

Setting off sparks

Music sensation Kacey Musgraves stands up for gay rights
Texas native provides voice of acceptance in country music

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Unresolved **conflict**



After showdown at City Hall over equality resolution, LGBT leaders discuss where we go from here

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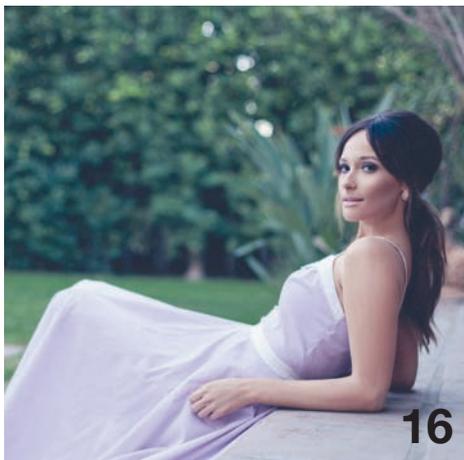
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LGBT activists turn their backs and walk out of a Dallas City Council meeting Wednesday during remarks from Councilman Dwaine Caraway about the equality resolution. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

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TX high school student comes out in commencement speech

Belton High School salutatorian Mitch Anderson made national news this week after coming out during his commencement speech June 6. Belton is just south of Temple on Interstate 35 between Waco and Austin. Anderson told KTEM News Radio 14 that no one knew he was gay prior to the speech, from his parents to his close friends. Here's a transcript of what he said:

Learning how to love and celebrate yourself is one of the most crucial and difficult aspects of life. To know who you truly are is the first step to enlightenment, to happiness. It sounds so facile, yet discovering and accepting who you are meant to be requires introspection and a willingness to submerge yourself into darkness. And that is what makes the task so daunting, so terrifying, if approached with complete authenticity. For the longest time, I was forced to live fractured, refusing to look at who I thought I was and then refusing to accept who I thought I might be. The journey into the soul is not for the faint of heart. Fear will naturally creep in, but those who use the fear to force themselves onward will succeed. After much dread and countless hours devoted to soul searching, for the first time, you will be able to love who you are.

But the task does not end there. If you know yourself, but incessantly crave an empty approval of others, you will be forever sorrowful. This is wherein the true challenge lies. As Madonna has said, "If your joy is derived from what society thinks of you, you're always going to be disappointed." You must be able to bare yourself to the world, and then let it be. You cannot be timid; you cannot be anxious. In a situation that seems so pyrrhic, you must evaluate what the costs and gains really are. You may think that hiding yourself is worth some superficial praise by society, or you can choose to learn that being who you are is vastly more important and rid yourself of those who cannot bring themselves to allow you to be you.

I myself am guilty of self-doubt, relying on others to give my life definition. But that time has passed, and I feel the moment has arrived for me to be publically true to my personal identity. So now, I can say, I'm gay. It is both a significant portion of who I am and an inconsequential aspect. It's as natural and effortless to me as breathing. I couldn't change myself even if I wanted, and believe me, I have.

I have been bullied a lot. I've been called unspeakable things and relegated to a place of lower class. I have been made to feel worthless, unneeded, a blight on the world. People have mocked me, said that I was virtually subhuman. So, for a while, I was in a very dark place. I had no concept of self-worth, and frequently pondered suicide. I became so dejected, that many times I thought of killing myself not just because I saw no point to life, but because I had been convinced that doing so would actually make the world better. And so, for many years, I continued the cyclical, destructive thought patterns. This happened both before and after I thought about my sexuality. And after I had realized I was gay, I hated myself. I wished and prayed endlessly that I could just go on with life normally, that I could be like everyone else. Being different felt like a curse, an unfair sentence to the life of an outcast.

There were moments when I believed I was next to nothing. But I learned that what others think of you is not nearly as meaningful as what you think



Mitch Anderson

of yourself. You cannot owe the quality of your existence to other people. You must evaluate your life and give it purpose. You must recognize that you are an expression of the divine, a being made perfect through celebration of your perceived imperfections.

