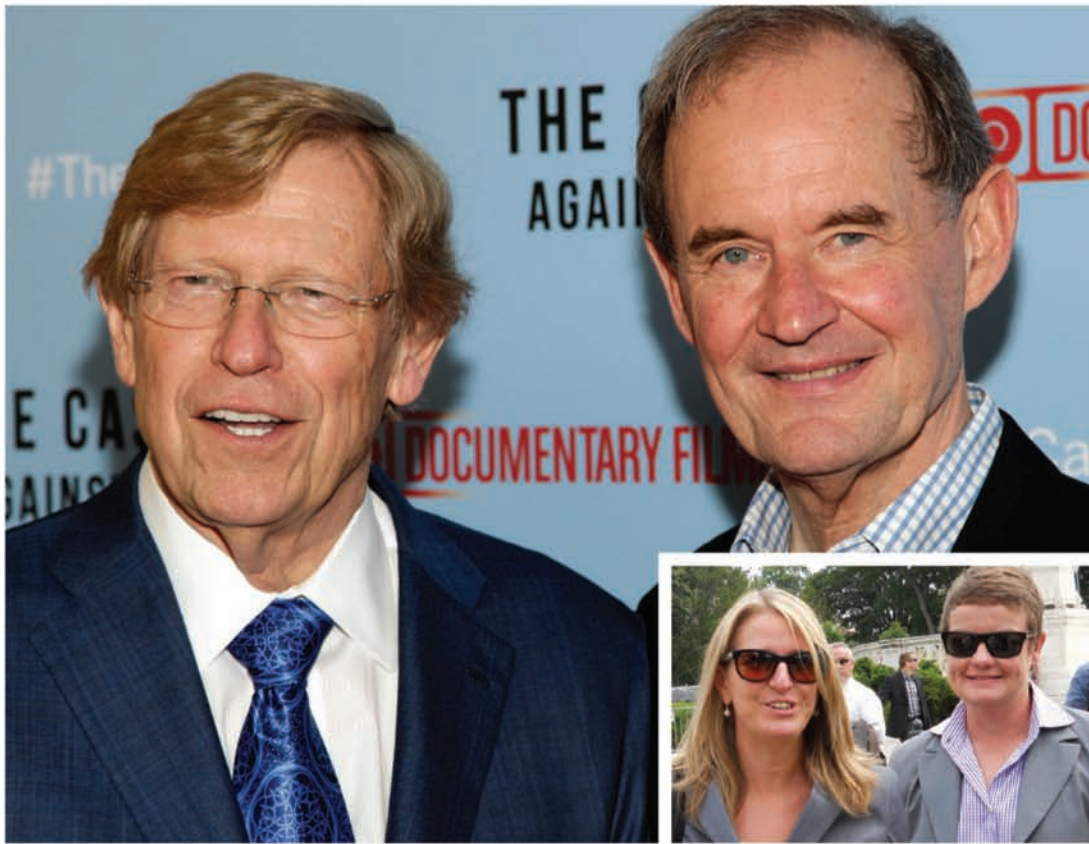
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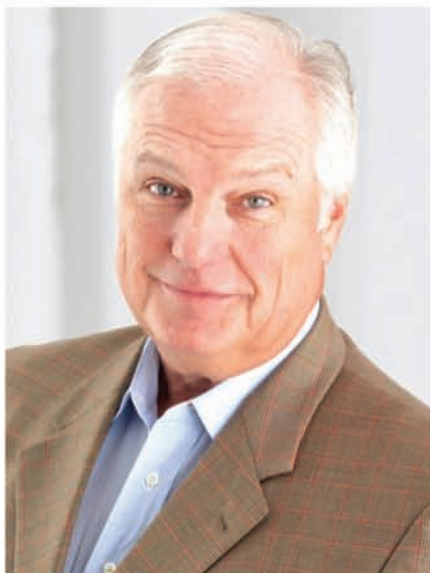
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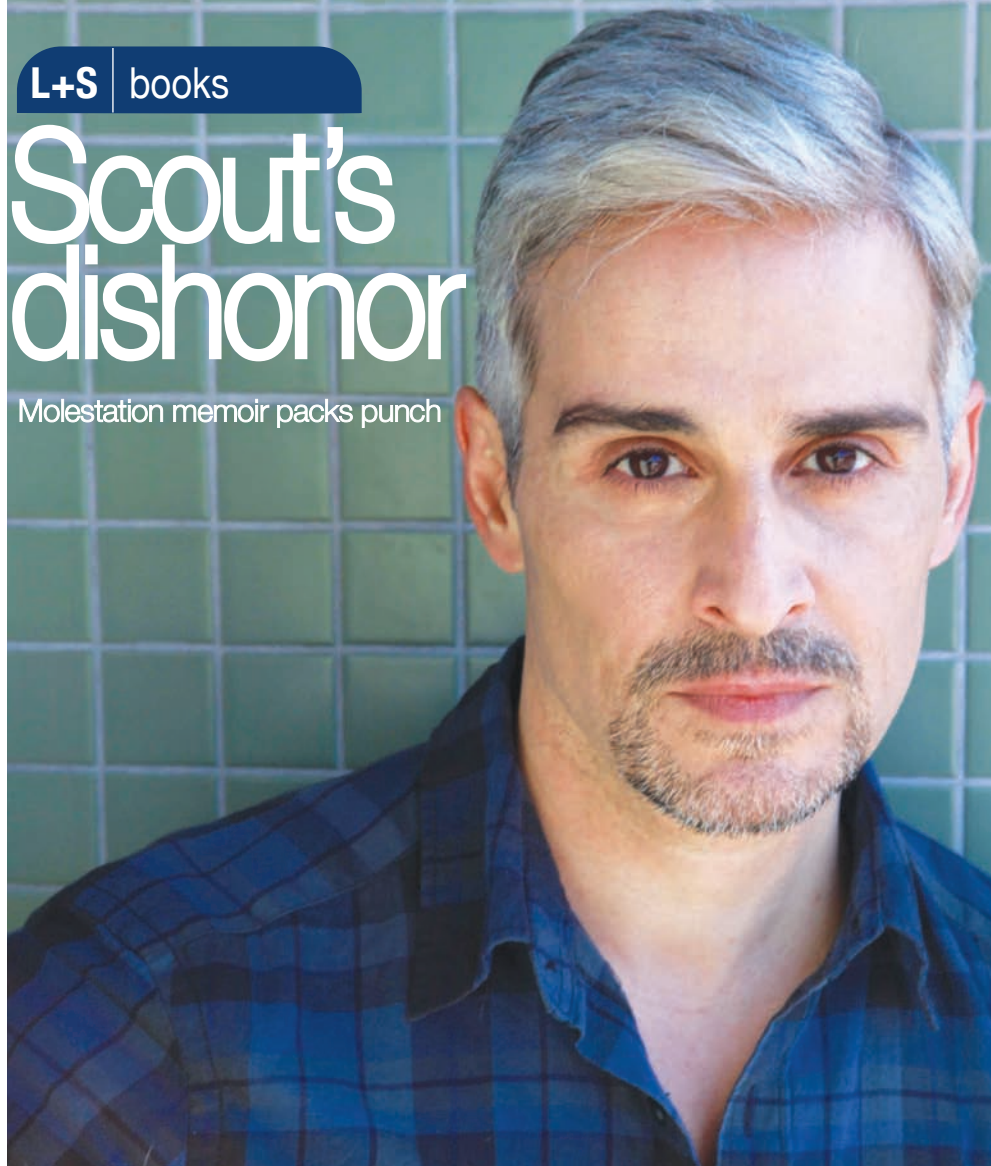
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Molestation memoir packs punch



