

# Jorge Rivas' passion for fashion

## Portrait of the portraitist

Saturday's photographic exhibit at ilume Gallerie benefits AIDS Arms

■ FINE ART, Page 26



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Established 1984 | Volume 27 | Issue 1

FREE | Friday, May 21, 2010

## GetEQUAL takes ExxonMobile protest nationwide

Actions at gas stations on Fridays leading up to larger rally outside annual shareholders meeting

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

After protests last Friday, May 14, at three Oak Lawn Exxon stations, activists have planned demonstrations at stations in other cities around the country.

The protests are set to precede a larger rally before the ExxonMobil shareholders meeting at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Downtown Dallas on May 26. Greenpeace and other environmental protesters are also expected to be outside the meeting.

A protest has been held at the shareholders meeting each year since Exxon merged with Mobil in 1999. The merged company adopted Exxon's non-inclusive employment guidelines rather than Mobil's inclusive policies.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and demonstrators usually begin gathering outside the symphony hall by 8 a.m.

Mobil was one of the earliest companies to offer any partnership benefits. Those benefits were rescinded for former Mobil employees. The merged company's nondiscrimination policies no longer cover LGBT employees.

Exxon claims that the company follows federal guidelines and exceeds federal mandates in carrying out its nondiscrimination policy. Company officials said they have zero tolerance for harassment at any location around the world.

However, their written policy makes them are one of only a handful of major companies in the United States that rank zero on the Human Rights

■ PROTESTS, Page 14

# Community outraged over assault

Crime watch leaders, business owners frustrated over PD's delay in notifying them of hate crime

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

Crime watch leaders and business owners expressed frustration this week that it took Dallas

police almost three full days to notify them about a brutal hate crime that occurred just a few blocks from the Cedar Springs strip.

Meanwhile, in the aftermath of the attack, LGBT activists said they were recruiting people to sign up for the police department's Volunteers in Patrol program, in hopes of "taking back" notoriously dangerous side streets in the gay entertainment district.

As of Wednesday, May 19, police hadn't made

any arrests in the aggravated robbery that occurred at about midnight last Friday on Throckmorton Street near Congress Avenue, approximately two blocks southwest of the Crossroads.

The two victims — Kyle Wear and Alex Bowers, both 28 — were walking from a house party toward the bars on Cedar Springs when they were jumped by four Latino males in white tank

■ ASSAULT Page 13



SCENE OF THE CRIME | Alex Bowers, left and Kyle Wear revisit the spot on Throckmorton Street where they were attacked and robbed Friday night, May 14, by four men wielding a baseball bat. Wear faces surgery to repair his jaw, which was broken in two places when the assailants hit him with the bat. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

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# YFT: making safe space safer

Agency for LGBTQ youth moves to new, larger location, institutes code of conduct for youth, volunteers

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Everybody needs a safe haven now and then. And few people need it more than LGBT and questioning youth trying to find their own identity and navigate through an often-hostile world. Providing that much-needed safe space for LGBTQ youth has been one of the primary goals for Youth First Texas since its beginnings. But the organization's old digs on Maple Avenue weren't really conducive to that effort.

Up until last November, YFT's youth center was housed in a building that was also home to a methadone clinic and to an evangelical church — neither of which was a particularly safe environment for young people working out their identities as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, said Judith Dumont, YFT's director of youth services.

"Parents would bring their kids to the center, and they'd see where it was and what was around it, and they would be nervous to drop their kids off there," Dumont said.

The young people, she added, were often nervous, too, about the area.

But that changed when YFT moved into its new facilities at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.

It was, in reality, a move of only a couple of miles in actual distance. But the new location is worlds away from the old one in all the ways that really count, said Sam Wilkes, director of development for the organization.

YFT held its annual Thanksgiving dinner for the youth in the old center last November. When dinner was through, they migrated to the new location for dessert. It was the first official event at the Harry Hines location.

Then the center "went dark" for about a week and a half while staff and volunteers moved the furniture and other supplies and equipment to the new location.

"Then we were here. It was pretty bare bones at first, but we were here. But it didn't really feel like home until about January, when we really got things up and running again," Dumont said.

The new center has about 500 square feet more space than the old location, and the interior was finished out to specifically fit YFT's needs. Dumont and Wilkes each have their own office, and there are private rooms for the volunteer counselors to hold either individual or group sessions.

There is a large meeting room where the center holds its weekly Thursday programs, and a

**YFT HOLDING FUNDRAISING PARTY AT DISH RESTAURANT**

Youth First Texas is holding a special fundraiser Sunday, May 23, from noon to 4 p.m. at Dish restaurant in Itumbe.

The theme for the party is "Harvey's Angels," and the event is intended to honor the birthday of legendary LGBT activist Harvey Milk and in honor of his legacy, YFT will recognize individuals, businesses and community supporters who advocate for LGBTQ youth in North Texas.

Special guests include Sisters of the Yellow Rose.

There will be two seatings, at noon and at 2 p.m., and seating is limited at each and assigned on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are \$50 and include bottomless champagne cocktails and brunch, and a ticket for free valet service.

For information or to purchase tickets, go online to YouthFirstTexas.org.

— Tammye Nash

kitchen area that includes a kind of Internet café complete with a number of computers set up with wifi connections.

And — a huge plus — the center has its own gender-neutral restrooms. That's a big deal, ■ YFT, Page 10

## instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Instant-Tea

### Facebook campaign to bring Laura Bush to Pride grows

By Thursday, May 20, the Facebook campaign to bring former first lady Laura Bush to gay Pride in Dallas had grown to more than 900 members and been featured in media outlets including The Advocate and The Dallas Morning News.

"More than anything, I created the page as an outlet for myself and a few friends," said David Ethridge, creator of Draft Laura Bush for Dallas Pride 2010. "It didn't really occur to me that it would receive this much attention. If Mrs. Bush is really serious about being on the right side of history, and supporting marriage equality, I wanted to be the first to stretch out my hand and welcome her. Now it seems there are several hundred others lined up right behind me."

I left a message yesterday for Laura's publicist to find out whether there's any chance she'll come, but I haven't heard back. I've also sent her a message on Twitter, so keep your fingers crossed.

— John Wright



### What they pay the gays

Here's a sampling of what 15 openly LGBT public employees in Texas make, compiled from The Texas Tribune's database of Government Employee Salaries:

1. Theresa O'Donnell, director of development services, city of Dallas: \$161,182
2. Annise Parker, Houston mayor (based on predecessor Bill White's salary): \$160,057
3. Rosemary Lehmborg, district attorney, Travis County: \$158,272
4. Jim Foster, Dallas county judge: \$153,853
5. Lupe Valdez, Dallas County sheriff: \$140,110
6. Barbara Rosenberg, assistant city attorney, Dallas: \$139,203
7. Steve Kirkland, district judge, Houston: \$125,000
8. Gary Fitzsimmons, Dallas County district clerk: \$122,712
9. Frank Libro, director of public information, city of Dallas: \$114,747
10. Susan Steeg, justice of the peace, Travis County: \$105,000
11. Chris Heinbaugh, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert: \$102,290
12. Sara Straten, LGBT liaison officer, Fort Worth Police Department: \$66,768
13. Randi Shade, Austin city councilwoman: \$61,256
14. Laura Martin, LGBT liaison officer, Dallas Police Department: \$58,637
15. Sue Lovell, Houston city councilwoman: \$55,985

— John Wright

## Woman critical after Bedford fire

Estranged girlfriend charged with arson, could face other charges as investigation continues, police say

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

BEDFORD — An Irving woman has been charged with arson of a habitation in connection with a fire early Tuesday morning, May 18, that left her estranged girlfriend hospitalized.

Media reports published Wednesday, May 19, indicated that Ronna Faris was in critical condition at Parkland Memorial Hospital, with second- and third-degree burns over 63 percent of her body. A Parkland spokeswoman said Thursday afternoon, May 20, that the hospital was not releasing any more information on Faris at the request of her family.

Police reports indicated that Faris had been ■ ARSON, Page 12

### LONE STAR RIDE



**TAKE A CHANCE** | John Tripp, left, and Laura Kerr, co-chairs of the 2010 Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS, show off the 2010 Trek Madone 4.5 road bike the LSR committee is raffling off this year during the LSR kick-off party Sunday, May 16 at Salum restaurant. Tripp and Kerr said 140 people signed in at the party, and that 67 people registered as riders for the 2010 LSR, and another 31 registered as crewmembers. This year's Lone Star Ride — the 10th annual one — is set for Sept. 25-26, beginning and ending each day at the American Airlines Conference Center in Arlington. Tickets for a chance at the Madone — \$20 each — will be sold up to the weekend of the ride. For more information or to purchase a raffle ticket, go to LoneStarRide.org, and check out the Lone Star Store. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

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## localbriefs

### Attorney to speak to GAIN

Attorney Rebecca Covell will be the guest speaker at the Thursday, May 27 meeting of GAIN (GLBT Aging Interest Network), presenting "Lessons from the Na'vi — What we can learn from life on Pandora," based on the hit movie "Avatar." The theme is what "Avatar" can teach the LGBT community about the need to plan ahead.

The meeting takes place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end of her presentation, and hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

Covell, licensed as an attorney in Texas and Missouri, is the principal in her own firm and provides general legal services, concentrating in estate planning, probate and business law.

GAIN is a program of Resource Center Dallas.

### UCLSE presents show with TGRA

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire will present the "Rodeo Follies" show at Illusions Bar, 4100 Maple Drive, on Saturday, May 22. The evening begins with a cocktail mixer at 9 p.m., followed by the show at 10 p.m.

Emperor 35 Jeff Germany and Marshal Styers, crown prince royal 35, are hosting the event. Grand Duchess 35 Lips Larue and Mr. TGRA 2010 Jody Harvey are the emcees for the evening.

Entertainers from both UCLSE, Texas Gay Rodeo Association and their guests will perform for tips, and various rodeo themed baskets and gourmet confections will be auctioned during the night.

This event is the second in a series of fundraisers benefiting USLSE charities and the Texas Gay Rodeo sponsorship together. The Big D Rodeo will be held this year at Diamond W Arena on Sept. 10-12.



Rebecca Covell

## pet of the week / stanley

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# Hate leaves a lasting mark

Hate crime assault in Oak Lawn is first test of how new Dallas police chief, LGBT community will interact

The May 14 brutal hate crime assault on two gay men in Oak Lawn is sparking memories of countless episodes of anti-gay violence that date back to the initial settlement of the district four decades ago by LGBT residents and the businesses they frequented.

It has also renewed concerns about a perceived indifference to anti-gay crime on the part of Dallas police officers after the investigating officers failed to immediately classify the assault and robbery as a hate crime.

The assault was reclassified as a hate crime on Monday, May 17, but the damage was already done for those of us who have lived through the terror and survived.

Even worse, the LGBT community has not yet heard from Dallas' new chief of police, David Brown, who should be publicly denouncing anti-gay violence and reassuring the LGBT community that Dallas police officers will be diligent in investigating it and attempting to deter it.

There is a very small window of opportunity for a message like that to be sent, and it appears Brown is letting it close on him.

The Dallas Voice submitted a request to Brown for an interview after his hiring in late April, but he has yet to respond to it.

There isn't room in this issue of the Dallas Voice to recount every incident of anti-gay violence that has occurred in Oak Lawn over the past 40 years, even if that information could be unearthed. Much of it went unreported because of concerns about harassment from Dallas police officers. There also is a long history of discriminatory acts on the part of the Dallas Police Department — not the least of which was the gargantuan resistance to hiring gay and lesbian police officers — that will never be forgotten.

For me, the most poignant memory of anti-gay violence is what happened to a friend of mine about 25 years ago. Although I haven't talked to him recently, I know he relived the terrifying experience when he heard about last weekend's attack.

That's happened repeatedly over the years, every time he has heard about a new anti-gay assault.

My friend's decision to walk to the strip for happy hour at one of the clubs seemed logical that weekend afternoon. He reasoned that it would be good exercise, easier than looking for a parking space, ecologically sensible and better than drinking and driving.

As it turned out, he didn't stay too long and started walking home rather than calling a cab or his partner for a ride home. It didn't seem like

that big of deal because Cedar Springs Road was pretty well lit and highly-traveled, both day and night.

As he walked along the sidewalk, before he got to the bridge that goes over the toll road, he noticed a group of adults — both male and female — and several children walking toward him. He noticed that someone in the group was carrying a baseball bat, but he saw no reason to fear them and cross the street.