Once you love yourself, you can be the best version of yourself. You will find success and happiness. You will find that being different is a wholly wonderful and joyous thing, because it will mark you for greatness. Wish not to be one of the million, but one in a million. Find your idiosyncrasies, find what will make you unique, and run with it. You will make far fewer mistakes if you allow your inner and truer feelings to guide you.

And when you feel like you will be abandoned, alienated, and cast out, ignore the sources of such toxicity. I believe Zachary Quinto put it best by saying, "If people don't want to work with me because of my sexual orientation, then I have no interest in working with them to begin with." This statement can be applied to any situation you encounter where someone is put off by your expressing yourself. Surround yourself with those who will be supportive of you, and remind yourself that you are beautiful in your own way.

The people who tear you down, who spit vitriol and ire, pity them. They lash out because they have intrinsic flaws that they refuse to face. They have unresolved deficiencies within that cause them to inflict harm on others. They have no external peace because internally there is a want of harmony.

The world could use a little bit more love. Let us all not be so quick to judge. We ought to be a bit kinder to others. Be not afraid of what you do not know, because more often than not, it's probably incredibly similar to what you know. And when you disagree with someone, hate is not a form of love. Think for a moment about what damage your words would do before speaking.

I invite everyone to be more reflective, more meditative. I ask everyone to give themselves a good hard look and define what they like about themselves. I ask all of you to learn what it means to love yourself, if you haven't already.

Please, embrace self-empowerment. You gain confidence, an unswerving belief that you matter and the ability of your existence to make an indelible mark on the world. You gain compassion and empathy. You will love and be loved. Most importantly, you will finally start living the life that you were always meant to live.

I would be remiss, however, if I failed to incorporate a Harry Potter reference to the theme of my speech, so I will. Be a Luna Lovegood, not a Pansy Parkinson. Be a little bit strange and off-kilter, and not so desperate to be popular. Strive for legitimacy, and skirt what makes you vapid. Find fellowship with everyone, not those you have pre-ordained.

I have a few final, closing thoughts, before I turn over the podium. First, I find Zachary Quinto's eyebrows very attractive. Second, I would like to be friends with Lady Gaga and Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. And third, I would like everyone to remember that "Starships were meant to fly, Hands up and touch the sky, Can't stop 'cause we're so high, let's do this one more time."

— John Wright

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FIGHTING BACK | LGBT activists march through downtown on June 8 to protest the city's failure to take up an equality resolution. (Courtesy of Cd Kirven)



Unresolved conflict

After tense showdown over equality resolution in Dallas City Council chambers this week, LGBT leaders discuss where we go from here

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
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LGBT leaders began brainstorming this week about how to respond the Dallas City Council's apparent lack of support for equality.

After expressing their outrage over the failure of an equality resolution to the council on Wednesday, June 12, several activists said they would regroup and come back stronger and force the council to hear them.

Uninviting unsupportive council members and the mayor from Dallas Pride and voting others out of office in two years were priorities for some,

while others said they would ramp up actions until the council passed the resolution.

The resolution was originally scheduled to go before the council Wednesday, but never made the agenda after Councilwoman Delia Jasso pulled her signature from a memo that would have required it to be addressed.

Mayor Mike Rawlings has called the issue a "misuse" of council time and stepped in while in South America last week to block a last-minute effort to add the resolution to the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano submitted a request to add the item last Friday, but Rawlings had conversations with the city attorney's office, which ultimately ruled he was not absent because he was still available. As a result, Medrano was told she didn't have the power as acting mayor to add items to the agenda.

Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center Dallas, said the events surrounding the resolution serve as a wake-up call but also showed there's a willingness

online exclusive

Watch video from Wednesday's Dallas City Council meeting at DallasVoice.com.

for discussion that will open the door for other initiatives such as comprehensive transgender healthcare for city employees.