Pee-Shy: A Memoir by Frank Spinelli (Kensington Press 2014), \$15; 353 pp.

When he was just 8 years old, Frank Spinelli received a toy medical kit as a gift, and decided on the spot that he wanted to be a doctor. It was a surprise, therefore, when — years later — he flunked out of undergrad college, his scholarship gone with his dreams. Taking the advice of a friend, Spinelli began therapy to explore the reasons for his dark life and med-school failure. The answer, as it turned out, was easy.

It started when Spinelli was just 11 — overweight, bullied, sports-hating and a frustration to his Italian parents, who pushed their son into Scouting.

Spinelli hated Scouting, but he admired the area's Scoutmaster. He liked Bill, and he knew that Bill liked him. Bill took young Frank out for ice cream; he invited the boy over to his house for what Bill called "boy bonding." When Spinelli eventually told his parents about this molestation, very little was done and even less was said.

Fast forward: Back on track, Spinelli achieved his dream of becoming a doctor. He opened his own practice in New York and grew his clientele. He seemed like a successful, happy gay man, but old issues still plagued him: sometimes, he couldn't empty his bladder. Configurations of bath-



rooms mattered. Other occupants mattered. Urinals were mostly off-limits. It was a remnant of his abuse, and he'd learned to deal with it.

And then, old memories began to float forward. Small reminders nagged at Spinelli. He found a book written about Bill, and learned that Bill had adopted a son. That opened a floodgate of images and questions. So Spinelli picked up the phone and called the man.

Is your jaw on the floor yet? I know mine was as I followed Spinelli on his incredible journey

