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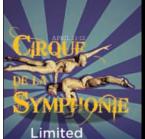
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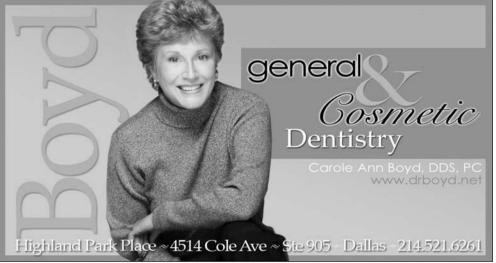
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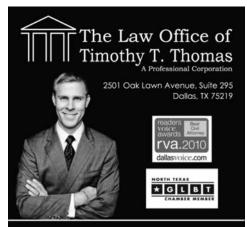
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FUR AFFAIR | Texas Bear Round Up attendees dance the night away at BearDance March 14 at Station 4. For more photos, visit DallasVoice.com/category/photos. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

Same-sex couple files for divorce in Bexar County courtroom

A San Antonio couple has filed to dissolve their 2010 D.C. marriage.

The couple, Allison Leona Flood Lesh and Kristi Lyn Lesh, filed for divorce on Feb. 18 after separating in July. Their case is the first divorce sought by a same-sex couple in Bexar County, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

Eight days after they filed, U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled that the state's ban on samesex marriage and its refusal to recognize out-of-state marriages is unconstitutional. But Garcia stayed his ruling pending appeal. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott later appealed the ruling to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The case may be put on hold until the Texas Supreme Court decides whether to allow samesex couples to divorce in Texas.

The court heard arguments for same-sex divorce in the state back in November, when lawyers for an Austin couple, who were granted a divorce, and a Dallas couple, who were still trying to obtain one, argued that the state didn't need to recognize the marriages to dissolve the unions since the state where they were married already recognized their unions as legal.

The court has yet to rule in the cases, but a decision is expected by summer before the court's recess

But the San Antonio couple wants the case to move forward because they are also battling for custody of their 13-month-old daughter.

Flood, who hasn't seen the child in six months, wants to share custody, while Lesh doesn't because her wife isn't the girl's biological or adoptive parent. The Austin couple also has a child, but the case didn't deal with custody.

"This illustrates what Judge Garcia identified as (what) same-sex couples are deprived of," Neel Lane, one of the San Antonio lawyers for the gay couples who sued the state over the same-sex marriage ban, told the San Antonio Express-News.

"First, they are deprived of the benefits of an orderly dissolution of a marriage. Second, their children are denied the benefit of the many laws to protect their interests in the event of a divorce."

—Anna Waugh

Vernita Gray, gay rights activist and one of 1st to marry in Ill., dies

Vernita Gray, one of Chicago's longest and most prolific activists for LGBT rights, has died, the Windy City Times reported. She was 65.

Gray and wife Pat Ewert were the first same-sex couple married legally in Illinois on Nov. 27, 2013, after winning a court victory because of Gray's critical health situation. That paved the way for additional court rulings that hastened marriage in Illinois ahead of the original June 1, 2014, implementation of full marriage equality in the state.

Gray, a native Chicagoan, came out as a lesbian soon after she attended the 1969 Woodstock music concert in New York, where she learned about the Stonewall Riots.

A longtime cancer survivor, Gray lost her battle Wednesday just before midnight, with her wife by her side.

Gray's cultural and activist interests were varied. She was a poet who knew how to rally the troops at events, including anti-violence marches and most recently the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality, her last public speaking engagement, held on Oct. 22.

As a young girl, she watched Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., try to desegregate the heavily divided city of Chicago. Her visits to the White House brought tears to her eyes because she never thought she would see an African-American president, especially from her hometown of Chicago. She first went there for a June 2009 Pride reception.

Gray was a ubiquitous activist. In the early 1970s, she was instrumental in starting the first gay and lesbian helpline in Chicago in her own apartment. Her one-bedroom place on 56th Street and Drexel Avenue also served as an overnight shelter for a number of teens who had been kicked out by their families because they were gay, lesbian or transgender. Gray gave them a place to go and was there to lend a hand when they needed someone.

For her work, Gray has received dozens of honors. She was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1992.

Gray's life is documented in the upcoming book, Vernita Gray: From Woodstock to the Whitehouse, by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen.

-Steve Ramos

Walgreens manager takes action on anti-gay incident

After a customer used a gay slur and an employee laughed, a gay customer demanded to see the manager to file a complaint

DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Mark Alan Smith recently heard a woman in Walgreen's on Cedar Springs Road say, "You punk-ass gay guys act like that, and it will get you killed," he was angry. When the cashier laughed with the woman, and no other gay person in the store bothered to corroborate his story to the manager on duty, he was furious.

Walgreen's store manager James Ross said he took the incident seriously, and all issues were addressed with the employee. Local activists said it's worrisome when incidents like this happen anywhere, but when they happen on Cedar Springs, it's extremely troubling.

Smith said he was waiting in one of the checkout lines at Walgreens on March 14. An-

other register opened, and a woman from the back of the line pushed ahead of everyone to be first at that register.

Taken aback by the woman's discourtesy of cutting in line, the man in line in front of Smith asked, "What just happened?"

The woman who had just opened the register said, "I said next."

Smith said had she actually said "Next," one of the four people in line in front of him who were closer to the newly opened register would have heard her.

"I thought 'girl, you are in the wrong place to be throwing an attitude,'" Smith said. "'These queens up in here will let you have it.'"

The woman who cut in line was still at the register when the man in front of Smith paid at his counter. As he walked toward the door, he tripped on that woman's basket.

"Hey you, why did you kick my basket?" she asked.

"It was in the middle of the floor," he said. "I tripped over it."

While that exchange happened, Smith said

■ WALGREENS, Page 25



INVOLVED | In this file photo, Walgreens participated in AIDS Walk South Dallas. The company has consistently shown its support for the community. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice.)



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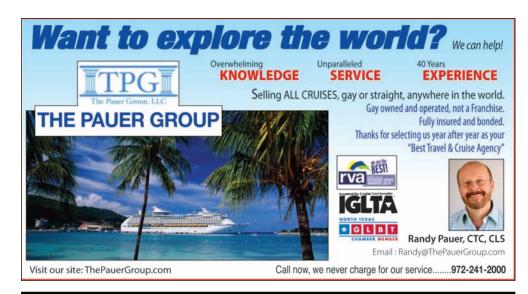
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House of DIFFA Masquerade 2014 takes place at Omni Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St., March 29 at 6 p.m. Tickets \$375 available at DIFFADallas.org.

DSYD meets with candidates

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and DISD Trustee Miguel Solis will speak to Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats in the Vixin Lounge at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. on March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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Death



Duane Arthur De Young, 56, died Feb. 28 in Dallas and was buried March 8 in Castlewood, S.D.

He was born in Watertown, S.D., and grew up in Hamlin County where he graduated from Hamlin High School in

1975. He attended Dakota State University in

Madison and transferred to Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, where he graduated with a major in music.

Duane married Debra Huisman and has a son, Devin. He taught for two years and then opened L&K Clothing in Orange City, Iowa. He later lived in Minneapolis, Chicago, Toledo and then Dallas, where he worked at Tiffany & Co.

He is survived by his partner Jose Soto, son Devin and wife Megan, grandson Carson De Young, parents Arthur and Barbara De Young, siblings Gary, Gina Adamson, and Jodi De Young and a host of relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held at Cathedral of Hope on March 22 at 11 a.m. Donations may be made to Resource Center where he volunteered.



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Motive still unclear in Houston lesbian couple's murder

Galveston investigators plan to charge victim's father with murder, haven't ruled out his anger about her sexual orientation as a cause

ANNA WAUGH I News Editor waugh@dallasvoice.com

GALVESTON — Detectives believe they've determined who killed a Houston lesbian couple earlier this month, but they're still searching for the evidence to solidify their theories about what led up to the murders.

Britney Cosby and her girlfriend Crystal Jackson, both 24, were found killed near a convenience store trash bin off State Highway 87 in Port Bolivar early March 7 when a beer salesman noticed their bodies.

The couple had been together for two years. Autopsy reports revealed Cosby died as a result of blunt force trauma, and Jackson was shot.

James Larry Cosby, 46, was arrested and charged with two counts of tampering with evidence on March 13 after finding evidence in his Houston home, where he lived with his daugh-

ter, her girlfriend and his grandmother. Investigators expect to upgrade the charges to capital murder in a month after forensic tests on evidence are completed and they locate the couple's missing car and a possible accomplice, Captain Barry Cook said.

Cook said Galveston County Sherriff's Office investigators went to talk to Cosby last week to interview him about his daughter and Jackson.

During the visit, a caretaker for the grandmother told investigators she'd noticed the carport, which was normally dirty and cluttered, had recently been cleaned when asked about the home's conditions. Cook said investigators then found blood on a door jam and requested a search warrant.

A search of the home revealed blood all over Cosby's living area, which is a converted garage. Cook said Cosby's fingerprint was found on a piece of evidence as well.

Cook said he'd had a "violent episode" and argued with his daughter and Jackson on March 6, the day before the couple's bodies were found. That evening the couple's silver 2006 Kia Sorrento was seen leaving the home and boarding

■ HOUSTON, Page 17



Crystal Jackson, left, and Britney Cosby



Truvada: Why the emotion?

With fewer than 2,000 people using Truvada as PrEP, where is all the wailing coming from?

STEVE RAMOS I Senior Editor ramos@dallasvoice.com

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a two-part series on PrEP.

Ask a group of gay men what they think of Truvada, and you're likely to get a response that goes something like this: "I don't like it. What is it?"

When Dallas Voice recently asked 10 gay men for their opinions on Truvada, only three said they know what it is and are aware of the controversy it ignites in the community. That controversy pits advocates against opponents, and the discussion can torch emotions like a flamethrower on a fuel depot. But why?

Truvada is an HIV medication included in the category called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). It prevents HIV from altering the genetic material of healthy CD4 cells, which prevents the cells from producing new virus and decreases the amount of virus in the body.

Marketed by Gilead Sciences, Truvada was first approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2004 as a component of therapy for people living with HIV. In 2012, the FDA approved the drug as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV among those at high risk for the infection — in conjunction with condoms and other safer-sex measures

Kirk Myers, CEO of Abounding Prosperity, was one of the Truvada advocates who testified before the FDA.

"Truvada isn't the end-all-be-all, but people should have a choice to decide if it works," he said. "The masses aren't aware of PrEP and its usage."

Two major studies suggest that PrEP with Truvada may work. In the iPrEX study of 2,499 HIV-negative men and transgender women who have high-risk sex with men, those who took Truvada had 42 percent fewer HIV infections than those who did not. There was no evidence that taking Truvada increased incidents of unsafe sex, although study patients weren't certain if they were getting Truvada or an inactive placebo.

The Partners PrÉP study enrolled 4,758 heterosexual couples in which one member was infected with HIV and one was not. That study indicated Truvada reduced the risk of HIV infection by 75 percent.

Fire up the flamethrower.

"This is where the community turns on its own," said one man who identified himself as Dan. He says he's in a serodiscordant relationship (where one partner is HIV-positive and the other is negative) and is one of the three men who told Dallas



GETTING PrEPPed | Advocates say daily use of Truvada helps prevent an HIV-negative person from seroconverting to positive, but the key is compliance. (Illustration by Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice)

Voice he's familiar with Truvada. He declined to provide his last name, saying his partner works for the city of Dallas, and he doesn't want to create any "backlash."

"I read how a lot of people attacked Tyler when he wrote that piece about Truvada," Dan said. "You want to see gay men turn on each other? Mention Truvada to people who know what it is, but you better stand back. It gets ugly."

Dan is referring to Dallas Voice contributing writer Tyler Curry, who wrote an article about Truvada titled "PrEPing for Battle." In the Jan. 31 article, Curry presented both sides of the Truvada debate and wrote "PrEP is simply a new tool in the fight against HIV that offers an additional method of protection to condoms or abstinence."

Sounds good, so why the gnashing of teeth when talking about Truvada?

"Have you heard the term 'Truvada whore'?" Dan asked. "You see, to talk about Truvada as treatment means we have to talk about how we're having sex. We have to talk about how gay men are having unprotected sex, and we don't want to acknowledge that. We want to act superior and say we don't do it and point fingers at those who do."

Myers points out that many people say Truvada will give gay men a license to be promiscuous and engage in high-risk sex.

"We get that from the religious right and other opposition groups," he said. "But the fact remains that people are entitled to know about the drug and how it can be one more tool in the tool chest."

Myers said 305 people recently completed a twohour training course on Truvada offered by Abounding Prosperity. The course, available over a 12-month period, was broken down into individual and group sessions.

"We found that the community was interested, and they came out of it wanting to know why they hadn't been given the option of using the drug."

In Dallas and Fort Worth, no AIDS agency offers Truvada as part of an HIV prevention regimen.

"It's not a program we're offering," said Bret Camp, Texas Regional Director of AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "It is controversial, and there's not an easy answer as to why it is. Both sides are very passionate."

Camp said there are questionable interpretations to the data that has been released about Truvada as PrEP. In one study published by the National Center for Biotechnology Information, it's suggested that taking Truvada every day reduces HIV transmission risk by 99 percent. The FDA, in its press release that Truvada had been approved for PrEP, said the drug was effective in reducing the risk of HIV infection by 42 percent.

"The efficacy rate was directly related to compliance," Camp said. "When you're talking about the population that would benefit the most from taking Truvada as PrEP, they're going to be the ones who have the hardest time with compliance."

None of the experts argue that the key to getting results from Truvada is compliance. Camp maintains, however, that it's difficult enough to keep HIV-positive clients compliant with their medication. Training someone who is HIV-negative to take a pill daily would be difficult.

"And that's a big problem," Dan said. "That's where some of the howling starts. Guys are saying that if you have a population that isn't compliant but has stopped practicing safe sex because they think taking Truvada now and then protects them,

then we're just going to increase the HIV infection rate."

In one of its studies, AHF reported "only 63 percent of respondents said they would be 'Very Likely' to remember to take the prevention pill every day."

"And it can give someone a false sense of security," Camp said. "People are still supposed to use condoms even when taking Truvada. Do they do it? We don't know. People misreport sexual activity."

Camp notes there are some people who will remember to take Truvada daily, although some experts claim the drug produces the same results when taken as little as three times a week, further muddying the statistical waters. But he paints a different picture of those clients who aren't compliant.

"What about the person who is using illegal drugs?" he asked. "Do you think that person is going to remember to take a pill every day when he's been on a drug-using spree for several days? Probably not."

Dan agrees there is no question that people will stop using condoms if they're taking Truvada, and they'll think they're protected when they're not, and their partners will think they're protected.

"And they're not protected from other STDs," Camp said. "If you're having sex without a condom, Truvada is not going to protect you from other diseases. That's a big issue."

For Dan, Truvada as PrEP is a consideration, though.

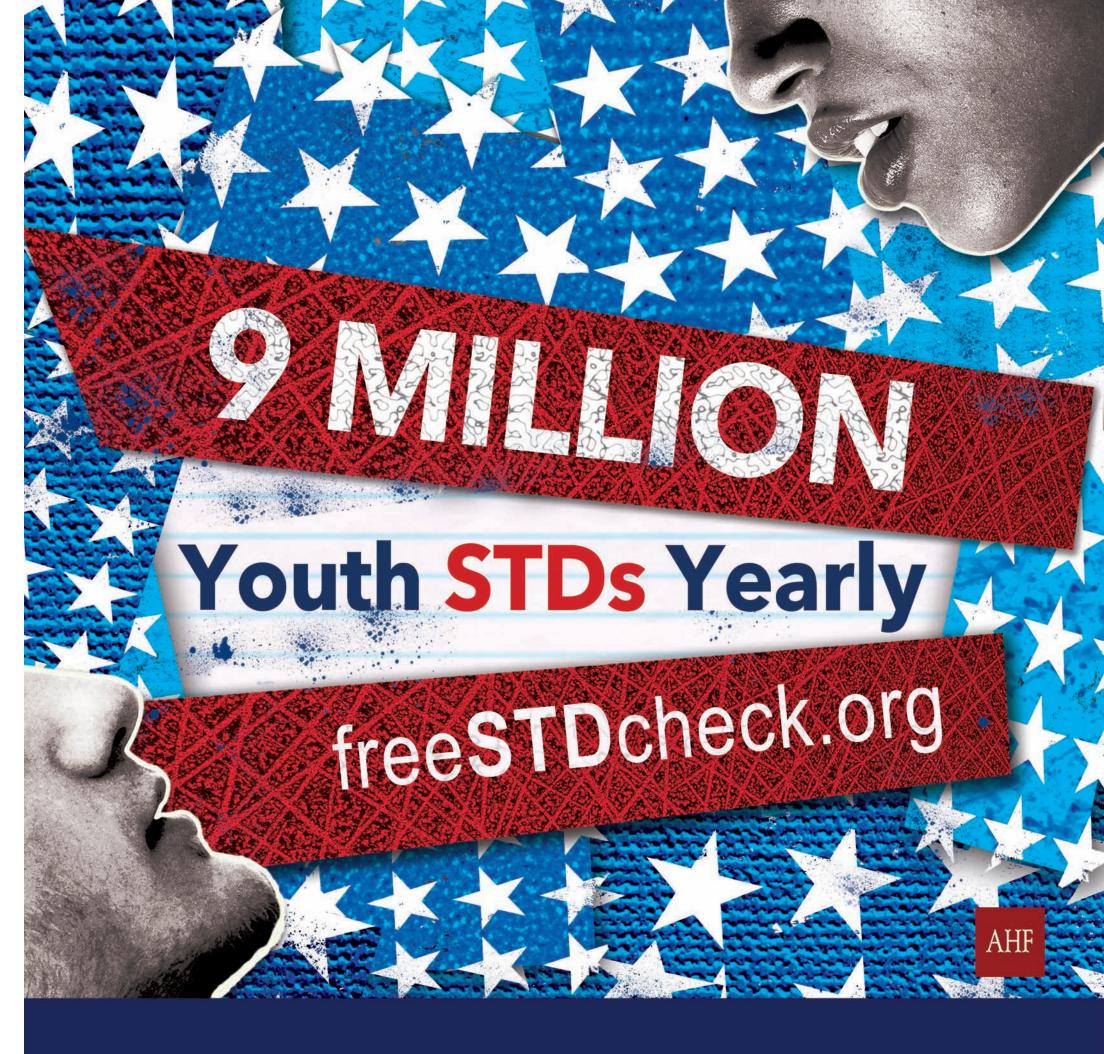
"I'm thinking of taking Truvada because I'm in a relationship, and my partner is HIV-positive, but you should see how some of my friends react to it," Dan said. "There are those gay men who really think people want to take Truvada so they can just go out and have wild unprotected sex. I mentioned Truvada whores. That's what some people call them"

But reports show few people are taking Truvada as PrEP. According to several accounts, only 1,744 people filled prescriptions between January 2011 and March 2013, and at about \$13,000 a year, Truvada as PrEP doesn't come cheap, although most insurance companies cover the drug.