After all, it appeared to be a family out walking together in the early evening.

But just as he walked past them, a sharp crack to the back of his head sent him reeling to the pavement. As blood began covering his face, he realized the group was simply continuing their stroll.

They weren't taking his wallet that was filled with credit cards and cash. And they weren't tearing his gold watch off his wrist or his rings off his fingers.

It was not a robbery. They just wanted to hurt him — likely because he was gay and they were straight — and possibly also because he was

■ RARE REPORTER, Page 12



DAVID WEBB  
The Rare Reporter

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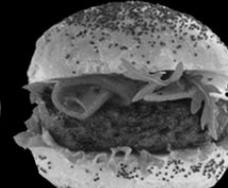
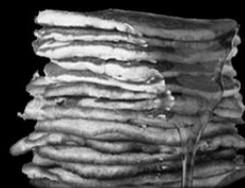


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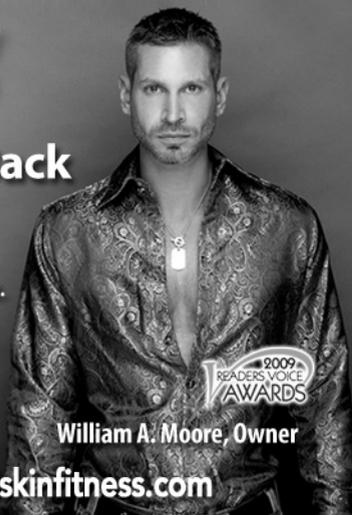
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## ■ texasnews

### YFT

From Page 4

Dumont said, considering that the center used to share restrooms with the methadone clinic and the evangelical church.

### New rules

The move to the new facility didn't just make the center a safer space in the physical sense. With the move, new rules and procedures were put into place that have made it safer for the youth emotionally and intellectually, too, Dumont and Wilkes said.

First is the new intake form that allows YFT staff and volunteers to find out, in about five minutes, why an individual has come to the center. By identifying that young person's individual needs and interests, Dumont said, staff and volunteers are better able to point toward the activities and assistance that will fill those needs.

Maybe one person needs some one-on-one counseling to help them figure out who they are and what they want. Perhaps group counseling is their best option. Or maybe they just want somewhere to go to be around other LGBT youth and accepting adults.

"Of the youth that come here, about 85 percent of their parents know that they are gay or lesbian or trans or questioning," Dumont said. "But even when their parents know, that doesn't mean it's easy for them being out at home. A lot of times, the parents don't know how to respond, and the youth being gay is like the big rainbow elephant in the room. These kids go home and do their homework and then just stay in their rooms, because there is that tension.

"Here, they can be themselves. They can come here, and if they want to wear a dress or put on make-up or whatever, they can do that," she said.

Wilkes added, "This is a safe place where they can test the boundaries and find out what they like and what they want, and do it without being judged. This is an open environment that gives them the space and the safety to develop their identity and healthy habits."

And to make sure that safety stays in place, YFT has instituted a revised code of conduct that requires the youth who come to YFT to respect the space and each other. That means everything

from referring to each other with an individual's own preferred gender pronouns or "PGPs," to keeping the facility clean, to staying away from alcohol and drugs (use of which are strictly forbidden at the center).

The code of conduct, Dumont says, allows the center's staff and volunteers to "guide them to make responsible decisions, without being parents or police."

And those who violate the rules must either shape up, or ship out.

"We do have some youth who don't uphold the code. When that happens, we are willing to give them a second chance. But then, if they are still not willing to follow the code, then they are banned from the center," Dumont said.

Wilkes added, "Our rules carry no weight if we're not willing to enforce them. And without the rules, this isn't that safe space it should be."

Once a youth has been banned, he or she "can't walk through these doors again unless they have demonstrated a marked change in their behavior," Dumont said.

### The adult volunteers

With only two paid staff members, Youth First Texas relies heavily on its adult volunteers to keep the center open and the programs running. And again, the concept of the safe space comes into play.

Dumont said that every adult volunteer must go through an extensive, multi-state background check, and any kind of drug- or alcohol-related offense is a deal breaker. The volunteers — and staff — are also required to follow a code of ethics.

"Following that code really requires our volunteers to make some healthy decisions of their own," she said. "I know that it has required me to better exercise my own ethical and moral code, and to set some healthy boundaries."

The center has five licensed counselors who volunteer their services, as well as a roster of other adult volunteers who just want to help mentor the next generation. And while YFT is always looking to recruit a diverse range of new volunteers, both Dumont and Wilkes warned that volunteers need to make sure they have taken off any rose-colored glasses before they sign on.

"Our volunteer retention isn't what we'd like it

■ Continued Next Page

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■ From Previous Page

to be," Dumont acknowledged. "It takes a very special adult to come in here and really be ready to mentor these young people."

Wilkes said YFT has a volunteer network of about 100 people, with about 30 who are "super active" in the organization. Dumont noted that several area organizations work with YFT, giving special credit to Dallas Bears and Black Tie Dinner. "We couldn't have made this move without them," she said.

She and Wilkes also offered special thanks to Lory Masters, JC Penney's, Fast Signs and Richard Gordon, all of whom either donated furnishings and art or services to the move. The Solender-Hall Group, they added, helped find the new location and then donated their fee back to YFT.

YFT also has a volunteer board of adults who oversee its operations, and a Youth Leadership board that also participates in governing the organization.

Already the move to the new location and the changes that came with it are beginning to pay off, Dumont and Wilkes agreed. At the Maple Avenue location, the majority of the youth using the center were 18 and older. Now, with the safer location and the stricter rules, there has been a significant spike in the number of youth ages 14 to 16 who are coming to YFT.

And overall, they said, the center now has the room to grow alongside the young people it serves. ■



**SURFING SAFELY** | Sam Wilkes and Judith Dumont show off the kitchen and computer area in the new Youth First Texas center. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

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**ARSON**

From Page 4

doused in gasoline and set on fire.

Bedford Police Lt. Kirk Roberts said Thursday that the investigation into the fire is ongoing, and that Olofunke Whitehead, 42, could face additional charges depending on information investigators might unearth.

"We're still early in the investigation. There could be additional charges presented, including aggravated assault and up to capital murder, depending on what happens with [Faris]," Roberts said.

Arson of a habitation is a first-degree felony, Roberts said.

Roberts said Bedford police and fire department units were dispatched around 3:45 a.m. Tuesday to the home Faris shared with her elderly parents in the 1000 block of Woodland Terrace in Bedford. Emergency responders found Faris and her parents — both of whom use walkers to get around — in the front yard.

Neither of her parents were injured in the blaze, and Oscar Faris, 80, told authorities he and his wife were able to escape from the house after being alerted by their daughter's screams.

Roberts said Faris did make a comment to authorities at that time indicating that Whitehead was the one that had poured the gasoline on her and set her on fire.

Why Whitehead did it however, "is still one of



Olofunke Whitehead

the big questions" in the investigation, Roberts said.

Roberts also said that police are still uncertain about the exact nature of the relationship between Whitehead and Ronna Faris.

"I don't know the extent of their relationship, but I do believe they have referred to each other as girlfriends," he said. "But I don't think they ever lived together."

Roberts said that Whitehead was arrested Tuesday afternoon, "near or at her place of employment" near Beltline Road and Hwy. 635, close to the border between Irving and Coppell. Whitehead was released Wednesday afternoon on \$25,000 bond, he said. ■

**RARE REPORTER**

From Page 9

white and they were black.

He barely recalls struggling home and staggering into his townhouse. Fortunately, his partner was there, able to slow the bleeding with a towel and to get him to an emergency room. It's a wonder he didn't die from the attack.

Today, he has a scar on the back of his head under his hair to remind him of the incident.

No one was ever arrested in connection with his assault, which is often the case.

One of the problems we face in our community is that not everyone — particularly young people and new residents to the area — has survived an attack or knows someone else who has. The truth is that the Dallas Police Department, no matter how hard they may try, cannot prevent all anti-gay violence.

LGBT people are one of the most frequently targeted groups of people in hate crime violence, according to FBI reports and the experts who study these issues.

That's why there is an ongoing, desperate need for education to help people protect themselves. We have a lesbian liaison officer, Dallas Police Officer Laura Martin, who is widely admired in our community as an efficient and committed agent to that cause. But we have yet to hear from the new police chief as to whether she will be given the time and resources she needs to carry out those

duties.

The police chief is now reviewing budget cuts for the police department.

We also need to know that discrimination against gay and lesbian police officers in the police department will not be tolerated. Just about any gay, lesbian or gay-friendly police officer you talk to will acknowledge homophobia still exists widely in the rank and file, albeit in a more subtle form than in previous years.

Attitude flows from the top, and we'd like to know exactly what will be coming down from our new police chief.

The word from good sources is that the new police chief has pledged to participate in the annual gay and lesbian Pride parade in September and to support the community's needs, as was the habit of his predecessor, David Kunkle. A meet-and-greet reportedly is being planned for July to introduce Brown to the movers and shakers in the LGBT community.

That's all great, but in the meantime, in light of last weekend's anti-gay hate crime assault, the LGBT community at large needs to hear from the new police chief now. We've got crucial concerns to be addressed.

Let's hope Brown is ready to talk and will be calling soon. We'd like to chat. ■

*David Webb is a former staff writer for the Dallas Voice who lives on Cedar Creek Lake now. He is the author of the blog TheRareReporter.blogspot.com. He can be reached at davidwaynewebb@embarqmail.com.*

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## ASSAULT

From Page 1

tops wielding baseball bats.

According to a police report, one of the assailants struck Wear in the face with a bat and yelled, "Give me all of your fucking money you fucking fag."

Wear was briefly knocked unconscious and suffered a broken jaw, and the suspects fled on foot with the victims' wallets and cell phones.

"I thought they were going to kill us," said Bowers, who was unharmed.

Wear said he doesn't remember much about the incident, but Bowers is convinced the pair was targeted because of their sexual orientation.

"I think they wanted something, but I also think they seemed to be enjoying it," he said.

### Hate crime classification

Despite the suspects' use of a gay slur, Dallas police initially failed to classify the incident as a hate crime, prompting outrage from some in the LGBT community.

According to FBI guidelines, offenses are to be classified as hate crimes if they were motivated "in whole or in part" by sexual-orientation bias. Among the primary indicators that a crime was motivated by bias are "oral comments" made by suspects, the FBI guidelines state.

By late Monday morning, May 17, after consulting with LGBT Liaison Officer Laura Martin, police officials reclassified the offense as an anti-gay hate crime.

"I think some patrol officers are probably under the impression that they can't really designate things as hate crimes," Martin said later. "That doesn't mean that we can't go through and change things. It's just a matter of who actually does change it, so it's being done."

Martin said classifying the incident as a hate crime would give the investigation higher priority.

"If someone's targeted because of who they are and they're in a protected class, there is more attention that needs to be paid," Martin said. "We don't want people coming down in the Cedar Springs area and thinking they can just beat up and rob members of the GLBT community because it just seems like a fun thing to do. We don't want people thinking that's OK to do, so I can assure you that it will be investigated and given plenty of attention."

While DPD will report the incident to the FBI as a hate crime, it's unlikely it will be prosecuted as a hate crime if the suspects are captured.

That's because Texas' hate crimes statute provides no enhanced penalty if the offense is already a first-degree felony, such as aggravated robbery.

Randall Terrell, political director at Equality Texas, said it's one reason why the gay-rights group has been calling for a review of the statute, which has been rarely used by prosecutors in the 10 years since it passed.

### Communication breakdown

Nancy Weinberger, a longtime local crime

watch leader, said she didn't learn of the incident until she received a message from a reporter at WFAA-TV on Saturday evening.

Weinberger also noted that neither the Dallas Tavern Guild nor the Cedar Springs Merchants Association was notified by police.

DPD didn't post the crime on its Nixle public e-mail notification system until 3:16 p.m. Monday.

"There is absolutely no excuse in the whole world for me not to know that something like that happened," Weinberger said Wednesday during a monthly crime watch meeting at the Oak Lawn library.

"It's not DPD's fault that this happened to these guys. The fault lies in communication."

Howard Okon, owner of the Brick, said if bar owners had learned about the crime sooner they could have alerted customers and security — possibly leading to the apprehension of the suspects.