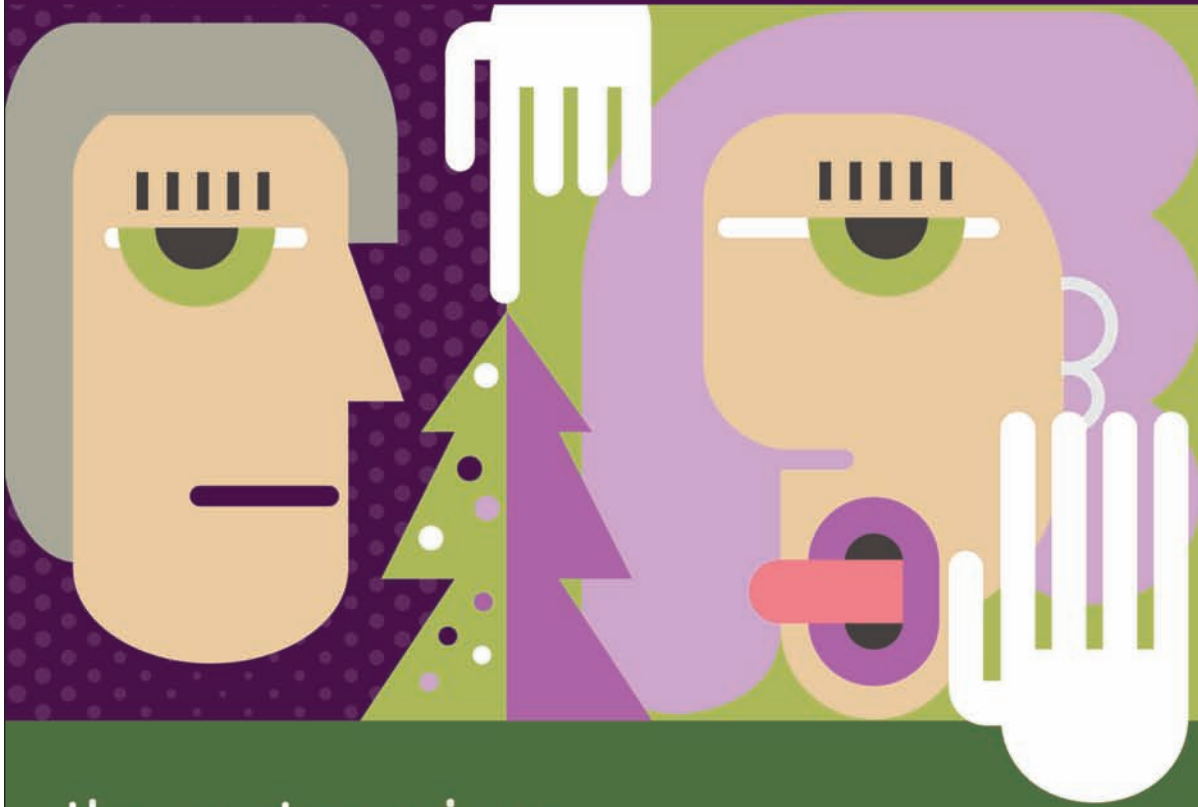
in *Pee-Shy: A Memoir*. With steady strength and a rare kind of candor, Spinelli writes of a childhood filled with embarrassment and curiosity for forbidden (i.e., "girlie") things. It's almost a relief as this formerly-outcast kid lets us see him become a successful adult.

And yet, it's a mixed bag, since we're then privy to his falling apart, his self-doubts and frustrations that his body reacts as it does, now that it's safe. None of this is easy to read — it's a squirmy book, for sure — but what makes it worthwhile is the sense of courage and closure that the ending allows.

The explicit bits in this book are, thankfully, not gratuitous. If you can handle them, then *Pee-Shy* is a book that'll surely stick in your memory.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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This production is not suitable for children. Not only does it contain adult language and situations, it also casts doubt on the existence of Santa Claus.

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■ HUDSON, From Page 63

ence JHUD? That's a part of me, so it wasn't necessarily a target in making the album — it's just me being me, and that's what I love about this album. I've sat back, I've listened and I've learned — now, can I have a voice? Can I express myself? All of that is a part of me that is coming out through the music, so yes, you will hear songs that are old-school influenced, disco influenced, gay-anthem influenced.

Throughout my career I've noticed people don't have a sense of who I am as a person. They know me from being on *Idol* or being a spokesperson or emcee, or from film ... but who is the girl? What's her story? Through this album, I want people to get a sense of me and what that is. You're picking up on that. "Oh, I feel a gay influence." Yes, you do, honey, because that's where I come from.

As someone whose voice really takes listeners back to the golden era of female vocalists, how do you imagine your career would be different had you been on the radio when a real voice — a real diva voice — meant more than it does now? I feel like I'm stuck in the wrong time. I grew up on the Whitneys, the Pattis, the Arethas — the big voices. Today's divas are just a completely different thing. Though they're great as well, I still feel like I'm stuck between eras. I love The Pointer Sisters, and I also love Destiny's Child. That's why this album is so eclectic. I'm not a person who believes in limits. Nobody can tell me what my potential is other than myself. So [for people] to say, "You only get to do this" — no, you don't get to tell me that.

Speaking of Whitney Houston, before it was announced that Yaya Da-Costa nabbed the role of Whitney for Lifetime's upcoming biopic. Before that, there have been rumors of you possibly playing her. ... Oh, no, no, no. Not Lifetime, no. I mean, I heard my name being tossed around for Whitney, which would obviously be an honor, but as far as that one in particular, that was never the case.

Could you see yourself playing Whitney at some point? If it was done in the right way, for sure. I'm a fan, and I, like everyone else, want to see her remembered in the way she should be remembered. Whitney — I mean, come on, she made the hugest impact on our industry. Everybody loved Whitney. I want her to get her just, to be done the right way. She



gave her whole life to this industry, so give her that.

What would be a suitable way to tribute Whitney? I wanna see one tribute. I felt the same way with Michael [Jackson]. There are all these

amazing legends who gave their entire lives to their career, and it wasn't light stuff — I mean, they changed the game. They changed the industry and how we look at music *and* performing. So much more should be done for them in their memory and to honor their work.

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Krystal Summers

ACCEPTANCE

KRYSTAL SUMMERS | CASON ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
 TRANSLATE: DAVIS | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

She is the only woman in the world to be the first to be a...
 and she did it for a reason. Krystal Summers is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Krystal Summers is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Krystal Summers is a...

Vanessa Benavidez

EQUALITY

VANESSA BENAVIDEZ | TRINET HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
 TRANSLATE: WISSE | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

She has a big heart. A big heart is what she has in her...
 and she did it for a reason. Vanessa Benavidez is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Vanessa Benavidez is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Vanessa Benavidez is a...

Malcolm Gage Jr.

