# Going cuckoo for Coco's stuff

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■ COMEDY, Page 18

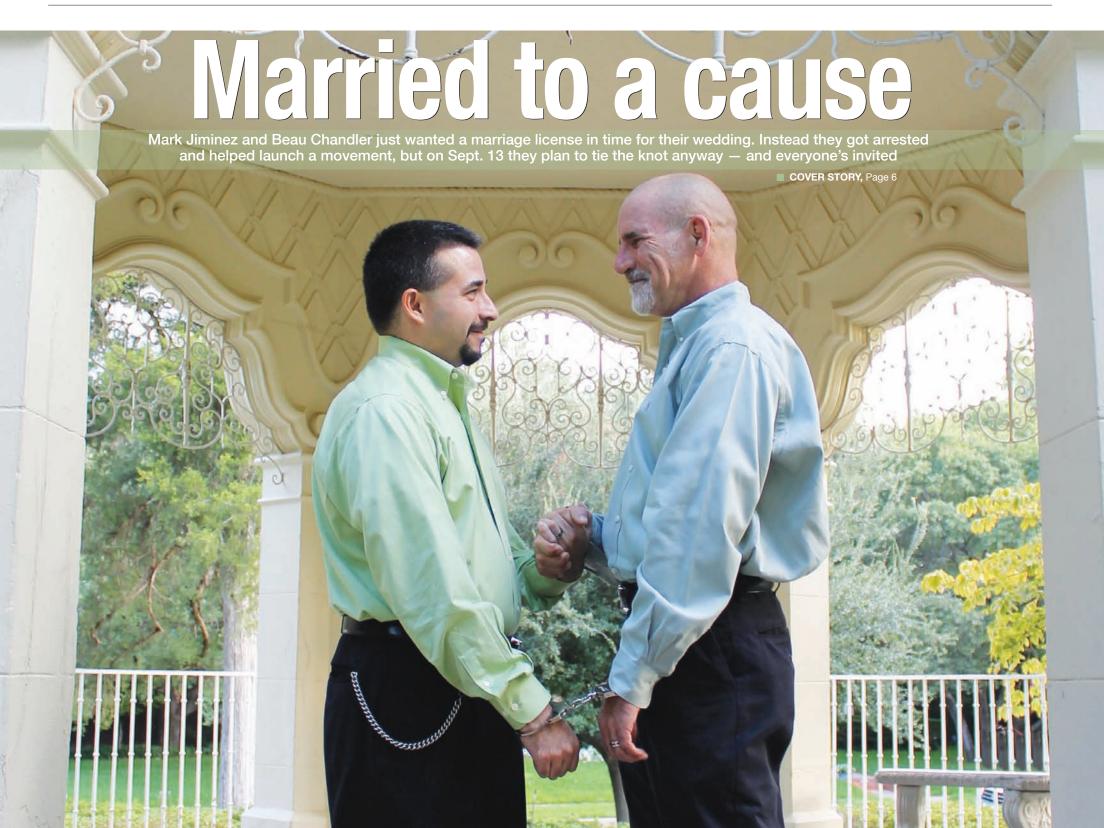
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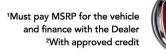




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Photo by Anna Waugh. Design by Kevin Thomas.



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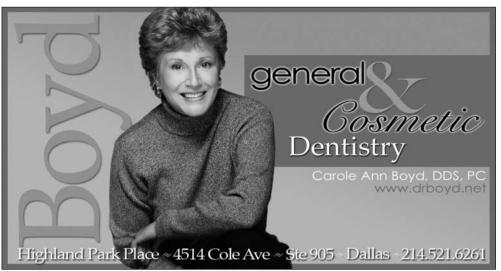


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#### Meredith Baxter to keynote BTD

Lesbian actress and producer Meredith Baxter — perhaps best known as Elyse Keaton from Family Ties — will keynote this year's Black Tie Dinner, organizers said Thursday, Sept. 6.

Baxter, 65, an advocate for women's and human rights and breast cancer research, came out in 2009 on *The Today Show*. She signed with Broadway Books to write a memoir of her personal and professional life, *Untied*, which was published in 2011. On a local note, Baxter also recently narrated the documentary film *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge*.

"Meredith Baxter is a champion of women's rights and devotes much of her time speaking out on issues about which she is passionate," BTD cochair Chris Kouvelis said. "Her life experiences reflect our theme for this year's dinner: 'Affair of the Heart.' Every cause that Meredith involves herself with is an affair of her heart in every way."

Noted for her accessible portrayals of intelligent, independent women who struggle with the challenges before them, Baxter achieved early success with a string of TV hits, including the CBS sitcom Bridget Loves Bernie; the critically acclaimed ABC drama Family, for which she received an Emmy nomination; and the perennially popular Family Ties. Following Family Ties, Baxter made a seamless transition to drama, quickly establishing herself as one of the most sought-after actors for TV movies. In 1991, she received an Emmy nomination for her performance as the lead character in A Woman Scorned: The Betty Broderick Story. In 1994, she garnered a Daytime Emmy nomination for her role



Meredith Baxter

as a lesbian mother raising a young son in the CBS After School Special, *Other Mothers*. She also received a special award for public awareness from the National Breast Cancer Coalition for her work on the television film, *My Breast* (1994), a black comedy about the true story of journalist Joyce Wadler's suc-

cessful battle with breast cancer.

"In many respects, Meredith Baxter is America's favorite mom," BTD co-chair Mitzi Lemons said. "When she decided to come out in a very public way, she paved the way for so many people to follow in her footsteps. In Meredith, they see a friendly, accessible and non-threatening person who has made the decision to come out, and perhaps that removes some of the fear and stigma from their own coming-out process."

Baxter has a line of skin care products and donates a portion of the profits from sales to the Meredith Baxter Fund for Breast Cancer Research, which promotes prevention and research, as well as free mammograms for low-income women.

The 31st annual Black Tie Dinner will be at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel on Nov. 3. Although the event is officially sold out, anyone interested in tickets that may become available should contact Dan Godfrey at dgodfrey@blacktie.org.

— John Wright



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# coverstory



SITTING AND STANDING | Beau Chandler, left, and Mark 'Major' Jiminez sit in the Dallas County Clerk's Office prior to their arrests on July 5. Jiminez was arrested a second time on Aug. 2. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

# Married to a cause

Mark Jiminez and Beau Chandler just wanted a marriage license in time for their wedding. Instead they got arrested and helped launch a movement, but on Sept. 13 they plan to tie the knot anyway — and everyone's invited

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer waugh@dallasvoice.com

To many, Mark "Major" Jiminez and Beau Chandler are two local leathermen whose activism has brought them international attention. But away from the media spotlight, Jiminez and Chandler are just two men who want to legally marry.

The two were arrested at the end of a marriage protest on July 5 at the Dallas County Records Building. After being denied a marriage license because Texas does not issue them to same-sex couples, they handcuffed themselves together and waited until the building closed. They were ar-

rested for trespassing because they refused to leave.

It marked the first LGBT activism arrest in Dallas' history. Chandler said they didn't plan to get arrested but became angry when they weren't served like the other handful of couples that walked right past them. He said building management offered to have police take them out a separate exit if they agreed to leave without being arrested. They refused.

"It didn't work out for them because we flat out told them, 'No, we're here to make this statement, and we are seriously not leaving unless you take us away in cuffs because we have not yet been served,"" Chandler said.

The couple wanted a marriage license in time for their wedding, set for Thursday, Sept. 13. They will still walk down the aisle next week at a friend's house near Bachman Lake and exchange their own vows.

The intimate ceremony will be followed by a reception at the Dallas Eagle. Instead of wedding presents, the couple has asked guests to tip the entertainers at the reception. Proceeds will go to Youth First Texas and 89.3 KNON's Lambda Weekly and the Sonic Assembly Hour programs.

"We like giving back to the community, and as far as wedding gifts, we already have the toaster oven and the microwave and all that good stuff," Chandler said. "We just combined two households. So, it's better that everybody have a good time and we give something back to the people that love us and that we love."

Jiminez and Chandler said they met a year ago at a fundraiser. They became friends but weren't in a good place in their lives to start dating. Fate brought them together earlier this year at another fundraiser and the whirlwind romance began.

"We were getting our lives in order, and I guess it was the perfect storm earlier this year because our lives were in order and we got thrown together again, so here we are," Jiminez said.

One morning in early May, Jiminez made Chandler a surprise breakfast of blueberry pancakes with a ring inside.

"When he got down to the ring part, I got down on my knee, I offered it to him and I asked if he would like to get married," Jiminez said. "And he said he would."

Chandler said the proposal caught him by surprise, but he was thrilled.

"It was a pretty sweet deal," he said. "I thought it was just a big special breakfast, but it was way bigger than what I thought it was going to be."

A few days later, President Barack Obama endorsed marriage equality, inspiring the couple to plan the staged sit-in.

"That's when we decided that we would just make a personal public statement locally and go downtown and apply for a marriage license and refuse to leave without one," Jiminez said. "We really didn't expect it to get as crazy and widespread as it did."

Jiminez, an activist since the late '70s, said he's been in protests around the country. Chandler, who is new to activism, said he always wanted to get involved in the fight for LGBT equality but didn't have anyone with whom to be active. But now the two have each other.

They approached GetEQUAL with their marriage sit-in idea, and the organization decided to partner with them, GetEQUAL Texas state co-coordinator Michael Diviesti said.

Jiminez and Chandler's protest was designed to coincide with the anniversary of the adoption of the 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection under the law. Diviesti said tying the protest to GetEQUAL's national "Fight for the 14th" campaign helped bring international attention to their arrests, and sit-ins at marriage counters across the country followed. While Dallas is liberal, many people outside the state view it as conservative, so the idea that Dallas had a gay couple demanding a marriage license instead of a place like Austin — where such protests are expected — added fuel to the media fire.