"I think it has shown a lot of folks in the LGBT community how much more work needs to be done," she said. "We can't take any support for granted. Councilwoman Jasso showed us that."

Cox said the community needs to build relationships with council members who expressed support during Wednesday's meeting, but also begin reaching out to new council members who take office June 24.

Cox was one of several activists who addressed the council Wednesday during public comments. Rawlings wasn't present when most of the ac-

tivists spoke in the morning but was in his chair in the afternoon when Dallas Gay and Lesbian President Patti Fink addressed the council.

"When I hear the word 'misuse' coming from anyone in the council, I take that very personally," Fink said. "It's not a misuse of this body's time and energy and authority to address the concerns and rights of LGBT Dallasites."

Fink concluded her emotional speech by promising that in the future the LGBT community will be organized and vote to replace members who aren't supportive.

Unlike several council members who discussed the resolution during the morning session, Rawlings didn't respond to Fink's comments.

It was rumored that Rawlings was purposefully absent Wednesday morning when a few dozen activists in red were present.

Paula Blackmon, Rawlings' chief of staff, said that was "absolutely false" and he arrived at City

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■ CONFLICT, From Page 6

Hall after 11 a.m. because his flight arrived that morning.

Blackmon said Rawlings hadn't reviewed footage of the morning discussion and wouldn't comment on it. As for Fink's remarks, she said he "always welcomes open microphone speakers." She said Rawlings is not considering adding the item to the agenda in the future. The outgoing council will hold its final meeting June 19.

In response to LGBT speakers the morning of June 12, Councilman Jerry Allen suggested the resolution be sent to a council committee. Councilman Dwaine Caraway then angered the audience when he lectured them about holding one issue against the council.

In response, several of the couple dozen activists walked out of the meeting while others stood and turned their backs to Caraway.

Lesbian activist Cd Kirven shouted "shame on you" to Caraway when she left the meeting after it was decided the issue would go before a committee.

"I guarantee you that GetEQUAL will show up to committee meetings and we will continue to address the mayor," Kirven said. "Shame on Dwaine Caraway and shame on all the council members who are treating us like we're invisible."

Daniel Cates, GetEQUAL TX regional coordinator, is calling on the Dallas Tavern Guild to disinvite Rawlings and others from the Pride parade in September, but that appeared unlikely.

Michael Doughman, executive director of the Tavern Guild, said council members aren't invited to attend Pride. Instead council members reach out to the organization to ride on the float. He said the issue has already been discussed and the board decided not to get involved.

"We are not a political organization. Taking political or religious stances jeopardizes our non-profit status," he said. "The Tavern Guild's unanimous decision is that we will not be involved in this decision."

Cates said it would be "insulting and disrespectful" for Rawlings to appear at Pride. If he does attend, Cates said GetEQUAL would plan action from the crowd.

"This is not about politics," he said. "This is about our lives. This is about our families and the



RACIAL OVERTONES | Cd Kirven addressed Councilman Dwaine Caraway as she left the chambers. 'I'm black, too. You know what this feels like,' Kirven said. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

thousands upon thousands of people in Dallas who just want the American dream."

Councilman Sheffield Kadane was the only member who spoke in direct opposition to the substance of the resolution, calling it a "moral issue" and referencing to the Bible's definition of marriage.

Both Jasso and Griggs remained silent. Griggs said later that politics had been brought into the council's discussion of the resolution. He said resolutions never go to committees and added that he believed the best way to bring the issue forward was with the memo. Committees will begin meeting again in October, which is when the issue will likely move forward.

"[Politics is] not what this is about," he said. "This is about getting this passed and now it's proposed to go to committees."

Councilwoman Angela Hunt said the issue shouldn't need to go to a committee because members either support or oppose it. She said in the six months since Griggs announced the resolution she never heard anything about it going to a committee, calling the response from council members Wednesday a diversion.