OPPORTUNITY

MALCOLM GAGE JR. | PARK PLACE PREMIER COLLECTION
 TRANSLATE: BISHOP | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

The most useful to describe...
 and she did it for a reason. Malcolm Gage Jr. is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Malcolm Gage Jr. is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Malcolm Gage Jr. is a...

Jaime Duggan

COMMUNITY

JAIME DUGGAN | THE DUGGAN LAW FIRM, PLLC
 TRANSLATE: GIBSON | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

She is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Jaime Duggan is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Jaime Duggan is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Jaime Duggan is a...

Blake Baker

HEART

BLAKE BAKER | DUBBLE FOUNDATION, INC.
 TRANSLATE: BISHOP | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

He has a big heart. A big heart is what he has in his...
 and she did it for a reason. Blake Baker is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Blake Baker is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Blake Baker is a...

Sam Santiago

PROGRESSIVE

SAM SANTIAGO | E & H HOLDINGS
 TRANSLATE: GIBSON | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

He has a big heart. A big heart is what he has in his...
 and she did it for a reason. Sam Santiago is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Sam Santiago is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Sam Santiago is a...

Gregory Kilhoffer

CONNECT

GREGORY KILHOFFER | CAVEN ENTERPRISES, INC.
 TRANSLATE: WISSE | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

He is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Gregory Kilhoffer is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Gregory Kilhoffer is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Gregory Kilhoffer is a...

Joseph Hernandez

HOPE

JOSEPH HERNANDEZ | COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & VOLUNTEER
 TRANSLATE: WISSE | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

He has a big heart. A big heart is what he has in his...
 and she did it for a reason. Joseph Hernandez is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Joseph Hernandez is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Joseph Hernandez is a...

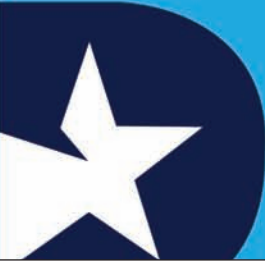
Dr. Cordell Adams

SPIRITUAL

DR. CORDELL ADAMS | C. CORDELL ADAMS, M.D.
 TRANSLATE: BISHOP | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

He is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Dr. Cordell Adams is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Dr. Cordell Adams is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Dr. Cordell Adams is a...

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Angela Amos

EMPOWER

ANGELA AMOS | DALLAS HER PRIDE
 TRANSLATE: WISSE | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

She is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Angela Amos is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Angela Amos is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Angela Amos is a...

Marcus Monson

STYLE

MARCUS MONSON | GUERLAIN COSMETICS
 TRANSLATE: WISSE | #DUBBOROUGH | C&B

He is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Marcus Monson is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Marcus Monson is a...
 and she did it for a reason. Marcus Monson is a...

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Saturday
09.20



DJ Patrick Kuzara spinning Pride weekend

Adore Delano may be the featured entertainment at the Red Party Friday, but she'll be join at the event by New York DJ Patrick Kuzara. If you aren't able to catch him there, however, there's another chance to see him spin. Kuzara joins DJ Casey Alva at the Dick's After Dark Party: Pride Edition at BJ's on Saturday. That follows Dick's second annual Pride Pool Party at Salt earlier in the event. Basically, there's a lot of Patrick in Dallas this weekend ... and a lot of Dick's.

DEETS: Dick's Get Wet Pride Pool Party, Salt, 3121 Ross Ave. With Casey Alva and Charlie Phresh. Noon-6 p.m. \$10-\$20. Dick's After Dark, BJ's NXS!, 2315 Fitzhugh Ave. Casey Alva and Patrick Kuzara. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover for men. DicksEvents.com.



Friday 09.19

Drag Racer Adore Delano headlines Red Party

If you read our interview with Adore Delano in last week's edition, you know to expect the unexpected with her live show, which she brings to Pride Weekend at the sixth annual Red Party, which benefits Legacy Counseling Center. In addition to doing something nice for the charity and seeing the Drag Racer in person, DJ Patrick Kuzara will spin.

DEETS: The Globe, 525 Riverfront Blvd. 9-11 p.m. 2014RedParty.eventbrite.com.

Gay Softball World Series opens

It's been a decade since the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association — NAGAAA — last chose Dallas to host its World Series for gay softball players, but it's finally back in a town known for its love of sports. The six days of events kick off with play on Monday, and teams continue to vie for the title through Saturday, but in between there's tons of activities for athletes and just those wanting to hang out with them, from drag shows to talent competitions to a trip to see the Texas Rangers. And it all starts with opening ceremonies at Annette Strauss Artists Square on Monday with host Dale Hansen. Play ball!

DEETS: Opening ceremonies at Strauss Square, 2403 Flora St. 5:30-9:30 p.m. For a complete listing of games, locations and activities, visit DallasSeries2014.org.



Monday 09.22

JOHN LITHGOW ALFRED MOLINA AND MARISA TOMEI

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Pride Performing Arts Festival. Uptown Players' annual assortment of plays, comedy and spoken word ends Saturday with Dan Savage Live. Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.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.

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. 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. Through Sept. 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. 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. Through Oct. 5. TheatreArlington.org.

FINE ARTS

Isa Genzken: Retrospective. The German modern artist — sculptor, painter, videographer and repurposer of found objects — gets a rare and dazzling retrospective at the DMA, in conjunction with the Museum of Modern Art and Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 4, 2015. DMA.org.



MUSIC OF AFRICA | Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour performs at the Winspear as part of the TITAS music series Friday.

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.