"We haven't had an insurance company decline Truvada coverage," Myers said. "The assumption is when they see a prescription for Truvada, it's for an HIV-positive client. Once the states become aware it can be used as PrEP, the companies might deny coverage."

But Myers holds on to the idea that people should have a choice in HIV prevention.

"We're actually one of the only organizations that offer educational programs on PrEP," he said. "It's absolutely recommended with condom usage, but people can't make informed decisions if they don't have the information. Truvada isn't for everyone, but everyone should be able to decide if it is."



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State files motion to halt 2 TX marriage lawsuits

Citing legal fees, Texas AG wants appeals court to decide SA case 1st, but Lambda Legal says the cases are different, should proceed

ANNA WAUGH I News Editor waugh@dallasvoice.com

ARLINGTON — When Chris McNosky and Sven Stricker talk about their strategy to win the freedom to marry in Texas, they come across as unfazed, determined and admittedly out of their element.

The couple is one of five couples in three federal lawsuits suing for the freedom to marriage in the Lone Star State. They sat down with Dallas Voice recently at the University of Texas at Arlington, where Sven is currently studying, to discuss their lawsuit filed back in July.

But while they're representing themselves in the fight for marriage equality, the case, and another one filed by an Austin couple, may be placed on hold until the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals hears an appeal in a San Antonio lawsuit after a federal judge ruled last month that the state's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. But LGBT legal experts predict the cases may still move forward.

McNosky and Stricker's suit was filed in a federal Austin court and is the second of its kind in the state.

Retired Galveston nuclear engineer Domenico Nuckols filed the first federal marriage equality lawsuit in early July, but withdrew the case a few weeks after talking with legal experts about his case. Nuckols was in a long-term relationship, but hadn't been denied a marriage license in the state and didn't plan to get married. Rather, he told Dallas Voice at the time, he wanted other same-sex couples to have the right to marry.

Shannon Zahrn and Catherine Zahrn, joined by Alexius Augustine and Andrew Simpson, later filed a suit in the same Austin federal court. They've been together since 2002 and moved to Austin in 2006, according to the suit. They have a 3-year-old daughter, and have legal guardianship of Shannon Zahrn's niece.

Augustine and Simpson met in 2003, when Augustine was a student in Malaysia and Simpson was working for a computer company, according to the suit. Augustine later immigrated to the U.S., and the couple bought a house in Austin. They've been engaged since 2012 and plan to adopt child in the near future.

Attorneys for the case said they aren't speaking to media. But attorney Jason Steed said their case is a class action suit on behalf of all same-sex couples in the state. He expects a summer ruling. The cases are separate, but they will be decided at the same time per the judge's request.

"We do have clients who've been waiting a

long time to get married, so we're hopeful we can get a favorable decision by late summer," Steed wrote in an email to Dallas Voice.

Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano, joined by Austin couple Cleopatra DeLeon and

Nicole Dimetman, filed a similar case in a federal San Antonio court. The case moved forward quickly with U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia granting a temporary injunction on the state's marriage ban on Feb. 26. But he stayed the decision, pending appeal by the state. A notice of appeal was filed the next day, and the case will go before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office filed a motion last week to stay the McNosky and Zahrn cases until the appeals court decides the DeLeon v. Perry case. McNosky is the only case with plaintiffs who oppose postponing the cases, according to court documents.

McNosky said this week the couple is opposed to the stay because their case deals solely with sex discrimination as the basis for preventing same-sex couples from marrying in the state, not discrimination based on sexual orientation. Both their case and the Zarhn case are expected to present arguments in late summer.

The motion mentions that not all of the same issues are present in the DeLeon case, but cites unnecessary legal and court fees by continuing the Austin two cases.

counsel against a stay," the motion reads. "Although the 5th Circuit's decision in De Leon 'may not settle every question of fact and law' in Mc-Nosky and Zahrn, a stay nevertheless is justified because 'in all likelihood it will settle many and

The plaintiffs have until next week to response to the AG's request. Abbott's office tried unsuccessfuly to combine all of the cases earlier this

Ken Upton, senior staff attorney for Lambda

■ MARRIAGE, Page 24



"But lack of per- NOT BACKING DOWN | Sven Stricker, left, and Chris McNosky were the first same-sex couple to file a federal lawsuit in Texas for the fect overlap does not freedom to marry last summer. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)



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TDoR founder will speak at GEAR awards reception

Theresa Sparks' mettle was tested when she transitioned, but her voice never faltered in equality battle

DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Theresa Sparks is executive director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, but she's worn plenty of other hats. She was president of the San Francisco Police Commission, ran for San Francisco Board of Supervisors and, in 1997, was named Woman of the Year by the California Assembly.

Yet, just a few years before she received that honor, she emerged as transgender and lost everything from her previous life. She'll draw from those experiences when she attends the annual GEAR Awards Reception in Dallas on March 29 as the keynote speaker.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission has been around for 50 years, established seven days before passage of the Civil Rights Act. Sparks credits her agency for creating a number of controversial ideas that have been adopted across the country.

"Things like domestic partnerships, equal benefits and transgender nondiscrimination were founded right here in this agency," Sparks said. "We had our first transgender nondiscrimination ordinance in 1994."

After Gwen Smith created a web-based memorial called "Remembering Our Dead" to honor transgender people killed because of their gender identity, Sparks organized the first candlelight vigil that has since evolved into Transgender Day of Remembrance, held on Nov. 20 of each year.

Sparks said the trans community needs to concentrate on three areas, the first being government.

"We need to focus on that our rights are upheld," she said.

Those rights, Sparks said, include everything from employment nondiscrimination to the right to self identify and use the appropriate public restroom

The second area is media.

"People are starting to get the message that we just want to be ourselves," she said. "All we want to do is be authentic. All we want to do is be ourselves."

She said having strong personalities like Janet Mock appear on Piers Morgan's and Katie Couric's shows recently is important to getting the message about who trans people are.

The third focus, she said, is for trans people to come out to themselves.

"We need to get rid of the guilt and shame," she said. "We're a very blessed group of people. Few people get to see life as we see it. We need to be



Theresa Sparks

proud of who we are."

She said trans people shouldn't let others define who they are or create the terms used to describe them. As an example, she said, a better term for gender reassignment surgery is gender confirmation surgery.

Sparks said she identified herself as a woman in her teens, but she served in Vietnam, married in the early 70s and had three children. She divorced and remarried. Before living as a woman, she endured aversion shock therapy. And then in the 90s, with the Internet, more information became available.

"We knew there were options," she said.

The options, however, came at a cost. When Sparks began living as a woman, she lost everything.

"I was the epitome of white male privilege," she said. "I started my life over."

Her two sons didn't speak to her for eight years, and her brother and sister still don't speak to her.

Later, because of her work at the San Francisco Police Commission, she received quite a bit of publicity, and her sons saw it.

"My boys started to grasp it," she said. "Now we're best friends. It was not easy getting there."

GEAR coordinator Blair High said she's looking forward to meeting Sparks.

"She paved the way for the rest of us," High said. "She's a true maverick who showed that anything is possible."

High said the GEAR event is open to everyone and hoped people throughout the community would attend. Sparks said she's looking forward to coming to Dallas. Although she grew up in Kansas, her parents lived in Richardson for a time, and her brother graduated from Richardson High

"I'm very impressed with Resource Center, and I'm very impressed with the GEAR program," she

GEAR Awards Reception, Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Free.

■ HOUSTON, From Page 11

a ferry in Galveston.

The vehicle never boarded the ferry again. Cook said authorities believe Cosby killed the women and used the car to transport their bodies to Port Bolivar. The couple had been in Galveston days before for Mardi Gras, so Cook said that's possibly why the bodies were moved so far.

The couple's Kia Sorrento with paper tags is still missing, as is the gun that killed Jackson, Cook said. Authorities also think Cosby had help moving the bodies because video surveillance shows a man of a different height and build than Cosby. The person of interest sought by investigators is described as a black male with an average build, standing between 5 feet, 11 inches and 7 feet tall. He's in his late 20s or early 30s.

The only other person in the home at the time of the argument was the grandmother, who is partially deaf and didn't hear anything, Cook said. And Cosby isn't talking to investigators about the fight.

"At this point we don't know exactly what the argument was about or what led to this, but it became violent very quickly," Cook said. "Mr. Cosby hadn't really been in Britney's life, so I would suspect that their relationship was someone strained. What happened that morning only they know, and none of them are telling."

According to Britney Cosby's mother, Loranda McDonald, Cosby had an issue with his daughter

"He said it to me a few times that he did not like the idea of her being gay," McDonald told Houston's KHOU 11.

Houston civil rights activist Quanell X told Houston's Fox 26 that Cosby was practicing Islam, where homosexuality is forbidden. He said he found writings about homosexuality on Cosby's Quran "indicating he may have had an issue with his daughter's sexual orientation."

Cook said investigators aren't ruling out a hate crime as a possible motive. But he said other things, like jealousy over the couple sharing a room while he was living in a converted garage could also have played a part.

"It is a possibility, and we have not ruled that out, but there are other items of contention that could also have been the cause for his anger, too," he said. "God only knows what it was. It may have been something was said that morning that set him off, and the rest is history. ... No motive is being ruled out."

McDonald also said Cosby was a violent person. He went to live with his grandmother and daughter when he was released from prison in October. Cosby was serving time for a failure to comply as a sex offender. Cook said there are no reported calls to Houston police about domestic disputes or violence.

Cosby and Jackson's deaths are the second fatal attack against lesbian couples in as many years in the state. Mollie Olgin and Kristene Chapa were shot in a park in Portland outside Corpus Christi in June 2012. Chapa was still alive when their bodies were discovered, but Olgin died.

The recent killings also highlight a national statistic of how LGBT people of color are more often

the victims of violent crimes. In a 2012 report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which tracks homicides in the LGBT community, LGBT people of color represented 73 percent of homicide victims. More than half of the homicide victims were black and African-American LGBT people, but that category represented only 15 percent of survivors and victims of hate crimes overall.

Chai Jindasurat, co-director of community organizing and public advocacy at the New York City Anti-Violence Project, said through the organization's work with programs across the country that people who live in "multiple marginalized identities experience violence at higher levels."

"We do see from year to year that a majority of homicide victims who are LGBTQ are people of color," he said.

Jindasurat said the work with targeted leadership and violence prevention programs within minority LGBT communities is helping lower the high homicide rates among queer people of color and prevent deaths like Cosby and Jackson's.

"This case is very sad," he said. "I think that unfortunately it just reminds all of us how much

work there is to do in creating more safety and changing our culture to have LGBTQ people live in safety."

A fund created by Dallas GetEQUAL TX activist Cd Kirven has raised \$185 for Crime Stoppers as a reward for information in the case. A vigil for the couple in Dallas on Wednesday raised almost \$700 by the 100 people in attendance.

Anyone with information about the case should call the Galveston County Sheriff's Office tip line at 866-248-8477 or Galveston County Crime Stoppers 409-763-8477. To donate to the fund, visit TinyURL.com/GalvestonReward.



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White House staffer visits Dallas to get LGBT community insured



ASK THE EXPERTS | White House LGBT liaison Gautam Raghaven will answer questions about the Affordable Care Act when he visits Dallas.

Local LGBT organizations join forces with presidential liaison to enroll the community in healthcare before the March 31 signup deadline

DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

With the March 31 deadline to sign up for healthcare looming, the White House has made signing up Texans a priority because more people in Texas remain uninsured than anywhere else in the country. The LGBT community is among the most underserved groups, so Gautam Raghaven, White House Office of Public Engagement associate director and liaison to the LGBT community, will appear in Dallas on Sunday to make a final push for enrollment.

"The deadline to enroll is coming up quickly on March 31st — and it is important for all Americans who don't have health insurance, including LGBT people, to take advantage of new affordable options," Raghaven said in an email to Dallas Voice. "That's why we are so glad that Out2Enroll and LGBT organizations in Dallas are working hard to get the word out."

Raghaven will be part of an Ask The Experts panel at the Interfaith Peace Chapel discussing the Affordable Care Act and what it means for the LGBT community. Katie Keith, a consultant working with Out2Enroll, and Kellan Baker of the Center for American Progress also will speak. Out2Enroll was created to connect members of the LGBT community with the new health insurance options available through the Affordable Care Act.

According to statistics provided by Keith, one in three low- or middle-income LGBT people are uninsured. Of those who are uninsured, four out of 10 face medical debt, and 44 percent of all LGBT people put off medical care because they can't af-

The LGBT community is underserved in other ways. Only 44 percent of the general population received medical coverage through their employers compared to 58 percent of the general population. While two-thirds of the LGBT community knows about the healthcare mandate, only a third know about the subsidies and new options available through the online marketplace, according to the Center for American Progress.

Nell Gaither, president of $\check{\text{Trans}}$ Pride Initiative is an organizer of the event. She said according to census data, the number of persons without health insurance is higher in Texas than in any other

"There appears to be increasing interest in getting enrolled as the 2014 deadline approaches, so if we can tap into that interest and provide information that helps more people in the community understand the subsidies available and get enrolled, that would be wonderful," Gaither said.

Fewer than 300,000 of the 6 million uninsured Texans signed up for coverage by March 1. The open enrollment deadline is March 31. Those who remain uninsured after that date will pay a

Because Texas didn't expand Medicaid, those with lower incomes will be disproportionately left without coverage.

"We are afraid that those with lower income levels may have disproportionately avoided en-

ACA, Page 25











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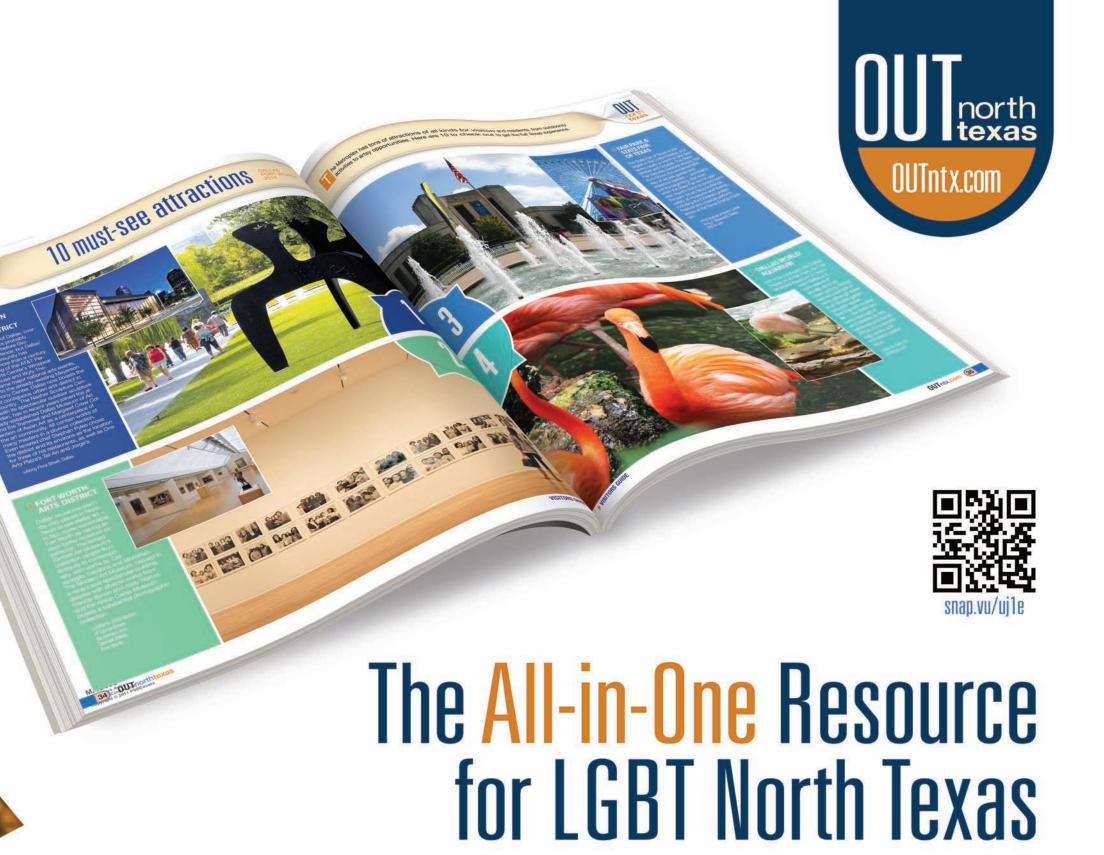
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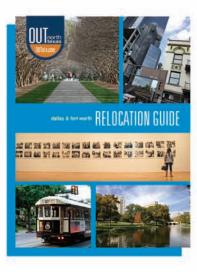


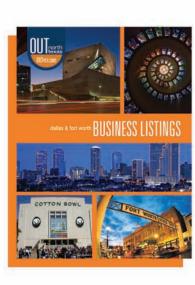
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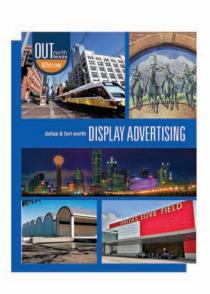


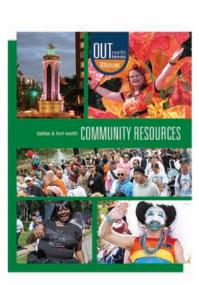














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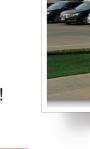
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■ MARRIAGE, From Page 14

Legal's Dallas office, said he expects the motion to stay the cases to fail because those cases are different than the San Antonio one. He said the appeal is about the preliminary injunction, not an appeal on a final decree, so he expects U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks to reject the motion and hear his cases.

"I think there's a pretty good argument that they're entitled to have their cases heard," Upton said. "You don't have a final ruling anywhere in Texas."

McNosky, 28, and Stricker, 26, met through mutual friends in the summer of 2010. They decided to take on marriage equality in the state after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act in June. They applied for a marriage license in Tarrant County on July 1 and were denied. They then decided to file the lawsuit, making them the first couple in Texas to file a suit.

"We just decided instead of waiting for somebody else to act, we would go ahead and do it just in case," McNosky said. "We thought we had a unique argument that hadn't been used before."