"This is a smokescreen by folks hesitant to vote on this issue," she said. ■

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CCGLA thriving on the frontlines at 10

Collin County-based LGBT group has seen its share of controversy in first decade, plans name change to reflect expanded geographical focus

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
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PLANO — Ten years ago, a small group of activists had a vision to create an LGBT advocacy group in the most conservative area of North Texas.

They met one night in a Unitarian Universalist church in Plano, expecting no more than 15 people to fill the chairs. To their surprise, more than 70 people showed up with ideas and projects in mind that would ultimately launch the Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Dawnetta Miller, CCGLA founder, said she felt the need for an advocacy group in the suburbs and was encouraged by openly gay former DISD Trustee Jose Plata to reach out to leaders of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

That conversation, and the ones that followed, led to the crowded meeting a few months later. And from there, organizers knew the group would be a success.

"It was just the excitement in the room after that first meeting," Miller remembers. "We knew we had something."

Introducing lawmakers to LGBT

After the meeting, activists traveled to Austin for Equality Texas' Lobby Day to speak to their lawmakers about LGBT issues. Several legislators were shocked because they didn't think any LGBT people lived in their districts. For Miller, it

was proof the area needed CCGLA.

"After meeting with people who were elected to represent us, we knew the importance of having the organization," she said. "Collin County is still one of the most conservative places to live and work. Even in those places you need people to be open about who they are and advocate for equal rights."

Now, a decade later, the organization prides itself on the strong relationships its leaders have built with elected officials in and outside the county. And this past March, CCGLA accounted for 10 percent of the participants at Lobby Day with a chartered bus trip that brought 55 people to show lawmakers the strong LGBT presence in Collin County.

But CCGLA also lobbies on the local level, regularly holding meet-and-greets with municipal candidates in Plano, Frisco and McKinney.

Jeanne Rubin, CCGLA vice president, said the

■ CCGLA, Page 12



FLYING HIGH
In a sign of the area's LGBT boom, this month's North Texas Pride event in Plano raised \$15,000, up from \$1,800 last year. (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

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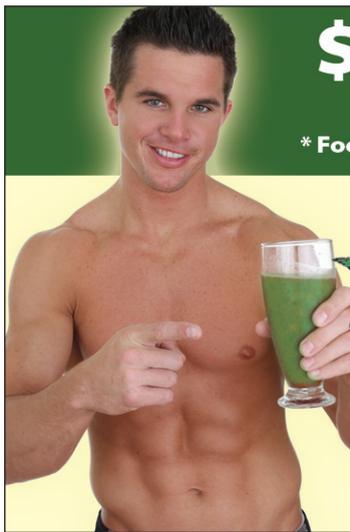
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Abtahi, Kingston both say they're outraged by resolution debacle

District 14 candidates react to clash between activists, council members; District 5 hopeful's campaign says he'd support pro-LGBT measure

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Both candidates in the June 15 runoff in District 14 say the LGBT community needs an ally whose support isn't conditional.

After attending a City Council meeting Wednesday, June 12, where LGBT advocates clashed with council members over their failure to take up an equality resolution, Bobby Abtahi and Philip Kingston said they were outraged. The resolution, authored by Councilman Scott Griggs, would state the council's support for marriage equality and employment nondiscrimination.

Abtahi said the council is playing politics with the resolution.

"If you don't get how important this is to a particular group of your constituents, you don't get it," he said. "That's why we have 7 percent voter turnout."

Abtahi said he was in tears listening to some of the public speakers but was so disgusted with the discussion among council members, he walked out.

"I'm not going to play politics with human rights," he said.

Kingston said he didn't like any part of the council discussion. Some council members suggested the resolution should go to committee, but Kingston said no resolution has ever gone to committee.

"It just needs to be on the agenda," he said. "A majority, at one point, said they'd vote for it. Let's put it on the agenda and vote for it."