"They started a movement. They showed people that any two people can stand up and do this," he said, adding that eventually marriage licenses will be issued in Texas. "At some point, someone is going to break down and they will hopefully either break the law themselves or the law will change."

Jiminez was arrested again Aug. 2 during another marriage sit-in after the couple's first court date. He said the manner in which a security guard told him to leave prompted him to refuse to let someone show such animosity toward him and Chandler.

Jiminez's bond was tripled and the court wouldn't allow him to give money to Chandler to secure his release, so he relied on a bondsman. He said the higher bond was a message from the

"I think it was the court letting me know that they weren't going to continue to allow me to do this without repercussions," he said. "Do I want to run up there and have any more protests right at the moment at the marriage license counter? Not really, not knowing what they could possibly do to me. But that doesn't mean that we're going to stop voicing our opinions."

Jiminez had his first court date for the second arrest Aug. 31. Chandler's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 26, but he said it could take up to 10 months before the cases go to trial.

Some have criticized the couple for not bringing their fight to the Legislature in Austin and for being arrested to make a statement.

Jiminez said he's protested in Austin before, but this fight is at the marriage counter.

"Austin doesn't issue marriage licenses," he said. "The marriage license counter issues marriage licenses. So that's exactly the place to protest."

Chandler said people can be just as loud in their hometowns and make as much of a difference. He said he welcomes the advice from other people, but doesn't appreciate the criticism from people who sit back and do nothing for equality.

"We're not doing this just for us," he said. "We're trying to do this for everybody. You can be critical or you can stand behind us."

Longtime Dallas lesbian activist Louise Young said she's been following Jiminez and Chandler's

She said a variety of approaches in activism help start and advance movements, though she has personally found that a combination of nonviolent demonstration and behind-the-scenes work has been the most effective.

"I would be remiss as an activist to criticize their way of responding," Young said, adding that ■ MARRIED, Next Page

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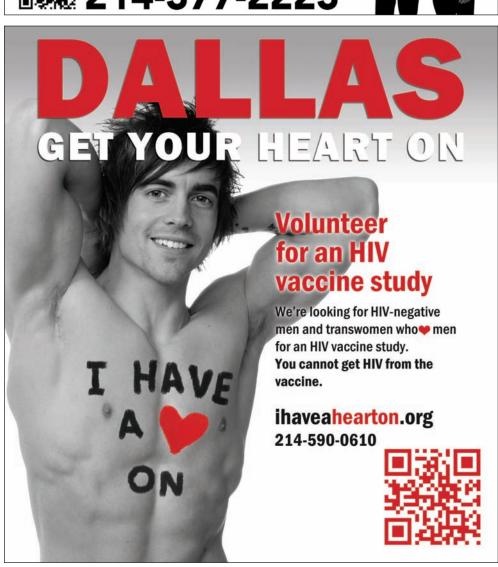
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DAVE PERRY-MILLER & ASSOCIATES





# coverstory

■ MARRIED, From Previous Page

time will tell if their arrests prove to be effective. "It's not for me to say which is right and which is wrong."

Others have called Jiminez and Chandler brave for taking such extreme action. The couple has compared their actions to the sit-ins of the African-American civil rights movement, while adding that unlike those protesters they had supporters and even a police LGBT liaison present.

"[Civil rights protesters] sat there and made their stand in a very brave sort of way and we both draw a lot of our energy from that time when those kids said, 'We've had enough of this,'" Jiminez said. "That's how we feel. We've had enough of it, too, and we're going to continue to fight them."

Tiffani Bishop, her fiancée Iana Di Bona and a friend were arrested on Valentine's Day this year for protesting at the Travis County Clerk's Office. She said she'd applied for a marriage license on past GetEQUAL protests, but had finally had enough.

Bishop said Jiminez and Chandler's arrests impacted her more than she expected. Part of it was that the two weren't from any organization or nonprofit, but doing it on their own to stand against injustice.

"It was about these two men who loved each other that said enough," Bishop said. "That's what I think really resonated with people so much." Bishop's case is still pending as charges have neither been filed nor dropped. She said the handling of the cases is abnormal compared to similar activism arrests. When activists are arrested, they are normally tried together, but she and Di Bona, as well as Jiminez and Chandler, are being prosecuted separately.

Jiminez and Chandler don't plan on anymore arrests in the near future. They hope the Supreme Court will make a decision within the next two years after hearing some of the Defense of Marriage Act cases slated to be heard. If it doesn't go well, Jiminez is prepared for another protest.

"If they don't look at this [the DOMA cases], I'm going to be making a trip to the Supreme Court and I might just have to chain myself or handcuff myself some place there, too," he said. "I'm quite serious. Them not addressing this is beyond my comprehension of what justice is all about."

But for now, the couple is enjoying making the final arrangements for their wedding from flowers and decorations to the final wording of their vows, both knowing that the real fight — and their trials — will come after they say "I do."

"Our fight won't end with marriage equality. This fight for equal rights and protection under the laws and an end to discrimination and people hurting us, it's an ongoing fight," Jiminez said. "It's not going to go away, but at least [when we have marriage equality] we'll be validated and can start with our marriages, our adoptions and setting up our households."

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# Jenkins, Garcia say they're moving ahead with DP benefits plan

Dallas County judge says he'll push for Commissioners Court to vote on issue despite lack of support from regional government partner agency

**ANNA WAUGH** | Staff Writer waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said this week he was finalizing a proposal for the county to offer health benefits to the same-sex partners of employees next year.

"I'm going to push for a vote when we have a plan we can put before people," Jenkins said. "I'm very optimistic that we'll have DP benefits for county employees effective Jan. 1, 2013."

Jenkins said he's working with Commissioner Elba Garcia on the plan and will present it to the Commissioners Court when it's ready. He said he would have to get Commissioner John Wiley Price, the third member of the court's Democratic majority, on board to pass the benefits and add them to the budget. Commissioners have already started voting on 2013 budget items, including voting to increase their salaries this week.

Dr. Garcia told Dallas Voice Thursday, Sept. 6, that the timeline for completing the DP benefits proposal is two to three weeks.

Under the plan, Dallas County would offer the benefits outside the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative, a multi-county government partner agency designed to help keep the cost of health insurance affordable. That's because when the issue was discussed at August's PEBC board meeting,



Dr. Elba Garcia

representatives from Tarrant and Denton counties threatened to veto a vote in favor of adding the benefits.

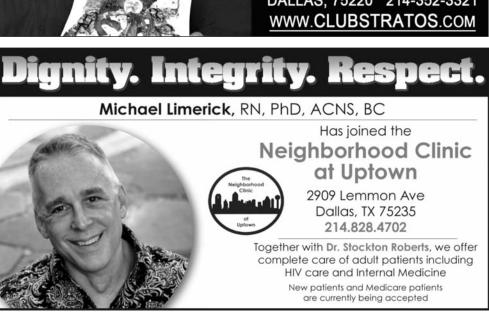
Jenkins said because the plan is outside the PEBC, commissioners do not have to vote on it before Oct. 1 for open enrollment. He said they have until Jan. 1 to approve the DP benefits, but he would like to see a vote in September or October.

Commissioner Price, who cast the third and deciding vote in favor of transgender nondiscrimination protections for Dallas County employees last year, didn't return a phone call seeking comment this week. Also not returning calls were the two Republican Dallas County commissioners,

■ **JENKINS**, Page 15









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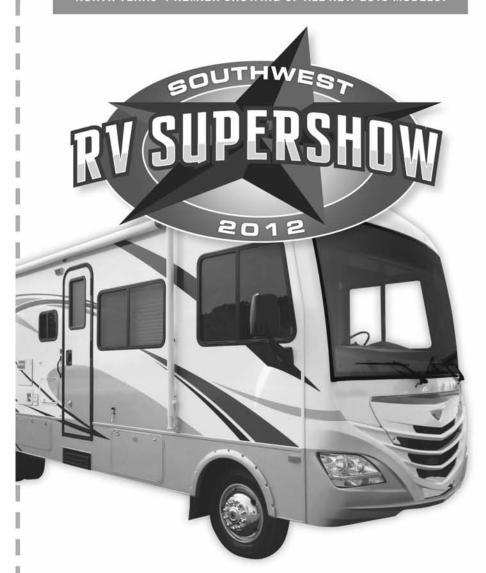
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# Dallas to celebrate its 1st Gray Pride

Group hopes to attract both young and old with event aimed at drawing attention to challenges faced by growing population of LGBT seniors

M.M. ADJARIAN | Contributing Writer editor@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Pride 2012 will mark a kind of coming-of-age for the LGBT community in Big D.

It's the first year that LGBT elders will have a chance to gather together at an event — christened "Gray Pride" — to pay tribute to their pioneering efforts on behalf of the LGBT community over the last 40 years and more.

Gray Pride came into being through the collaborative efforts of Oliver Blumer of the Transgender Education Network of Texas, the Rev. Shelley Hamilton of the Cathedral of Hope, and Kee Holt of Resource Center Dallas and the GLBT Aging Interest Network.

"What we've begun to do in partnership is to begin to try and draw all the different components of the [LGBT] community together to figure out how to build our own retirement centers, assisted-living places and long-term care centers," explains Hamilton, congregational care pastor at CoH.

A major flashpoint for these individuals came earlier this year after the Dallas premiere of Stu Maddux's award-winning documentary, *Gen Silent*. The film explores the unique — and often devastating — problems LGBT people face as they reach old age.