They opted to argue their right to marry based on sex discrimination alone because sex is protected more than sexual orientation, McNosky said.

The sex discrimination argument has been combined with the sexual orientation discrimination argument with mixed reviews from judges in recent lawsuits. Upton said judges more often prefer the sexual orientation argument, though he agrees that sex discrimination is a valid argument. And the argument could be upheld in the Austin court.

"It is sex discrimination, but that hasn't gotten much traction," he said. "It's not a very favorable argument. ... I think it's a good argument, but judges don't seem to want to bite on it."

The couple was initially trying to find legal representation, but they turned down a few offers from attorneys to take the case pro bono because they thought the case was simple, and they wanted to maintain control.

"We realized how easy this case was," Stricker said.

But both are quick to admit they have no legal training and aren't attorneys, though the case has made McNosky think abut attending law school one day.

"We're not attorneys. We don't have any sort of credibility to stand on," McNosky said. "We have the right to [pursue this case]. Are we qualified? Hell no."

But they scored one big victory when arguing against consolidating the cases earlier this year. And for them, having their case not be thrown out of the court from the beginning and continuing is a success for them.

"I think the victory in itself is just being in that courtroom, just knowing how the procedure goes," Stricker said, adding that they hope it was the first of many victories in the case, resulting in a win this summer. "I think it was a victory."

ACA, From Page 19

rolling," Gaither said.

Texas not expanding Medicaid is a problem, but those who earn above the 2014 federal poverty level of \$11,670 for a single person should qualify for subsidies that may cover most of the costs.

"Multiple factors of discrimination that include race, ability, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and economic status can also mean disproportionately lower access to healthcare and a perception that the Affordable Care Act may not offer much assistance," Gaither said. "That's not true, so we hope this and other events now taking place can help increase enrollment across these demographics."

In addition to Trans Pride Initiative, three trans groups — Black Transwomen, Black Transmen and the Transgender Education Network of Texas — are sponsoring the event. Within the LGBT community, the trans community has been excluded from health coverage at even higher rates, but the ACA addresses the community's needs.

According to Out2Enroll, being transgender is no longer considered a pre-existing condition. Insurance coverage may no longer be based on someone's gender identity or transgender med-

Gay and lesbian couples may find it easier to buy insurance as well.

■ WALGREENS, From Page 9

the employee at the register was laughing with the woman about what happened.

Smith told his cashier he should call the store manager, and he asked the woman if she knew where she was. He told her she was in the middle of the gay community. He turned and walked toward the door.

At that point, she made her "You punk-ass gay guys act like that, and it will get you killed" remark.

Smith said he walked out, stopped, turned and went back in to talk to the manager, fuming.

He said that it might have been the woman's inappropriate comment that got him back in the store, but it was the cashier laughing about it that made him decide the incident couldn't go unreported. He walked back in the store and asked for the manager.

Smith said what disappointed him more than anything was no other gay person in the store corroborated his story. But one elderly woman did.

"I agree with him," she said to the assistant manager. "It's not right."

The assistant manager called the police and went into the parking lot to collect baskets while she waited for them to arrive. Smith followed her, so visibly upset tears were running down his cheeks.

"Don't be upset," she told them. "We have a few gay customers that come in here."

"A few?" he asked.

Smith decided to leave and call Walgreen's corporate office from home. No police incident report was filed.

This month, the Department of Health and Human Services that is overseeing the rollout of the ACA issued new guidance relating to married same-sex couples.

People who are legally married may apply for health coverage together no matter what state they live in. However, that mandate doesn't apply yet to employer-provided coverage that was already in place.

Keith said access to healthcare isn't as much of a priority to some members of the LGBT community as marriage equality or employment discrimination. She called health an equality issue.

"The LGBT community faces health disparities in areas like obesity, smoking, cancer screening and HIV," she said. "And LGBT people are disproportionately likely to be uninsured and to face barriers to quality health care such as poor treatment by health care providers or inequitable policies and practices in health care facilities."

Gaither hopes a number of people leave the event with first-time health coverage.

"We would especially like to reach out to lowerincome persons in the LGBTQ community who may not have previously been provided enough information to make an informed decision about enrollment," Gaither said.

Navigators will be on hand at the event for free consumer assistance.

Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. March 23. 5-6:30 p.m.

Ross, who is not only the manager of the Cedar Springs store, but also is the community leader over five area stores. He wasn't in the store when the incident occurred, but he addressed it on Monday. He said the incident concerned him and wasn't something that should happen in any of the stores he oversees.

"I've addressed all issues with the employee," he said. "And I encourage any customer with any issue to please let me know."

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti Fink said a lot of people who shop on Cedar Springs might not even know what neighborhood they're in.

"Many come from the Melrose," she said.

She said there's not much a store can do about a customer, but Walgreen's did the right thing by addressing the employees.

Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell conducts employment training seminars for businesses and agencies. He said Walgreen's has clear nondiscrimination policies, and there are consequences for violating those policies.

"We live in a gay bubble and think it can't happen here," McDonnell said. "In this case it did."

He said Ross did everything right by addressing the situation quickly.

"They do a good job reaching out to our community," he said, citing flu shots the store provides to some Resource Center clients and products specifically for the LGBT community. They know they're part of the neighborhood."

"We love this community," Ross said.

He said without the LGBT community in the area, Walgreen's wouldn't be there.







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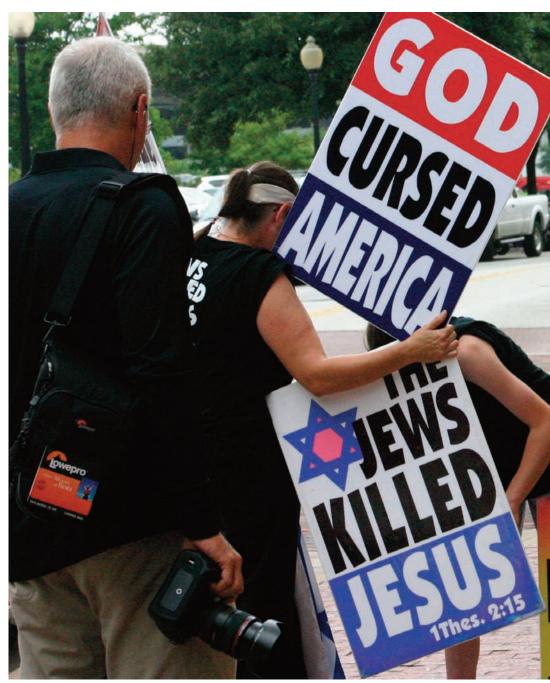
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Good riddance to rubbish



SILENCED | Fred Phelps, the leader for many years of Westboro Baptist Church invaded military funerals and protes services for his detractors to protest. Above, his family protest in front of the Dallas Holocaust Museum in 2010. (David

We turned Fred Phelps protest into a fundraiser that brought in \$11,000

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Fred Phelps died, and all I can say is good riddance to rubbish. No forgiveness needed. No hand wringing necessary.

Phelps was never anything more than a few stupid signs. When his church picketed my synagogue with a sign that read, "Your rabbi is a whore," I blew up a photo of the sign and gave it to my rabbi.

Fred and his church were never a threat to the

LGBT community. In fact we benefited from his extreme hatred. When Fred came to town, I always enjoyed watching the right wing run from the limelight. The few who agreed to an interview squirmed as they tried to explain how their hatred of the LGBT community was different than Fred's.

Fred was great at attracting media attention. He knew just what buttons to push. When the entire country mourned the death of Matthew Shepard, Fred put himself squarely in the spotlight. As military deaths mounted with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Fred injected some bizarre link with homosexuality, and there he

■ RUBBISH, Page 28

Forgetting Fred Phelps



and protested Jewish, LGBT and AIDS organizations. Phelps died Thursday, but his family said there will be no funeral 010. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Forgive him if you want, but the ultimate payback is to cut him from our conversations and lives

EMERSON COLLINS | Contributing Writer

Fred Phelps Sr., the patriarch and founder of the Westboro Baptist Church, died. The hate-fueled antics of Westboro have been media fodder since the Phelps landed in the national news by picketing Matthew Shephard's funeral in 1998 with their now infamous "God Hates Fags" signs.

In the years since, they have continued to

clamor for press and attention by picketing the funerals of everyone from soldiers who died in combat to Michael Jackson. They scream and foam at the mouth; the more random the correlation to their supposed beliefs, the greater the attention the collective national consciousness has given them. They are lunatics, hatemongers and now they are famous — because we made them

The announcement that Phelps was on death's door has been greeted across the social media world with cheers, enthusiasm and a heaping helping of mockery and derision. The greatest refrain is a collective call, whether serious or not,

■ FORGETTING, Next Page





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■ RUBBISH, From Page 26

was in the news.

While conservative religious communities were wringing their hands because Fred's brand of hatred made them all look bad, the gay community benefited. In fact, when we outsmarted him, we profited.

When the clan protested a Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service at Resource Center, we turned the appearance into a fundraiser.

Resource Center needed a new industrial-size ice maker. For months, they were getting ice from the bars on Cedar Springs every day for the hot meals program. An ice maker would cost more than \$3,000.

When Fred announced his appearance, we knew we could raise \$3,000 during his appearance and dubbed the event, "When Hell Freezes Over." By the time Westboro left after less than an hour of picketing, we raised more than \$11,000.

A few weeks later, Councilwoman Pauline Medrano helped us dedicate the new piece of equipment as "The Fred Phelps Memorial Ice Maker."

The lesson is that your hatred may just blow up in your face. Did Phelps know what his visit produced?

Not one to just leave well enough alone, I sent him a thank you note with pictures of the ice maker, a list of other things purchased with the money we raised during his visit and an invitation to come back with a list of additional things we were hoping to buy.

He never responded — but he and his clan didn't set foot in Texas for another year and a

Make no mistake, Westboro Baptist Church is a family business and nothing more. The business plan is to horrify people by protesting at the worst possible moment. By protesting a military funeral, a time when emotions are charged, the hope is to incite someone in the crowd to assault Shirley or one of her cronies. They turn around and sue the city for not providing adequate police protection and the city settles with them, which is cheaper than fighting them in court.

While police understand they must provide basic protection to even the most vile protestor,

emotions can overcome the most hardened officer. In Dallas, the Phelps clan protested outside the Dallas Holocaust Museum several years ago. Police did a good job of keeping the 12 members of the Phelps clan on one side of the streets and the 300 counter-protesters on the other. In between were several officers, TV news crews and me.

As a TV reporter interviewed Shirley, one officer became angrier and angrier listening to the anti-Semitic filth she spewed. I was afraid he was going to belt her. As much as I would have enjoyed seeing that, I stopped him.

"No, that's what she wants you to do," I explained to the officer.

One pop across the mouth, and the city of Dallas would have owed Fred's church a few hundred thousand dollars. The officer understood and backed off.

Since the news began circulating about Fred's impending death, I've seen too many posts online about forgiving Phelps. Or praying for Phelps. Ridiculous.

Forgiveness is given when someone apologizes or asks for forgiveness. You don't forgive someone who's just going to spit in your face.

Sometimes, though, we need to forgive to heal ourselves. So for those who are so angry at this petty little man, forgive. But do it to let the anger go. Do it to heal yourself.

Others suggest praying for this piece of crap. Again, if prayer for someone so hateful heals you, pray for him for that reason. If prayer is healing, I suggest a prayer for Nathan Phelps. Nathan is Fred's son who escaped the cult 20 years ago and has since helped other family members leave. Nathan became an LGBT ally who has fought for gay rights.

When he heard about his father's illness, members of Westboro kept Nathan away, preventing him from saying goodbye to his father. While he repudiated his father's hatred, Nathan had a right to see his father for some closure.

Pray for the military families whose mourning was disrupted by Fred's actions, but put his life in perspective. After the Dallas Holocaust Museum protest, Max Glauben, a Holocaust survivor who lives in Dallas, got it exactly right.

"If a few stupid signs and a dozen stupid people were the worst thing I ever saw in my life, then I had a pretty good life," he said.

■ FORGETTING, From Previous Page

for protesting his eventual funeral as the tiniest bit of returning what Phelps spent his life dishing out. The Facebook pages of the LGBT community and its allies resemble nothing so much as a raucous celebration equivalent to a rousing musical refrain of "Ding! Dong! The witch is dead!

I'll admit my own reaction is not very charitable. I understand the desire to rejoice at the silencing of a voice so strongly filled with hatred and vitriol. Phelps has been denounced and ridiculed by everyone from the most prominent LGBT advocates to politicians, Baptist organizations and Christians across all denominations. His demise feels like a final comeuppance where believers of all stripes can imagine his incredibly awkward velvet rope moment at the pearly gates

with more than a little bit of glee.

And yet I wonder. Not about the collective, and correct, consensus that the world is a slightly better place without this man in it. That is undeniably true. I wonder about the impact of our reaction on us.

I'm certainly not suggesting any tears be shed. That obligation can be left to the few members of his church and family who still align with his belief system. It just seems that the notoriety we give a man who doesn't matter in any real world way will provide him some validation in his final days. We are giving him that gift by reacting to him once again. He can, and likely will, hear our enthusiasm for his impending demise as a reinforcement of the validity of his life's work. Our acknowledgement tells him and his meager followers that their work matters.

Do we gain anything in coming together to acknowledge our collective strength in the face of the death of someone who became a laughingstock so very long ago? Is it just a celebration of the fact that there is a little less hate toward the LGBT community in the world when he shuffles off this mortal coil? Or does celebrating death, any death, create in us something that need not be there?

Is answering this gloom and doom sidewalk prophet wearing apocalypse-driven sandwich boards with hate positive in any way? Or, are we just reflecting back a funhouse mirror version of the same kind of hatred he spit at us? This isn't a political battle where the result of our words and actions will impact the real lives of LGBT people. This isn't Russia, or Uganda or the many other places where there are leaders whose passing would make being LGBT in those nations a little less dangerous. Celebrating the results of that kind of anti-LGBT leader's death would be about real world relevance and change, not simply a revelation in a pathetic man's final breaths. Phelps is a clown, a joke and a lunatic screaming with no audience to hear his words beyond the sight gag and the spectacle.

Rather than tap-dancing on his grave and coming up with every joke to post on Twitter, late night TV and every comedy special in the coming weeks, what if we just forgot him?

Certainly there is no forgiveness to be given. He hasn't asked, and only the families of those whose funerals they disrupted and others damaged by their work could offer forgiveness. I couldn't do it, but that's up to them.

Forgetting. That's the worst thing we can do to Fred Phelps Sr. and his entire cadre of maniacs. We can just stop saying his name. We can stop reporting and responding to the activities of Westboro.

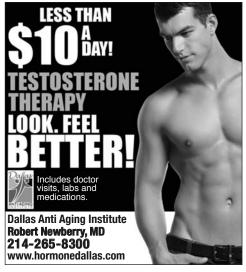
The photos are catnip to editors, but what if we threw them all away? What if we struck the names Phelps and Westboro from the national dialogue and media? Permanently. What if we had told Fred Phelps Sr. we were going to do that, so he carried that knowledge to his grave?

Rather than throwing a party and laughing at his irrelevance, let's make it permanent and real. Of course, I'm contributing to his infamy by writing this piece. But, I'm committing now. Fred — you're not worth my time. Our time. And that goes for Marjie, your children and the entire church. I will not mention them, I will not make jokes at their expense, and I will no longer allow them to receive a response or a reaction of any kind.

Let's give the Westboro survivors a fate worse than death — irrelevancy. Let them picket where they choose, and let's refuse to see them. Let them make their silly signs, and let's refuse to photograph them.

Let them scream their mantras, and let's refuse to interview them, answer them or notice them at all. When their heads finally explode, there will be no one around to notice.

Mr. Phelps, as you head to meet your maker and hear his thoughts on your life, the only thing I have left to say is "Forget You." You will not be remembered.



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Garland church has 'led the way' on gay issues for Lutherans



FINALLY OFFICIAL | The Rev. Kurt Friederich of Ascension Lutheran Church marries longtime couple Arlene Robbins, left, and Lynn Guerra in an Iowa park last summer.

From welcoming the LGBT community to performing weddings, Ascension Lutheran Church has been an ally for 50 years

GARLAND — When Arlene Robbins and Lynn Guerra wanted their pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church to marry them last summer, he jumped at the chance.

The Rev. Kurt Friederich flew with them to Des Moines, Iowa, to perform a weekend ceremony, and the church surprised them with a party after services that Sunday.

"Everybody showed up from the church," Robbins said about the reception.

The ceremony was for formality, because Robbins and Guerra, together almost 30 years, had a commitment ceremony back in the 80s after three years together.

"All I wanted was the legal piece of paper," Robbins said, adding that as a Christian she always wanted the relationship to be legal. "I never liked living in sin. I think marriage is a great institution, and I want to be able to say, 'This is my spouse."

The couple chose a simple scenic area in an Iowa park for the ceremony surrounded by a few family members. Afterward, they turned around to find the few dozen people in the park gathered, and they clapped for them at the end.

"We turned around, and all the people in the

park were watching, even the people cutting the lawn," Guerra said. "Everybody had stopped to watch us. It was just amazing."

So has anything changed now that their union is legal?

"No," they both answer, but their eyes meet as if there's a secret between the two that only they know. And it's clear that their love has only grown stronger over the three decades they've been together when they share their love story.

Robbins met Guerra, a retired Metropolitan Community Church minister, when she was stationed in Colorado Springs with the Army. Robbins joined a friend in Denver for a church service where Guerra also was in attendance. The two later went out to dinner before Guerra headed to Charlotte, N.C., to take over a church.

They reconnected a few years later through a friend, but they almost didn't end up together. Robbins asked her friend to inquire how tall Guerra was "because I was tired of dating short women," she joked.

Guerra was too short for her standards, but Robbins said she overlooked it.

"I really liked her," she said, glancing at Guerra.
They started sending letters to each other, and
Robbins later left the Army and moved to North

Family brought them to Texas several years ago, and they've been members at Ascension Lutheran Church for five years.

Robbins and Guerra are one of about four LGBT couples at the church, which has a long his-

tory of LGBT inclusivity and outreach.

The church was a reconciled congregation long before the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America became open and affirming of the LGBT community. The ELCA has passed several resolutions to welcome gay and lesbian people since 1991, but the level of openness and affirmation varies by congregation, according to the ELCA's website.

Friederich said the church was one of the first Lutheran churches to welcome the LGBT community in North Texas, if not the first.

"We led the way," he said. "We've always taken the lead in the Lutheran Church in this area on LGBT issues."

Friederich came on as pastor in 1999 and is only the second to lead the church, which will celebrate 50 years as a congregation in August.