"You all are missing your greatest asset, which is us," Okon told police officials who attended Wednesday's meeting. "We want to know a lot quicker."

DPD Lt. Daniel Gallegos acknowledged that there had been a communication breakdown within the department.

Gallegos said it would be impossible for DPD to notify the community immediately about offenses, because officers must first complete initial investigations. He also said DPD can't release some details because it could jeopardize investigations.

But Gallegos said the department should have notified Weinberger and others by Saturday or Sunday at the latest.

"That should not happen again," Gallegos said.

Gallegos also said the department immediately upped patrols in the area, and detectives canvassed the neighborhood on Tuesday.

He said the additional patrols would likely continue, especially on weekends.

"I don't want the community to feel that this happened and we did nothing about it," Gallegos said. "We will leave no rock unturned."

"Somebody's going to end up dead"

The incident was the first serious anti-gay hate crime in Oak Lawn since the July 2008 beating of Jimmy Lee Dean.

But the area surrounding the gay entertainment district remains dangerous for violent crime, according to Dallas police statistics.

DPD's Cedar Springs Wycliff Target Area Action Grid — a 1-square-mile quadrant that encompasses the strip — recorded the fourth-most violent offenses of 26 crime hotspots citywide in 2009.

Michael Robinson, who launched a hate crimes advocacy group after witnessing Dean's attack two years ago, said it's time for the community to address the problem.

"We've got to take back our damn streets," Robinson said. "Somebody's going to end up dead, and then everybody will want to jump up and down."

Robinson said he was hoping to recruit at least 10 people to go through training for DPD's Volunteers in Patrol program.

"We need eyes on the street," he said. "We need

■ ASSAULT, Page 14

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Rebecca Covell is an attorney licensed in Texas and Missouri. Ms. Covell is the principal in her own firm and provides general legal services concentrating in estate planning, probate and business law. Rebecca is a frequent speaker at seminars and workshops focusing on legal landmines for the GLBT community, estate planning, legal protection in Texas, retirement, employment issues and general business matters.

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Legacy Counseling Center was founded more than 20 years ago by a small group of people living with AIDS who needed a place to go for support in dealing with this terrible disease. Today Legacy Counseling Center serves over 750 men, women, and teens each year by providing individual, couple, family & group therapy to HIV-positive people and their families. Legacy also operates Legacy Founders Cottage, a seven-bedroom house that provides around-the-clock care for critically ill and dying AIDS patients in a home-like setting.

\* Chefs at time of printing

## ■ texasnews

■ ASSAULT, From Page 13

bodies in this community to protect us."

As for the victims, Wear said he blames himself for not being more aware of his surroundings. He said he was looking down, sending a text message on his cell phone when he was suddenly struck with the bat.

Bowers, meanwhile, said he plans to get some

pepper spray and possibly take a self-defense course.

As they looked at bloodstains on the sidewalk during a visit to the scene on Tuesday, the pair said they didn't plan to walk to the strip from their friend's house on Throckmorton again.

Asked what the community's response should be to the incident, Bowers said, "I don't think it's something that should just be forgotten about." ■

## PROTESTS

From Page 1

Campaign Equality Index.

Other oil companies score on the other end of the Equality Index spectrum. Shell, Chevron and BP each rate 100 percent and ConocoPhillips scores 70 percent.

Each year, a shareholder proposal is placed on proxy statements. This year a shareholder proposal to amend the EEO policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity is listed in the proxy statement to shareholders as Item 6.

The New York State Common Retirement Fund submitted the proposal.

Shareholders get one vote for each share of stock they own. Large blocks of stock are owned by pension funds that usually vote for this proposal.

The Exxon board of directors recommended shareholders vote against the proposal.

Item 6 reads, "The Shareholders request that ExxonMobil amend its written equal employment opportunity policy to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and to substantially implement the policy."

While the company's policies do not include nondiscrimination policies, ExxonMobil officials claim that the company does protect LGBT employees and that it does not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment.

"The board has reviewed in detail ExxonMobil's existing global policies that prohibit all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in any company workplace, anywhere in the world," Exxon's board writes in its proxy state-

ment. "In fact ExxonMobil's policies go beyond the law and prohibit any form of discrimination. Based on these existing all-inclusive, zero-tolerance policies, the board believes the proposal is unnecessary."

By "go beyond the law," they are referring to federal law that provides no protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity and Exxon claims to provide some. Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act would change that. If ENDA passed, sexual orientation and gender identity would be included by law.

Michael Cole, a spokesperson for Human Rights Campaign, said an HRC representative would be in Dallas to vote the organization's shares in favor of the item. HRC has owned shares of ExxonMobil since the merger in order to support nondiscrimination in the company.

The vote in favor of the proposal has increased each year since 2000. That year, it received 8.2 percent of the shareholders' vote. Last year 39.3 percent of the shares were voted in favor of the item.

Protests last Friday at three Oak Lawn area Exxon stations attracted about 20 people despite thunderstorms.

Demonstrators tried to dissuade people from buying gas at the stations with signs about Exxon's discriminatory policies. Some drivers stopped to talk and after getting more information, drove on.

Protests are planned in other cities on Friday, May 21 modeled after the Dallas protest. A group called Stand Up Florida is planning to demonstrate in front of an Exxon station near Tampa airport. Another is planned in Sacramento.

Mark Reed of GetEQUAL said that a protest is planned at the Exxon building in New York City at a later date. ■

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**LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE** | Dealing with chronic pain, Reece Manley underwent several procedures. During one, he had a near-death experience that changed his life. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## Near-death experience altered local Christian writer's beliefs

Dealing with chronic pain, gay author learned God's message of acceptance not fear

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**ADDISON** — A gay talk show host called out Reece Manley for not addressing his sexual orientation in his first two books. His third, "All Gays Go To Heaven" will deal directly with the issue.

But in "Crossing Twice," he talks about weight problems that stemmed from self-acceptance and other issues that directly related to his sexual orientation.

He also describes in detail his near-death experience that changed his religious beliefs.

Manley is also a pastoral counselor who works with clients on issues of spiritual abuse.

At the age of 20, Manley was a youth minister in his church. He went to his own pastor to talk about his own sexual orientation and rather than the compassion he expected from his church, he was vilified. The pastor warned parents to keep their children away from "the child abuser."

He left that church, finished his undergraduate degree and earned his master's and a doctorate.

At the age of 30, Manley went through bariatric surgery. While he said the weight sloughed off —

he weighed as much as 420 pounds before the procedure — there were complications that caused nerve damage, leaving him with chronic pain.

As a result of an infection caused by one of the procedures meant to reduce his pain, Manley had a near-death experience. What happened then changed his life.

He now describes himself as spiritual rather than religious and describes his near-death experience as life changing and somewhat indescribable. He said his experience was somewhat different from those others described.

Before his clinical death, he said his life didn't flash before his eyes, but certain past experiences did.

Then, once he crossed over, he saw a number of people who had been meaningful in his life who were now dead.

He said he saw a great light that he called the creator and each person was attached to that being. Describing it as a light much greater than the sun, he said it also had a consciousness.

The friends and family who were there with him didn't have a human form but were also more like lights, somehow attached to the creator. But he said he knew exactly who each one was.

In "Crossing Twice" he wrote that his grandmother told him that his path was not complete

■ **MANLEY**, Page 16

# ...AND FUZZY



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## ■ spiritualitynews

■ **MANLEY**, From Page 15

and he had to return.

But his description in person was of being pulled violently back into this life followed by days of anger that he was not allowed to stay on the other side.

To deal with the experience, he began writing in 2007. His second book, "Spirit Thinking," includes a workbook to help people live a more spiritual life and begin thinking of God as loving and accepting.

Raised evangelical, Manley said he has had personal experience with a religion that taught him fear.

"Spiritual abuse is real," Manley said, adding, "I show people different ways to express spirituality."

As a pastoral counselor, Manley works with people who were raised in what he describes as religions based on fear. He said the God he observed in the place he called heaven during his near-death experience was a God of acceptance.

Manley works with those who grew up in religions like his own because, he said, he understands their background.

Despite that background that might have kept him in the closet longer, he came out early.

"It's just too much work to hide," he said.

He said his near-death experience taught him that God embraces gay people. He saw many friends who had died of AIDS as bright lights. But he also saw some dark lights and those were evil people who did harm to others in this life.

And as a Christian writer, he said that he learned from his experience that God embraces people of all faiths. "I saw friends who were not Christian who were there and at peace," he said.

Manley expects his new book, "All Gays Go to Heaven," to be published later this year. In it, he recounts the story of his recovery from his near-death experience while explaining his view of God as accepting of all, no matter what religion, sexual orientation or sexual identity.

He donated 200 galley copies of the book to Youth First Texas, hoping he will reach LGBT youth and help their families accept them. He said he wished that he had something like YFT when he was a teen.

"Their website alone is a gift to the community," he said. ■

## The One Church consolidates with move to Oak Lawn

Pastor says church has Pentecostal background but is LGBT-affirming

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
[taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com)

**GARLAND** — The One Church, described by his pastor, Charles Curtiss, as a GLBT-affirming Apostolic Pentecostal church with no affiliation, will hold weekly services at 6 p.m. at Reverchon Park Recreation Center beginning June 6.

Curtiss acknowledged that the Pentecostal denomination is one of the most homophobic, and said he has received numerous death threats over the years.

But he said that growing up, he never had a negative experience with his church.

Curtiss has been preaching since the age of 12 when he began as a children's evangelist. He said he had a clown ministry called JiG-Gil (pronounced "jiggle"). That stands for Jesus is God — God is love.

At 16, he came to Texas and became involved with the Church of God in Fort Worth.

"It was a wonderful, wonderful church," he said.

By the age of 18, he began his own congregation, and he said that the overseer, which he described as the denomination's bishop, said he had never seen a church grow so quickly.

Curtiss described his church as "old-time religion."

"We believe God is a miracle-working God," he said. "We believe in prophesy and healing. We don't preach rules and regulations. We're very upbeat, very positive, very Christ-centered."

The One Church first met for Easter in 2002. Currently, the church has two locations. They have a space on Broadway in Garland and also

■ **ONE CHURCH**, Page 17



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# Episcopals in Los Angeles consecrate denomination's 1st openly lesbian bishop



**CELEBRATION** | Canon Diane M. Jardine Bruce, left, and the Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool congratulate each other after their ordination and consecration ceremony on Saturday, May 15. (Mark J. Terrill/AP Photo)

Glasspool's elevation to bishopric sparks more controversy in Anglican Communion around the world

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Right Rev. Mary Glasspool has become the second openly gay Episcopal bishop and the first lesbian to hold that office.

More than 3,000 people were in attendance for the consecration at Long Beach Arena on Saturday, May 15. Glasspool will serve the Los Angeles diocese.

Bishop Gene Robinson became the first openly gay bishop when he was consecrated in 2004. He serves the New Hampshire diocese.

■ **ONE CHURCH**, From Page 16

meet in Fort Worth.

The services in Oak Lawn consolidate the church into one, more central location.

Curtiss has been with his partner since Dec.

The Anglican Church, as the worldwide denomination is known, as well as more conservative dioceses led by several in North Texas, asked for a moratorium on ordaining gay or lesbian bishops.

The Episcopal Church, however, voted overwhelmingly to support full membership of LGBT people, including ordination at all levels.

Several dioceses, including Fort Worth, withdrew from the Episcopal Church while maintaining the Anglican affiliation.

Soon after that vote, the Los Angeles diocese nominated two openly gay priests for assistance bishop and in December elected one of them, Glasspool, to be bishop.

The first woman elevated to bishop was Barbara Harris, who was elevated in 1989. She was one of the co-consecrators at the ceremony for Glasspool. ■

2001 and describes him as a former Jehovah's Witness who is now also active with their church.

He said he has a passion for reaching out to gay and lesbian people to help them find reconciliation with God, without conditions or prerequisites. ■

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viewpoints

Sex, family values and Congress

After preaching abstinence-only sex education, Congressman Mark Souder resigns when he's caught with his pants down with staffer

What is it about "family values"? It seems that every time a politician espouses "family values," they are soon embroiled in some scandal involving sex, betrayal, hypocrisy or drugs.

The latest example of this comes from U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, a Republican from Indiana. This guy has served eight terms representing the good Hoosiers of his district and now, poof, he's gone!

In a flurry of announcements, Souder stumbled through a resignation and apology for hav-

ing "sinned against God, my wife and my family by having a mutual relationship with a part-time member of my staff."