Kingston said it was important to have "true blue" allies on the council.

"People who are hardcore, who the LGBT community can trust," he said.

What happened to the resolution was retaliation against Griggs by people who wanted to punish him for unrelated votes, Kingston said.

"But that gave fence-sitters cover to back away," he said. "I will be the guy collecting signatures to get the item on the agenda. I will never be the kind of guy who's only with you if others can get it on the agenda."

Kingston said he's committed to continuing the work of the city's LGBT Task Force and hopes



ADIOS CARLOS? | Out Fort Worth school board member Carlos Vasquez faces an uphill battle to hang onto his seat in the June 15 runoff.

changes are suggested from within.

"More voices are better," he said.

He's discussed the Task Force with Griggs and Councilman-elect Adam Medrano and hopes a couple of new council members will also participate.

"Others who haven't been as strong allies will evolve as we all do," he said.

Kingston also criticized Mayor Mike Rawlings for calling the resolution a "misuse" of the council's time. He said that same day, Rawlings spent hours on school issues. Dallas Independent School District is an autonomous agency that the council has no power to control.

Kingston cited two upcoming appointments as important to the LGBT community.

"We're about to hire a city manager and city attorney," he said. "Those two will have more impact on the LGBT community than the City Council."

He said both must have a commitment to equality, and as an example he said the community is "in striking distance" on comprehensive transgender healthcare benefits, an issue he hopes the new city manager will understand.

Abtahi, meanwhile, has suggested appointing an LGBT liaison to the mayor and council.

"I don't like the idea of human rights, equality issues becoming wedge issues," Abtahi said. "Nobody wins."

Abtahi said it was sad during Pride Month to be talking about gaining enough votes to pass a resolution rather than talking about the accomplishments of the LGBT community. But mostly he said he's confused by the mayor's refusal to put the resolution on the agenda.

"I don't know his reasons," Abtahi said. "If it's



DAZZLING | The estimated attendance at the Razzle Dazzle Main Event was 4,100, down from 25,000 in 2012. But organizers said the dropoff was expected and mostly due to the fact that everyone on the Cedar Springs strip was counted as attending the event last year. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

Despite lower turnout, Razzle Dazzle deemed a success

Disco diva Thelma Houston helped last Friday's MetroBall set a fundraising record this year.

And while attendance was down from last year at Saturday's Main Event, Razzle Dazzle Dallas chair John Cooper-Lara called the festival at Main Street Garden a success. Proceeds from the Main Event were still being counted.

Proceeds from Friday night's MetroBall were up 20 percent over last year with \$40,000 raised for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. That's an \$8,500 increase over the previous year and almost double the 2011 total.

GDMAF works through various AIDS organizations to provide financial assistance of last resort to help with a rent payment, utility bill or medication co-pay.

"We attribute the success of MetroBall to a fantastic silent auction featuring Ellen DeGeneres Show tickets, Southwest Airlines tickets and, appropriately, a giant mirrored ball," Cooper-Lara said.

The increase came despite a slight decrease in attendance. Houston's participation was part of the silent auction's success.

"We're going old school," she told the crowd and started collecting money from the stage.

Houston has entertained in gay bars since the 1970s when her hit "Don't Leave Me This Way" won a Grammy Award. She participated in AIDS fundraising through the worst of the AIDS crisis. Making this the most successful MetroBall turned into a personal challenge for her.

Event planner David Berryman estimated attendance at the Saturday night Main Event at 4,100.

The estimate is based on wrist bands sold at the entrance gate but with vendors, people going in and out of the park and VIP passes, the actual number inside the park was difficult to calculate.

This year's attendance was down significantly from the official estimate of 25,000 at last year's event on Cedar Springs Road, but organizers anticipated the dropoff, according to Cooper-Lara.

"Last year, we counted all the people going to bars and restaurants on Cedar Springs," Cooper-Lara said.