Jane Seymour. The film and TV actress will be in attendance at the Milan Gallery in Fort Worth to discuss her artwork, which includes watercolors, oils and giclee reproductions. Milan Gallery, 505 Houston St., Fort Worth. Sept. 19, private reception and benefit for Texas Frontier Ballet (\$30); Sept. 20, 6–9 p.m.; Sept. 21, noon–2 p.m. MilanGallery.com.



SIGNING AT PRIDE | Among the booths at the festival in Lee Park will be novelist Anthony K. Robinson, signing copies of his new book.

FRIDAY 09.19

COMMUNITY

Dick's Happy Hour: Pride Kick-Off Party. Salt, 3121 Ross Ave. 6–10 p.m. Free with RSVP at DicksEvents.com.

Sixth Annual Red Party. A benefit for Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage. With entertainment by Adore Delano and DJ Patrick Kuzara. The Globe, 525 Riverfront Blvd. 9–11 p.m. 2014RedParty.eventbrite.com.

CONCERTS

Youssou N'Dour. The Senegalese singer, who leads the most popular live band in Africa, appears for a special concert at the Winspear. Presented by TITAS. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 19. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

SATURDAY 09.20

COMMUNITY

Gay Day at Six Flags. The annual chance to visit the amusement park with deeply discounted tickets. Buy online at <http://fs.gd/w00eKU>.

Dick's Get Wet: Second Annual Pride Pool Party. Salt, 3121 Ross Ave. Noon–6 p.m. Free with RSVP at DicksEvents.com.

Gaybingo. The sassy bingo game and fundraiser marks its 150th event with the return of special guest Jenna Skyy. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

Dick's After Party: Pride Edition. BJ's NXS!, 2315 Fitzhugh Ave. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Free with RSVP at DicksEvents.com.

THEATER

Tomorrow Come Today. Undermain Theatre launches its 2014–15 season with this world premiere, a science fiction drama set in the not-too-distant future where technological advances permit the wealthy to cheat death. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Sept. 20–Oct. 11. Undermain.org

SUNDAY 09.21

PRIDE

Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and Festival at Lee Park. Dallas' annual fall gay Pride festivities begins on The Strip and runs until evening at Lee Park. For a complete rundown of events, see Pages 52–54.

MONDAY 09.22

BROADCAST

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

COMMUNITY

Gay Softball World Series Opening Ceremonies. Annette Strauss Artists Squire at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 5:30–9:30 p.m. DallasSeries2014.org.



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TUESDAY 09.23

FILM

The Women. Not the terrible recent remake but rather the 1939 classic (from that remarkable Golden Year of Hollywood) features not a single man on screen, though behind the scenes it was gay director George Cukor who brought Clare Boothe Luce's bitchy play to life. With Norma Shearer, Rosalind Russell and Joan Crawford. This "viewers' choice" selection 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.

COMMUNITY

Miss GSWS Pageant. Cassie Nova hosts the best drag performer for the Gay Softball World Series. JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

WEDNESDAY 09.24

COMMUNITY

NAGAAA Talent Show. Entrants from the Gay Softball World Series demonstrate their talents before host Alyssa Edwards and judges including Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones. Benefits Legacy Counseling Center. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY 09.25

BROADCAST

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

THEATER

Doubt: A Parable. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play about a priest in 1960s New York who may (or may not) have molested a student. Studio Theater in the RTFP Building (on the UNT campus), 1179 Union Circle, Denton. Sept. 25-28 only. DanceAndTheatre.unt.edu.