That is Bible code for got caught with his pants down.

For a change the aforementioned staff member was of the opposite sex. That must be a relief to the far right. I suspect they are grateful he isn't a closeted homosexual, like at least a half dozen other "family values" guys that have fallen recently.

OK, so Souder is human like all of us, and he has human failings. That is excusable as just part of the human condition.

The problem I have is when folks like him and the other hypocrites of the "family values" army start telling me how to live my life.

Worse still is when Souder can't just confess his failing, resign and get on with his life. Nope, he has to find someone other than himself to blame and he does in a parting shot:

"In this poisonous environment of Washington, D.C., any personal failing is seized upon, often twisted for political gain. I am resigning rather than to put my family through that painful, drawn-out process."

Well it's good to know he was only thinking of his family when he resigned. Of course, he wasn't thinking of them when he was making whoopee with his staff member, but I guess that was all the fault of that old demon, Washington, D.C.

And his family values are pretty strange when

he goes on TV being interviewed by that same female staff member about the virtues of abstinence and abstinence in sexual education. Here's where his family values come in direct conflict with mine.

You see, my family, both of choice and by birth, places a high value on integrity. That doesn't mean I never make mistakes. On the contrary, I make some whoppers.

But I try to at least own them as mine and chalk them up to experience. Scapegoating has never been part of my value system.

What's worse about Souder is his constant push for abstinence-based sex education, a system that has been proven over and over to be a failure.

That affects my family of choice. When young people are denied education on how to prevent STDs

and on proper use of simple strategies like condoms, it directly contributes to the number of LGBT youth who can and do contract HIV and a host of other STDs.

Souder represents the family values of something more akin to the two-faced Roman god Janus than the face of Jesus that Souder so often touts.

(And to all you Roman history buffs, I know that is an imperfect analogy.)

My point is that the right wing has so often used the phrase "family values" that it has lost any meaning at all. When is the last time any politician backed up that assertion of values with specifics?

Just imagine if some politician or pundit actually put together a list of those values and actually tried to live by them.

Even air-headed celebrities like Sarah Palin can't give concrete examples. Her last try was the assertion that the law should be based on the Ten Commandments. I seriously doubt if she keeps the Sabbath holy:

"But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns." (Exodus 20:10)

So in the interest of integrity I figure I would list my family values and I invite you to do the same. Sometimes it's good to take stock of what you believe and how you live.

Here's my list:

- Love the members of my family, both biological and of choice, no matter what. That doesn't mean being blind to reality. Sure, they are human like me, and that is why I love them all the more.
- Love my community. That means treating



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the people who I come in contact with on a daily basis like a big extended family. That means loving them much like my immediate family and treating them with respect.

- Love myself. That means embracing all of who I am and giving myself freedom to grow and learn while being accountable to my family and community. That means being as honest as possible and living with as much integrity as I can.

- Accept that all people have unique differences. These might be sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnic origin or a myriad of other differences.

- Accept that I cannot change anyone but myself. I have tried changing others and the results have always been unproductive at best and disastrous at worst.

- Enjoy the gift of life. I understand I only have so many days in this existence and making the most of them just seems to be the best use of my time.

That's what I mean when I say "family values." So, what does your list of "family values" look like?

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. His blog is at <http://dungeondiary.blogspot.com>.

# From DallasVoice.com

## 'McKay to leave RCD for Peace Corps,' Page 1, May 14

Mike McKay was a wonderful addition to the Resource Center Dallas family. He provided leadership and direction during uncertain times. He is a true example of excellence and commitment. Thank you for years of service to the Resource Center of Dallas. Mazel Tov on the new position!  
*Pete Webb*

## 'Time running out on ENDA,' Page 1, May 14

With mid-term elections looming, immigration reform, financial reform and an environmental bill in play, I think ENDA is going to have to wait until next year. It's too hot-button for an election cycle.

And if things don't go well in the mid-terms, we may see a weakened Democratic Party (even if they retain majorities in both houses) forego the whole thing altogether. Again.

If that happens I have been advocating that the LGBT communities give Obama's re-election bid in 2012 a pass.

No more money, and no more foot-soldiers in the trenches of campaign offices and door-knocking in battleground states.

If we don't get the payoff it doesn't make sense to provide politicians with support. Is it any different to have enemies like George Bush and Dick Cheney in the executive office or friends like Obama, Joe Biden, Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi who can't/don't do anything for us?!  
*Steve Friday*

## 'All I really want to do is be myself,' Page 12, May 14

I find Alexis to be a very brave girl. To be transgendered or transsexual is so difficult, so hard that no one would choose to be this way. A person is born this way. I admire Alexis, her courage is very touching to me.

For too many years girls, boys, men and

women like her have been forced to keep their true gender inside until too many end their lives because of the horrible conflict going on in their hearts. Alexis has given more girls and boys courage to keep going on by her bravery than she can ever know.

*Kimberlyann*

## 'Pair robbed in apparent hate crime,' Instant Tea, May 16

Just because a gay person is the victim of a crime does not make it a hate crime. Also, I don't think the community or area where the crime takes place defines it as a hate crime.

People get robbed all the time during midnight hours, coming home from bars/restaurants. Happens in Uptown and downtown all the time, and those people don't seem to cry about it, as if they were walking targets. It happens. I'm gay too, but I'm not on this "let's call it a hate crime and make it a cause" boat.

*ER*

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## query 05.21.10 BY DAVID TAFFET

What do you do to protect yourself when walking through the gayborhood?

**Craig Ledbetter** — "I'm always with somebody. You think you're safe with two. Obviously not."

**Anton Shaw** — "I never walk by myself. If I'm by myself, I ask a security guard to walk me to my car."

**Eric Delockroy** — "Pay for parking is the best thing you can do."

**Mark Milburn** — "I'm just aware of my surroundings."

**Travis Knoll** — "I'm straight raised by a gay father and haven't encountered the issue. It's hard to defend yourself. Hatred doesn't go away."

**Danny Palacio** — "Years ago I lived on Throckmorton and Congress. We would run and keep our eyes open. Be aware of your surroundings."

Have a suggestion for a question you'd like us to ask? E-mail it to [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com).



# Fine Italian leather

Gelato chef **Jack Duke** hopes to give Dallas a repeat as home to International Mr. Leather

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

**J**ack Duke's life has been a series of major journeys. One journey was his relocation from Italy to Dallas — a city he'd never even visited before moving here. But the latest one is, in some ways, even bigger: A quick flight to Chicago to representing Texas at the International Mr. Leather 2010 — and the opportunity to bring the title back to Dallas for consecutive victories.

"I moved to Dallas in June 2005 for work, but I had never been here before," he says, a thick, romantic Italian accent informing every syllable. "I had to go online to find the gay bars, and the first bar I went to here was the Eagle."

Duke had been part of the leather community in his homeland, where he was a soldier in the Italian army. He found a support system here, both in the leather community and playing volleyball with the Dallas Independent Volleyball Association.

"The leather community and DIVA were really the two places I got to make friends," he says. "You don't think of DIVA as being a place for two leather contest winners."

Within four years, Duke found himself atop the heap of the leather scene, first winning the Mr. Dallas Eagle leather contest last December, followed by taking the Mr. Texas Leather title in January — a path that bears notable parallels to that of the current IML titleholder (and former DIVA member) Jeffrey Payne. And none of it's lost on Duke.

"I have a big model in front of me and he's been a big role model for everyone. Jeffrey has just been amazing," he says.

While he feels the pressure to repeat for his adoptive hometown, Duke tries to remain focused on the tasks at hand. When not traveling for work (by day, he's a gelato master and trains chefs in the art of creating frozen desserts) or making appearances as the current Mr. Texas Leather, Duke is preparing full-time for IML. The pace has taken its toll. No matter how tough you might expect a leatherman to be, he's still human.

"I really am super-stressed because I want to do

my best and make my community proud," Duke says. "I'm preparing as much as I can. I've done some studying; I'm getting my leather ready and my boots cleaned. I've been talking to my mentors and even working out with a personal trainer."

You can tell. Physically, the tall, beefy Italian is fit and tanned. But mentally, he admits he gets both excited and nervous about the upcoming event. Plainly, IML would mean a lot to him personally. But while he certainly has thoughts of winning, he's also considered the possibility he won't.

"I discuss it with my partner Ryan and I'm prepared for the commitment," he says. "For me, if I win, it would be like creating a bridge between my two countries. But also, it would be saying thanks to those communities that accepted me here. And if I don't... well, I'm still going to be Mr. Texas."

His optimism is ebullient. Duke dispels the notion of the super-serious leatherman without losing the hyper-masculinity associated with the scene. He is both the approachable, friendly guy you'd like to have a beer with and the stoic, iconically intimidating image of the leather scene.

But ultimately, all he really wants to do is enjoy the journey and make his impact on the community — whatever shape that impact might take.

"This year is a once in a lifetime experience. This is my moment. Once you walk a step, even if you miss that step, you'll keep going," Duke says, then pauses. "Still, winning would be awesome." ■

## DUKE OF GRRRR

Jack Duke hopes the judges at IML think cowhide sashes look good on him. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



# Heart. Felt.

Closeted puppet Rod talks about life on 'Avenue Q' — and his hope that everything really is bigger in Texas

**STEVEN LINDSEY** | Contributing Writer  
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Many interviews with flesh-and-bone celebrities are about getting to the meat of what drives them. With closeted gay puppet Rod — one of the stars of the *very* gay, Tony Award-winning musical *Avenue Q* — it's about getting to the stuffing. Rod took time out to answer a few questions about his personal life ... even though he clearly won't be coming out until sometime around intermission almost every day (sometimes twice!) during the show's run at the Winspear Opera House. And one thing's for sure: He's no dummy. ■

**Dallas Voice: First off, we have to agree with you: Despite what your roommate Nicky thinks, there's nothing wrong with ironing your underwear, as long as it's the good stuff. Are you a tightly-whities kind of guy, or more bikini-leaning?**

Rod: I adore my vintage *Charles in Charge* boxer briefs.

**What's life like now that you're finally out?** Out of what?

Oh, never mind. That was clearly a question for someone else. So, it's no secret that the Internet is for porn. X-rated, G-rated or anything in between, what are your current favorite sites? Investment Spanking. It's where I met my hot, sexy girlfriend, Alberta.

**Does it still suck to be you or have you gotten past that?** Yes it is! It's hard living with Nicky, but we are like Laverne and Shirley: We get into our little tiffs, but it's clear we love each other ... platonically.

**How do you feel about the new guy on Avenue Q, Princeton?** He seems nice enough. I think he has an eye on Kate Monster. I'm jealous of his extensive sweater collection.

**Since the show opened, you've become one of New York's most famous Republicans. Are you still a proud member of the GOP?** Indeed! I wouldn't have it any other way. The main reason I became a Republican was the power suits — no one sports a power suit like Republican.

## AVENUE Q

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**SLEIGHT OF HAND** | Rod, center right, still deals with messy roommate Ern ... er, Nicky, center left, as 'Avenue Q' settles in at the Winspear this week.

**Have you met any celebrities on Avenue Q (besides Gary Coleman)?** No, but I keep stalking Lady Gaga's stage door in hopes that I can catch a glimpse of her!

**What's your favorite thing about summer in New York?** Drinking a cosmo at an outdoor piano bar in Chelsea.

**This interview is for the largest gay and lesbian publication in Texas. What's do you think of the homo-**

**sexuals?** I think that if you love someone, and someone loves you back, people should mind their own business. Including the Mrs. Butterworth Republicans ... or whatever their name is.

**Have you been to Texas? Have any favorite bars on the strip you like to frequent? (Or in New York.)** No, although I am excited to see if everything really is bigger in Texas.