He moved from Ohio to accept the job. His requirement that the church be welcoming of LGBT people made him sure the selection committee for the Texas church would rule him out. To his surprise, a pastor who supported LGBT issues was on the church's list of requirements for a new pas-

He took the congregation through a journey of identity as the new pastor and ended up embracing the concept of CULAC: compassion, understanding, love and care.

"That's what we receive from God. I think that's what God orders us to go out and do for the world," Friederich said.

During his 16 years with the church, he's had to face attacks for pushing for LGBT inclusion. Years ago he was yelled at during a Lutheran conference and told gays and lesbian were going to

"It hasn't been easy," he said, adding that the anti-gay rhetoric died down when the bishop refused to condemn the community.

His love of LGBT people in the church goes back decades. He lobbied his old church in Cleveland Heights in the '80s to allow him to perform a commitment ceremony for a gay couple. They'd met all of the church's requirements to be married, and the ceremony took place. But not without

"It caused consternation, and we lost some members," he said, adding that it was the right thing to do to celebrate the couples love and de-

Even at Ascension, there's been some pushback for being so inclusive with an equally divided congregation of Republicans and Democrats.

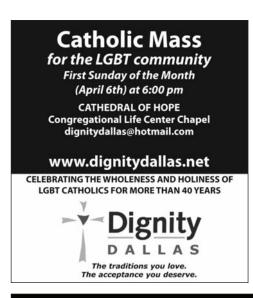
Years ago when the church discussed performing same-sex ceremonies, Friederich had a few meetings for members to express all of their opinions. No one came out against the move, but when the change was agreed upon, three couples

And when a couple approached him about their child being transgender, he said there would never be an issue for people to attend church as the gender they identify as.

"This is a congregation that looks at LGBT issues and sees there is no issue," Friederich said. "There isn't even a discussion."

For Robbins and Guerra, they feel the love of the church's members.

"They genuinely love us," Robbins said.







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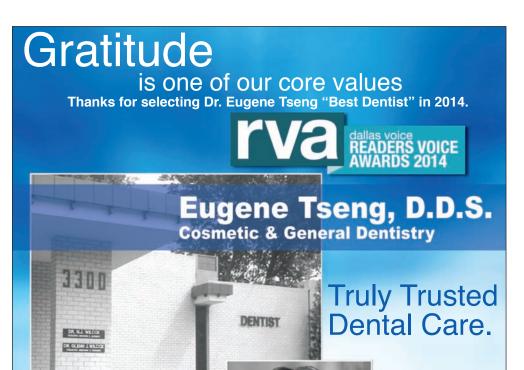
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Johnson urges Obama to sign ENDA executive order



ALLY | Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson was among the first to sign a letter to President Barack Obama, encouraging him to ban employment discrimination for federal contractors. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Almost 200 members of Congress urge Obama to sign an order banning LGBT discrimination by federal contractors

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Members of Congress including Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas are calling on President Barack Obama to sign an employment nondiscrimination executive order as part of his "Year of Action."

In his State of the Union address, Obama pledged to enact his policy goals without Congress by issuing executive orders.

Johnson's office sent Dallas Voice a copy of a letter written by the LGBT caucus circulating on Capitol Hill asking the president to forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. An executive order would ban contractors from receiving federal government

contracts unless they have a nondiscrimination policy in place.

The current version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act working its way through Congress would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identify among any employer with 15 or more employees. ENDA passed the Senate on Nov. 7 with a bipartisan 64–32 vote. First introduced in 1994, a similar bill passed the House in 2007, but to become law, the 2013 Senate version must pass the House by the end of this session.

The letter asks the president to sign the executive order as ENDA works its way through Congress with strong bipartisan support.

"We urge you to take action now to protect millions of workers across the country from the threat of discrimination simply because of who they are or who they love," they wrote in the letter.

The letter was signed by more than 150 members of the House and 47 members of the Senate.

"We are committed to doing all that we can in Congress to get ENDA to your desk this year; however, there is no reason you cannot immediately act by taking this important step," they

In addition to Johnson, other Texas lawmakers who signed the letter are Joaquin Castro, Lloyd Doggett, Al Green, Ruben Hinojosa, Sheila Jackson Lee, Beto O'Rourke, Marc Veasey and Filemon Vela.

"We're continuing to get signers," Brad Jacklin said.

Jacklin is executive director of the House of Representatives' LGBT Equality Caucus.

He said similar letters have been sent in past years, and the number of signers has increased each year. No Republicans signed, although the House version of ENDA does have Republican co-sponsors.

Obama has been criticized for his use of executive orders, but requiring contractors to protect their employees would be in line with orders that other presidents wrote regarding discrimination.

"In 1941, President Roosevelt prohibited discrimination in defense contracts on the bases of race, creed, color, or national origin," the letter states. "In subsequent executive orders, Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson expanded these protections to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to discriminate."

At a press conference on March 14, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the administration's position is that Congress should pass ENDA.

"I don't have any updates for you on possible executive orders. What we're focused on is a legislative remedy that would be more comprehensive and has already seen progress in Congress," Carney said. "So, I don't have a view to express on that particular issue."

Johnson is a co-sponsor of ENDA.

"I strongly support equality for all people and especially in the workplace," Johnson said. "President Obama has been one of the biggest presidential supporters of equal rights and of the LGBT community. In my own Congressional office, color, creed or sexual orientation are not considered when people are being hired. The only consideration is job performance, and whether or not an individual is prepared."

The letter mentions three government contractors — Boeing, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin — that have nondiscrimination policies in place.

Local activist Louise Young is a retired senior software engineer at Raytheon and was partially responsible for getting her company to adopt those policies.

"It was a great feeling going to work everyday knowing I was treated equally by my company," Young said.

She said an executive order would benefit the government because it made it easier to focus on her job. The pride she felt in her company translated into better work.

"I commend Congresswoman Johnson and all those who signed on," Young said. "I'm very proud of her."

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nationalnews

Oregon AG to implement gay marriage if ban falls



Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon's attorney general told a federal court Tuesday why she believes the state's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriages violates the federal constitutional rights of homosexual couples. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum added that Oregon is prepared to implement gay marriages if a federal judge strikes down the ban.

Rosenblum announced last month that she would not defend the state's same-sex marriage

Two lawsuits alleging that Oregon's 2004 ban violates the U.S. Constitution have been consolidated. U.S. District Judge Michael McShane has scheduled April 23 oral arguments.

In a 35-page brief filed Tuesday, Rosenblum said there is no rational justification for maintaining the gay marriage ban, The Oregonian reported. She also said that federal constitutional protections for same-sex couples have become clear since Oregon voters approved the ban.

Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry is not a redefinition of marriage, the attorney general wrote. Instead, she said the plaintiffs in this case "seek the same right to marry that the state offers opposite-sex couples and not a right to any newly invented form of marriage."

Court rulings that have affected the national debate include the U.S. Supreme Court's June decision to strike down part of the federal law that prevented the government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also recently found that gays and lesbians cannot be precluded from jury duty because of their sexual orientation. That ruling extended civil rights protections to gays that the U.S. Supreme Court previously promised only to women and racial minorities.

The two decisions create an atmosphere that Rosenblum and several other attorneys general believe will make defenses of gay-marriage bans unlikely to succeed.

Oregon's marriage ban cannot survive "when it is apparent that the reason for the ban was to enshrine in the state constitution a belief that same-sex couples are disfavored," Rosenblum

Mike Marshall, the campaign manager for Oregon United for Marriage, was delighted.

"We are literally counting down the days until all loving and committed couples in Oregon have the freedom to marry, and we are thrilled that the attorney general is on the right side of history,"

The group is leading an initiative campaign that would overturn Oregon's ban. Marshall has previously said the group may not seek to put its measure on the ballot if McShane rules against the

Officials of the Oregon Family Council, which has supported the prohibition on same-sex marriage, could not be reached for comment.

Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage, criticized Rosenblum's earlier announcement that she would not defend the ban, saying she was "shamefully abandoning her constitutional duty to defend the marriage amendment overwhelmingly enacted by the people of Oregon."

In several other states, federal judges have voided all or part of voter-approved bans on same-sex marriage. Appeals are pending.

Despite risky votes, most Illinois lawmakers win in primaries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Several Illinois state lawmakers who cast tough votes on pensions and gay marriage fended off expensive primary challenges Tuesday.

The targeted challenges were among the toughest primary races in a year in which all 118 House seats and a third of 59 Senate seats are up. Overall, there were 27 primary contests for House seats this month, but just two in the Senate.

Among Republicans, one of two House members running for re-election who voted in favor of gay marriage last fall survived a challenge fueled by conservative family groups. Rep. Ed Sullivan defeated bus driver Bob Bednar, both of Mundelein. The other, Rep. Ron Sandack of Downers Grove, was trailing Waubonsee High School teacher Keith Matune late Tuesday, but the race was still too close to call.

Sullivan said his race ultimately came down to

"My district does not believe that marriage equality is the number one issue," he told The Associated Press.

AFSCME, the state's largest employee union, and other organized labor groups teamed up in an effort to defeat several Democratic House members from Chicago who supported the pension overhaul. The measure, approved by lawmakers in December, is estimated to save \$145 billion over 30 years, largely by cutting workers

Six-term Rep. Toni Berrios lost her primary elec-

tion to journalist Will Guzzardi, who had heavy support from unions fearful lawmakers would turn next to cutting municipal employee pensions. Berrios had narrowly defeated him in 2012.

"We said with one voice that working people who earned their retirement deserved to get it," Guzzardi told a crowd of supporters in Chicago.

However, state Rep. Jaime Andrade, Jr. fended off four challengers, including attorney Nancy Schiavone, whose campaign was bankrolled by unions.

The other challenged incumbent, state Rep. Christian Mitchell, led Jhatayn "Jay" Travis, a community organizer who had hundreds of thousands of dollars in union support.

Democrats still stand a good chance of holding onto their veto-proof supermajorities in both legislative chambers this year, but the challenges could serve as a lesson to moderates in both parties facing difficult votes ahead.

Parkersburg teacher suspended over Facebook post ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARKERSBURG, W.Va. — A Parkersburg South High School teacher has been suspended following a Facebook post he made regarding the school's Gay-Straight Alliance student club.

Wood County Schools Superintendent Pat Law told the Parkersburg News and Sentinel that David Foggin was suspended on Tuesday for four days.

"It will be until spring break," which is scheduled to begin Monday, Law said. "He's not in the classroom this week."

The Wood County Board of Education will decide after spring break whether the suspension is paid or unpaid, and whether to make any changes.

"That's up to the board as to whether to approve it or not," Law said.

The newspaper reported Monday that Foggin had posted an image on Facebook on Friday of a poster advertising the student club's meetings, along with a comment, "Club meeting at PSHS!! Rally around them and show ur support. We are also considering a drunks-t totaller club, drugged/sober club, smokeless tobacco vs smokes club, street racing, and deer poaching clubs. Please donate and support us. Thank u!!! I think I hear the drag already zinging."

A telephone listing for Foggin in the Parkersburg area couldn't be found. He declined to comment about the post to the newspaper on Monday.

Law said the incident remains under investigation.

Wood County Board of Education President Tim Yeater said he wanted to ensure the school system conducted a thorough investigation.

"Our main concern here is our students and student rights," Yeater told the newspaper, "but we also have a vested interest in our employee rights."



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viewpoints

Smarmy is the new black

Act like you know everything, especially when you don't, and you might even get a job on Fox

've decided being "smarmy" is in. Well, maybe it's always been in, but I'm slow to L catch on to fads. When platform shoes were in during the 70s, I was wearing boots. When boots were in, I was wearing loafers. When it was cool to hate the new kid, I was eating lunch with him. You get the picture. I'm just plain

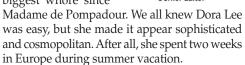
But now that I'm well past the half century mark and could care less about fashion, who's cool and who's not and the myriad other banalities that get the majority of people out of bed, I've made a discovery. The masses love smarmy. You know, like when Whoopi Goldberg purses her lips, looks over the top of her tinted glasses and gives someone that look that says, "I'm Whoopi, and you're not. Sad to be you." Smarmy.

Smarmy people can be intimidating. After all, they always have that look that suggests they know something you don't, and we're all mentally scrambling, wondering what it is and oh please, please, please, are they going to share it with us? You know — the little people. They never do. And do you know why? Because they don't know diddly. It's all smoke and mirrors.

I've already mentioned Whoopi, but I could spend hours adding to the list: the Heathers, Rush Limbaugh, Sarah Palin, Michele Bachman, Ann Coulter, Laura Bush (But not her husband. You have to have at least a modicum of intelligence to be smarmy.), Princess Anne, Clair Huxtable (she was a master of smarmy), the lady who works at my bank and who gives me the

look every time she looks at my balance, fashion designers, Cher, everyone in the Junior League ... oh god, I could go on for

When I think of smarmy people, I recall a high school "friend." Dora Lee was in choir, drama club and was the biggest whore since



Dora Lee walked the halls like she was Cleopatra, her eyes not falling on anyone because no one was worthy of a glance. She knew "things." Cool things. Things city people know but hicks like us don't. So we thought. Now I realize Janie just loved sex, couldn't get enough of it and had figured out a long time ago, probably when she was two, that if you act smarmy you can get away with anything. You can even become president. Smarmy is powerful.

I've tried to be smarmy, but it didn't work. Everyone already knows I don't know squat about anything, and when I tried to half close my eyes and give the look of patient disdain, it looked like I was just high. Which I was wasn't. I'm not smarmy enough to do even that.

Facebook is full of smarmy people. They're easily recognized because a nanosecond after they post a status, their dozens of fans chime in with their expressions of delight that the great oracle has spoken once again. The gods have deigned to visit the mortals.

OK, yes, I'm jealous. Usually the only people who comment on my status updates are relatives I haven't seen in decades and who think I'm still single because I haven't found the right girl. My updates are covered in the dust the smarmy people churn up as they punch the gas with their witticisms and fly by me on the timeline.

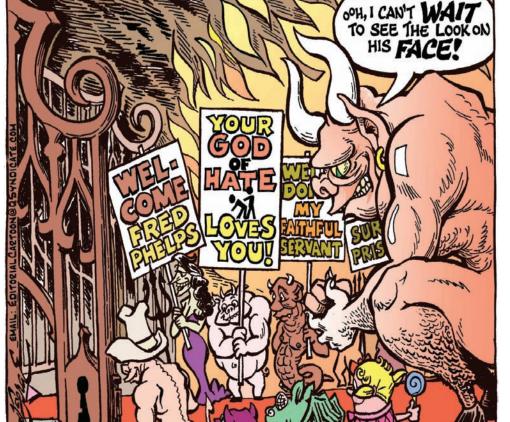
Yes, smarmy will open doors, legs and wallets. All you have to do is act like you know something that everyone else doesn't, and they're following you around, hanging on your every word. And smarmy people don't debate or argue. They're above that because, after all, everyone else is stupid, misinformed and not worthy of their time. Their groupies, bless their hearts, take that as a sign of the smarmy person's intellectual superiority and fall more deeply in love with them.

Oh gosh, excuse me. I gotta run. Someone I try to follow just posted something. I'm not sure exactly what he's talking about, but I better click "like" so everyone will think I'm as cool as he is. I just need to get some of this dust off me first.

Steve Ramos is senior editor at Dallas Voice. He can be reached at ramos@dallasvoice.com.



Senior Editor





CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

How should we mark Fred Phelps' death?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

If there was an LGBT country, would you move there?

- Yes: 29 percent
- No: 51 percent
 - 138 votes cast
- Maybe: 20 percent



dallas voice READERS VOICE AWARDS 2014







46 metro



48 shop



50 health



52 dine



pets



56 travel



58 services



62 show

dallas voice



READERS VOICE AWARDS 2014

t pays to participate. It really does. Just ask Cecil Fagan, who — by voting in the Readers Voice Awards — got entered in our drawing for tickets to see Forbidden Broadway, a gift certificate to Dish and a grand in cash! And all for taking part in our annual rundown of the best of queer Dallas.

He's not the only lucky star in the constellation, though — so were we, in getting Valerie Jackson, host of the monthly Gaybingo fundraiser, to be our cover model and embodiment of the entire "Express Yourself" theme this year. She started off the process like a virgin, but as close to the borderline as we got, she lived to tell what a great experience it was. We don't wanna preach, just say, "Thanks, Valerie!" You deserve a holiday.



ABOUT THE VOTING

The "Voice" in Dallas Voice has always represented our readers, and the Readers Voice Awards are really an opportunity to prove that. Thousands of you took time during January to log on and make your voice heard. More than 14,000 votes were cast — a new record — in nine departments, each with about a dozen categories, from favorite food truck to gayest apartment complex to sexiest

As with last year, Nightlife was your favorite subject, and once again "Best Dallas Club" got the most votes, followed by "Best Club DJ," "Best Chiropractor" and a new category for us, "Best Group Medical Practice" (see Page 50)

Putting together this issue is always one of the hardest editions for us, but also one of the most gratifying, because it gives us insights into our community, and we thank you for that! Here, then, we present the Readers Voice Awards winners for 2014.