"Take [the case of] an individual who biologically identifies as male but appears to someone's perception as female," says Blumer, who serves as vice-chair of TENT. "Maybe they've had a stroke and maybe they have no advocates and now someone comes in to give them care and

finds out that maybe all of their anatomy doesn't align with how the person [outwardly] expresses themselves. [The sick person] could get discriminated against."

Even if an LGBT elder manages to maintain reasonably good health in old age, though, he or she still has to contend with other social and economic challenges.

"Many older people [are alone because] their longtime partners or family members have died," says Hamilton. "And so they become isolated. [Moreover,] many LGBT people only have Social Security — they don't have insurance such as Medicare or whatever supplements, if any, they're able to afford."

This issue is taking on especial importance in

light of the fact that, according to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, 11,000 Americans are now turning 65 every day. Aging is the next great epidemic that will

affect everyone, both gay and straight; and for LGBT people in particular, mobilizing resources to build an infrastructure to support elders is critical

Fostering awareness among younger generations is also important. Gray Pride can progress into the future and help others only if the young understand that the movement is also for them, Blumer says. One day, they, too, will be old and in need of care.

"We want to appeal to [young] people's hearts," says Blumer. "They may have aging parents, or aging aunts and uncles, or grandparents. [We need to] get them to put the faces of loved ones on other elderly people and give them the outreach skills they can use to understand how they can give back to the community."

Dallas Gray Pride is one of a growing number of coalitions around the country that is working to implement programs to help LGBT elders. One in particular, the Boston LGBT Aging Project, was featured in *Gen Silent*.

Because it is still in its infancy, festivities at this year's Dallas Pride celebration will consist of a single party, from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, at the Interfaith Peace Chapel.

"We'll have a variety of music," Hamilton says. "And there will be food and beverages. If people want to dance, [they can]. Or they [can just] chitchat and float among the crowd — it's all about having fun."

Gray Pride is an event intended to honor community elders and help them combat the loneli-

ness that is too often a part of their lives. But it's also for anyone and everyone with attachments to the elderly, especially those who are confined to wheelchairs or homebound because

they lack transportation.

A gray old time

Friday, Sept. 14, at the Interfaith Peace

Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs. For more info,

email Oliver Blumer at olblumerdc@aol.com.

Dallas Gray Pride will be from 7 to 10 p.m.

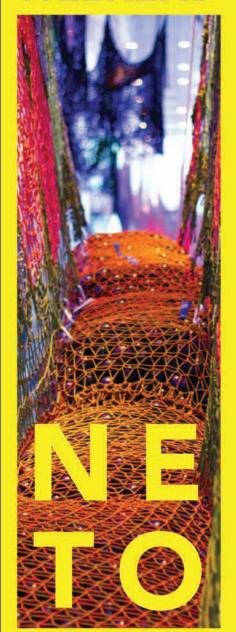
"[We need to] reach out [to the elderly] and tell them they can get dressed up and come," Blumer says.

Plans are also in the works for other Gray Pride events at other times of the year. And next year, organizers hope to be able to have a full presence at the 2013 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Travis Lee Moore, special events manager for the Cathedral of Hope, says, "Gray Pride will come out next year like gangbusters!"

Hamilton adds: "We can't allow people's fears and prejudices to continue to oppress us and seriously harm the ability of our warriors and our foreparents. [LGBT elders] deserve all the dignity and respect that we can possibly acquire for them."

# FINAL WEEKEND



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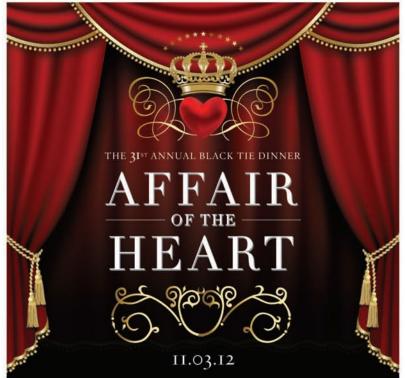
Emesto Neto, O Bicho Sushinso ha Passicari limitenor view, 2011. Installation for Hippoclutura Louvia en el Vertigo del Mundo (Crazy HyperCulture in the Vertigo of the World), Faena Arts Center, Buenos Ares. Crochet, Polypropylene balls and stones, 2593/81 nr. 1757 /78 nr. 844 ½ in. 17,35 44.65 x 21.45 ml Courtesy of the artist, Tanya Bonakdar Galley, New York, and Galeria Forter Wags, 286 pauls, ©Emento Neto. Photo: Nikolas Koempan and Galeria Forter Wags, 286 pauls, ©Emento Neto. Photo: Nikolas Koempan

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# Gay band association to mark 30 years at Dallas conference

**DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer** 

taffet@dallasvoice.com

The national Lesbian and Gay Band Association will celebrate its 30th year with a conference that begins Sept. 13 in Dallas. The group will hold workshops, stage a concert and participate in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

The main concert takes place at the Majestic Theater on Sept. 15 with about 150 musicians expected to participate. Dallas comedian Paul J. Williams will emcee. The 55-member Oak Lawn Band will be joined by members of LGBT bands from across the country, the Turtle Creek Chorale and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association Honor Guard.

LGBA General Manager Adam DeRosa said he expects about 150 musicians plus twirlers and flaggers to march in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom

Oak Lawn Band president Tim Stallman said they'll play popular Western and Latin music in the parade, as well as the theme from the TV show Dallas.

For the concert at the Majestic, LGBA commissioned a new work called "City Trees" by composer Michael Markowsky.

Markowsky will also present a workshop for

conference attendees at the Melrose Hotel on Fri-

TCC Artistic Director Trey Jacobs said his group will perform three pieces with the band at the Saturday night concert. One will be Anne Albritton's arrangement of "Moon River." Albritton, who was the chorale's principal accompanist from 1991–98, died in 2006.

Jacobs called the collaboration with Oak Lawn Band and the visiting musicians a fantastic opportunity, though somewhat daunting. Music was sent to out-of-town musicians while Oak Lawn Band and TCC have rehearsed separately.

"We have one rehearsal — the day of the con-

Oak Lawn Band member Diane Treider, who attended a previous conference, wasn't worried about successfully blending the various groups and musicians. But she called the rehearsal schedule for the concert brutal.

"These are really great musicians," she said. "They want to be challenged. People come prepared."

DeRosa agreed.

"When you get such a large wind ensemble, it blends easier than you'd imagine," he said.

He said the intonation balances but there could be volume and instrumentation problems.



BANDING TOGETHER | The Oak Lawn Band, shown at Dallas Pride last year, was among the founding members of the Lesbian and Gay Band Association in 1982. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

"You might end up with 50 clarinets," he said, "but our instrumentation is quite balanced." Oak Lawn Band was one of the seven founding members of LGBA in 1982. The organization has grown to 38 groups.

The Dallas band, which formed in 1980, regularly performs in Pride parades in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and Houston. With LGBA, Oak Lawn Band has performed at the inaugurations of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. According to Stallman, LGBA was the first LGBT organization to march in an inaugural parade.

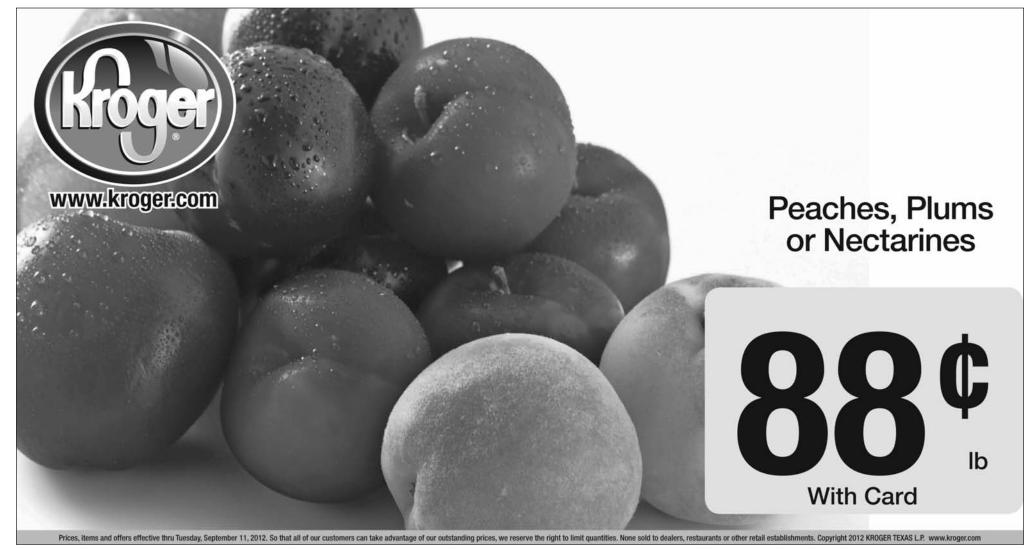
"Celebrating our 30th anniversary, this conference is very special," DeRosa said.

Stallman said the Oak Lawn Band usually performs in cowboy hats, T-shirts and khaki pants. For this year's parade, the combined band will wear black and white with a red, white and blue

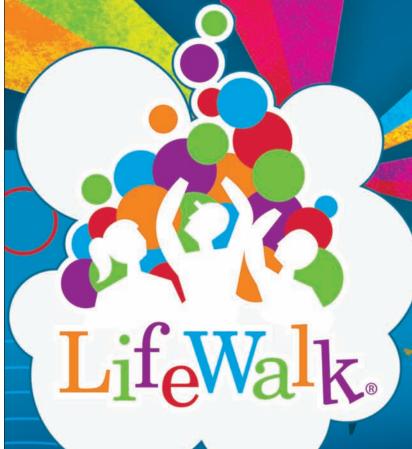
The musicians decided on the more formal uniform because LGBA will film the marching band. That video will be submitted to the inaugural march committee.