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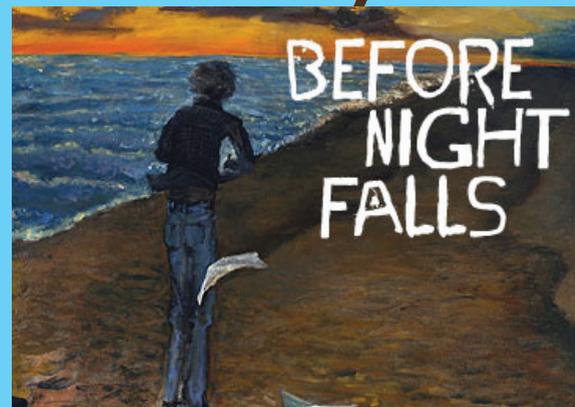
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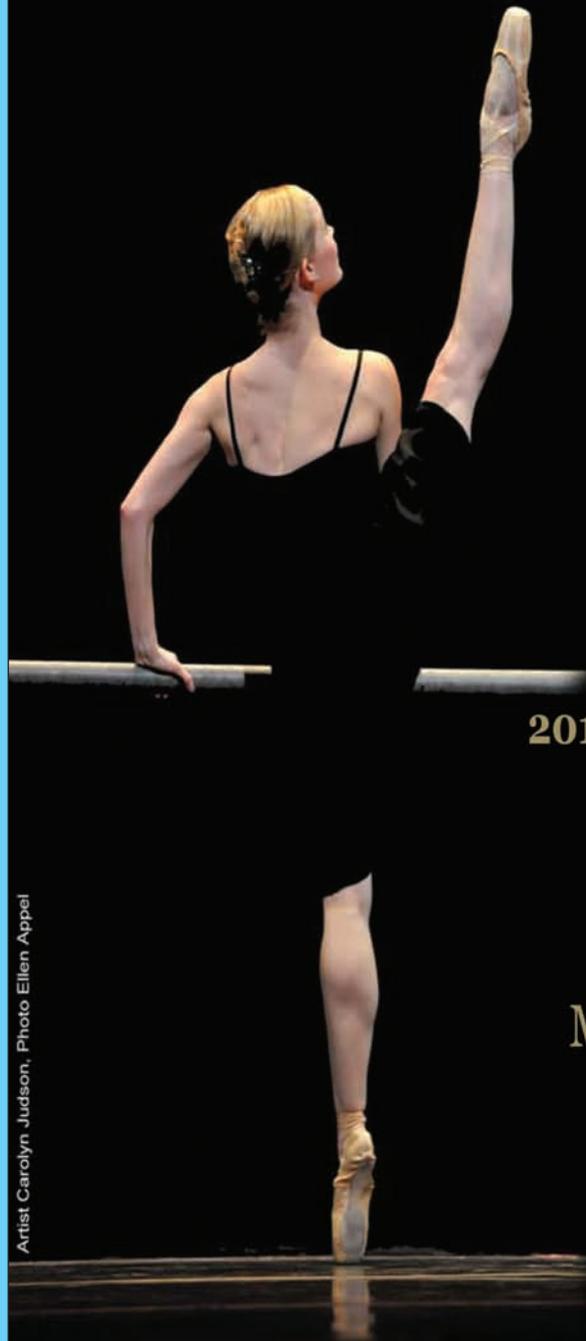
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Ted Allen returns to North Texas to bring some grape to your meal

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Ted Allen knows the simplest part of dinner can also be the hardest. That's why he returns to this weekend's Taste Addison to school people on the art of pairing wines with meals.

But while he's back for work, he admits being back in Dallas is a pleasure trip, too — Big D and Big T have become a fine pairing in their own right.

"I had never been to Dallas until *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* when we filmed episodes there," Allen says. "I had never given Dallas much thought, but the party thrown for us at Neiman Marcus played a big part in how I feel about the city. People were so gracious and it was really cool."

Allen teams up again with Robert Mondavi winery for his third appearance at Taste Addison. According to Allen, Mondavi has a fondness for the Dallas area because the market here for wines is high and Mondavi gets its share of devotees. The winery and Allen, though, see this is a prime spot to educate newbie wine connoisseurs of all tastes.

"My mission is to speak to regular folks who are new to wine," he says. "Everybody's welcome to learn more about it. There are no stupid questions. This is very much an entry level discussion."

When he's not jet-setting around the country giving demonstrations or working with celebrities like Pam Grier as spokespeople for Dining Out for Life (a nationwide culinary event that benefits HIV/AIDS organizations) Allen keeps busy with a few projects of his own — namely his hosting duties on Food Network shows *Chopped* and *Food Detectives*.

"I'm really kinda crazy busy with work," he says. "This is the part where I don't miss *Queer Eye* because it took a week to film one episode. With *Chopped*, we film in a single day so that

**CHEERS, QUEERS** | Ted Allen demonstrates the biggest problem people have with food: Pairing wine with your dinner. He appears Friday at Taste Addison.

gives me a lot more time. I'm also collecting recipes now for a new cookbook, but I've kinda been outta commission for a year. We've been renovating our kitchen."

Allen was a judge on *Top Chef* prior to *Chopped*, which plays like a whole season of *Top Chef* rolled into one hour. Each chef gets a box of surprise ingredients and has to create the ideal meal in little time. As the title itself suggests, the competition is cutthroat, but good-guy Allen wants everyone to win.

"There is this committee of sadistic people who pick the ingredients," he says jokingly. "It's ridiculous how they do it. Some chefs actually get panic attacks. I want everyone to succeed. I wish we could get everybody a nice

piece of beef tenderloin, eggs and have at it, but that wouldn't be the kinda challenge people wanna see."

Allen's travels may still be work, but it gets him away from the working hubbub of home-life. And if Dallas is on the itinerary, all the better. He's glad to come back.

"It's definitely a different city but it's so welcoming," he says. "Plus, I'm working to promote people's interest in wine. Dallas and myself have a reasonably soft spot for each other ... and Chicago but that's probably because I lived there."

We'll let that one slide. Just bring us a nice bottle of red.

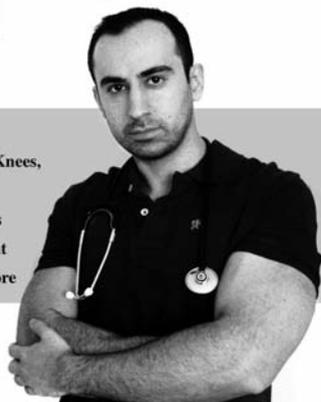
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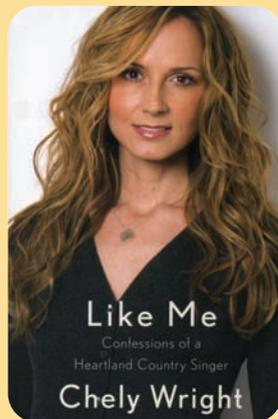
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News

## Like, OK

**Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer** by Chely Wright. Pantheon (2010). \$25.95. 286 pp.

Short sound bites in television interviews present a different person than I discovered in Chely Wright's carefully orchestrated coming out memoir *Like Me*. Actually, I didn't really like the country singer I first saw on TV who decided to come out while she held a gun in her mouth. But that's not her entire story, even though it's plastered on the back of the dust jacket and is the centerpiece of every interview.

Although told in completely G-rated fashion, many of her country fans may nevertheless find it salacious as she reveals that she knew she was



gay from early childhood and dated women long before she was famous. Still, her religion was not accepting. Although "Dear God, please don't let me be gay" was her daily prayer, she says that she never took the Baptist prohibition of homosexuality she was taught to heart.

For most of the story, her life's actually pretty damn good. But that doesn't sell books.

The description I like most in this autobiographical coming out concerns dealing with people at work. The story is similar to something that has happened to all of us, even those of us who are out to almost everyone around us. She describes not partying with people she works with. When she does, she says, the inevitable question pops up: "Why aren't you married?" Some of us don't want to deal with that at work. Others just feel, "Oh, hell. Do I have to come out again?" But most of us have addressed it one way or another, and her description is genuine.

For the past couple of years, Wright has lived in New York where she could disappear to write her book and record her new CD. The *People Magazine* coming out stunt is not something she addresses, but that's probably because it was the work of her record label, publisher and publicist. Despite the show business connections, her story is a typical coming out story that anyone can relate to.

The gun-in-the-mouth piece is aimed at others in country music and fans she was sure would not accept her as if to say, "Look what you've done to people like me." It's also the hook that got her national attention.

**3 stars**

— David Taffet

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# Photo finish

Mexican-born, Dallas-based photographer **Jorge Rivas** is in demand everywhere but here

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

Scanning a list of Jorge Rivas' clients and projects, it would seem the photographer has become, in just three years, one of the stars of the commercial photo industry: Sexy fashion covers for magazines in Paris and Germany; an upcoming 8-page pictorial spread in Australia's DNA magazine; sports photography for the NFL; an exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, commissioned by the Mexican embassy, to give a new face of the Mexican people to Southeast Asia.

Looking through his portfolio is even more impressive: Erotic pics of underwear-clad (and sometimes less) musclemen and gorgeous women, and portraits that could grace the cover of Vogue. Yes, Rivas would seem to be the toast of the world.

Just not in Dallas. But he really wants to change that.

"I'm kind of new to Dallas," says the Mexican-born, New York-trained photographer. "When I first started showing my portfolio around town, I was

told I needed to take out some of the pictures, that they were too racy. The editors at D magazine said they could tell I was from New York."

But Rivas didn't let that discourage him. In fact, he wants to buck a lot of trends.

In the exhibition he's readying for its Saturday opening at the ilume Gallerie — his first U.S. show, made up of fashion photos *and* cultural pictures taken while he was in Malaysia — Rivas used almost all Dallas-based talent ... and many non-professionals.

"People ask me, why not use agencies? But I like discovering people. Many have never been photographed before," he says. In his bank of subjects: A secretary at a police station and an aspiring male model who couldn't



**PASSION FOR FASHION** | Rivas thinks Dallas has as much fashion talent in front of (and behind) the camera as New York or Paris. He hopes his exhibit at the ilume will prove it. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

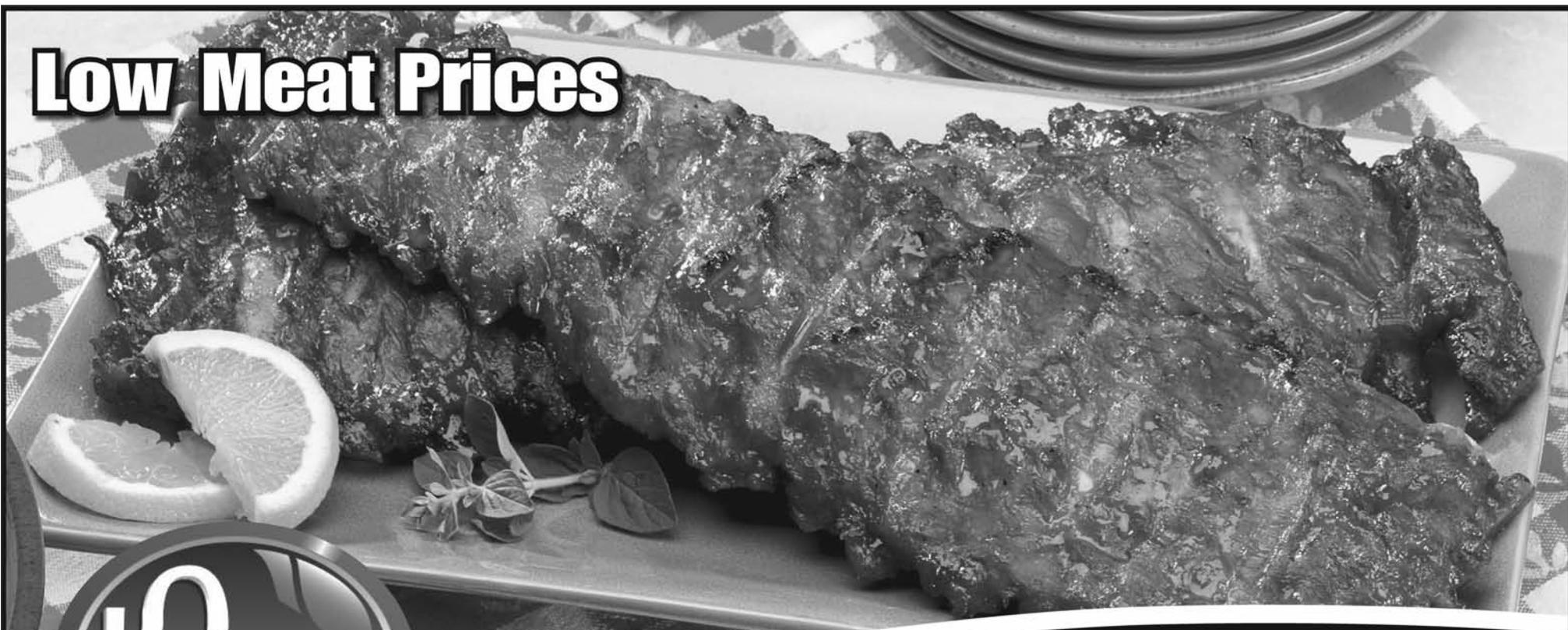
book a gig until Rivas saw something in him. The secretary has now quit the cops to model full-time, and the man got a European magazine ad *and* an agent.