Arnold Wayne Jones



EDITORIAL

Editor: Arnold Wayne Jones Writers: Mark Lowry, Jef Tingley Ballot Tallying: Jesse Arnold

Art Director: Michael F. Stephens **Graphic Artist:** Kevin Thomas

Photography: Arnold Wayne Jones, Chuck Marcelo, Alex Remington, Terry Thompson

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nightlife



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BEST CLUB DJ

Matt Purvis, TMC: The Mining Company



dallas voice **READERS VOICE AWARDS 2014**

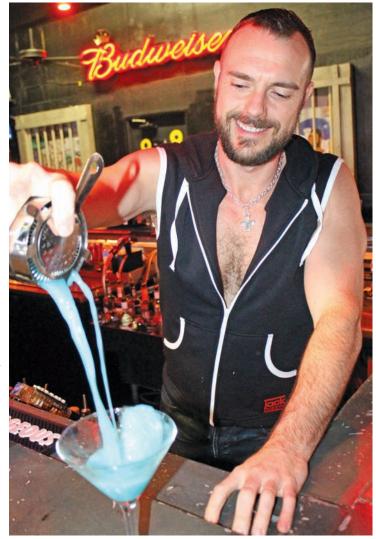
FRIENDLIEST BAR STAFF BEST DRINK DEALS TOPS CENTRAL

The Dallas Eagle

5740 Maple Ave. Open Sunday–Thursday until 2 a.m., Friday-Saturday until 4 a.m.

214-357-4375 DallasEagle.com

hat makes a bar worth going to? The music? The scene? Well, we'd like to make a case for the staff. After all, Cheers taught us 30 years ago that sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name ... and if not everybody, a bartender who greets you with a smile (and, on a good night, wearing little more than a jockstrap) goes a long way. Add to that good drink prices, and that's what's called a loyal customer base. The Dallas Eagle meets all those requirements — plus Dallas' sexiest bartender, Robert Stahl (pic-



Robert Stahl by Arnold Wayne Jones

tured), who works the happy hour shift starting at 5 p.m. most days and introduced Eagle patrons to an entire martini menu — with friendly employes, great booze specials and Big D's highest concentration of top men. There's no need to feel intimidated by a leather bar when you feel as welcomed as vou do here.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BOTTOMS CENTRAL

Station 4 3911 Cedar Springs Road Open Wednesday-Sunday until 2 a.m. After-hours dancing until 4 a.m. 214-526-7171 PartyOnTheBlock.com

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Trashy Tuesdays at BJ's NXS! 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave. 214-526-9510 BJsNXS.com

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The Round-Up Saloon

3912 Cedar Springs Road Open daily 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 214-522-9611 RoundUpSaloon.com

SEXIEST BARTENDER

Robert Stahl, The Dallas Eagle, pictured above

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BEST BEER BUST

The Hidden Door

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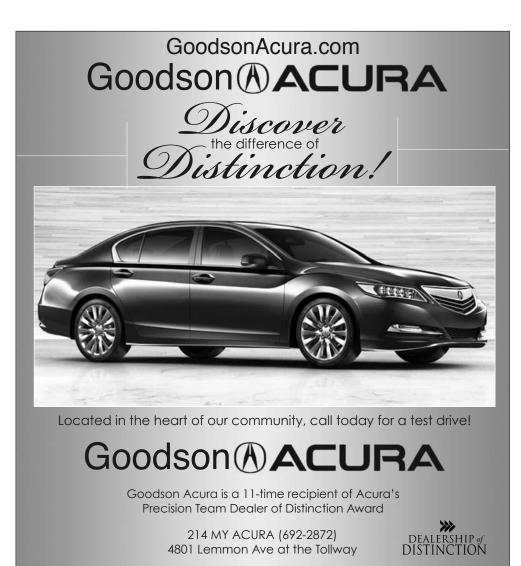
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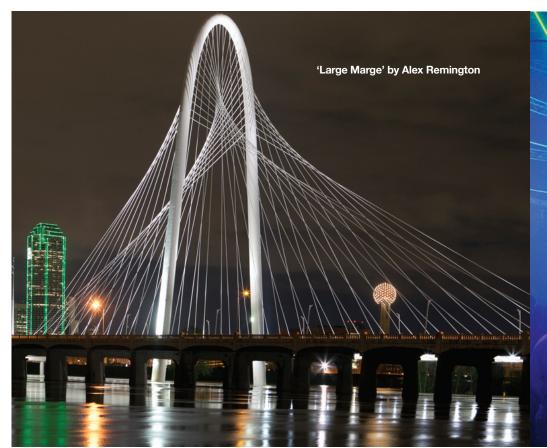
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or years before it opened, the Margaret
Hunt Hill Bridge — called the Calatrava
bridge, named for famed Spanish bridge
architect Santiago Calatrava — was dismissively

BEST ARCHITECTURE OR LANDMARKMargaret Hunt Hill Bridge

written off as "the bridge to nowhere." After all, what was West Dallas, anyway? As it turns out, a great shortcut to Oak Cliff, and the gateway to the hottest new eateries in town, at Trinity Groves. No one's laughing now ... except maybe the photographers, who have made the iconic, graceful silhouette of "Large Marge" (her affectionate new nickname) one of the distinctive shapes of Dallas' already potent skyline.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

HOTTEST LOCAL PRO ATHLETE

Jason Witten DallasCowboys.com

BEST LOCAL LGBT SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Lost Souls Rugby Football Club, pictured LostSoulsRFC.org

BEST LOCAL MUSEUM

The Perot Museum of Nature and Science 2201 N. Field St. Open daily at 10 a.m. (noon Sunday) PerotMuseum.org

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BEST PARTY FOR A CAUSE

Purple Party PurpleFoundation.org hen we think of a party, we think of a single event ... but that's what sets our readers apart. The winner of this year's award for best celebratory fundraiser wasn't just a one-night thing, but an entire weekend — indeed, in

some ways the Purple Party continues year-round, what with promoting its partners' events. The spring fling (which returns May 9–12) is a series of dance nights and pool parties, with top local, national and international DJs brought in for the all-volunteer organization to raise money for the Purple Foundation's primary beneficiary, AIDS Services of Dallas. Last year, the group donated \$50,000 to area HIV/AIDS nonprofits. That's the kind of news that can really get a guy dancin'.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST LOCAL ARTISTDaniel Padilla

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(TIE)

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veryone has his own style, and not all furniture makers reflect everyone's taste: Country French, Danish modern, British Colonial ... no one brand can perfectly embrace the great variety. As such, the sophisticated, Hamptonsesque aesthetic of Mitchell Gold+ Bob Williams may not be for everyone, but we have an idea why they came out on top. It's not just the designs and the craftsmanship and the price, but the owners' activism for marriage equality and support of diversity and gay rights. Somehow, a couch feels more comfortable knowing the folks who make it celebrate your right to sit on it with your boyfriend.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

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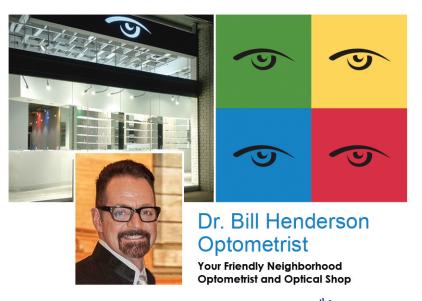
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Blue Smoke

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t's a peculiar fact that at the same time cigarette smoking has come under attack with laws, warnings and social stigmas, the oldschool appreciation of a cigar has rarely been more popular. For those who brand all tobacco products with a skull and crossbones, they fail to perceive the differences in how a cigar is enjoyed: It's not inhaled, but puffed, its deep aromas more valued that a jolt of nicotine. It takes longer to smoke, so a cigar isn't meant as a quick fix but a pause in a busy day, a moment to slow down and savor the sensuality of a long draw. And Blue Smoke understands that. Its selection of to baccos is only surpassed by The Back Room, a clubhouse for fellow cigar aficionados to luxuriate in the pleasures of stogie that harkens back to a more civilized era.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST ADULT NOVELTIES

Alternatives of New Fine Arts 1720 W. Mockingbird Lane 214-630-7071

roblem! Your best friend's 30th birthday is today, and you forgot to get a gift! Or your favorite couple is celebrating 20 years together and they didn't register! Or you're just horny! What to do? The folks at Alternatives of New Fine Arts are accustomed to such dilemmas — it's kind of what they are there for. It's a veritable superstore of sex, from novelties to Neoprene, videos to vibrators, leather to lube. This store's wide assortment of creative toys (male chastity belt, anyone?), sex aids, movies and fetish items (plus private screening rooms) — all in a well-lit, modern, low-creep-out-factor setting — have something on hand to help you spice things up in the bedroom or porch or back yard hey, it's your life. Best to come wellstocked.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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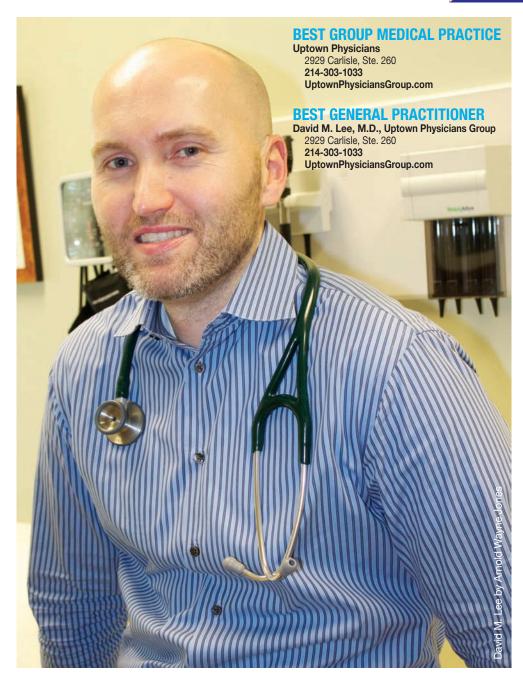
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health



o one really enjoys going to the doctor, but when you hear the words "the doctor will see you now" at Uptown Physicians Group, it always feels like a good thing. Maybe it's how the practice group caters to the LGBT community so well, and knows a bit about bedside manner and how to address the health concerns of gay patients. And it doesn't hurt that the team has a deep bench, with a half-dozen gifted sawbones serving under one roof. Still, Dallas Voice readers had no problem singling out Dr. Lee as their favorite G.P. The best doctor is the one you trust to treat you right — and we mean that in every sense of the phrase.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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BEST DERMATOLOGIST

Farhad Niroomand 2501 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 450 214-303-1102 UptownDerm.com

very time you expose your bare skin to UV rays without any sunscreen, Dr. Farhad Niroomand cries just a little bit. Sure it might sound dramatic, but it's the truth. As Dallas' Best Dermatologist, Dr. Niroomand's role is educating patients about the importance of protecting their largest organ – skin! But while you're in his office getting educated, you can also give your flesh a "tune up" with a variety of cosmetic services offered, ranging from acne treatment to Botox to laser hair removal. How's that for full service!

— Jef Tingley

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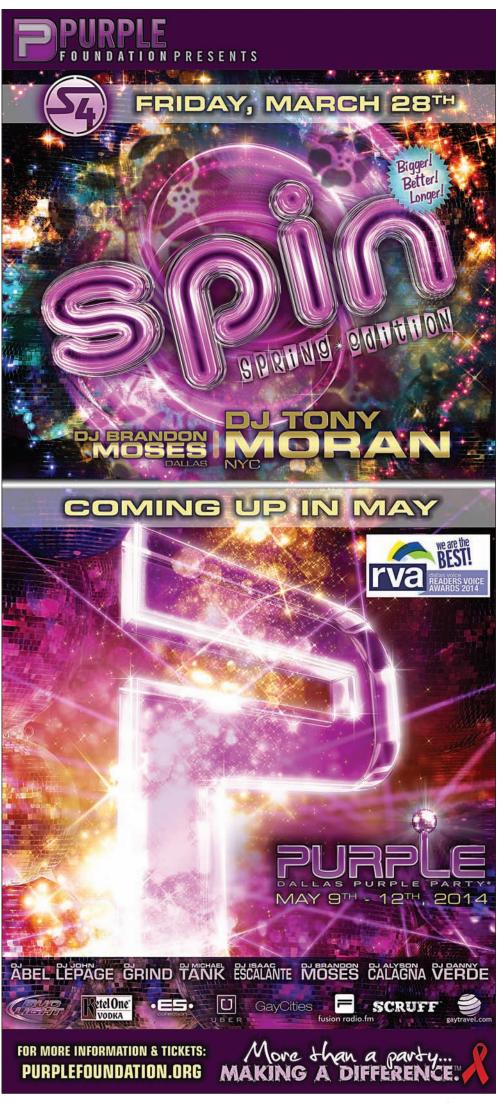
(TIE)
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dine



s soon as the ilume opened along Cedar Springs, it became immediately clear that the development would become a cultural hub of gay Dallas — not just for its luxury living accommodations, but for its anchor retailer, Dish. The trendy restaurant has embraced the community, not only with exciting menu items (for dinner, lunch and brunch) and a buzzy decor, but also by sponsoring a regular Drag Brunch on the last Sunday of each month. The entire concept has been so successful, owner Tim McEneny is slated to open a second Dish on Hillcrest and Northwest Highway later this year. It'll be nice to



have a sister restaurant, but Dallas' gay community will always take some smug pride in knowing we helped make it work — and we really werked it!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST LOCAL CHEF

Abraham Salum
Chef/owner of Salum and Komali
4152 Cole Ave.

SalumRestaurant.com 214-252-9604 KomaliRestaurant.com 214-252-0200

BEST BRUNCH

(TIE)
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Dish-Dallas.com

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BEST MARGARITA

Komali

4152 Cole Ave., Ste. 106 214-252-0200 KomaliRestaurant.com

hen the votes were counted and we saw that Komali had won Best Margarita, the first thing to cross our minds was, "Which one?" Because if there's one thing you need to know about this Uptown eatery, it's that mixologist Leann Berry is an alchemist when it comes to tequila drinks. From the habanero marg (so spicy you're not sure where the tequila ends and the chile begins) to the sweet tang of prickly pear and mango from the eponymous Komali (pictured), Leann is Dallas' Patron-saint of margaritas. Add to that an engaging personality when making any drink, and we suspect it's not just the margarita that people voted for — it's the bartender.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Bob's Steak & Chop House 4300 Lemmon Ave. 214-528-9446 Bobs-SteakandChop.com

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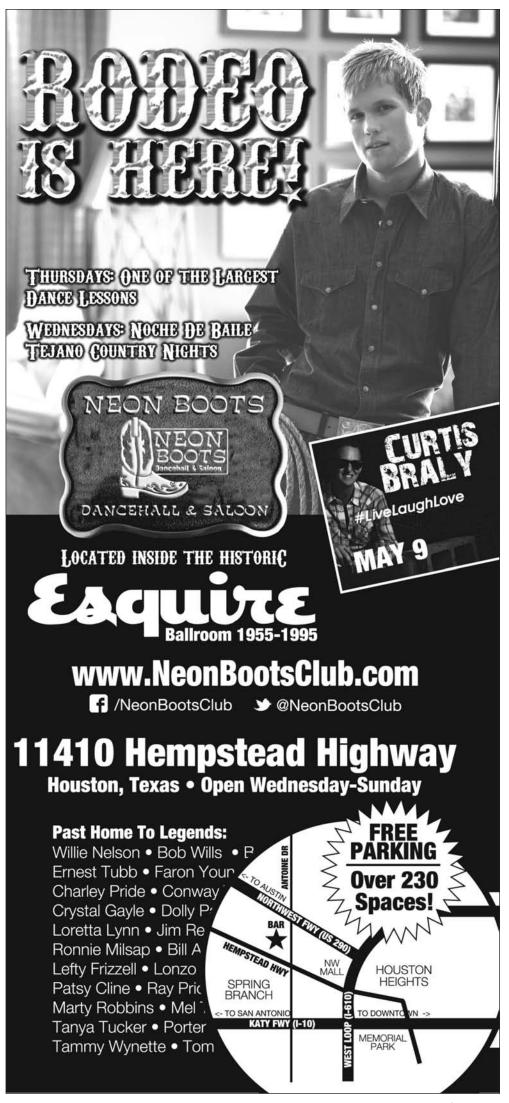
Cosmic Cafe

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Congratulations Joey! Voted 'Best Exotic Dancer' 2014 Readers Voice Awards. We love ya bud, Gizmo, Chewie & John D BAER PHOTOGRAPHY

dine

READERS VOICE AWARDS 2014

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n the three years that partners Miley Holmes and Caroline Perini have operated their Easy Slider food truck, we've become accustomed to rethinking what a great burger should look like. It doesn't need to be big — a slider, after all, is meant to be bite-sized — and it doesn't need to be served in a formal restaurant. In can, in fact, arrive on wheels, served on a cardboard plate with a kitschy little cornichon skewered on top. Because when you run a food truck like they do — certified Angus beef, produce from the Farmers' Market, all sauces made in-house (or rather, intruck) — the term "gourmet" doesn't seem misplaced. Oh, sure, there's still a place for white-gloved service and dinner-jacket-required five-star dining, but Easy Slider brings excellence to the people.

— Arnold Wayne Jones





t's best to understand this from the outset: Campuzano is not Tex-Mex — the words "Mexican food" proudly appear on its signage. For fans of authenticity, the difference isn't merely one of verbiage; it's a question of approach. Ever since the Dallas location opened on Oak Lawn Avenue last year, we've been impressed by a menu that celebrates seafood, fresh sauces, produce and the appeal of the simple taco. And we also appreciate a staff that's invariably friendly (and often on the cute side). If that's what eating Mexican food does to ya, we're sold.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

pets



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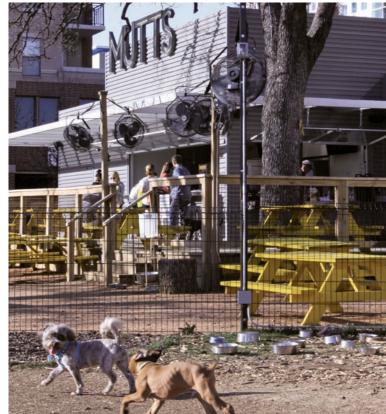
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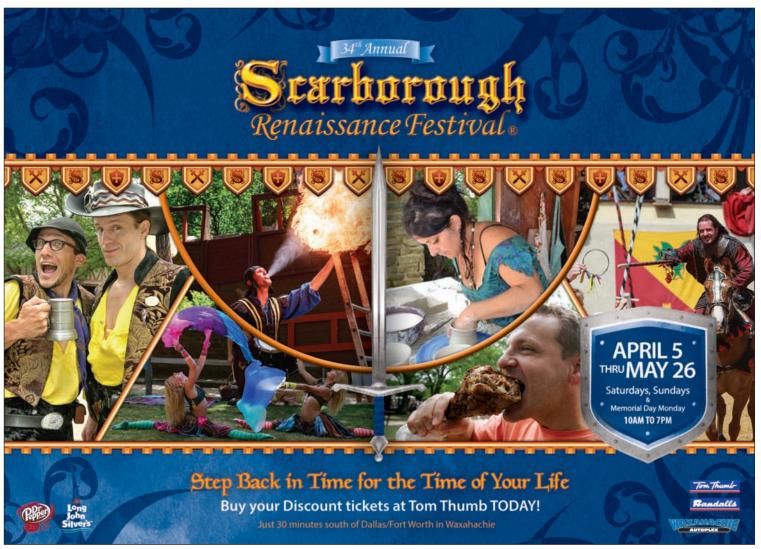
2889 Cityplace West Blvd. Open daily at 8 a.m.

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MuttsCantina.com

n the gay universe, pet ownership is a social norm: Both a way to create a family of our own and a way to commune with others who want to show off their precious offspring. And the equivalent of the gay bar in such interactions is the dog park, a place where like-minded furmailies gather. Mutts understands that and has constructed the ideal environment in the heart of Uptown for just such involvement: Two parks (one for smaller dogs, one for larger), plus a dog-friendly cafe that serves beer, margaritas, burgers and shakes. Oh, and hot dogs ... you know, the kind you put between a bun, not the kind you cool down on a warm afternoon.