Stallman said that no matter what the outcome of the election in November, he hopes to be in Washington in January participating in the inau-

LGBA conference at the Warwick Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. Sept. 12-16. Concert at the Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at OakLawnBand.org.



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#### ■ **JENKINS,** From Page 9

Maurine Dickey and Mike Cantrell.

The members of the PEBC board are Jenkins, Garcia, Dallas County Human Resources Director Mattye Mauldin-Taylor, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks, Tarrant County Human Resources Director Tina Glenn and Denton County Judge Mary Horn. The other two members, the North Texas Tollway Authority and Parker County, do not have seats on the board.

Horn, who chairs the PEBC board, told Dallas Voice this week that Jenkins placed DP benefits on the board's agenda as a discussion item, not an action item. After Jenkins explained his reasoning, Horn said she questioned how domestic partners would be verified to guard against possible fraud.

"Unfortunately we all know that there are people out there that don't tell the truth and take advantage," Horn told the Voice. "The system is in place at this point and time to provide a marriage license and that's pretty good proof to me. If these people [same-sex partners] want to get insurance [on their own], they can certainly do that. If Dallas County wants to pursue this, they're welcome to do so, but not as part of PEBC."

Jenkins has said that DP benefits are an issue of equality and that offering them would make the county more competitive. But Horn countered that verifying domestic partners would be an "ad-

ministrative nightmare" and that Jenkins' "whole argument for me just doesn't hold water because there's nothing to prohibit people from buying their own insurance."

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, an out lesbian who oversees the county's largest department, told Dallas Voice this week she supports the county offering the benefits in 2013 and would work with the commissioners to move ahead with

"To continue offering one category of employees fewer benefits than others is unfair and makes it more difficult to attract the best possible job candidates," she said. "We want to be fair to all of our employees and treat them with equality. Providing domestic partner benefits to county employees is an important step toward building a fair and inclusive work environment and a strong county government, and I am in favor of it."

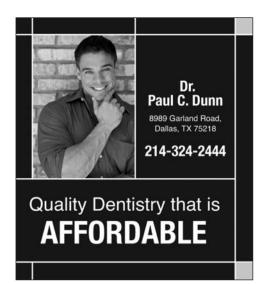
Gay Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons, who did not return calls this week, has been outspoken in his support of the county offering DP benefits. Fitzsimmons said in July that he doesn't believe the PEBC has any control over whether Dallas County offers DP benefits.

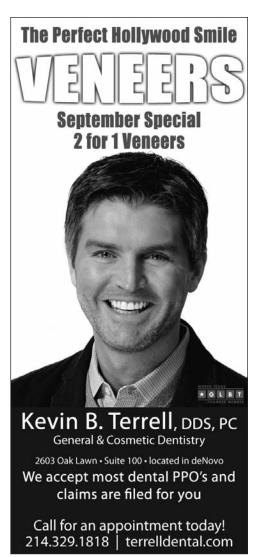
"Dallas County can decide what it wants to cover and not cover without being subject to review by an outside agency," Fitzsimmons told Dallas Voice. "We're self-insured. We can do whatever we want. These are choices that are well within the purviews of the court."

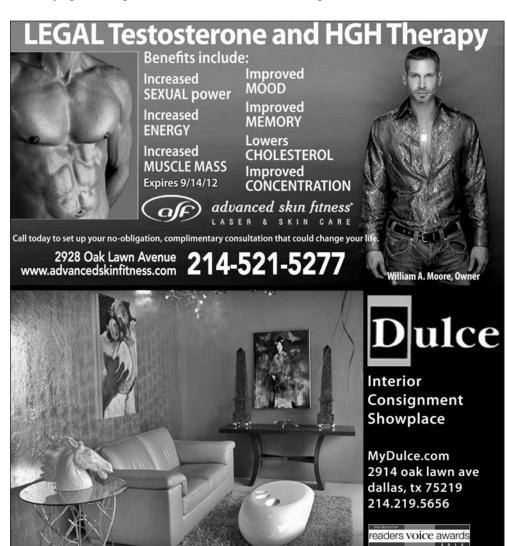
Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager at Resource Center Dallas, said he has been working with commissioners since early July to provide them with information about DP benefits. He said people should contact the commissioners to voice how important the benefits are to employees.

"I think that people need to speak up and say that this is something we want to see happen," he said. "There's a very tight window."

For contact information for commissioners, go to TinyURL.com/3zw2gsr.











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# viewpoints

# **Chick-fil-A should remember Alamo**

CEO's meeting with college leaders a positive sign, but brand will suffer as long as company is viewed as the right's last stand against equality

he Chick-fil-A controversy isn't just a battle over chicken sandwiches, as some have flippantly suggested. The fast-food chain has become an international symbol of anti-gay intolerance since its CEO, Dan Cathy, expressed his views on marriage equality on *The Ken Coleman Show* in July.

"I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage,' and I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about," Cathy said.

This controversy also extended beyond Cathy's comments and included his more than \$5 million in donations to anti-gay organizations such as the Family Research Council. His Winshape Foundation has also contributed to Exodus International, which has worked in the past to help people "pray away the gay."

We all know what followed. Some big city Yankee mayors said they didn't want the franchise in their metropolises. This raised the ire of talk show host and former Arkansas Gov. Mike

Huckabee, as well as reality TV star Sarah Palin. They organized Chickfil-A Appreciation Day — where fun calories and fundamentalist Christianity converged in an orgy of highfructose homophobia.

In this fight, the LGBT community took a beating from the oftenfriendly media who were agitated because they thought the mayors overreached into unconstitutional territory. But Chick-fil-A also suffered from the fracas, with its Brand Index score having fallen 40 percent

nationally since Cathy's controversial statement.

The big question was what would happen after the last pickup truck and General Lee pulled through the drive-thru on Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day? Would the company seek to dig in or dig out of the hole?

The company appeared to take steps in a positive direction last week when Dan Cathy "welcomed campus leaders to a private luncheon in Atlanta to discuss diversity, hospitality and the opportunity to find common ground." The secret meeting included the LGBT student advocacy group Campus Pride.

This certainly can't be a good sign for the Huckabee crowd, considering they despise "diversity" as a pro-gay code word. They also sneer at those who seek "common ground" as losers who are weak and uncommitted to their fanatical cause.



A GAME OF CHICKEN | A gay Dallas couple is interviewed outside a Chick-fil-A during a same-sex kiss-in on Aug. 3. The LGBT community took a beating over the Chick-fil-A controversy due to concerns about free speech, but the chicken chain has also suffered, with its Brand Index score having fallen 40 percent nationally since CEO Dan Cathy's controversial anti-gay statements. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice).

If Chick-fil-A truly desires rejoining mainstream America, it will have to come to terms with the fact that it will let down its most ardent defenders. In an age when Ellen is a spokesperson for Cover Girl and products from Amtrak to J.C. Penney are courting LGBT consumers, the chicken joint has become a symbol of defiance.

This only intensified after the Baptist Press

asked Cathy about his comments on marriage equality and he replied, "Well, guilty as charged." His company at once transformed from resistance symbol to the Alamo — the scene of the Religious Right's last stand in corporate America.

Even a whiff of "capitulation" will infuriate anti-gay activists who view the company as a beacon of hope in a secular world. Some anti-gay activists, such as Holocaust revisionist Scott Lively, are even crediting Chick-fil-A with taking a prophetic

Contributing columnist Chick-fil-A with taking a prophetic rment. first step in rolling back the LGBT movement. appen "I think the 'gay' worm may finally be starting to turn," wrote Lively in a World Net Daily opericiation of the day Chick-fil-A Chief

**Wayne Besen** 

of a firestorm of criticism, to back down."

This week, the Montana Family Foundation declared that it would show its support for "traditional family values" by opening a Chick-fil-A drive-thru in Billings for one day in September.

Operating Officer Dan Cathy refused, in the face

"Since Chick-fil-A doesn't yet have locations in our state most Montanans were unable to participate in the national event in August. So we created Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day 2.0," Jeff Laszloffy, president and CEO of the Montana Family Foundation, told KPAX-TV.

If Cathy budges even an inch, extremist groups are going to squawk louder than a chicken in a slaughter barn. So, Chick-fil-A might

as well go all the way and renounce donations to homophobic hate groups and rejoin civilization.

The alternative is an ongoing struggle to maintain brand integrity, while increasingly extreme elements embrace the company's logo and carry out anti-gay activities in their name. For instance, at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, a fraternity tabling next to an on campus Chick-fil-A chanted: "We love Chick-fil-A" and then screamed "Faggot" when LGBT students passed by.

This company is simply not going to be able to control its image as long as it remains a rallying cry for hate groups and homophobes. I suppose that Chick-fil-A could defiantly stand firm and remain the right's anti-gay Alamo. But I'm sure they are well aware of the fort's fate.

Wayne Besen is founding executive director of Truth Wins Out, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization that fights anti-gay religious extremism. He can be reached at WBesen@TruthWinsOut.org.



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Do you plan to attend the Pride parade and/or festival this year?

#### RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

How important is it for elected officials to appear at Pride?

- Very important: 51 percent
- Somewhat important: 22 percent
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# Guckoo for Coco's stuff

The drag storyteller serves up tales bitter and sweet at her third Dallas Pride

ith her trademark "That Girl" flip and a troweled-on, Italian/tri-state-area accent, diva drag goddess Miss Coco Peru (aka Clinton Leupp) could easily coast by on biting wit and bitchy punch lines. After all, she's already won the gay popular vote with her infamous "It burns!" semen scene in *Trick*, and as part of the trio of leading ladies in the (now) cult classic *Girls Will Be Girls*.