"Lots of people have potential and just don't know it," Rivas says. "I like to create a good relationship between me and the people in front of the camera. And I think the people here are just as good as in New York or Paris."

To prove it, Rivas recently held a fashion casting session for male and female models that netted him some promising new talent he'll be shooting soon for fashion spreads. And he hopes when people see his exhibit (which will serve as a fundraiser for AIDS Arms), they will realize that Dallas is full of talent.

It should be obvious that's true — on *both* sides of the lens. ■

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# Blank label

Of Montreal's flamboyant, fey frontman Kevin Barnes resists sexual categories. But is that a good thing?

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

When Kevin Barnes leads his indie prog-pop band Of Montreal to the Granada stage this week, he'll likely bring extravagant costumes and eccentric antics to provide one heck of a live show. But what he won't bring is clarity. Barnes has been mistaken for gay or bisexual with over-sexed lyrics and fey demeanor, but he's also a family man with a wife and child.

But what's so wrong with being labeled?

"I just like acting really fruity," Barnes told *Paste* magazine in a 2008 interview.

Gay people could take offense to that statement if he's straight, but it's also fairly easy to laugh off if he's being campy. But Barnes' insistence at *not* labeling himself is, frankly, annoying. Instead of simply identifying as bisexual and being done with it, he's flippant.

"How do you identify in terms of sexual orientation," *The New Gay* asked him bluntly in 2008. "I don't," he replied. *Huh?*

TNG then asks about his suggestive lyrics regarding bisexuality and blowjobs. His response when asked if he'd ever slept with men? "I've had experiences."

Unlike Madonna or Lady Gaga who have used bisexuality as marketing tools, Barnes has no reason to work this angle for big sales. Even with the band's move to market out songs to the likes of Outback and T-Mobile, Of Montreal is still in good indie-pop standing. And with 10 releases already under their name, and working on this year's tentatively titled *False Priest*, they have a big enough fan base to feel secure.

So whether he is or isn't, why play this game? Barnes' nebulous sexuality comes off as obnoxious and almost shameful instead of mysterious and cool. Our rock stars aren't required to divulge their sexuality, nor does it affect the quality of music, but if you're going to sing about being "sick of sucking dick," at least throw us a bone, so to speak.

Barnes calls his onstage glam persona Georgie Fruit — his parallel to Beyoncé's Sasha Fierce. Both are excuses to blame "someone" else for outlandish behavior, only in this case, Georgie Fruit allows Barnes to go gay for men. He related the entire backstory of Georgie Fruit to the online music mag *Pitchfork*: "He's in his late forties, a black man who has been through multiple sex changes. He's been a man and a woman, and then back to a man .... In my mind, when I think about this character, he's so far re-



**FAKE SHEARS** | Kevin Barnes, center, has a Scissors Sisters sense of style and music ... but not the frankness about sexuality.

moved from my personal experiences. But I can somehow identify with this character really well."

To me, Georgie sounds like a victim to Barnes' twisted view of sexual identity.

Perhaps there is no disservice Barnes is doing to our community. This "just a rock 'n' roll thing" of pushing the envelope dates to Bowie and Elton in the '70s.

Only those two owned up to their sexualities, even if Bowie eventually swayed from bi to straight. Barnes' gray area just feels insulting, and when people struggle with coming to terms with an identity, he plays with it like some marketing puppet to further his own rock star persona.

That's not to say he hasn't given it much thought — maybe too much. He gave a lengthy explanation to *Paste*: "There's so much negativity around the male, butch mentality — they're so uptight," he explained. "Gay men seemed more open-minded, tolerant and just cooler. And it seemed like this magical, arty world I wanted to be a part of. I was so disappointed when I realized I wasn't attracted to men physically! ... I really like playing sports, and a lot of artists aren't into sports. Most of the guys on my baseball team are straight, so obviously I'm OK with straight people, too. I guess I fall in between gay and straight. There's probably a lot of people who feel that way. ... It's not like we're just male or just female. We are this nebulous object, this combination of femininity and masculinity."

The thing is, we *aren't* nebulous objects: We're people with feelings for other people, whoever they are. When that questioning is over, we have a name for our identity — which never is likely to be just "rock star." ■

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### TRAVEL DIARY

Rosie O' Donnell's **R Family Vacations** is booking its inaugural land-based vacation at the **Club Med** resort in **Ixtapa, Mexico** this summer. From July 10 through 17, the gay family tour will take over the entire property for LGBT families and couples to enjoy all to themselves. Better yet, book through **Orbitz** to receive a \$200 per person air credit. Visit [Orbitz.com](http://Orbitz.com) for more information.

The **Desert Gay Tourism Guild** brings back its **Summer Splash Palm Springs** promotion. Area restaurants, hotels, retailers and airlines take part offering specials and discounts while visiting the California hot spot. Just be sure to get your free **Splash Pass** card to take advantage of the bargains. The specials run June 1 through Sept. 30. Visit [PalmSpringsSummerSplash.com](http://PalmSpringsSummerSplash.com) for details.

If you have a big group — and we mean *big* — consider the new **Summer Lake Vacations Retreat Center and Community** located about one hour southwest of Nashville. The center, scheduled to open June 1, provides services for groups with more than 50 attendees (and can accommodate groups up to 500). This gay-friendly spot is perfect for family reunions, business retreats and large events and will feature more than 400 private acres that include



cabins, a main hall for meetings and activities, heated swimming pools, hiking trails, volleyball courts and RV and camping spots — this all amid the forests, meadows and creeks of the area. Why do we sense a circuit party in the making? Call 931-709-1103 or visit [SummerLakeVacations.org](http://SummerLakeVacations.org) for more information.

— Rich Lopez

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# The lights of Broadway

Chorale baptizes the Wyly with its first showtunes-only concert in 15 years

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

With so many gay men and so many costume changes, the Turtle Creek Chorale must be a bastion of theater queens, and of course they always do an annual "best of Broadway" concert.

You'd think so, wouldn't you?

"No! We haven't done a showtunes concert in 15 years," confesses Jonathan Palant, artistic director for the chorale. "And in our 38 CD collection, we don't have a Broadway album."

Sure, theater and movie songs wind their way into most TCC performances — a gay man can hardly conceive of winter without thinking of Judy singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" — but, no, Palant says. Just not a staple. "It is certainly atypical of a chorus of our makeup."

But this is the season that the chorale becomes the first local arts group to perform at all three Arts District venues: the Meyerson (now 20 years old), the Winspear last year and, for the subscription season-ender, the Wyly Theatre.

"It's a theater — we need to do theater music," Palant says. "We have a history of opening every concert hall in the Metroplex during its inaugural season, and what better show to put on in the new theater than a Broadway show?"

#### TCC: OFF BROADWAY

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. May 26–29 at 8 p.m., May 29 at 3 p.m. \$20–\$65. TurtleCreek.org.

The concert will be a change of pace for the chorale in other ways. Among them: No dresses! (There will be a locker room scene, though, including a little manflesh.) And the tuxedo'd singers will look a little cooler, riffing off the Wyly's signature green color scheme.

"It's a real mixture of heartwarming songs you knew as a child and ones that put a smile on your face," Palant says.

The concert is structured like a Broadway musical, with acts and

scenes devoted to particular themes: Kander & Ebb, love songs, 11 o'clock numbers and for the finale, *A Chorus Line*.

"Michael Serrecchia, who was in the original Broadway production of *A Chorus Line*, is directing the show," Palant says. "We're even doing the original choreography to 'One,'" as well as performing other hits from the landmark musical, like "What I Did for Love."

That could make for a singular sensation. ■

**DO I HEAR A SHOWTUNE?** | Turtle Creek Chorale members, from left, Doug Brown, Jonathan Palant, Mack Campbell, Tri Truong and Gene Olvera (seated) represent just some of the Broadway songs to be performed. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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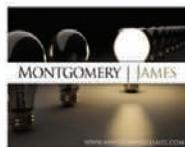
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## Friday 05.21

### Where candy and punk collide

Jeffrey Star's claim to fame is mostly derived from his MySpace page, yet he's become quite the celebrity in his pink bubblegum/punk music/drag fashion kinda way. He brings brazen music confections such as "Lollipop Luxury" and "Louis Vuitton Body Bag" to Dallas. Star performs alongside Brokencyde, Stereos and Blood on the Dance Floor.

**DEETS:** The Loft, 1135 S. Lamar St. Doors at 6 p.m. \$13-\$15. TheLoftDallas.com.

## Saturday 05.22

### Yes — opera can be hot and sexy

This isn't your school field trip to the opera. The Fort Worth Opera begins its festival over eight days with three productions. Along with the world premiere of *Before Night Falls*, the FWO brings Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* to the stage. Drama, romance and beefcake — umm, yeah, we'll take it all, please.

**DEETS:** Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. May 22-June 6. \$17-\$154. FWOpera.org.

## Thursday 05.27

### She's no dirty Sanchez, she's a lady

Without skipping a beat, Tyra Sanchez isn't going to lose the momentum she has coming off winning *RuPaul's Drag Race 2*. She works her newfound fame in Dallas with fellow (and local) contestant Mystique. Perhaps they'll bring some of the TV drama, too.

**DEETS:** The Rose Room, inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 p.m. Caven.com.



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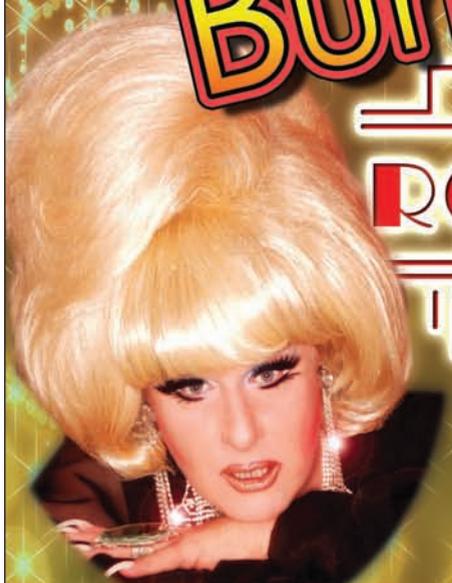
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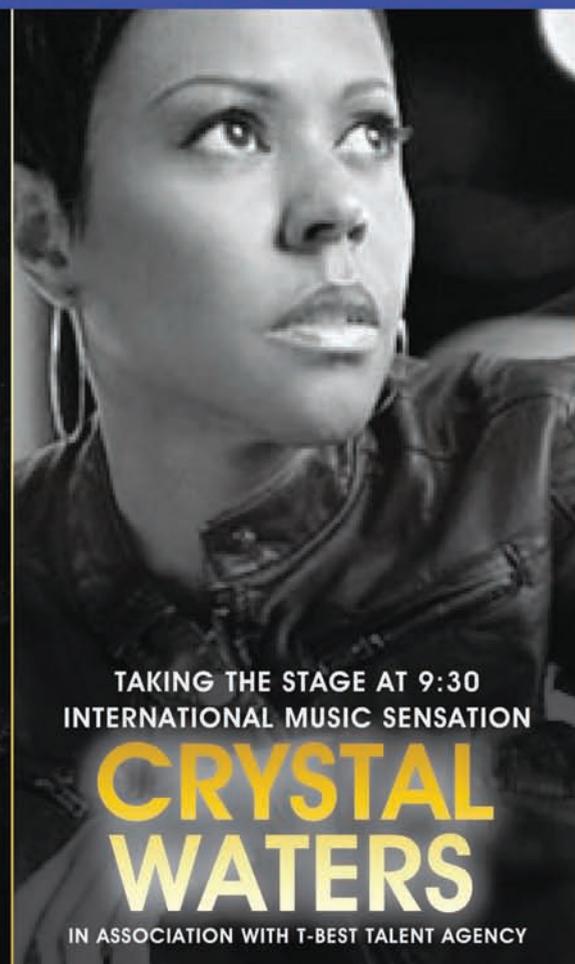
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**Oak Lawn Tennis Association.** L. B. Houston Tennis Center, 11225 Luna Road. 6 p.m. OLTADallas.org.