Because last year's event was on a public street, the event could not charge for access to private businesses, so many got in without paying.

He said this year's numbers are an actual, physical count of paid attendees.

"The bones are there to build a good event going forward," Cooper-Lara said. "The challenge this year was moving it Downtown."

He said everyone on the Razzle Dazzle committee walked around the grounds, thrilled with the execution but getting lots of ideas for next year.

Much of the entertainment, which included the Turtle Creek Chorale, the Women's Chorus of Dallas, singers and bands, donated their time to be part of the community event.

Cooper-Lara said among the most popular entertainers were the pole dancers who attracted large crowds as much for their gravity-defying acrobatics as their skimpy costumes. But part of their appeal was how they interacted with attendees throughout the night.

He said next year he'd like to bring in a headline act to help draw more people, but said that would have to be kept within budget. That's a lesson the organization learned from the 2003 Razzle Dazzle. Bringing in the Village People that year bankrupted the event, which was then suspended for almost a decade.

Cooper-Lara said an announcement of the amount raised will be made toward the end of June. Eight beneficiaries will split proceeds from the Downtown party. Last year, Razzle Dazzle Dallas distributed \$25,000 from the Main Event.

The amount to be distributed this year will be determined after bills are paid and seed money is set aside for next year's event. Proceeds include the \$5 admission fee, as well as proceeds from beverage sales and space rentals by food trucks, community organizations and LGBT businesses.

Publicist Kris Martin said Fair Park has been lobbying for Razzle Dazzle Dallas to move there. The original party in 1979 was held in the Hall of State and subsequent events were staged in several other buildings on the fairgrounds.

Cooper-Lara and Berryman said the committee was so happy with this year's location and the cooperation they got from Downtown Dallas, Inc., they're already leaning toward at least one more year at Main Street Garden.

— David Taffet



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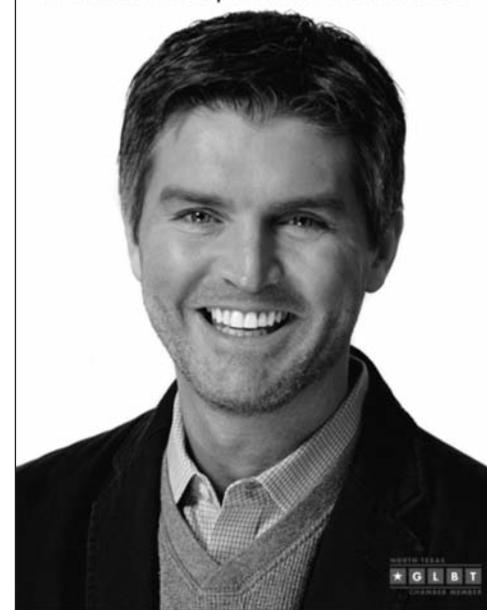
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■ texasnews

■ CCGLA, From Page 9

forums have grown in popularity and it's rare for candidates not to attend or respond to the group's questionnaires.

Now that elected officials acknowledge the LGBT community, Rubin hopes to build on that momentum by getting LGBT protections added to cities' employment policies and nondiscrimination ordinances because "there's no reason why they shouldn't have that."

"Working in these cities has been our biggest accomplishment," Rubin said, adding that Frisco Mayor Maher Maso often calls her to discuss LGBT issues. "I don't think there's any elected official in these cities that don't know there's an LGBT community."

Justin Nichols attended the first CCGLA candidate forum in 2008 when he was running for Plano City Council. Nichols ran as an openly gay candidate, which led to him being forced to resign as teen court coordinator for Collin County because of his sexual orientation.

Nichols, who now commutes between Plano and San Antonio, said the candidate forums helped the community stand up and fight for politicians to recognize their concerns.

"Before CCGLA started hosting them, there was no forum for public officials to become aware of the LGBT community," he said. "To their credit, they have really created relationships that they fostered over time."