But Peru opts to take her drag to a different — and sometimes darker — level, peeling back the inherent candy-coated cuteness that so often accompanies wigs and heels and delving into stories and songs that address real-life moments and issues. Yet she's still able to do this all while setting every song in this show to a Barry Manilow tune (by design, nonetheless). It's a conundrum for sure.

How does one make drag both over-the-top and under-the-skin in the same show? Dallas will soon find out when Coco makes her third appearance for Dallas Pride with a two-night performance of *Miss Coco Peru is Present*. And in anticipation of unwrapping this sparkly gift, we caught up with the leggy first lady of monologues to see how the world (outside of the great state of Texas) has been treating her.

Dallas Voice: Coco, we think you may be hooked. What is it about Dallas that keeps you coming back for more? Coco Peru: I love Texas — and I'm not just saying that. For me, it was when I did my first tour around Texas, and I could not believe how really, really excited people were to see me. Every year I come back. Oh, and the fried food was good ... and the Mexican food.

Some drink to forget and others watch to remember: what's new with this year's show? This show is [going back to] one of the first shows I ever wrote. It's my most personal — me telling the story of my life. It's a history of who I am, and all the dark childhood things that make the audience go, "Should I be laughing at this or horrified?" There are really serious parts. One of the things I require of my audience is that I am willing to make you laugh, but you have to listen to the serious stuff as well

Telling a good story is an art form unto itself; what's one particular story you share that really resonates with audiences? That's a hard question! The one thing I will say with my shows is that people say they forget they are watching a drag queen. To me, that is the best compliment — that the drag becomes secondary to the storytelling.

You've uttered some pretty quotable one-liners in your career, including the Girls Will Be Girls classic "I've had more children pulled out of me than a burning orphanage." Do you get a lot of people quoting Coco-isms to you? If anyone quotes me, I am excited. They quote Trick or Girls Will Be Girls often, but if they quote my actual show then I

#### **COCO PERU IS PRESENT**

The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Sept. 13 and 14. Doors at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$40. For a discount up to 40 percent off, use promo code **VOICE** when ordering.

am really excited because they've only seen it once most likely. Liza Minnelli used to quote my show.

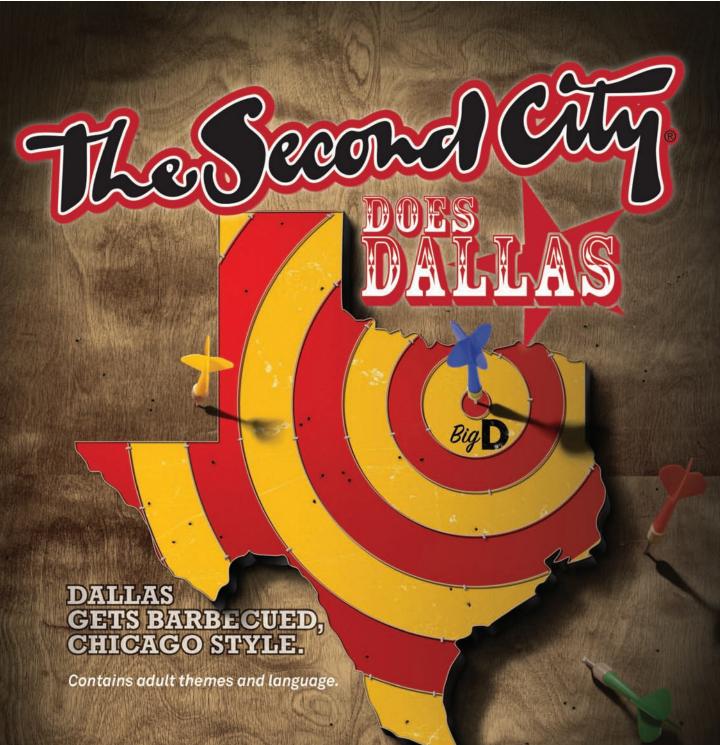
Wow, the Liza stamp of approval, that's the gayest compliment ever. Isn't that, though?

If we stuck you on the stage of *America's Got Talent* right now, what would we see? I don't dance. Oh lord, I don't think I would be a fit for that show. That's the point with my shows, you have to have an attention span. You remember last year [in Dallas] a guy in the audience did not have an attention span, and he was drunk, which makes it so hard having to deal. Finally the audience turned on him — which is wonderful — and he left. Do you remember that?

We are still talking about it. He was terrible. We expect to see Coco in a lot of places: gay bars, an occasional bathroom stall and maybe even at 3 a.m. eat-

■ COCO, Page 24





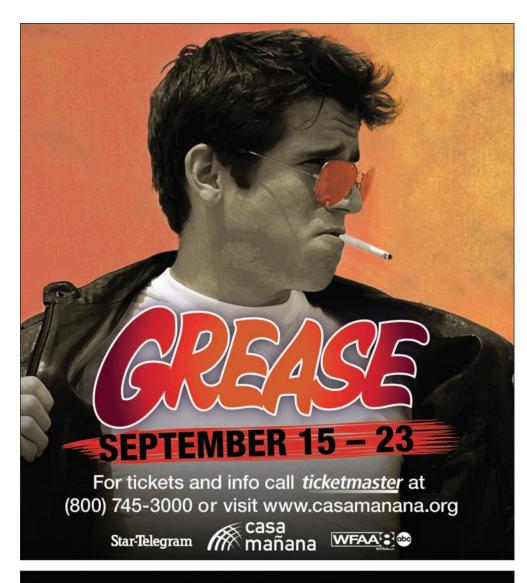


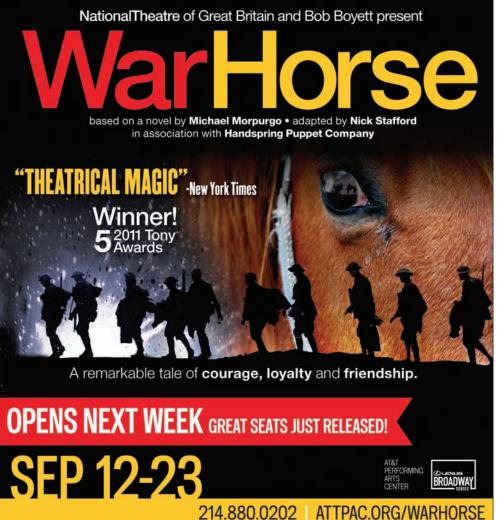
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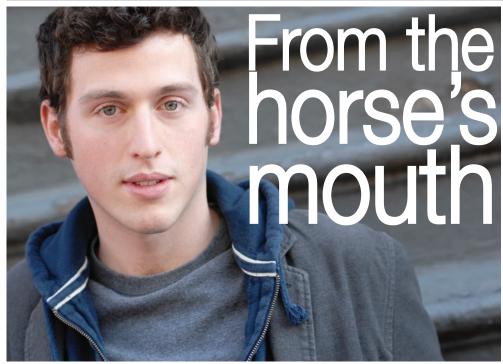








#### **L+S** stage



Gay actor Jon Riddleberger is the head of 'War Horse' ... literally

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

It's not uncommon for stage actors to play multiple characters during the run of a show (or even a performance). But every night, Jon Riddleberger shares the same role with two other people.

And that role is a horse.

Riddleberger plays The Head (there's also The

Heart and The Hind) in the national touring production of *War Horse*, manipulating both the lead horse, Joey, and, at alternating performances, Joey's friend Topthorn. And while his primary function may be as a number of Riemann and the second se

function may be as a puppeteer, Riddleberger says playing one-third of a life-sized horse eight times a week is an intense exercise in *acting*. At least, for him.

"Puppetry is really strange: I know lots of very great actors who would never make a good puppeteer, and lots of great puppeteers who could never be good actors," says Riddleberger, who studied experimental theater in college and trained at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. "When acting, you are understanding a character's emotions, but you're putting it all out there yourself; in puppeteering, there's a medium you're doing that through. How *I* feel doesn't matter; it's what the puppet is feeling that matters."

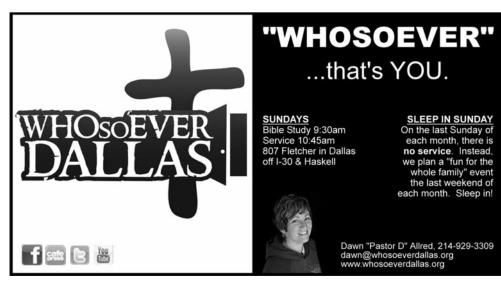
What that effectively means is that Riddleberger approaches his characters with the same thoughtfulness as an actor, but finding a differ-

ent way to express it.

"We've made lots of character choices — we've mapped Joey's emotional journey," he says. "But if we're going through the emotions, the puppet probably isn't."

The "we" still sounds strange when talking about a single character, but both Joey and Topthorn are collective efforts.

"When I was being thrown into the auditions, it very quickly became apparent Head was the position that made the most sense to me," Riddleberger recounts from San Francisco, where *War Horse* is currently being performed. "In rehearsals with my team, it was apparent why we



**WAR HORSE** 

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WARRIORS | Jon Riddleberger, opposite, puppeteers The Head of both Joey and Topthorn in the national tour of 'War Horse.'

were each position we were. There are personality traits to each role — the Head tends to be a little more cerebral — I'm keeping the story of the horse clear and present. The Heart is very impulsive — that is a passionate part of the horse, very reactionary. He's responsible for the breathing, so a lot of that emotional energy comes from him, and then the guy that plays my Heart is very good. I was telling my mom recently, 'I'm working on breathing more with my Heart more and getting coordinated,' and it took her a while to realize I was talking about another person," he

Then there's The Hind, and Riddleberger's teammate is the only female adult puppeteer in the entire War Horse family. Just don't make any "horse's ass" jokes.