this week's solution

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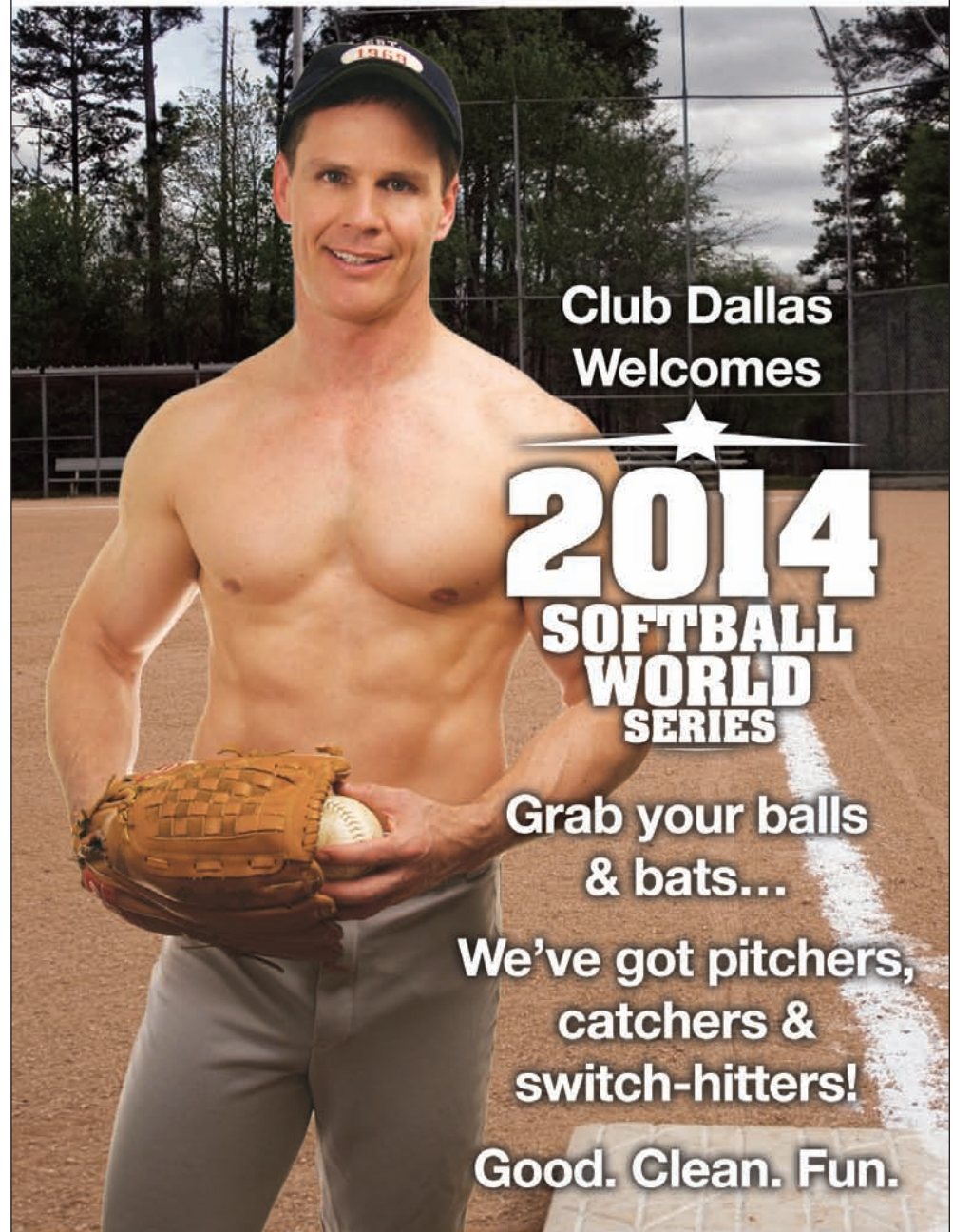
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AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK — 501 N. Stemmons, #200; Dallas 75207; 214-943-4444 (Programs); 214-941-7696 (Administration); aidsinterfaithnetwork.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ EDUCATION

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

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■ MEDIA

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

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

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

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

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

■ POLITICAL

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

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

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

METROPLEX REPUBLICANS — MetroplexRepublicans.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BLACK TIE DINNER, INC. — 3878 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 100-B #321, Dallas 75219; 972-733-9200; blacktie.org.

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DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE — 3100 Main, Suite 208; Dallas 75226; 214-734-8007; dallassouthernpride.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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Cassie Nova

Happy Pride, bitches!

I am not normal. Everything I do is always a little strange. Even my damn dreams are peculiar. Most people that dream of flying recall how they soar all over the world like a fantastic superhero or a graceful eagle. Not me. Every time I dream I am flying, I have to frantically flap my arms or else I will fall out of the sky. As for my nightmares, I am always being chased by zombies. Zombies freak me out, but in my dreams, they taunt while they chase me, screaming, "You betta run, nellyie boy, cuz we gonna eat you!" Did I mention they are always *redneck* zombies? My point is, I accept my weirdness. I embrace my abnormal dreams and my crazy life. There is never a dull moment in the world of Cassie Nova.

Now let's get to work.

Dear Cassie,

I have a boyfriend of seven years. He is in the military, overseas until April 2015, and has been gone since June 2013. I miss him terribly and it's getting harder and harder without him. I love him with all my might. The problem is, I love sex all the time with him — there is not a day that I couldn't get it from him. Now that he's away, he told me — since he couldn't take care of me — that I could get one someone every so often that was "DDF" (as I am). I did so a couple of times, but it's not the same as being with him. I just don't like hooking up with strangers. I've also done the toy thing but it's not the same as the real thing. My question is: What can I do to satisfy my needs without hooking up with someone? I know this sounds stupid but really need some advice. Thank

you — Missing my man

Dear 3M, First off, thank your man for all does for our country and our freedoms. I cannot imagine being away from my love for that long. My heart goes out to you both. Now for some real talk. Bitch, you need to quit dwelling on "your" needs. Spank it, take a cold shower and get a freaking hobby. Every time you start to think of hooking up, think of the sacrifice your man has made! The least you can do is be faithful. I don't mean to get preachy, but not everyone finds love. The lucky ones who've found true love should hang on to it. It's hard, but satisfy yourself 'til he gets back when you can satisfy each other. Good luck with your Red, white and blue balls, Cassie.

Dearest Cassie, My question is this: Being an entertainer with fans across the globe, and a larger than life stage persona, how do you balance the lives between Cassie and James? As drag entertainers, people get to know the stage version of you and only a few people actually get to know and be close to the real you. I've seen it over and over again: Those hugely popular and extremely accomplished, with the most recognizable names in the industry, are somewhat alone when they cross over into the afterworld. How do you keep James' life full and nurtured as well as the stage presence we all know and love as Cassie Nova? — Daniel Hollingsworth, Waco.

Well, Danny from Waco, that is a tough question. The easy answer is that I have an awesome husband that loves me and supports everything I do. I have great drag sisters that care enough about me to keep me from feeling friendless and alone. I have a bunch of four-legged kids that give me purpose and make me smile everyday. And I have family that is always there when it truly matters. But the truth is, when I was single, years ago, I felt lonely a lot. It was easy to get bitter about everything. I sympathize with



those performers that cannot find happiness. It is hard to be adored on stage when you are dressed up and ignored when you are not. I am lucky enough to be loved. I am proof that all it takes is love to keep you from turning to the dark side. Whoa, that shit got deep. Sorry, Cassie.