— Arnold Wayne Jones





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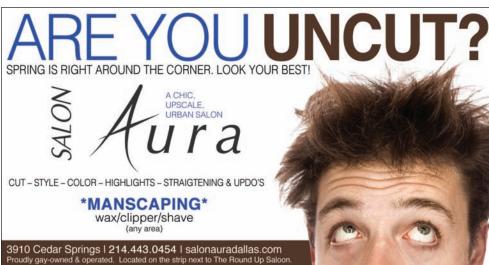
Saturday, March 29th THE TEXAS THEATER

231 W Jefferson Blvd, Dallas Door at 8, Show at 9

TexasBurlesque.com

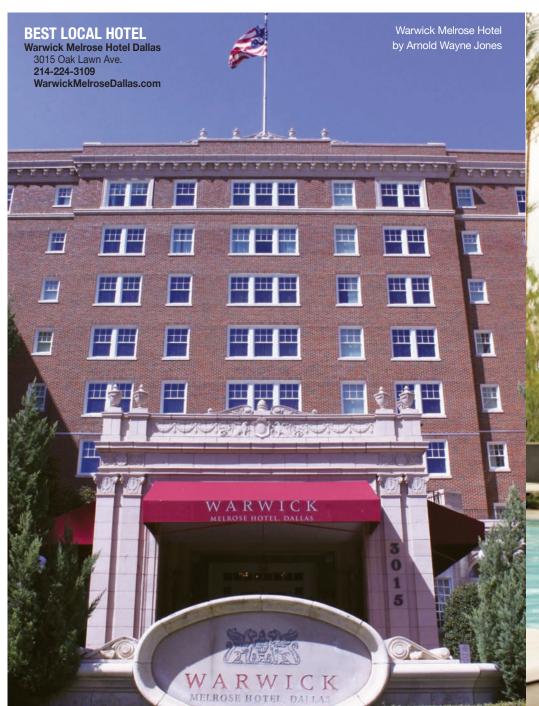
Burlesque the final Saturday of the month at the Texas Theater







travel



Before there was a Dallas gayborhood, there was the Melrose Hotel — for nearly a century, its classic brick facade in the Chicago School style has anchored the hub of gay life here: the intersection of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs. Luxurious but never stodgy, its 184 spacious rooms have hosted countless queer-friendly events (it has been a center for Razzle Dazzle in recent years), as well as accommodating numerous family members of gay Dallasites when locals want out-of-town guests nearby ... but not in the guest room. With its elegant Library Bar and delicious Landmark Restaurant, the food and libations continue to be a draw, whether staying here or just meeting up after the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

- Arnold Wayne Jones

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Palm Springs

ith its warm days, cool nights and hot visitors, it's not a great surprise that Palm Springs — the gay nexus for Southern California — would wind up as one of gay Dallas' favorite vacation spots, whether for men, women or couples. After all, whether you're there for the shopping, the food, the architecture (exquisite Mid-Century Modern examples abound), the amenities or the

environment (from hiking in the canyon to journeying up its mountain), Palm Springs has a staggering selection. Oh, and there's a little thing called the White Party held there every Easter ... that could have something to do with its popularity, too.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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hances are that if the mayor of Dallas names a day after you, you've done something right. Such is the case for our Best Realtor winner Kathy Hewitt, who had Sept. 3, 2003, declared "Kathy Hewitt Day" by then-mayor Laura Miller in recognition of all Kathy's work on behalf of the Dallas community. Whether its lending her talents to selling homes or supporting causes like HRC Federal Club and Dallas' AIDS LifeWalk, Kathy is always at the top of her game. Who knows, maybe a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is next on her list? She's certainly already earned it — just ask her happy clientele.

— Jef Tingley

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anna know the difference between a barbershop and a hair salon, aside from the four-part harmonies? The salon was where your mom took you for a haircut; the barbershop is all dad. It's a manly place, to be sure, and be ye otter, bear, wolf, twink or not-yet decided, the team at Woody's Grooming Lounge is at the ready to give you a style as smooth or scruffy as desired. Known for their guy-friendly aesthetic and relaxing atmosphere, Woody's provides more than just a shave and a haircut (in truth, it does cost more than four bits), guests can also indulge in luxury services like facials, massages and even manscaping. Fair warning: All this pampering (and that hot facial towel) can prove addicting.

— Jef Tingley



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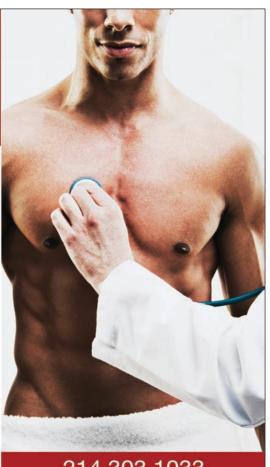
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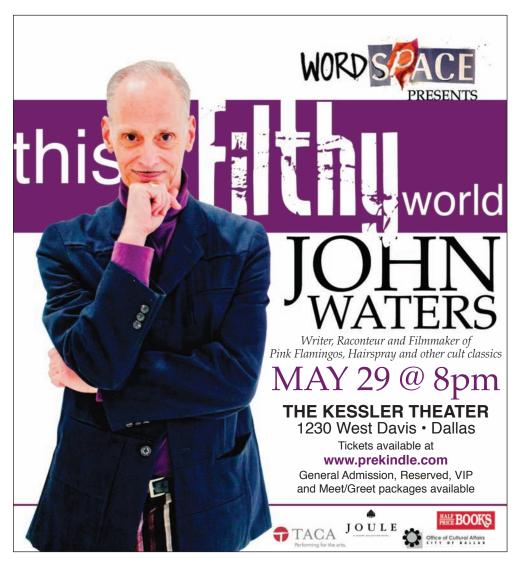














show



BEST LOCAL PRODUCTION (PLAY)

Dante's Inferno (MBS Productions)

Performed Oct. 17–Nov. 9, 2013, at the Stone Cottage
Theatre at the Addison Theatre and Conference Centre
MBSProductions.net

BEST LOCAL DRAMATIC ACTOR (MALE OR FEMALE)

Mark-Brian Sonna

Recent acting credits include Dante's Inferno (pictured), Forever Lovely, The Futility of Hope, Triumph of Love, and Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A BurLess-Q Nutcracker! (MBS Productions)

nyone who has ever seen a production from MBS Productions knows that one word describes the style there: Fearless. The eclectic season includes everything from a camp Christmas pageant to adaptations of medieval Spanish horror plays to sex comedies and romances — often with ample amounts of nudity. And behind the scenes pulling the strings is the troupe's founder, Mark-Brian Sonna. Sonna is the heart of the company: A classically trained ballet dancer, he acts, directs, produces, writes and sweeps up among his many talents. And his willingness to do anything the role requires — from covering his body in red makeup to camping it up in drag as Lovely Uranus to donning a pair of Capezios and shimmying his moneymaker — made him the obvious choice for this year's favorite actor.

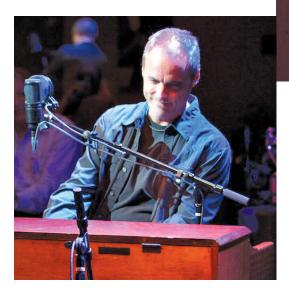
— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST LOCAL SINGER

Gary Lynn Floyd GaryLynnFloyd.com

nce you hear Gary Lynn Floyd sing, all other singers are kind of ruined for you. It's a sound sometimes called "easy listening," though that doesn't come close to conveying the rapturous sensuality of his music. His tenor — breathy but searing, and pitch-perfect — enters you like the Holy Spirit, an almost hypnotic harmonizing of voice and piano, body and soul. Indeed, his just-released album — his first full-length CD of all-new music in a decade — is called *BodySoul*. If that doesn't capture the essence of what makes him popular, nothing can.

— Arnold Wayne Jones





dallas voice **READERS VOICE AWARDS 2014**



BEST LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATION Uptown Players

The Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org

BEST LOCAL THEATER DIRECTOR Sean McGuire

Recent directing credits include Hedwig and the Angry Inch

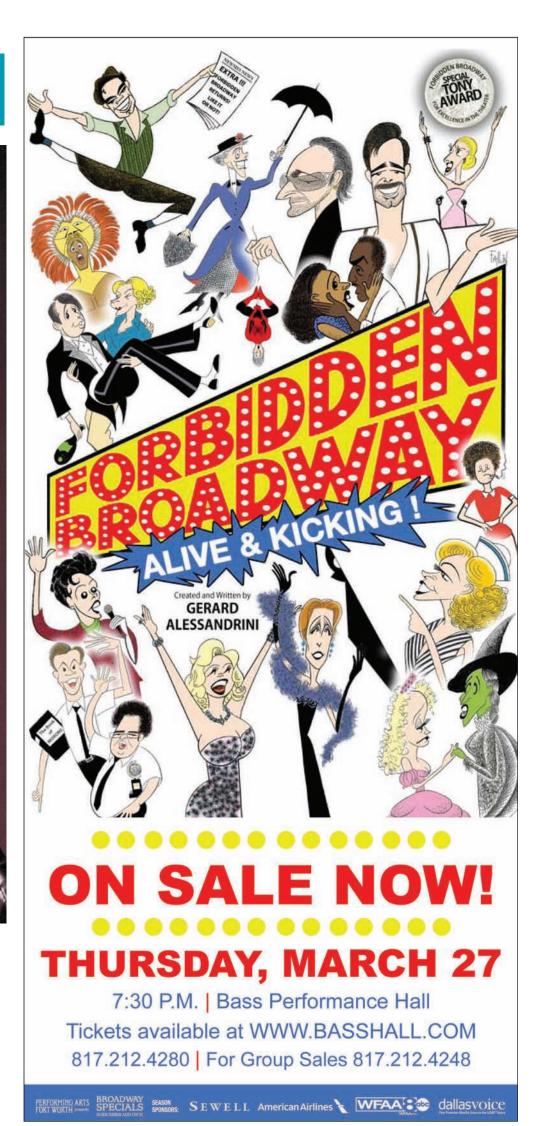
BEST LOCAL BAND. GROUP OR MUSICIAN

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King of queens

'80s icon Boy George mans up with his first CD of new music in 2 decades

oy George is truly a new man. Boasting a trim physique, a beard and a positive attitude, on *This is What I Do* — his first studio album in 18 years, which drops on Tuesday — the now-52-year-old gay pop icon born George O'Dowd betrays a deeper, more mature voice (albeit still honeylike), with nods to lifelong musical influences, including David Bowie. It's a much different sound and image than followers of his work — from Culture Club to more recent dance music projects – are used to for sure.

Making his way around the world as a club DJ in recent years (check out his free monthly Culture Club Radio podcast on iTunes), George is again hitting the road as a singer, with a 9piece band, for a North American tour to promote This Is What I Do, the recording of which he paid for and owns (he's also writing and recording with a reunited Culture Club for an upcoming album).

During a leisurely, frank interview in a private New York City club for artists and media professionals, George — wearing chef pants, makeup, a skull cap hat and fitness jacket shared plenty of dish about his new album, voice and attitude, Madonna's grill, and whether he uses gay hookup apps.

— Lawrence Ferber

Visit Boy George's official website, BoyGeorgeUK.com.

Dallas Voice: Your voice has changed in several regards, but most noticeably in its depth. Boy George: It sounds like me now, it sounds right. For male singers, very few men keep their falsetto. Jimmy Somerville is an oddity — he can still do it. I like my voice now. I feel I understand it more. I'm not scared of it. When I was younger, I got successful kind of quickly, so there was immediate pressure on me as a performer. It took its toll on my voice and I used to lose it a lot. Now it's Teflon, a tough voice. I had opera training a few years ago; [now] I can breathe properly, and I understand the process of how you sing. As you get older, you listen more and assimilate information. It was the same information I was told at 25, but I didn't hear it then. I've always been more concerned with the feeling than perfection. Bowie isn't a traditional voice, or Nico or Lou Reed or Dylan. I'm much more interested in how people tell a story with their voices. That's what I'm interested in as a performer, really - connecting with people emotionally.

The first single and video, "King of Everything," sounds almost like U2 meets Bowie. I'm quite pleased to hear that. Guitar bands, like The Verve ... there's a lot of that with "King of Everything." I was working with Youth, who worked with Verve, and we really channeled them. "Let's do something really '60s [like Phil Spector's] Wall of Sound." Once we got the mood, the song came. The opening line, put down the booze let the demons win the fight, that iust came, and the song was constructed around that. The Bowie influence is always there. That's the first time I've heard U2, but I'm not upset to hear that!

The song "Feel The Vibration" features a Palestinian singer, Nizar Al Issa. Are you Jewish? I want to be! Well, you know what, I wrote that song after watching all the stuff about Syria, it's about Middle East Arab Spring stuff. Being guite moved by the fact people were going out onto the streets knowing they were going to get shot. We're arguing about gay marriage, and people there have no basic rights, and their own armies are shooting them, and they're still prepared, women and children, to go out and protest. I had an idea about using an Arabic voice. not specific to Palestine, just Arabic, so we got in touch with the musician's union, and there were two singers, and the one who turned up I used. When he started singing, it was amazing. I asked him to translate my lyrics, and he really got it. What's really funny is, he went outside to have a cigarette, and he said to my guitarist, "This guy, in there, is Boy George? The one we know?" My guitarist was like, "Yeah." He went, "Incredible!" Lovely man and he sang beautifully. There's a great dance mix com-

Actually, it's interesting that the album doesn't really have any dance tracks. I have a project called RetroPhobia with Kinky Roland, which is totally dance. I have a track out in the U.K. [and on iTunes in the U.S.] called "Basement." It's 100 percent dance — I actually talk on the track. "No words, just vibrations." It's quite butch. And I was working with George Clinton two days ago in London to do a new version of This Is What I Do's "Bigger Than War." He did a little bit of singing on there as well.

During the 1980s, plenty of fans would dress up in Boy George drag. Do they still come out in '80s getups, or have they adopted your new bearded look? When I did a gig at London's KOKO in November, there were a lot of people with beards and hats! When I did some DJ gigs in the USA, it was funny. There's a real beard-y thing in the world now. You meet other people with beards, like, "I'm glad you have a beard."

You could be Bear George. I could do, but it's not something I aspire to, being a bear.

Speaking of image evolution, what do you make of modern day Madge with her gold grill? These days, I try to be careful about what I say about her, because I've been misquoted a lot recently. There's a lot to admire in her. She's kept it together, she's never been a drunk or drug addict. She hasn't fallen apart like a lot of us have. She has amazing tenacity, and when I saw all the stuff with her talking about Lady Gaga, I wanted to say to her, "Babe, you don't need to defend yourself. You've had an amazing career. One most people would kill for Your legacy is sealed." If anything, what I've learned is to focus on what I do and not what others are doing. Focus on your own intentions. But every singer has a nemesis.

Who's yours? It was George Michael [in the past].

does and think he's a brilliant artist.

Be Justin Bieber's nemesis! No, he doesn't need me to be his nemesis. He's his own nemesis! I feel kind of sorry for him. He's a kid. Who's taking care of him? That's the question I want to ask. Who's taking care of this child? He's clearly in a bad place, so I don't want to slag him off. I think he's beautiful, a beautiful boy. Let's not pretend here. He's a beautiful boy. He looks like a beautiful dyke. I kind of like that - the whole dykey, androgynous thing he's got going on. But I feel like everyone's giving him a hard time and, yes, he's slightly out of control. Somebody [should] step in.

Dead or Alive's Pete Burns has been on Celebrity Big Brother in the U.K. Have you been approached to do reality shows? Loads of times. I've been offered ridiculous amounts of money and taken meetings and mulled it over, and I've avoided it. I think in a way what you do on reality TV is reveal how ordinary you are, and no artist should ever let people know they're ordinary. Loften read things about myself that are completely untrue, and I think they make me sound interesting, so I'm not going to complain! I quite like the idea of myself hanging upside down, chanting and eating Mung beans.

one at the moment. I'm really focusing on my work. it's true. If I was to meet an amazing person here in New York or the U.K., I'd kind of be open to that. But I've never been somebody who had to be in a relationship or measure myself by whom I'm dating. I have friends who do, and I see what they put themselves through. I'm 52, quite selfish, have my way of doing things and living, anyone who steps into this arena has to be pretty damn sure of themselves. I don't know who that is. But please don't think I'm lonely or missing anything. I'm not at all.

Have you tried using apps like Grindr? I'm never gonna meet someone on Grindr! I wouldn't want to go out with somebody who puts their penis on an app. I like a little bit of mystery. Also, imagine! Like, hi! It's just not going to work. And so many people on those apps say they hate fems, and I hate that. That makes me hate someone. Even if they're the most gorgeous person on earth, when I see that comment. I hate them. I hate them. Go fuck yourself. you self-loathing fag. It makes me so angry. No fems? I have a friend, David Hoyle, who's a comedian, and he talks about self-loathing fags. He does a routine with, "but you're not straight are you? No carbs after 6 p.m.?'



Spring is in the air

As Belk prepares to open a North Texas flagship, its trend expert opines about hot new fashions

J. DENTON BRICKER | Contributing Writer dentonbricker@gmail.com

The iconic Saks Fifth Avenue facade that has made up the Dallas Galleria skyline will now wear another name as Charlotte-based Belk moves into the prime location (petal logo and all), opening its doors on March 29, ahead of an "official" grand opening on April 9 — just in time for the new spring/summer fashions to make their silhouettes known.

Even if you're not from the East Coast, you may recognize the retailer from the most recent season of *Project Runway*: They've been the accessory wall sponsor that Tim Gunn warns designers to use "very thoughtfully." Belk offers sophisticated, modern styles for the Southern shopper.

Though 14 other stores currently exist throughout Texas, the Galleria location will be a flagship store, which promises space for additional high-end merchandise and designers. Some of the featured designers include DKNY, Michael Kors, Pink Tartan and Nanette Lepore, in addition to exclusive private brands such as Cynthia by Cynthia Rowley, Chip & Pepper and even local designer Lucy Dang.

So, what are the big trends as Belk sees them? We went to the source: Arlene Goldstein, the store's V.P. for trend merchandising and fashion direction.

"What goes around comes around, and for the new generation re-emerging styles are a new experience. It's all about relativity," she says. "Not only the bowtie but the reemergence of suspenders, the Oxford and the gingham shirt all present opportunities for customers to experiment with.

Of course, these fashions from the past also have a modern edge or twist that aids in transporting them to the 21st century. "Color, pattern and even fit is how we dip our toes into the sea of fashion without making too much of a commitment," says Goldstein. "For example, there are some soft, unexpected blues that will catch your attention this spring. It is also what makes them so fresh and appealing."