"She's a powerhouse," he says. "She's all about pushing the horse forward."

All of which means playing a huge puppet takes tons of communication. (Teams always work together; they don't mix-and-match.)

"One of the puppet directors called it 'the woo-

#### online exclusive

Uptown Players' second annual Pride Performing Arts Festival just got under way. To find out more about the shows in it, click on the Stage section of DallasVoice.com.

woo effect:' That's when we start being able to predict each others' actions," he says. "I sometimes feel like I'm reading my teammates' minds. I understand their breath patterns, their thought processes about what kind of horse Joey is and how he reacts to the world. We have figured out how to be responsive as one horse. It's sort of a big improv game. If my Hind decides it's time to move, it's my job to move. My teammates will do things I wouldn't do. Risking, not knowing where it's going. I trust my teammates enor-

Riddleberger and his teammates swap out characters every few days because the physical demands of the horses can prove taxing and it allows certain muscles to relax. But it always means they are switching up characters as well.

"They are two different horses ... well, two different puppets," he says. "Joey is a hunter horse — half Thoroughbred and half draught horse; Topthorn is a full Thoroughbred, and he has to be so much longer, so I get on my tiptoes a lot." Still, he enjoys the challenges that come with playing two different animals.

'Joey makes more sense to me as a character just in relation to my own personality, but I enjoy playing Topthorn and being this big, strong military horse," as if he's able to play against type, says Riddleberger.

A horse isn't just a horse, of course, of

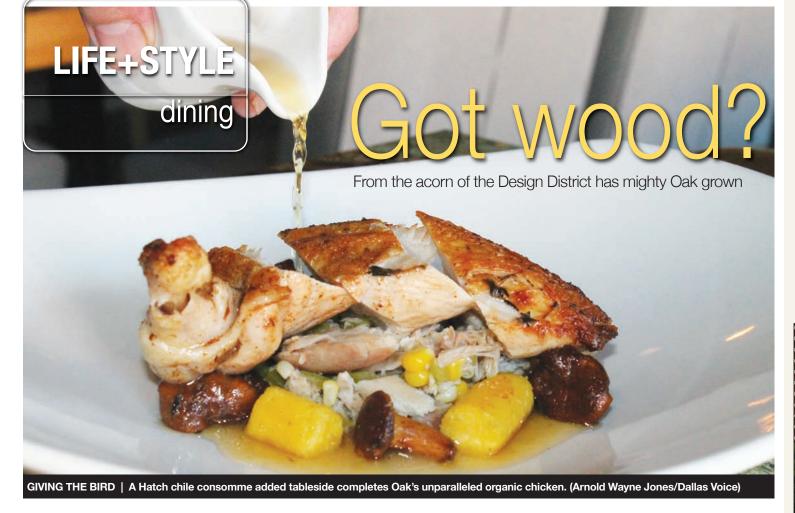






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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

he epigram "from small acorns mighty oaks grow," could hardly be a more apt metaphor for the fine dining restaurant Oak. Almost everything about this bastion of new American cuisine is as solid as its namesake: The décor, the cocktail program, the service and of course chef Jason Maddy's creative food.

Located in the Design District, the city's up-and-coming destination neighborhood, it opened earlier this year in the cold of January across from the Meddlesome Moth. (Who would do that? Not open in winter, but put an oak across from a meddlesome moth? That's begging for defoliation. But I digress.) Since then, the menu has changed regularly, even if it only means adding seasonal accents (a Hatch chile consommé is on the menu now, but probably not for long). But even with new items, Oak has been consistently engaging and creative.

"Always order the strangest combination on the menu," my well traveled foodie companion counsels on every fine-dining escapade. "If it's not the best thing they make, then all of it will be bad." A homeopathic diagnosis of dining health, to be sure, but over the years, a reliable one. At Oak, that meant gravitating toward the appetizer of Moroccan octopus and pork jowls with aji panca (\$14). The jowls — fatty cubes of meat brushed with a crusty dousing of aji (a spicy dried chile of South America), paired with the greenish tendrils of tender octopus. The octo was without a hint of toughness; the pork itself melted on the tongue as the chile danced alongside the

fragrant bite of cilantro and radish. Not only was it great, the dish may be the most satisfying indulgent I've tasted in Dallas all year.

From there, there'd be nowhere to go but down, though Oak maintains a high level throughout the menu. A composed melon terrine (\$13) balanced the soothing, pastel flavors of honeydew and cantaloupe with more savory creaminess of chevre and salt from thin slices of Serrano ham. We were taken aback when the heirloom gazpacho arrived: Rather than pink or even yellow, it came as a clear broth, adding heat to the tomato and tuffs of crab meat. It did look like traditional gazpacho, but damned if it didn't taste like it. And better.

The pheasant — a healthy sized breast with hatch chile au jus and chewy chanterelles garnished with cornbread gnocchi — was recently replaced on the menu with an organic half-chicken (\$26), but the substitution has hardly affected taste of presentation. The yardbird's crunchy skin left an impossible moist bit of meat, as juicy as office gossip. You'll be hard-

sweetbreads. Instead, the kitchen has a pork chop (\$28) sliced and served like a loin. At first, it seemed too thick, even tough. But wait a moment: Cut quince puree and dill-infused creme fraiche. The flavors balance precariously, but they do balance. It's in some ways a risky dish, courting disaster, but pulls it off.

Attention to detail is evident at lunch as well, where the slight hint of licorice from the fennel in the fritto misto gives the taste buds a pleasant jolt, and the filling ciabatta-roll bacon-gruyere burger puts most sandwiches to shame. At lunch and dinner, the Brussels sprouts — perfectly braised and dusted in panko and garlic — are a must-have.

Desserts (\$8) overall are exceptional, and unexpected. Grains and starches make sense on main courses, but Oak inserts them healthily on the postres menu. There's corn ice cream alongside their version of a financier, made with polenta. Again, patience pays off. Our first bite was slightly dry, but wait: As the caramel glaze seeps in, the cake is rendered sweet and savory, with Texas blueberries as plump as a housewife adding sticky mois-

One misfire: The panna cotta, made with a hazelnut flavored gianduja

its traditional namesake; unlike the gaz, neither did it taste like it. It's not that it was bad, but we were simply not prepared for the fudgy pyramid of ganache drizzled with caramel atop a based of hazelnut brittle. Panna cotta needs to be lighter and creamier. Still, if you're a fan of chocolate, you won't find any

Décor includes projections of "video art," which could be considered twee or inspired; I elect to call it the latter. The room buzzy was but not loud, open and populated largely by well-heeled types. That probably accounts for the service, which is mostly unctuous and enthusiastic — when asked about any specials, our waiter replied with the time-worn praise "the entire menu is special." Somehow, it seemed less cloying this time than in the past; that might be cause I knew he was right.

pressed to find a better roasted chicken anywhere in town. Also gone is the spiced lamb loin with a panzanella salad and lamb

through the briny, mocha-colored skin and dredge it through the dollops of

ture. (There's even corn in the ice cream that accompanies it.)

chocolate. It was sorely misnamed: like the gazpacho, it did not resemble





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# Not really a bridesmaid

Dump 'Bachelorette,' a crass girlie rom-com

2012 is shaping up to be the summer when the movies embraced male strippers, first with *Magic Mike* and now, **Bachelorette**. We're not complaining. Though, come to think about it, we kinda are.

Sure, we liked seeing Andrew Rannells (just days before his debut in *The New Normal*) shake his moneymaker for a few titillating moments in this wedding eve comedy, but

### BACHELORETTE

Kirstin Dunst, Isla Fisher, James Marsden, Andrew Rannells. Rated R. 100 mins. Now playing in wide release. that's poor reason to endure this humorless stab at capitalizing on the girls-can-be-justas-gross-as-boys *Bridesmaids*. That had Kristen Wiig and Melissa McCarthy; this one has Kirstin Dunst and the

comedic hand of Sen. Joe McCarthy. 'Nuff said.

Aside from its misguided title (it's not the sappy reality TV show — not by a long shot), the major problem with *Bachelorette* is that it never affects a truly light-hearted and silly tone. The things that go wrong — like the stripper acci-

dentally calling the zaftig bride "Pig Face," the sobriquet her frenemies stuck her with in high school, or the girls drunkenly ripping her wedding dress to shreds — come off less as humiliating missteps and more like gen-



**FRENEMIES: A LOVE STORY** | The bridesmaids (Isla Fisher, Kirstin Dunst, Lizzy Caplan) to this 'Bachelorette' would be better named 'Mean Girls.'

uine meanness. This is a comedy without a sense of comic timing. If ever someone deserved to get jilted at the chapel, it's this *Bachelorette*.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