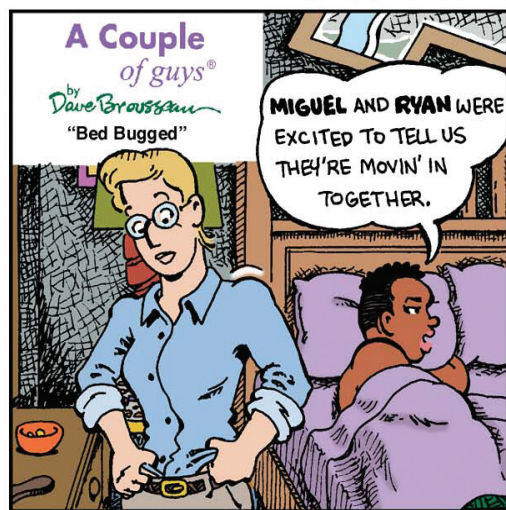
Here is another installment of Tales from the Drag Side. Years ago, I was booked to do a show with the fabulous Grandma Porkey at Choices in Longview, Texas. Myself and two other homos packed the car for a cute little trip. In some small town on the other side of Canton, we got pulled over. I think we may have been speeding. I was sitting in the back seat painting my nails for the show. That means my plastic nails were stuck to some duct tape on the lid to a shoebox while I put a fresh coat of whore red on them. Of course, I had also painted my toenails out of boredom. The very handsome police officer walked up to the window, looked at us, cocked his head to the side like a confused puppy and said, "What the hell are you doin'?" I said, "I am painting my nails for my show tonight." He said, "Show? What kind of show?" I figured honesty is the best policy. I said, "A drag show ... tonight ... in Longview." He said, "OK" but he said it really slow like OOOhhh-kaaayyy. Then he asked, "So what will I find if we open the trunk?" I was getting nervous but I wanted to be compliant. I said, "A Bob Mackie gown, a makeup kit, two wigs on wig heads and a duffel bag with some other costumes, fake titties and a fake ass. He said, "Pop the trunk." I kept thinking of that crazy cop from *To Wong Foo*. Denny, who was driving, did as the policeman asked. He looked in the trunk and started to laugh. He came back to my window and asked, "What time does the show start?" He said his wife has always wanted to see a drag show. I told him and he said, "Cool, I hope to see you there." And he let us go with a warning to slow down.

That night, not only did he show up to the show but he brought a whole group with him. It was an awesome show and we made sure he had a great time. He was a good tipper and bought shots all night long. I bet that was not his last drag show. I love it when people surprise you.

Remember to dream big my lovelies, even if you have to flap your arms like a chicken to do so. Be proud to be you!

Love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question or some juicy gossip to share, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



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Dade, above, and Sean, below at The Round-Up.



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Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade: Cedar Springs Road at 2 p.m. on Sunday. **Festival in Lee Park** noon-7 p.m. on Sunday.

Gay Softball World Series: Kiest Park and fields in Grand Prairie and Euless 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Sheran Keeton** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. **Alicia Silex** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: **Pride After Party** and **Employee Turnabout Show** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Brick/Joe's: **Shangela** and **April Carrion** on Sept. 20. Special performance by **G licious "G"** with **MC Nicole D'Hara Munro**. Benefits **Sugarstix Lifewalk Team**.

Changes: **Cowtown Leathermen** and **Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington** turnabout show at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Club Reflection: **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Dallas Eagle: **DFW Leather Corps** seminar at 2 p.m. on Saturday. **Beyond Vanilla Kick-Off Party** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Havana: **LULAC** reception with **Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins** at 6 p.m. on Friday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: **Miss Gay Softball World Series** pageant on Tuesday at 10 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: **Softball opening ceremony after party** on Monday at 9:30 p.m.

S4: **Glow Party** at 9 p.m. on Friday. **Gaybingo** at 5 p.m. on Saturday. **Gay Softball World Series talent show** on Wednesday. **Outrageous Oral** at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Sue Ellen's: **Poppy Champlin**, **Sandra Valls** and **Vicki Shaw** are the **Queer Queens of Comedy** on Friday. **Carni Maki Band** on Saturday. **Ciao Bella** with **Anton Shaw** on Sunday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Watch **Dallas Cowboys at St. Louis** at noon on Sunday. **Parade after-party** hosted by **Chanel Champagne** on Sunday.

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



Cara and Lacey at Sue Ellen's.



Big Mama, Robert and Dan at Alexandre's Bar.



Onyx and Dallas at Station 4.



The crew hanging out at Havana's.



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Kathy Corbin and her nom at Sue Ellen's.