After years of people asking her about the hottest trends of the season, she decided to put together a Most Wanted list online that would allow people to refresh their wardrobes. It looks like the American flag (and in our case, the Texas flag, too) will serve as inspiration for designs at the top of her list for us this summer, both when their elements are combined together or alone.

"Americana has really unfolded — I am talking about vintage American flag prints, stars, red, whites and blues in varying tones and the all-important continuation of stripes," says Goldstein. White especially will sweep the summer season. "It will be extremely important this summer for men and women alike — white with white, white head-to-toe and white accessories."

The other popping trend of note is shorter hemlines on men's shorts. "The Bermuda length short isn't going away but that shorter short near tennis length can look so sharp in white, a watery blue or even a faded red," Goldstein says.

Partnering with Project Runway's viewership taps into the modern, social media-conscious consumer, but Goldstein believes that versatility is the key to smart shopping.

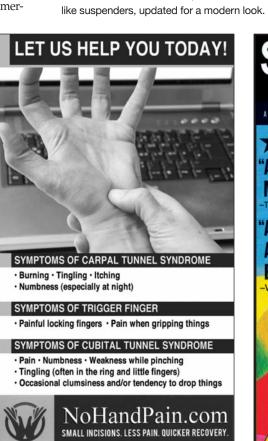
"I don't like clothes that work in one particular time of day or venue but work as hard as you do because it increases their value. If you only own one thing in your closet to wear with what you're buying, why would you purchase it?" she asks. And she practices what she preaches.

"I've been told I get a lot of wear out of my clothes — I don't know whether to take it as a compliment or not, but if I love something I will wear it to death," laughs Goldstein. Versatile items make up the building blocks of a solid wardrobe like a crisp, white button up shirt or a neutral jacket that fits you really well, but there is more to it than just a solid foundation, and that is you.

"Dressing up is less about the trend or particular look but more about personalizing it with accessories that speak to you and your personality."

BRACE YOURSELF | Men's trends for spring and summer include vibrant shades of blue, as well as throwback accessories





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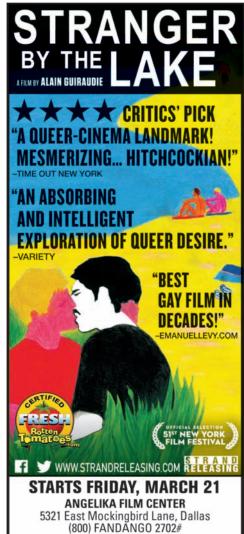
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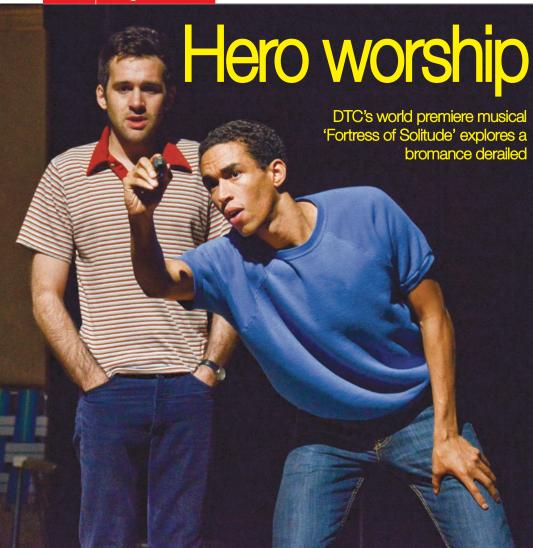
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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES I Life+Style Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

ylan (Adam Chanler-Berat) was one of those kids who was more his parents' experiment than their child. They were hippie-dippy social pioneers, ones who moved into a dodgy neighborhood in 1970s Brooklyn so that Dylan could be exposed to different races and ethnicities, and not become a suburban robot.

Mom (Patty Breckenridge), though, couldn't hack motherhood and cut out when Dylan was 14; Dad (Alex Organ), so wounded by her departure, retreated into his own world and barely acknowledged Dylan. So it was up to him to forage a life on his own.

That meant navigating past the neighborhood

RACE RELATIONS | Two inner-city best friends — one white (Adam Chanler-Berat), one black (Kyle Beltran) — take vastly different paths in life in DTC's premiere staging of 'Fortress of Solitude,' adapted from the best-selling novel. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St.

Through April 8.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

bully (Nicholas Christopher), tolerating the only other white kid on the block, a nebbish named Arthur (Etai Benshlomo) and, to his surprise, befriending an introspective black kid name Mingus (Kyle Beltran). Dylan and Mingus, despite their backgrounds, shared a lot in common, including a love of comic books and an appreciation for music; Mingus was, after all, named after jazz great Charles, a sign of respect from his dad Barrett (Kevin Mambo), himself a minor hitmaker in an R&B vocal group.

That's the backdrop for **Fortress of Solitude**, a world premiere now at the Dallas Theater Center, based on Jonathan Lethem's semi-autobiographical novel. Part *In the Heights*, part *Jersey Boys*, and a whole lot of its own creativity, thanks to Michael Friedman's protean score, it's a stirring and reflective musical about the American experience, as rich as four-part harmonies.

As with Michael Chabon's *The Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, comic books play a central role in the lives of two young men. Both motherless with remote fathers, they identify with the orphan origin stories of their favorite characters (on the

beautiful, bromantic "Superman") and their friendship blossoms. But just how far does it go?

That's a central mystery of *Fortress*, which strongly suggests, but never shows, that Dylan and Mingus are more than just friends, that they love each other not just in the playground-bonding sense but honestly, and deeply. That's what makes the inevitable split — Dylan gets admitted into a magnet school in another neighborhood, Mingus is forced to fend for himself in the 'hood — more poignant than just growing apart. Each oversight is an infidelity, and the pain never goes away.

Fortress of Solitude is almost too smart, too introspective, to adapt for the stage, not alone as a musical, but Itamar Moses' script does an admirable job. When Mingus resorts to dealing

drugs to get by, he repeatedly assures Dylan that "It's what I do, not who I am." How familiar is the idea of denying one's identity, of being on the down-low? Is "drug dealer" his "secret identity," or is that the hero he truly is?

Much of this requires forays into magical realism, especially a ring (Dylan's mom's wedding ring), which seems to imbue the duo with dynamic abilities. Does it really empower them, or does it merely serve as a metaphor — one ring to unite them, to rule them all?

Such heady stuff might be interminable if not for the joyous music, which elegantly toggles between doo-wop, hip-hop, pop, R&B and good ol' showtunes. Try walking out after the finale, "Middle Spaces," and not humming along for an hour.

The performances are stellar, from Breckenridge's clarion voice in the smallish role of the mother (she's underused, but memorable) to

Christopher (charismatic in several roles) to Broadway legend Andre De Shields, conjuring James Brown with his lightfooted, bracing turn as Mingus' granddad, a Bible-verse-spewing

pedophile. Indeed, there are no weak spots, vocally or otherwise.

Beltran has the more thankless part in Mingus, the character who inspires the narrator but whose inner life we can only speculate about, though he's powerful in it. Chanler-Berat, though, holds it all together as the protagonist who can never quite get away from his past.

As a world premiere, there are still issues to work through; the first act is too long, though cutting it too much might necessitate losing some great numbers (the longish opening number is a hoot); and the ending isn't quite there yet. But its insights into race, into sex, into friendship and music and parent-child relationships and ... well, it takes on a lot, and does so superbly. I want to see it again.

Frankly explicit 'Stranger by the Lake' goes full-frontal

Oh, what it must have been like at Cannes last year! First, *Blue Is the Warmest Color* — a three-hour, sexually-explicit lesbian romance — won the coveted Palme d'Or, then Alain Guiraudie's **Stranger by the Lake** takes the Queer Palm and the best director trophy in the Un Certain Regard competition (it later scored eight Cesar nominations — the French Oscar). But this film ramps up where *Blue* left off, shifting focus from lesbians to gay men.

Franck (Pierre Deladonchamps) is a promiscuous gay man who frequents the cruisy nude beach in a remote part of France. Franck lusts after Michel (Christophe Paou), a ruggedly handsome, slightly mysterious and profoundly slutty tomcat, even though Michel doesn't seem to take much specific interest in him. When he witnesses Michel apparently murdering his boyfriend, however, the two become entangled in a passionate affair as the local gendarme pursues them as possible suspects.

If this sounds like a bad "erotic thriller" — the kind Blockbuster used to trot out on their direct-to-video wall back in the day — it's not ... or rather, it's more along the lines of the art-house films we saw in the heyday of queer cinema in the late 1990s and early 2000s: One where sexual frankness is embraced, but so is a seriousness about filmmaking and ex-

ploring the human condition.

Guiraurdie pulls no punches: There's not just simulated sex in the woods, there's actual sex, with ejaculation, penetration, fellatio, all shown. And yet, as titillating as it can be, Stranger by the Lake, like John Cameron Mitchell's Shortbus (and, for that matter, Blue Is the Warmest Color) does not cross the line into outright pornography. Guiraurdie instead is exploring the nature of obsession, and how high-risk sexual practices (no condoms) and dating someone you know to be a murderer are part and parcel the same thing. Franck and Michel are as cavalier about contracting (or spreading) HIV as they are getting caught — or killed.

Newcomer Deladonchamps and Paou deserve props for the ballsiness to tackle such provocate stuff with their clothes mostly off, but in many ways, Guiraurdie is the star here. His camera lingers on scenes for excruciatingly long and realistic shots: Of cruising the tall grasses near the shore, of awkward conversations, of a drowning shown in one lengthy, continuous long shot that is both unnerving and deceptive (have we really seen what we think we've seen?). He uses the silences, and the sounds of the lake, as the musical score, creating a hypnotic tone that lulls you into a sense of foreboding



while rarely giving you anything to actually grab onto as disturbing.

Stranger by the Lake is certainly not for all tastes — don't bring your mother — but it does conjure a dreamy world that becomes a nightmare.

— A W. I

Three-and-a-half stars. Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.

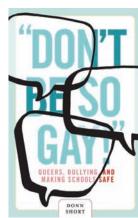
L+S books

That's gay

Book on bullying values kids' input

Schools have been concerned with bullying for decades, though recently, sexuality has entered the conversation. Of all the anti-bullying programs that help ensure the safety of gay teens, Donn Short, in "Don't Be So Gay!," says Toronto has one of

the best.



But how good is it? For three months, Short interviewed gay students, advocates and teens who "did not identify as queer but who were, nonetheless, subject to homophobic harassment by their peers" to find out. Subjects were from several Toronto schools; some were teachers.

Many teachers didn't think the policies were working. Students, Short notes, still used negative epithets, and at least one teacher spent considerable time scolding those who did. He was also told that teachers were often "surrounded by homophobic colleagues."

Interestingly, though the policies were meant to ensure safety of LGBTQ students, the students weren't impressed. They were often more familiar with safe-school policies than most other students and knew when something wasn't working. Many had experienced homophobia from teachers. One young man, who wasn't gay but was bullied as if he was, even sued.

Overall, queer students strongly suggested that anti-bullying policies would work better if administrators asked the students they're trying to protect where flaws are in the system of protection. They also believed that bullying would stop if the entire culture were changed, along with attitudes of homosexuality and the ubiquitousness of heteronormativity. "It's too late for my generation," says one teen, "We need to be working on the kids in kindergarten."

There's a lot of good in "Don't Be So Gay!" and a lot of otherwise. First, the otherwise: though Short mentions anti-bullying policies in other countries, his focus is on a few Toronto schools; it doesn't help that he wanders off-topic often, into racial issues rather than the subject at hand. Casual readers may find the info too aca-

To the good, Short spent considerable time with the teens, allowing him to get unabashed answers. That kind of honesty, and the well-considered thoughts from gay teens, makes it work.

This is by no means a front-of-the-fireplace book. It's going to take some digging to get the info you'll need from it. But if you're concerned about what's going on with your child at school, "Don't Be So Gay!" might spark some talking.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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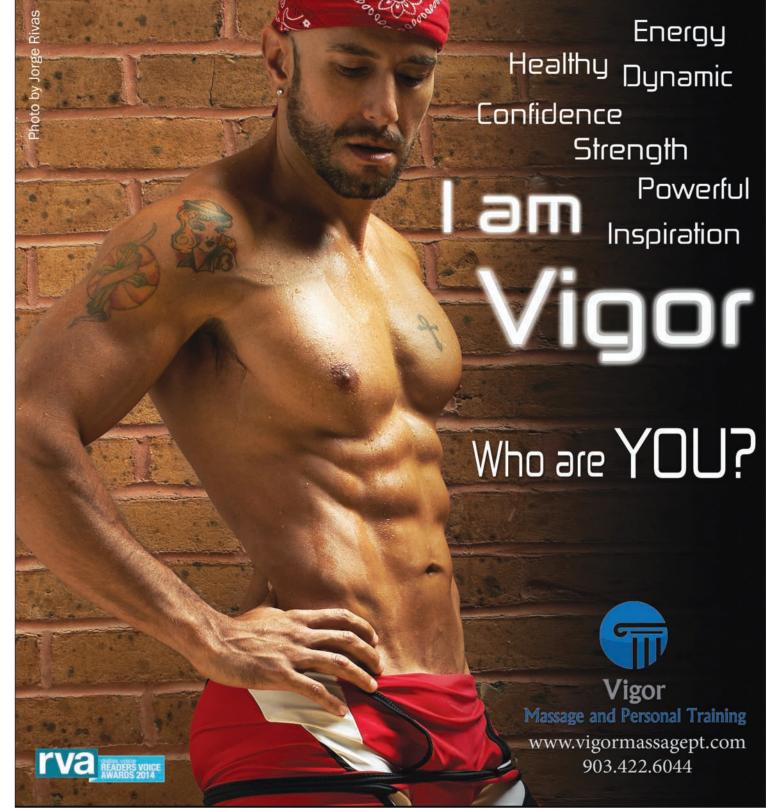
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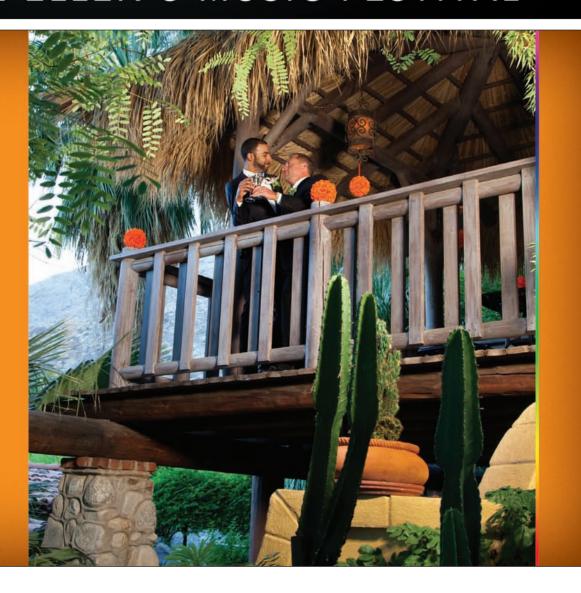
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Friday 03.21

Dallas Opera continues season with Korngold's 'Die Tote Stadt'

Erich Wolfgang Korngold is best known to modern music lovers as a composer for Hollywood films - he even won an Oscar for his thrilling score to The Adventures of Robin Hood. But to a different fan base. he was also acclaimed for his operas. Die Tote Stadt, composed when he was just 23, was a huge hit in the 1920s, but is rarely performed today. But its theme of obsessive love easily resonates as much today as it did nearly a century ago - the novel even inspired the source material for Hitchock's film Vertigo. It will be performed in rep with DO's Berber of Seville.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 21–April 6. DallasOpera.org.

LIFE+STYLE best bets



Wednesday 03.26

It's Cher, bitches! Ho!

You either "get" Cher or you don't, and if you're gay, you'd better never admit you don't in a crowded brunch. She's perhaps our definitive icon: A sassy, plainspoken Oscar-winning mother of a trans kid and one of the definitive personalities — and voices — of the age. If you believe in life after love, you believe in Cher. She's in town for one night only, on tour with her new album and with Pat Benatar opening. Makes sense — hit her with your best shot, she'll still be there.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Doors at 6 p.m. show at 7:30 p.m. Tickemaster.com.



Tuesday 03.25

Preview 'Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano'

A new documentary about one of the most expensive musical instruments ever built — an LED-bedazzled grand piano played by Elton John for his Vegas nightclub act — is in theaters for only two special screenings, but Metroplex Piano is offering you a behind-the-scenes look at *Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano*. The day before the next screening (on March 26), folks are invited to view a 20-minute making-of video, as well as a chance to see a 35-minute film of Sir Elton playing with a 60-piece orchestra which, thanks to awesome technology, will be reproduced stroke-for-stroke on a piano in the showroom. If you missed his concert earlier this month, it will be a chance to catch up on the master in concert.

DEETS: Metroplex Piano, 9292 LBJ Freeway. 6 p.m. Reservations at 972-388-1130.



calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

The Fortress of Solitude. A world premiere new musical about racial tension, from gay composer Michael Friedman. *Reviewed this week*. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through April 6. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Ain't Misbehavin'. The musical of the songs of Fats Waller; directed by Akin Babatunde, and featuring Cedric Neal. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. March 21–April 20 (in previews through March 27). \$15–\$25. Jubilee Theatre.org.

The Human Comedy: The Musical. William Saroyan's novel set against the backdrop of the folks at home during World War II becomes a musical, courtesy of Hair co-author Galt MacDermot and William Dumaresq. Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Hall, 3333 MacArthur Blvd. March 21–30. LyricStage.org.

Lend Me a Tenor. Ken Ludwig's farce. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through March 29. PocketSandwich.com.

Less Than Kind. A rediscovered play by gay author Terence Rattigan gets its North American premiere. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 30. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Mousetrap. Agatha Christie wrote this thriller, the longest-running play in the history of the planet. Presented by Theatre Britain. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through March 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

The Solid Gold Cadillac. George S. Kaufman's comedy, presented by ICT MainStage. Irving Arts Center's Dupree Theater, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. March 21–April 5. \$16–\$21. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

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Presented by Undermain Theater, 3200 Main St. Through April 19. \$15–\$30.

Undermain.org.

The Wizard of Oz. A new staging with additional songs by Webber and Rice. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through March 30. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

A Degree of Death! Reading of Kurt Kleinmann's comedy-mystery. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. March 21–22. 8 p.m. \$10.

THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN' | Cedric Neal, far right, returns to North Texas in Jubilee Theatre's production of the Fats Waller musical 'Ain't Misbehavin'.'