**Triangle Networking Tarrant,** for gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Dos Gringos, 1510 University Ave., Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$5. 817-496-3479.

## THEATER

**The Beauty Plays.** Neil LaBute's *reasons to be pretty* concludes the trilogy of plays. Through Sunday. Friday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m., Weekend matinee at 2 p.m. Wyly Theater, 2400 Flora St. \$15–\$80. ATPAC.org.

**Blankity-Blank** is a fill-in-the-blank musical. Theatre Three's Theater Too!, 2800 Routh St. Through June 13. Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., weekend matinees at 2:30 p.m. \$20–\$30. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Everything in the Garden** by Edward Albee. Presented by Rover Dramawerks at the Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through June 12. \$16–\$19. RoverDramawerks.com

## ART

**Fancy Footwork,** a group show presenting a take on everything from the waist down, including, but not limited to legs, feet, socks, and shoes. HCG Gallery, 1130 Dragon St. Through Saturday. Free. HCGGallery.com.

**Photographic Gold** by Dan Burkholder at Sun to Moon Gallery, 1515 E. Levee St. Through Saturday. SunToMoon.com.

**Stilettoes and Candy** featuring the work of local out artist Robb Conover. Kettle Art Gallery, 2714 Elm St. 7 p.m. Through Saturday. KettleArt.com.

## SATURDAY 05.22

## COMMUNITY

**Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous.** Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., 5415 Maple Ave. #349 (access via Butler).

**Legacy** social group of adults 50 or older from Cathedral of Hope. Monthly potluck or outing. 972-387-3345.

**D.A.M.N.,** Dallas Area Men's Naturists, hold their monthly Bare as You Dare event at Dallas Eagle, 2515 Inwood Road, # 117. Keep in mind Texas does mandate a minimum of clothing around the groin!

## SUNDAY 05.23

## COMMUNITY

**30/40Something** social group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

**Youth First Texas Collin County** for LGBTQ youth in the North Dallas area. 1200 Commerce St., Suite 121, Plano. 6–7:30 p.m. 214-879-0400.

**Oak Lawn Tennis Association.** Samuel-Grand Center, 6200 E. Grand Ave. 9 a.m. OLTADallas.org.

**Lesbianas Latinas.** Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 4 p.m. 214-890-6976.

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

## BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Rafael McDonnell from the Resource Center. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

**Cathedral of Hope** service. Ch. 8 at 12:35 a.m.

## MONDAY 05.24

## COMMUNITY

**Dallas Prime Timers** play bridge at member's residence. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**Caffeine + Character.** COH Youth meeting for ages 14-22 at Buli Café, 3908 Cedar Springs Road.

**Career Assistance Ministry** meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Noon. Cathedralofhope.com.

**F.A.C.E.,** support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

**Self esteem support group** provided by AIDS Outreach Center meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

**PFLAG Denton.** Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

## BROADCAST

**The Rick Vanderslice Show** streams Monday–Friday from noon–2 p.m. on RationalRadio.org.

## TUESDAY 05.25

## COMMUNITY

**Gaymsters** bridge club. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2 p.m.

**Dallas FrontRunners** meet at Knox Street entrance of Katy Trail. 6:30 p.m. Dallasfrontrunners.org

**FUSE Movie Night.** For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m.

**Q's-Day Potluck.** All are welcome to this friendly, casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.

**Stop Smoking** psycho-educational group by the AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

**Prime Timers Prime Diner** at Fernando's Mexican Cuisine, 4347 W. Northwest Highway. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

**Cathedral Business Network** breakfast. Princeton Grill, DoubleTree Hotel Campbell Centre, 8250 N. Central Expressway. 7:30 a.m. \$9.

**Lesbians and Cancer.** A support group for lesbians with cancer and survivors. Gilda's Club Dallas, 2710 Oak Lawn Ave. 6–8 p.m.

## BROADCAST

**ilume-A-Nation Tuesday** with Jack E. Jett. Streams weekly at 11 a.m. from ilume.com.



**CATFIGHT TONIGHT** | Don't get in these ladies' way when they open 'A...My Name Is Alice' this week.

## WEDNESDAY 05.26

## COMMUNITY

**Dallas Prime Timers** play bridge at member's residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**Positively Straight** meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

**Gay Teen Project.** 909 W. Magnolia St., Suite 2, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-332-7722.

**20Something** social group meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:15 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

**Common Bond,** an alternative lifestyle book group. Barnes & Noble, 362 East F.M. 1382, Cedar Hill. 7 p.m. 972-293-9367.

**x3** social group for women. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7–8:30 p.m. Free. 214-528-0144.

**Firedancers Dallas Tribe** club night the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7–10 p.m. Free. 972-406-9861.

## THURSDAY 05.27

## COMMUNITY

**Dallas FrontRunners** run on the Katy Trail. Meet at Knox Street entrance. 6:30 p.m.

**Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous.** Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., 5415 Maple Ave. #349 (access via Butler).

**Standing on the Promises** Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**The Group.** Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4–10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

## THEATER

**A...My Name is Alice,** by Joan Micklin Silver and Julianne Boyd, is a comic revue of contemporary women depicting friends, sisters, rivals and members of an all-woman's basketball team. Flower Mound Performing Arts Theatre, 830 Parker Square,

Flower Mound. Through June 13. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2:30 p.m. \$20–\$25. FMPAT.org.

**Dream Café** show five scenes of Brian's search for his ideal mate in which the audience picks the order they play out. Written by Alejandro de la Costa and presented by MBS Productions. Stone Cottage, 15650 Addison Road. Through June 19. Thursdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. \$18–\$21. MBSProductions.net.

**Gommorah Go Go!** A contemporary look at life in Sodom and Gommorah with God looking on as humans make a perverse go at it. Presented by Fight Boy Theatre at Art Six Coffee House, 424 Bryan St., Denton. Thursdays–Sundays at 8 p.m. FightBoyTheatre.webs.com.

## FILM

**CSMA Outdoor Movie Series** with movies every Thursday in summer on the TMC patio. Showtime is officially 8 p.m. but always at darkfall. Visit site for listing of films. TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Rd. Free. ShopCedarSprings.com.

## this week's solution

M	O	L	L	S		A	D	A	G	E		W	H	O	S				
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig

**Siouxsie Sioux** turns 53 on Thursday. Although the biggest hit for Sioux and her band, Siouxsie and the Banshees was the radio-ready "Peek-a-Boo," she has heavy influence on today's music, from indie rock to hip-hop. She doesn't identify as straight or lesbian, but told *The Independent* in 2007, "if I am attracted to men then they usually have more feminine qualities."



**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

You'll experience spiritual epiphanies and inner changes invisible to others. Your dreams become more vivid, even electric. Intuitive flashes, disconcerting at first, will come clearer with time.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Prepare to meet a whole new set of friends. As you encounter new political ideas, think them through and look for historical precedents. Idealism needs to be balanced with solid grounding.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Your career can take a new direction. In these uncertain times, go out on a limb. It could be disastrous not to. To pursue your dreams, lay a solid foundation, plan ahead and go for it!

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Crazy times need crazy ideas. You have the brilliant spark needed to inspire a solution. Draw out new perspectives to share with people who need to hear them.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Study the myth of Demeter and Persephone. Although your sign is like Demeter's, you'll be dealing with underworlds of eros and death. Embrace new insights for the power to heal and resurrect.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

All your relationships will turn upside down. You can hold on to them with an open heart. Learn to be strong and independent in order to be a better companion and support.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Be especially careful of headaches, accidents to the head and nervous tics. They could be the beginning of trouble. Dissatisfaction at work doesn't help. Make sure you really enjoy your job.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

The same old stuff is going to get boring. Welcome new creative directions and styles, sports, entertainments, even sexual fun. Consider having children or paying attention to your inner child.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Your domestic situation will start becoming very volatile. Patience, improvisation and rolling with the punches are important at first. Learning to control the situation will take time.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Your brain can trip you up. Be careful in any kind of transit, or any time you open your mouth. A new language, computer skill or something you can start from the beginning will help a lot.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Whether rags to riches or vice versa, expect big changes in your financial situation. Make a list of what's important to you, but in pencil. As reality hits theory, your values will change big time.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Your entire life is about to turn upside down. You will be more rebellious than ever, trying new looks and attitudes. Strike the word "never" from your vocabulary and replace it with "not yet."

**THIS WEEK**

In his 84-year orbit, Uranus spends seven years in each sign, each defining a period of LGBT history. On May 27, he moves into Aries, signaling a major turning point. "Don't ask, don't tell" should fall soon, but there will probably be some backlash, and that's just the beginning.

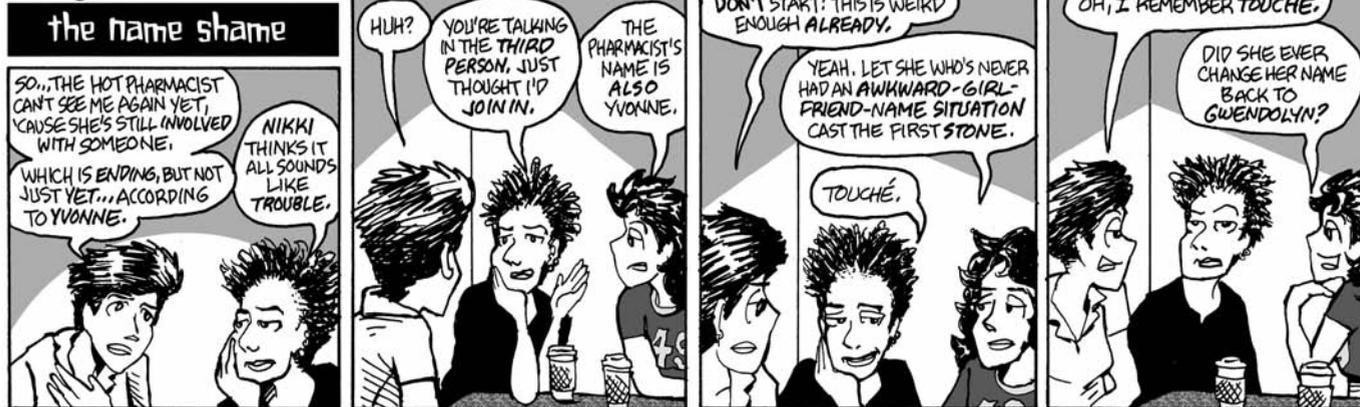
Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