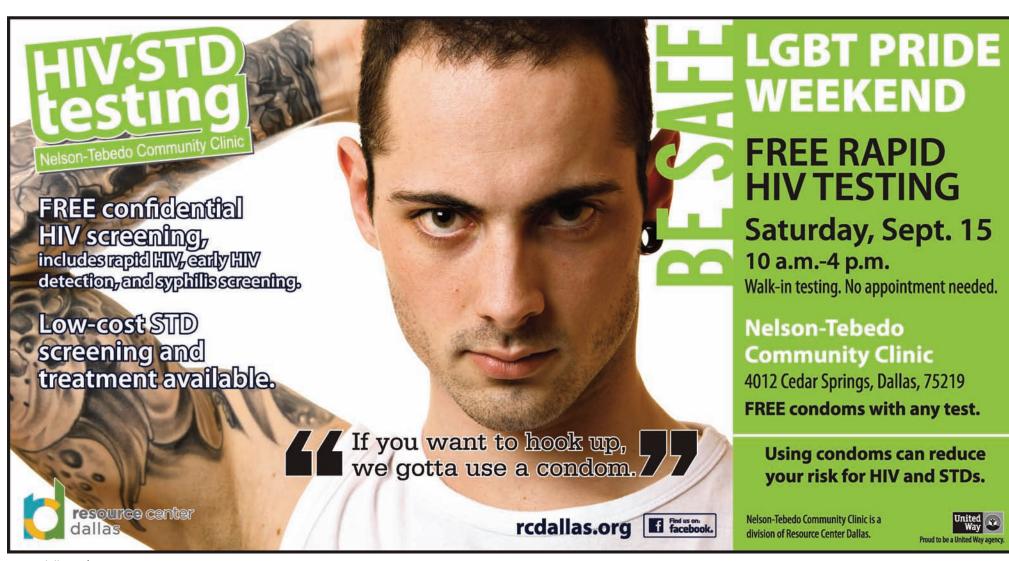
#### COCO

From Page 18

ing a Moons Over My Hammy at Denny's. We did not, however, expect to see - or rather hear you as the voice of a Mamma Hippo in the Disney flick The Wild. How did that happen? I know the girl that did auditions for voiceovers and another guy who worked at Disney was a fan. As a goof, really, they had me audition and the director liked me and wanted me to do the voice of this hippo. I only had like two lines, but it was very exciting. I had done work for Disney before. You know the movie Tangled? Well, before it was Tangled, Disney has actors who are not known come in and do the voiceover of the characters and the artists draw to that. And then celebrities comes in to do the voice. I was the voice of the evil queen, and then it changed to Tangled. But I got to work with the guy who drew and created the Little Mermaid, which is one of my favorite

You had a similar behind-the-scenes moment with Rent, right? Yes, Jonathan Larson was a friend from college. And then I ran into him randomly in New York one night as I was trying to remember a song of his. It was one of those crazy moments. I was thinking, "God I wonder how I could get back in touch with John," and then I look in a restaurant and there he was. So that weekend he came to see my show, he told me he was working on a musical and asked me to be in it. And I said, "Sure, why not?" It turned out to be Rent, and I was the first [person to play] Angel. And that was a great experience.

Between Rent and Tangled, you're like the backbone of blockbusters. [Laughs] Yes, and then I get dropped.



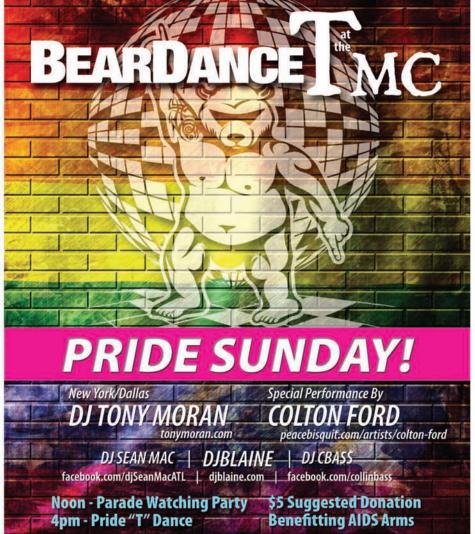


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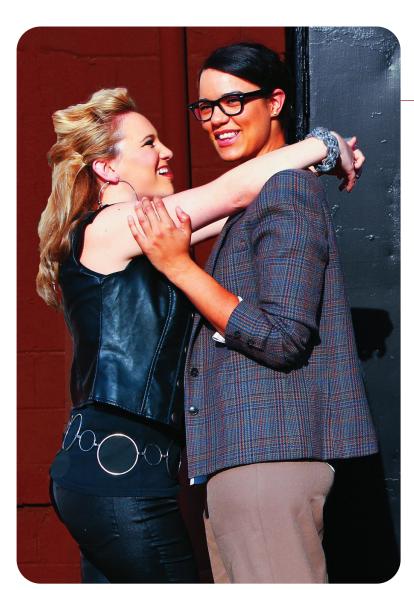






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### Friday 09.07

#### Theatre Arlington pays its 'Rent'

Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Rent has been a lightning rod for controversy, with its bisexual, gay, drug-addicted HIV-positive heroes — all of which really resonates with gay audiences. So we were pleased Theatre Arlington decided to mount a full-out production of it, with Andy Baldwin, one of our favorite comic actors, directing a show all about celebrating our seasons of love.

DEETS: Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Sept. 7–30. TheatreArlington.org.

### **Saturday** 09.08

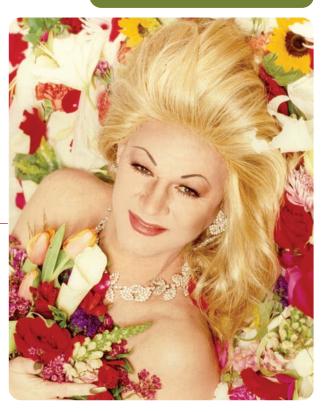
#### **GDMAF** benefit returns to The Brick

For nearly 20 years, David Hearn has honored his late partner, Greg Dollgener — whom he lost to AIDS in 1994 — with a benefit called the PlanoBar Party. It outgrew Hearn's home, so it returns to The Brick, with a theme based on the new Dallas TV show. Turn out in your best Bobby, J.R. or Sue Ellen costume and enjoy dancers, food, music and M.C. Patti La Plae Safe, pictured.

DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliffe Ave. 7 p.m. \$20 donation requested. GDMAF.org.

### LIFE+STYLE

best bets

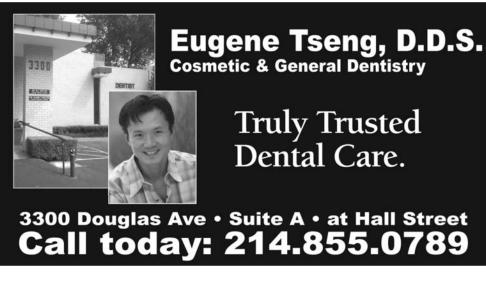


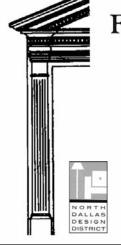
### **Thursday** 09.13

**City Performance Hall opens with gala weekend**It arrives three years after its brothers the Wyly and the Winspear, but the Dallas city-owned Performance Hall is finally, officially open, after \$40 million and a lot of planning. The entire weekend is a celebratory gala, with four days of free and ticketed events, starting with the Thursday morning ribbon cutting and architecture tours, followed Friday through Sunday with music, a play by Cara Mia Theatre and much more.

**DEETS:** City Performance Hall, 2100 Ross Ave. Sept. 13–16. For a complete schedule of events, visit DallasCulture.org/CityPerformanceHall.asp.







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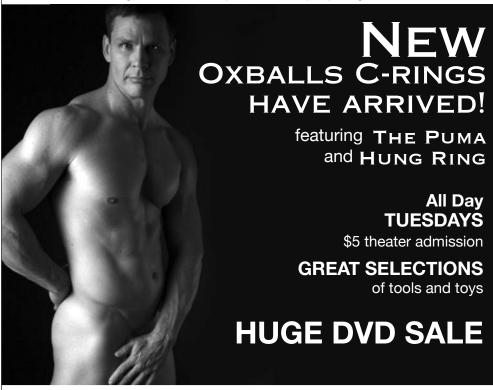
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#### calendar



**MY TWO DADS** | Out actor Andrew Rannells, left, and Justin Bartha play a gay couple who hire a surrogate mother in the hot new series 'The New Normal,' which premieres Tuesday.

#### **FRIDAY 09.07**

#### **THEATER**

**Dallas Pride Performing Arts Festival**. Uptown Players' second annual theater fest, with seven shows playing over eight days in repertory. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Visit UptownPlayers.org for complete schedule.

**Avenue Q.** Presented by Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2900 Routh St. It's an adult musical with puppets. Gay puppets. Having sex. Leave the kids at home. Through Oct. 28 (extended again). Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Most Happy Fella. Frank Loesser's seldomperformed classic gets the full-orchestra treatment from Lyric Stage. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Sept. 7–15. LyricStage.org.

**Rent.** Presented by Theatre Arlington. 305 Main St., Arlington. Sept. 7–30. TheatreArlington.org.

The Second City Does Dallas. The Chicago-based comedy troupe teams with the Dallas Theater Center for a scripted-with-improv skewering of all things Big D. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Sept. 30. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Producers**, presented by Uptown Players; directed by Michael Serrecchia. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sept. 15. UptownPlayers.org.

#### FINE ART

Beyond the Lens: The Photography of Resistance and Liberation. A new exhibit featuring the

photos of Faye Schulman opens at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through Nov. 25. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

On the Silk Road and the High Seas: Chinese Ceramics, Culture and Commerce. New exhibit at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 27, 2013. CrowCollection.org.

#### VTIMINMOS

**Unwired Dallas.** Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets. New Hope Fellowship Church, 2438 Butler St. 7 p.m. Free. Crystalmeth.org.

**FUSE** drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays—Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

#### SATURDAY 09.08

#### COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio of the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake

Once in a Blue Moon, women's dance. DanceMasters Ballroom, 10675 E. Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$10. 972-479-0774.

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous.

Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler Suite

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 5–10 p.m. 214-879-0400.



#### **SUNDAY 09.09**

#### COMMUNITY

**Expressions**, a free gender support group for men and women led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

**Cowtown Leathermen cookout.** Best Friends Club, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

#### **MONDAY 09.10**

#### COMMUNITY

**Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** meets to improve public speaking and leadership skills. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30–8 p.m. 214-543-5860.

**Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County.** Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

**PFLAG Mesquite**. St. Stephen United Methodist Church. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112

#### **TUESDAY 09.11**

#### COMMUNITY

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4–9 p.m. 214-879-0400.

#### **BROADCAST**

The New Normal. The hottest new series of the year is Ryan Murphy's (Glee, American Horror Story) sitcom about a gay couple who hire a surrogate. Premieres on Ch. 5 at 8:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY 09.12

#### THEATER

*War Horse.* The Tony Award-winning play, presented with life-sized puppet horses, tells the story of World War I from the perspective of the innocent animals who fought in it. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 12–23. ATTPAC.org.

#### ONLINE

*The Variants.* The locally produced web series *The Variants*, set at gay-owned Zeus Comics, launches a new episode every Wednesday for its new third season. The Variants.com.

#### **COMMUNITY**

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m.

American Veterans for Equal Rights Lone Star Veterans Chapter. LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCpres@aol.com.

#### **BROADCAST**

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Fahari Institute's Harold Steward. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

#### **THURSDAY 09.13**

#### **THEATER**

**City Performance Hall.** The gala opening of the new city-owned arts venue includes numerous functions throughout the weekend, including free concerts and architecture tours. 2100 Ross Ave. Sept. 13–16.

#### COMEDY

*Miss Coco Peru is Present*. The famed drag queen performs at the Rose Room. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; curtain at 7:30 p.m. \$25–\$40. Caven.com.

#### COMMUNITY

**Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association** monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

**PFLAG Dallas**. Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

#### this week's solution

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#### **CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

Evan Rachel Wood turns 25 on Friday. Starting as a child actress on TV and movies, she has grown into a popular star of film (Across the Universe) and television (True Blood). In 2008 she played a lesbian in the film The Wrestler, and later came out as bisexual.



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Trust your creative and erotic instincts. Some rational discernment is necessary, but you should know quickly whether you are hearing the call of passionate brilliance or a siren's song.

#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Even without malicious intent, gossip can be damaging. Your friends mean well, but do you need blabbermouths complicating your life? Trust a partner's advice on who your friends really are.

#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Challenges at work can bring out your best. It will take hard work, creativity and shrewd thinking. Your instincts are good, but it'll take persuasion to get others to go along.

#### SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Kindness and charity take considerable effort. Some poor, annoying fool probably has no idea that he is hitting your sensitive points. You don't have to put up with it, but take the high road.

#### CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

As in a bad romantic comedy, a misunderstanding could lead to a passionate affair — though probably not more than that. Still, it could change your life. New ideas at work need some polish.

#### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

News from your partner could knock you for a loop and change the relationship. If you think of it as a battle, you will lose the war. Pay attention and adapt. Necessary changes won't be easy but will make things a lot better in the long run.

#### PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Confusion can lead you to friends for advice. Listen, but consider carefully how their suggestions conflict with your own values. From that clash of ideas will come something useful.

#### ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

When people disagree with you, it's not about you! That can be hard to remember at work especially. Efforts to charm will probably backfire. Just keep your nose to the grindstone.

#### TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

You want to make big changes at home, but consider others. Surprises will not be appreciated; sew recipes are a safer bet. There are no failures, only lessons.

#### GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Glib charm will not go down well. Make your words matter. Use your charm to convey challenging notions. Being nice helps get the message across, but by itself it's no message at all.

#### CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You need to take care of yourself and get back to basics. Reconsider your recent accomplishments and talk them over with a friend. A new moon on the 15th will bring new ideas to explore.

#### LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

No matter how much charm you pour on others, they may not be appreciated. Self-improvement is always a worthwhile effort. Working on yourself can open opportunities to play with others.

#### THIS WEEK

Mercury is lord of the zodiac now, but he's in bad aspect. Reign in ego and criticism. Venus in Leo aspecting the outer planets is challenging us all to innovative change. Heed your intuition and keep it sweet.

#### amusements

### Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

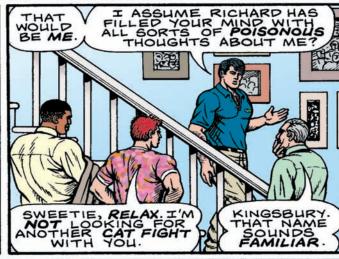






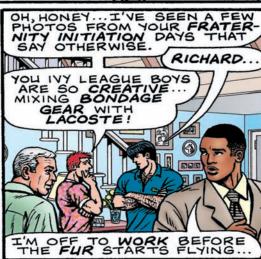












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# **Expletive Deleted!**

#### Solution on page 29

#### Across

- 1 Man, as a cruising goal
- 5 Homo leader?
- 9 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
- 13 Pansy supporter
- 14 Willy Wonka creator
- 15 "\_\_\_ want is a room somewhere ..."
- 16 Start of the title of a memoir by 2-Down
- 19 Where G. Keillor began
- 20 Bit from Michael Musto
- 21 Rolling Stones ballad
- 22 David \_\_\_ Pierce
- 24 Sentence enders
- 26 Bathhouse feature
- 28 Working hard
- 31 Jane Spahr's title
- 32 "Oscar wiled away the time," for example

WHEN IT BECAME LEGAL IN MASSACHUSETTS

WE GOT MARRIED THERE, AND THAT

DAY WAS OUR ANNIVERSARY.

- 33 Endora, to Samantha
- 35 Queens tennis stadium
- 39 Like Indians
- 41 More of the title
- 42 Tennessee city named for a foil
- 43 Not now
- 44 ABC's
- 46 \_\_\_ Pinafore
- 47 Augsburg article

- 49 State, to Cocteau
- 50 Like Kopay, from MLB
- 51 Robert Goulet musical
- 55 "See ya!"
- 57 Scary Movie Cheri
- 58 Bump from office
- 61 Sound from a small pussy
- 63 End of the title
- 66 On top of that
- 67 Baltic Sea tributary
- 68 Personal-ad stats
- 69 British carbine
- 70 Where to bet your bottom dollar
- 71 Left to pirates

#### Down

- 1 Novel ID
- 2 With 36-Down, lesbian writer with
- Tourette's syndrome
- 3 Rescue Me star
- 4 Down wearer down under
- 6 Colette's coffee
- 7 Sucker
- 8 Conduit bend
- 9 Rio festival
- 10 Hispanic family org.
- 11 Spanish hero 12 Sound system hookups
- 17 Connect with
- 18 It may be hard or soft
- 23 Rhett Butler's final word 25 Go wrong
- 26 Petty quarrel
- 27 Instruction on a door
- 29 Culture Club's "\_\_\_ Miracle"
- 30 Items on hand
- 34 Come out
- 36 See 2-Down
- 37 Where you can't go again
- 38 Toward the sunrise
- 40 Hans Christian of fairy tales
- 42 Vino venue
- 44 Newt, to Candace
- 45 Where to find lots of pricks
- 48 East of Eden director Kazan
- 51 Brown bubbly beverages
- 52 Not straight
- 53 Reagan's Attorney General Ed
- 54 Some like it hot
- 56 Kahlo's cohort
- 59 Brings into play
- 60 "Oh, what the hell"
- 62 Toward the sunset
- 64 No to Rimbaud
- 65 Top off





THEN IT BECAME LEGAL HERE, SO NOW WE

BUT WHICH DAY REPRESENTS OUR LOVE?

HAVE THE DAY WE RENEWED OUR YOU'S











# LIFE+STYLE scene



Jackie and Nadie at Sue Ellen's.

Lots of entertainment as Pride Weekend approaches. ... Coco Peru appears in the Rose Room on Sept. 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. ... Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer performs in the Vixin Lounge at Sue Ellen's on Sept. 14 at 10 p.m. Get your tickets now. ... Uptown Players begins its second annual Dallas Pride Performing Arts Festival at the Kalita Humphries Theater. ... Mr. Dallas Eagle meet and greet begins at 8 p.m. on Sept. 7 at the **Dallas Eagle**. The Mr. Dallas Eagle contest begins at 8 p.m. on Sept. 8 followed by the Black & Blue Fetish Ball. ... The **Panty Raid Variety Show** takes place at **Sue Ellen's** on Sept. 7. The Lauren Alexander Band performs on Sept. 8. ... Buddy Shanahan accompanies Anton Shaw on Sept. 12 at 9:30 p.m. at Alexandre's. The **Andrea Dawson Band** performs on Sept. 8 beginning at 10 p.m. ... Spencer West is at Woody's Sports and Video Bar on Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. On Sept. 8 it's Mi Diva Loca on Woody's back patio. Then the **PSSA** draft party takes place Sept. 9 from 3–7 p.m. Registration ends at 4:30 p.m. Register for Fall Ball for \$30 online, \$45 at the party or \$60 on the field. Play begins Sept. 23. ... JR.'s Bar & Grill presents a Bob Mould CD release party on Sept. 10. Silver Age is the brand-new rock album from the former Husker Du and Sugar frontman and includes the single "The Descent." Win free albums while supplies last starting at 11 p.m.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



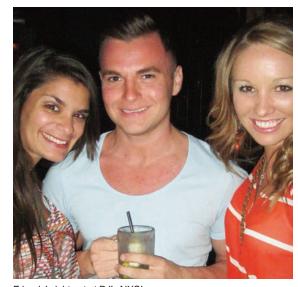
Mark and Steve at Alexandre's.



Amy, Chad and Justin at Dallas Eagle.



Bobby, James and Bunnie at the Rainbow Lounge.



Friends' night out at BJ's NXS!



Omar and Jeff at Reflections.



Friends' night out at Station 4.







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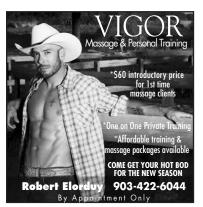
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