OPERA

Die Tote Stadt. Dallas Opera stages this under-known work from composer Erich Korngold, best known for his Hollywood film scores. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 21–April 6. DallasOpera.org.

COMEDY

Dallas Comedy Festival. Weekend of standup and improv. Dallas Comedy House, 2645 Commerce St. Visit DallasComedyHouse.com for a full schedule.

FRIDAY 03.21

DINING

Savor Dallas. One of North Texas' largest foodie events kicks off its 10th year with the popular Arts District

Wine Stroll (Friday) and the International Grand Tasting (Saturday), as well as tons of seminars and other events. Visit SavorDallas.com for a complete lineup.

SATURDAY 03.22

COMMUNITY

AIDS Walk South Dallas. Registration from 8 a.m.; walk at 10 a.m.

St. Philip's School and Community Center at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. \$25. AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

Tarrant County AIDS Walk. Registration from at 8 a.m.; runners at 9:30 a.m.; walkers at 9:45 a.m. Trinity Park Pavilion, 2300 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. Adults \$30, children and nonprofit employees \$20. pets \$10. AOC.org.

FASHION

Dallas Vintage Clothing and Jewelry Show. Three days of classic styles. Addison Conference Centre, 15650 Addison Road. March 22–23. \$10/day.





SUNDAY 03.23

CONCERTS

Voices of Change: *Man in the Moon*. The chamber group performs. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 2:30 p.m. \$25–\$30.

MONDAY 03.24

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race. The sixth season continues, with the two "premiere" groups of six queens each merging into one group. Logo at 8 p.m.

 $\textit{\textbf{Dallas}}.$ The Texas-set nighttime soap continues its third season. TNT at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 03.25

MUSIC

Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano Experience. A preview of the movie. Metroplex Piano, 9292 LBJ Freeway. 6 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.27

CONCERTS

Marc Cohn. The Grammy Award-winner performs live at



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

submit

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

The Kessler Theater, 1230 W. Davis Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 8 p.m. \$20. TheKessler.org.

THEATER

Doubt, A Parable. John Patrick Shanley's controversial play about suspicions cast on a priest and his relationship with a young student. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. March 27–April 13. \$22. TheatreArlington.org.

The Mystery of Irma Vep. The cross-dressing comedy is presented by El Centro College. Arena Theater (C Building), 801 Main St. March 27–30. Free.

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

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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DALLAS/FORT WORTH groups. yahoo.com/group/sindallasftworth; dalmusl@yahoo.com.UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE — PO Box 190865, Dallas 75219;

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION — dallasfamily.org.

dallascourt.org.

SPIRITUALITY

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

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

*CATHEDRAL OF HOPE — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-351-1901 (Local): 800-501-HOPE (Toll free): cathedralofhope.com CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT — 2040 N. Denton Dr., Carrollton 75006; 972-245-6520;

info@colight.org; colight.org. *CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH — 908 Pennsylvania Ave. Fort Worth 76104; 817-335-3222; celebration@celebrationtex.co

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

CHURCH IN THE CLIFF — Kessler Theatre 1230 W Davis St Dallas 75208 214-233-4605; www.churchinthecliff.org. *COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH — 2875 E. Parker Rd.,

Plano 75074: 972-424-8989; uuplano.org. CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH — 2701 Reagan, PO Box 191188. Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1784); diane@bethelbinah.org;

bethelbinah.org.

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

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

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

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INTEGRITY — 214-521-5342 (x1742)

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LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS - 214-691-4300.

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

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LIFE CENTER, THE — 509 Green Oaks Ct, Arlington 76006; 817-633-3766. LUTHERANS CONCERNED — 6411 I.B.J Fwv., 214-855-4998:

lcnorthtexas@lcna.org; lcna.org; reconcilingworks.org METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GREATER DALLAS —

972-243-6024 (Fax); mccqd.org.

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journeys@olumc.org; oaklawn@olumc.org. PATHWAYS CHURCH - UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST — 101 W. Glade Rd., #102 Euless 76039; 817-251-5555; info@pathwaysuu.org; pathwaysuu.

*PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — 2527 W Colorado Blvd

Dallas 75211 214-623-8400; promisemcc@peoplepc.com; promise ST. MARY, THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH -780 Abrams Rd., #103-224, Dallas 75231; 214-373-8770; stmaryocca@aol.com; netministries.org/see/churches.exe/ch03022.

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SANCTUARY OF LOVE — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd., Dallas 75219; 214-520-9055;

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region5@sdakinship.org; sdakinship.org. *TRINITY MCC — 933 East Avenue J, Grand Prairie 75050; 817-265-5454;

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF — 3839 West Kiest, Dallas 75203; 214-337-2429; uuc@oakcliffuu.com; oakcliffuu.co

UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY — 3425 Greenville Ave., Dallas 75206; 214-826-5683; dallasunity.org. *WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH — 9353 Garland Rd., Dallas 75218; 214-320-0043; admin@whiterockchurch.org; whiterockchurch.org

SPORTS

trinitymcc.org.

DALLAS DIABLOS — PO Box 190862, Dallas 75219; 214-540-4505; dallasdiablos.org.

DALLAS FRONTRUNNERS — frontrunnersdallas.org; We meet Saturdays

8:30am and Wednesday 7:00pm at Lee Park DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION (DIVA) -214-521-5342 (x1704); divadallas.org.

DFW LESBIAN CYCLING GROUP — Looking for participants for a new lesbian cycling group; groups.yahoo.com/group/dfwwomenscycling.

DIFFERENT STROKES GOLF ASSOCIATION — info@dsgadallas.org; NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION — 214-632-8512;

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OAK LAWN SKI AND SCUBA CLUB — 214-521-5342 (x1769); olssc@olssc.org; OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION — P.O. Box 191234; Dallas, 75219;

PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION — P.O. Box 191075: Dallas 75219; 972-879-7900; dallaspssa.org.

RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE - 817-540-0303; rainbow_rollers_league@yahoo.com; myspace.com/rainbowrollers

SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB — 214-289-1179; spectrum-mrc.com. TEAM DALLAS AQUATICS/TEXAS COWBUOYS — P.O. Box 190869, Dallas

75219: teamdallasaquatics.com TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, DALLAS CHAPTER — P.O. Box 191168:

Dallas 75219; 817-540-2075; tgra.org. TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, FORT WORTH CHAPTER — P.O. Box 100155: Fort Worth 76185; 214-346-2107; tgra.org.

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, STATE ORG. — P.O. Box 192097, Dallas

*YMCA — 7301 Gaston Ave., Dallas 75214; 214-328-3849.

SUPPORT

AL-ANON LAMBDA GROUP - 2438 Butler #106, Dallas 75235; 214-363-0461; in fo@dallasal-anon.org; dallasal-anon.org.

75235; 214-267-0222 or 214-887-6699; dallasal-anon.org. BLACK TRANSMEN INC. — 3530 Forest Lane, Suite 290; Dallas 75234;

8194 Walnut Hill, Dallas, TX 75231; Mailing Address:PO Box 601744, Dallas, TX 75360.

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS - 214-766-8939 (Dallas): 817-834-2119 (Fort Worth); outreach@coda.org; codependents.org. DFW BI NET — facebook.com/dfwbinet.

DFW TG LADIES — DFW-TG-Ladies.org: info@DFW-TG-Ladies.org.

FAMILY PRIDE COALITION - 817-881-3949 G.E.A.R. — (Gender Education, Advocacy & Resources); 214-528-0144;

GAY AND LESBIAN ANGER MANAGEMENT GROUP — Maria Jairaj at

469-328-1980; marial33@gmail.com GLBT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219:

LAMBDA GROUP OF NICOTINE ANONYMOUS — 2438 Butler, Dallas 75235; 214-629-7806; nicadfw.org.

LGBT FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM — P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-540-4455: rcdallas.org.

OVER THE RAINBOW — 214-358-0517.

PFI AG-DALLAS --- P.O. Box 190193, Dallas 75219; 972-77-PFLAG (Phone); 972-701-9331 (Fax); info@pflagdallas.org; PFLAG-Fort worth; 817-428-2329.

POSITIVE LIVING SUPPORT GROUP — 401 W. Sanford, Arlington 76011;

SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS — (Oak Lawn Mens Group): 6525 Inwood @ Mockingbird Ln.; 972-458-7762 or 214-673-8092.

SLUTS (SOUTHERN LADIES UNDER TREMENDOUS STRESS) — 2701 Reagan, Dallas 75219: 214-521-5342 (x1720). STONEWALL GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — 2438 Butler, Suite 108.

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For Gay Guys It's 9

Solution on page 71

Across

- 1 Home, to Dave Pallone
- 5 They gave Pinocchio an 8-incher
- 9 Word before "my shorts"
- 13 Nose activator
- 14 Scat queen Fitzgerald
- 15 To some extent
- 16 School of Marcel Duchamp
- 17 Pale gray
- 18 Lesbos, for one
- 19 Heterosexual males
- 22 To the rear, when cruising
- 25 Pink shades
- 26 Diffident
- 27 The Stars and Stripes
- 30 Like Jeremy Irons in The Borgias
- 32 Legendary big bird
- 33 Victim of Jacob's tricks
- 37 How often 19-Across think about sex, in contrast with the puzzle title
- 40 In order
- 41 Supporter of Patty Sheehan
- 42 Broadway whisper
- 43 Take a bad turn

A MAGAZINE?

- 45 Part of RPM
- 46 Patron of Wilde's homeland, briefly

HE GOT ALL DRESSED UP IN LEATHER

AND CAME TO A BAR FULL OF HOT MEN.

JUST TO SIT THERE READING

- 49 Compact disk readers
- 51 TV program in which Michael Novotny makes this puzzle's comparison
- 54 Greek vases
- 55 Biweekly tide
- 56 Showing a tiny opening
- 60 Errol Flynn's The Sun ___ Rises
- 61 Shall We Dance star
- 62 Word after fish?
- 63 Changes colors
- 64 Tributes in verse
- 65 Ogled a hottie in a bar, e.g.

Down

- 1 Muscle Mary's pride
- 2 Toothpaste box letters
- 3 "Get out!" to Orton, with "off"
- 4 Remove a slip?
- 5 Masters
- 6 Ingrid's role in "Casablanca"
- 7 K through 12
- 8 Pray like Will before dinner?
- 9 Tries to get a rise out of
- 10 "C'est Moi," to Lancelot
- 11 Maupin stories
- 12 James Dean's East of ____
- 20 In all honesty
- 21 Porker
- 22 Navratilova's winter home
- 23 Close one, for a drag queen
- 24 Aggressive sort
- 28 Cargoáship (the 8 stands for a five-letter sequence)
- 29 Goes down in defeat
- 31 Gallery objects
- 33 Shooter in Bruce Weber's field
- 34 Criticize petulantly
- 35 One that's calculating to get sum
- 36 Sadists, to masochists, in a way
- 38 What it takes for a dance, or some relationships
- 39 Place for a gondola
- 43 Kids' card game
- 44 Flees to a same-sex marriage state
- 46 Like a sourpuss
- 47 In need of a backrub
- 48 Kahlo's cash
- 50 Imitate Brian Orser
- 51 Leg muscle, for short
- 52 It gets spilled at wild parties
- 53 Money left on the nightstand
- 57 Leno, once of late night humor
- 58 It may top a queen
- 59 Poet McKuen



OR MAYBE IT'S PERFUME! HAW HAW!

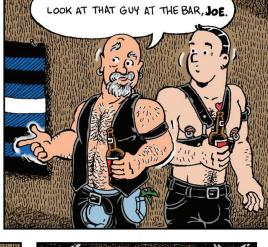
A Couple

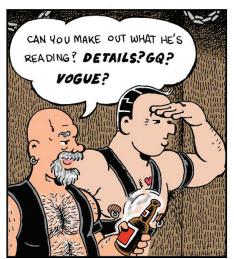
Dave Browssam

"Nose of the Weird"

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BJ's NXSI: Spring Break with DJ Press Play spinning. Sex on the Beach all day/all night. Saturday.

Brick: Morgan McMichaels and Phoenix appear with performances by Jon Alkalay and G licious G. Larry and Jenni P host. Opening set by DJ badGUYwins and music by Kayla Krus. A portion of proceeds benefits Sugar Stix Lifewalk Team.

Dallas Eagle: National Leather Association presents Leather Perspectives. Saturday at 2 p.m. Members free. Non-members \$5. Jeff Germany presents Kickin' It with Rodeo. Rodeo games, entertainment and auction items. Saturday at 7 p.m. Benefits TGRA and IGRA charities. Dallas Independent Volleyball Association presents A Night of DNA. Sunday at 7 p.m. Benefits Resource Center Food Pantry.

Eden Lounge: Karaoke Night with DjMarky Marc from 8 p.m.-midnight on Friday.

Round-Up Saloon: The **Hottest Karaoke Contest Around**, a six-week karaoke contest with a \$500 grand prize, continues. Sunday and Thursday 9 p.m.–2 a.m.

S4: Cher-lebration with guest **DJ Kannon** on the mic hosted by **Wayne Smith**. Cher look-alike contest. Grand prize includes two suite tickets to the March 26 Cher concert and \$100. Friday at 10 p.m.

Sue Ellen's: Kickback on Friday. Mojo Dolls on Saturday. Mi Diva Loca on Sunday. Bella & Darla on Wednesday. Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Welcome to the neighborhood happy hour on Friday at 5 p.m. PSSA bat testing on the back patio. Saturday. 4–7 p.m. Dallas Woody's Saints Extra Innings. Sunday. 4–7 p.m.

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



Hidden Door — Best Beer Bust (NIGHTLIFE) and Best Sunday Funday (METRO)



Craighead-Green — Best Art Gallery (METRO)



The Round-Up Saloon — Best Dallas Club (NIGHTLIFE)



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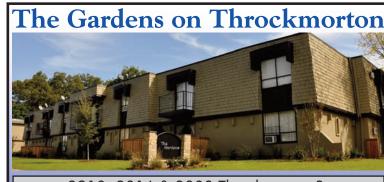
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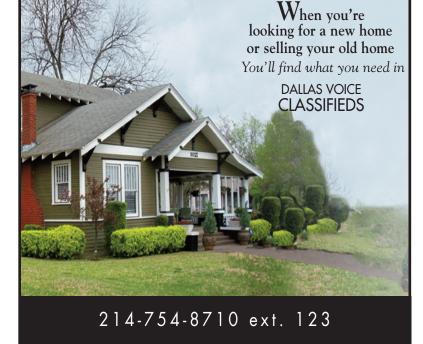
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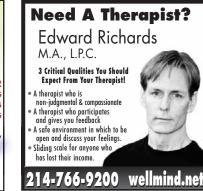


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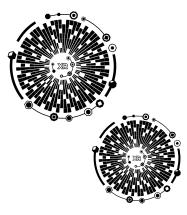
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Purple Party Weekend May 9-11 May 9: IGNITE | Opening Party @ Station 4, ROAR! | Bear Party at The Eagle May 10: RISE | Pool Party @ SISU

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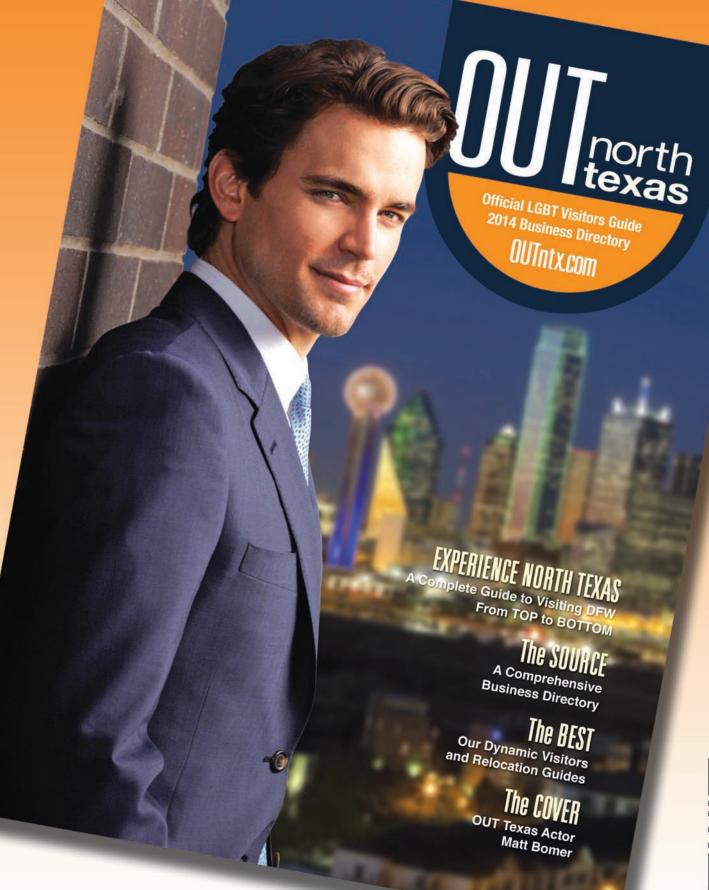
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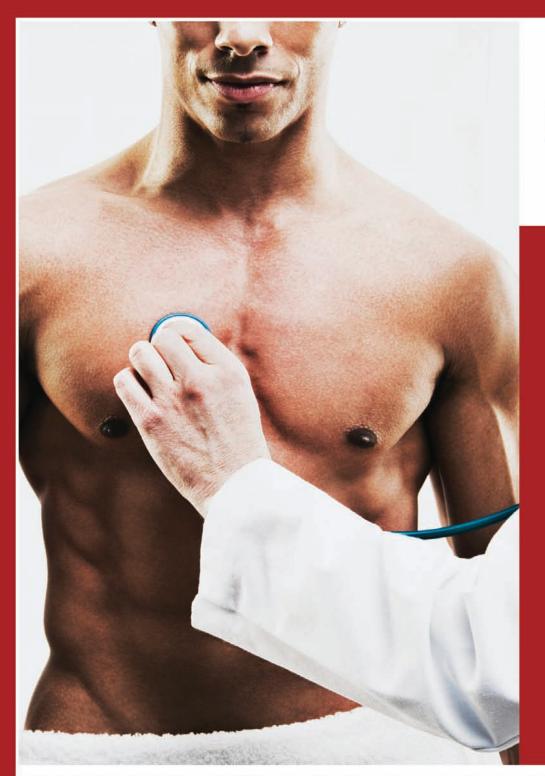


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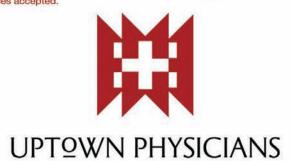
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