**JANE'S WORLD**



Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2010

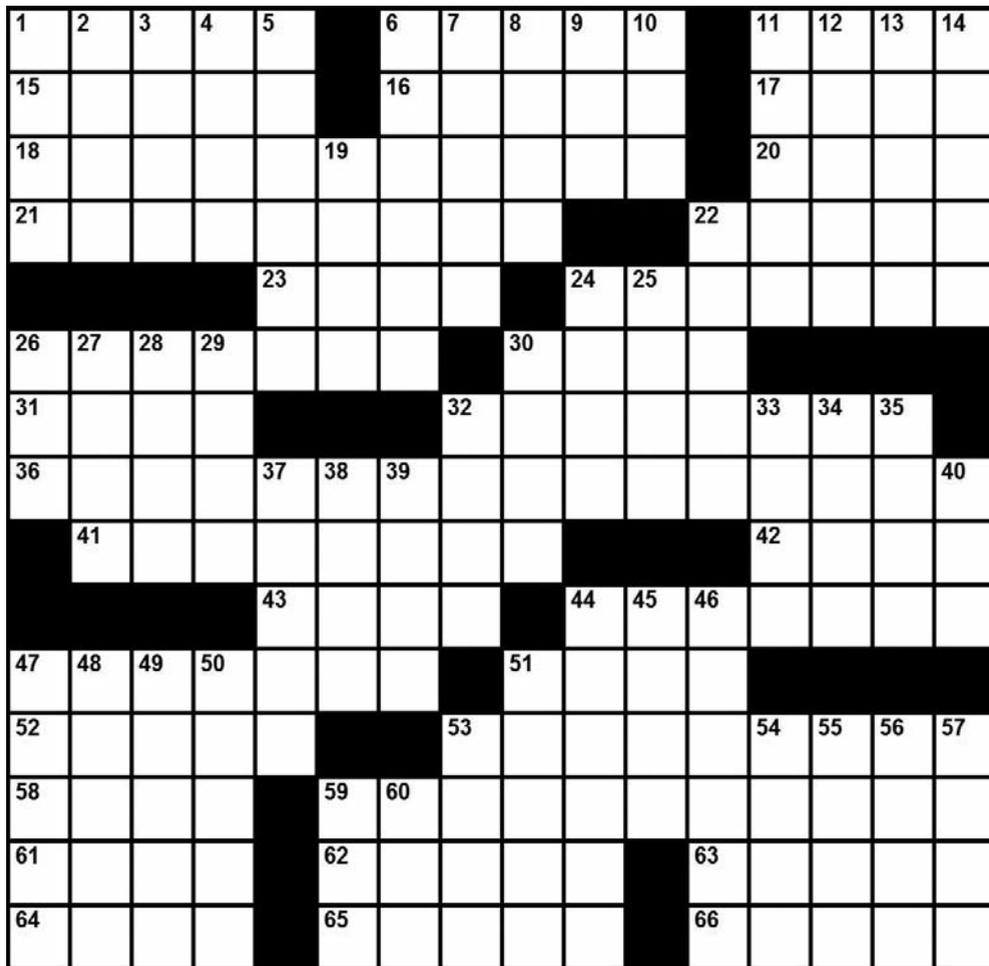
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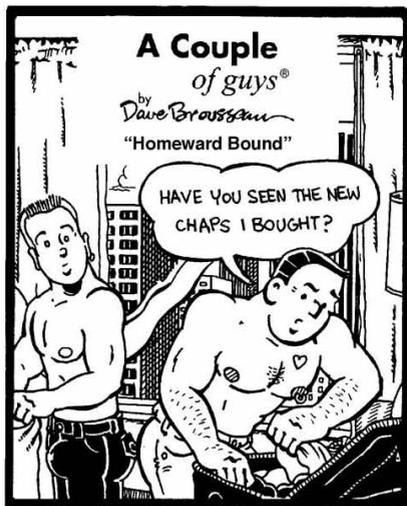
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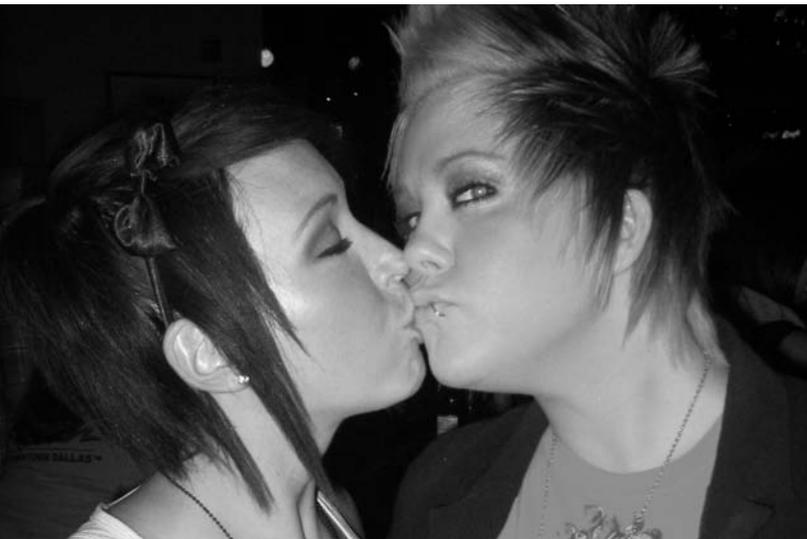
**Across**

- 1 Gals of guys with big shooters
- 6 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.
- 11 "\_\_\_ Afraid of Virginia Woolf"
- 15 Swell place
- 16 "Harold and Maude" screenwriter Higgins
- 17 Banjoist Scruggs
- 18 TV political drama
- 20 Bread for Madonna's ancestors
- 21 Baseball, informally
- 22 Husband of a Duke
- 23 Off-the-wall
- 24 With 47-Across, TV fantasy comedy
- 26 Titanic sinker
- 30 Took care of
- 31 Irene of "Fame" fame
- 32 Electronics giant
- 36 Actress who played in 18-Across and 24/47-Across
- 41 Reward for reruns
- 42 Victim of Jacob's tricks
- 43 St. Paul's state
- 44 Green light
- 47 See 24-Across
- 51 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
- 52 One that sucks some sap

**Down**

- 53 "Giant" star
- 58 Nannies' cries
- 59 Showbiz drama with a character based on 36-Across, for short
- 61 Slips up
- 62 "As You Like It" forest
- 63 Lorca's "Later"
- 64 Legal suspension
- 65 Broadway prompter's job
- 66 "Try someone else"





Ally and Chrystal at Sue Ellen's.

The weather is already starting to feel like summer with hot temps during the day. Might as well keep the heat going into the night with this week's goings-on .... **The Hotel Belmont** screens *Hannah Free* as a benefit for **Out Takes Dallas** at 7 p.m. The movie stars Sharon Gless, our favorite mama from *Queer As Folk* .... **Woody's** has **Andrea Dawson** and **Paul Allen** performing on the back patio Friday. They host the **Extra Innings** party for the **Hitmen and Hotshots** softball team on Sunday .... Get your shopping game face on for the **Cedar Springs Sidewalk Sale** Saturday .... **Miss March and Her Texas Sugardaddys** play **Jack's Backyard** Friday. **The Magpies** follow suit on Saturday .... **The Round-Up** brings five days of drag-tainment with the **Miss U.S. of A. Pageant** from Sunday through Thursday .... **DJ Darren Thomas** spins the tunes every Saturday at **the Brick** .... **Sue Ellen's** keeps up the live music with **Ciao Bella** on Friday. **Denise Lee** and **Gary Floyd** perform Saturday. But don't forget **Little Chalupa Karaoke** on Thursdays .... Catch **Candi Carol**, **Sierra Diamond** and **Caress Riata** at **the 1851 Club** in Arlington .... For your concert pleasure, hit up the **Granada Theater** Monday night to catch **Of Montreal** ... ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Melinda, Wanda, Diana and Scott at Best Friends Club.



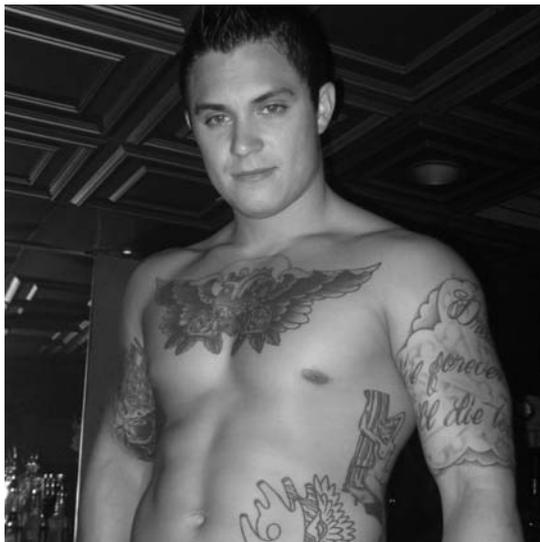
Dana and Aaron at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Justin and Jennifer at Station 4.



Page, Laura, Krystal, Angie and Jamie at Sisters Club.



Jordan at Drama Room.



Kyle and Lu at Rainbow Lounge.

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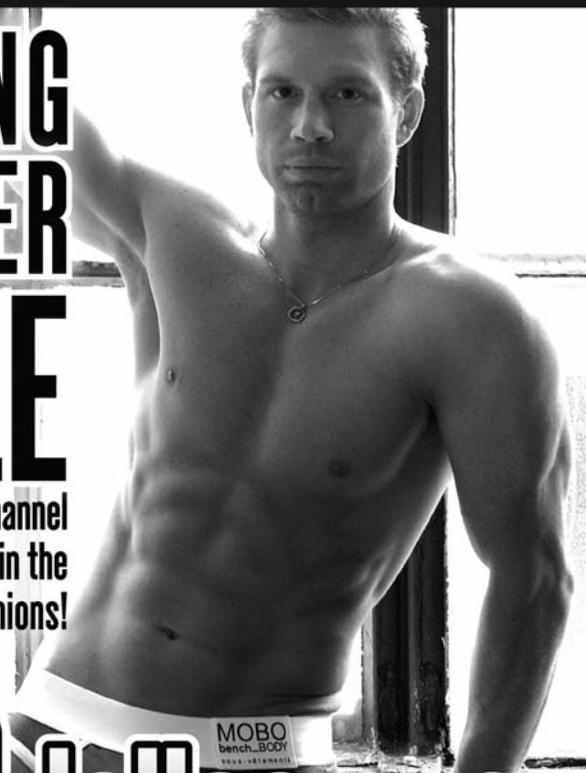
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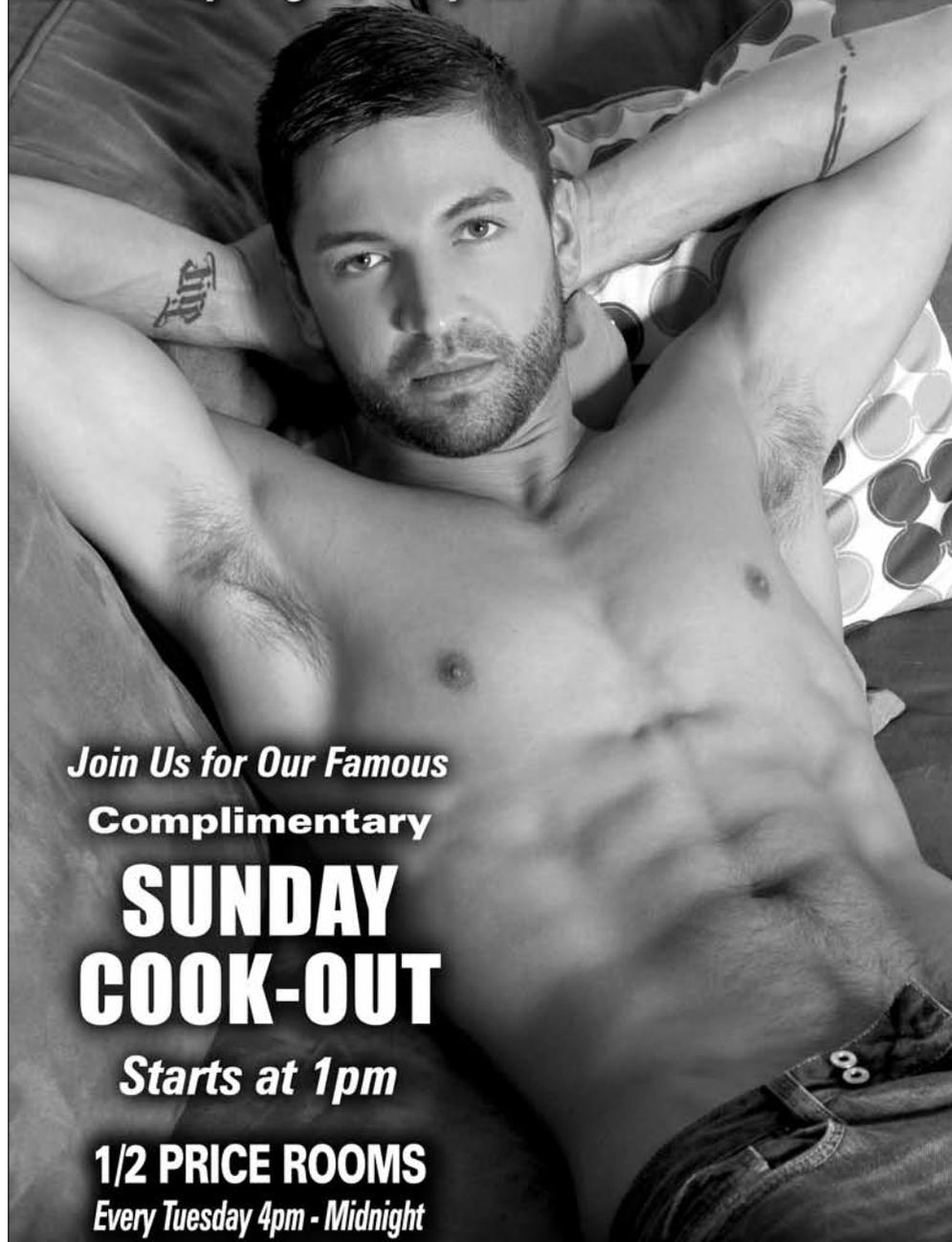
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