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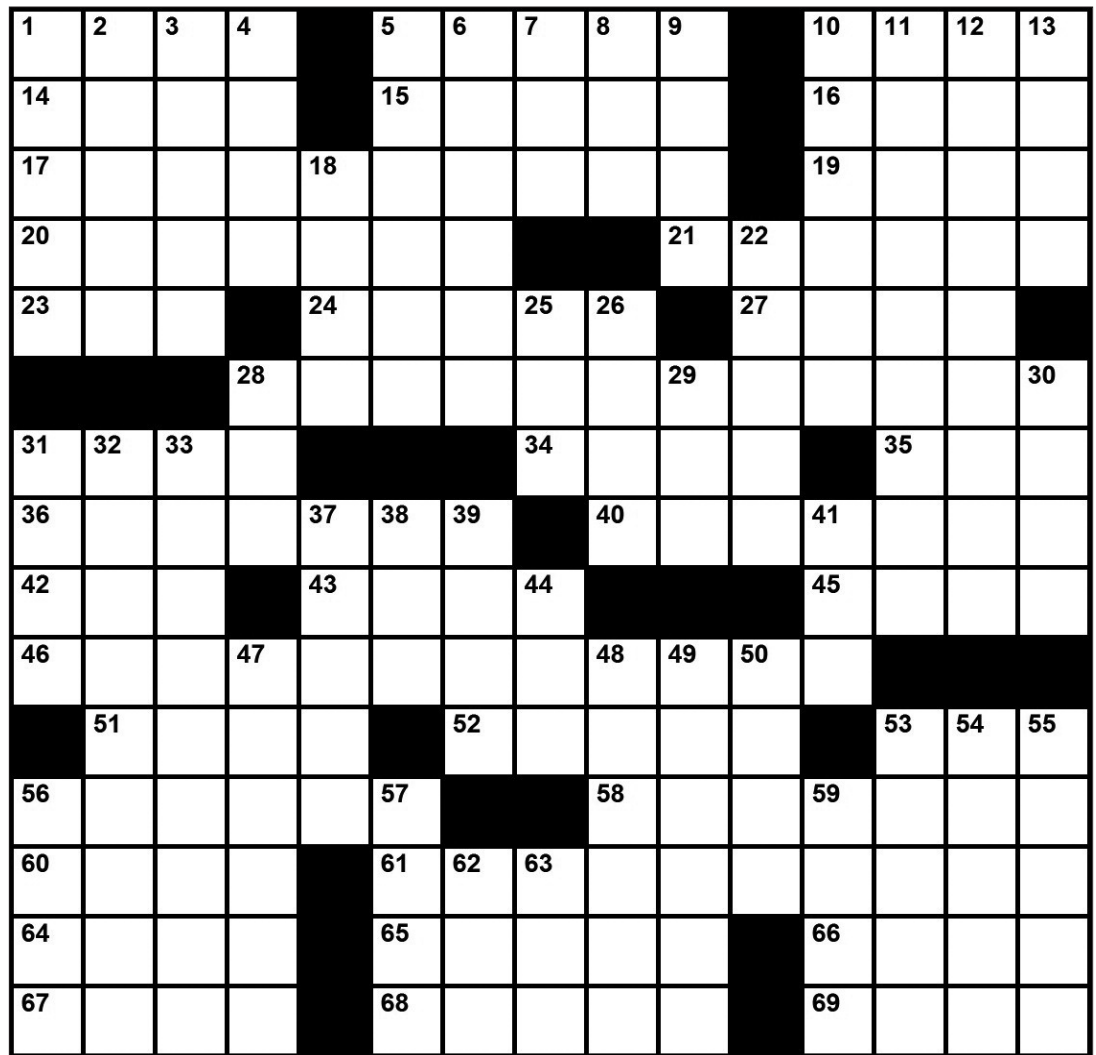
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q-puzzle



Cry Me a River

Solution on page 99

Across

- 1 Recess at St. Peter's
- 5 "Come, come!"
- 10 Cruising greeting
- 14 Diva Celine
- 15 City where they sing "Hello, Dalai"?
- 16 Where pirates moor
- 17 Start of a quote by Joan Rivers
- 19 Some Feds
- 20 Flap by an opening
- 21 Kahló's misters
- 23 Us, to Rilke
- 24 Missionary position?
- 27 Inside scoop
- 28 More of the quote
- 31 Ball lover
- 34 Suffix with exist
- 35 Simpson trial judge Lance
- 36 Goes down
- 40 "The Lonely Goatherd" singer
- 42 Last letter in London
- 43 Melville's whale hunter
- 45 Designer Wang
- 46 More of the quote
- 51 Protected from the wind
- 52 Words asked with a nudge

Down

- 1 "... farewell, auf Wiedersehen ..."
- 2 Like people near a leaning erection
- 3 Turns
- 4 Env. in an env., e.g.
- 5 They get initiated at West Point
- 6 TV's "Queen of the Jungle"
- 7 Went to bed with
- 8 Wall St. bears watch it
- 9 Small balls
- 10 Infomercial urging
- 11 '50s name for a gay activist
- 12 Person pigging out
- 13 Longs, to a Samurai?
- 18 Cosmetics name

- 22 Beat barely
- 25 Cyclops's singleton
- 26 Like Elton John's dancer of song
- 28 Type of top
- 29 Sgt. or corp.
- 30 Scroll for the cut
- 31 Cold-cock
- 32 Lots of people go down on them
- 33 Bench locale
- 37 *Frida* star Salma
- 38 However, briefly
- 39 Performed like k.d. lang
- 41 She had no heterosexual parents
- 44 One who goes after your honey
- 47 Find new actors for
- 48 Emulates Paul Cadmus
- 49 ___ of the Field (Poitier classic)
- 50 Tommy's gun
- 53 Biscotto flavoring
- 54 "John Brown's Body" writer
- 55 First indications of orientation
- 56 Sitcom in which Billy Crystal played gay
- 57 High-pitched cries, doggy-style
- 59 Of the same sort
- 62 Writer's enc.
- 63 *In Cold Blood* writer, to pals

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