Harry LaRosiliere also attended the first CCGLA candidate forum after some friends invited him.

Now LaRosiliere is mayor of Plano and the group considers him an ally. He said he's glad to have witnessed the organization grow over the years and will continue to be an ally while in office.

"To me it's not a question of race, culture, lifestyle. It's any law-abiding citizen in the city of Plano that I can be effective and make a positive difference in their lives, that's what I'm going to do," LaRosiliere told Dallas Voice. "If I can be a positive force for everyone having a sense of inclusion and representing every citizen to the best of my ability, I'd feel honored if I led that way."

As for a nondiscrimination ordinance in Plano, LaRosiliere said he'd review any proposal and look for support from council members.

"I'm open to reviewing any opportunities that create equality," he said. "I'm open to looking at any way to improve the quality of life of our employees and our citizens."

From corporations to courtrooms

The area has seen a number of controversies that united the LGBT community and created awareness.

In 2008, the CEO of Plano-based Cinemark Theatres donated to the Yes on 8 campaign in support of California's ban on same-sex marriage. The incident led to a dispute between activists from Dallas, who organized a protest outside a Cinemark theater in Plano, and CCGLA leadership, which didn't endorse the action.

Bob Shimmin, a gay Cinemark executive who

Gala to introduce GALA

A celebration of CCGLA's 10th anniversary and name change to GALA North Texas will be Thursday, June 20, at Henry's Tavern, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano. For more info, visit TinyURL.com/GalaParty.

now serves as CCGLA president, got involved with the organization during the Cinemark controversy. He was encouraged by CCGLA leadership who met with the company's management, which led to transgender employment protections and domestic partner benefits for Cinemark workers a year later.

"It's not about making headlines or being controversial, but we've been successful," Shimmin said, adding that Cinemark is a good example of how the organization is often able to achieve success quietly behind the scenes.

Earlier this year when a gay couple said they were told they were not a family and asked to leave Main Event, a family fun center in Plano, Shimmin reached out to the company's CEO. He said Main Event has requested to meet quarterly with CCGLA and is working to become more inclusive, just as Cinemark did.

"I'd be surprised if Main Event by the end of the year didn't have changes to its policies, their internal and employee materials," Shimmin said.

Controversy also followed Plano-based J.C. Penney when hate group One Million Moms targeted it after the company named out talk show host Ellen DeGeneres as its spokeswoman. Local gay couples would later be included in its advertising and its LGBT employee group even traveled to New York for its Pride parade.

But CCGLA's reach goes beyond the many corporations that are based in the northern suburbs. Last year when a teen was assaulted at gunpoint outside the Plano Sports Authority for defending his two lesbian friends leaving the rec center, CCGLA leaders sat down with the police chief.

Despite the culprit never being captured, Shimmin said the police chief regularly updated them and it opened a door for the department to review its hate crime policies. Now CCGLA is working to have every department undergo LGBT-inclusive sensitivity training.

More recently when McKinney Republican Judge John Roach forced a lesbian couple apart in May because of the morality clause in one of the women's divorce papers, Shimmin said CCGLA met with the woman and reached out to people who knew the judge. He said the case will likely result in an appeal, but the attention to the story illustrates the need for vigilant LGBT activists.

"It's hard to believe it's 2013 and these decisions are still being made," Shimmin said. "We were reminded that Collin County has a long way to go and North Texas is not equal. There's certainly the need for our organization and other organizations to keep working hard."

Expanding boundaries for equality

The growing interest — and the growing numbers of LGBT people in the suburbs — have led to CCGLA expanding its geographical reach to

Carrollton, Lewisville and Richardson.

The expansion has necessitated a name change to Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas, which will take effect at a coming out party next week.

Rubin said the CCGLA name has isolated people in the past and hasn't fully encompassed the organization's work, which she said now covers virtually everything in the Metroplex north of Interstate 635.

Finding openly LGBT people in the suburbs was once a challenge, but the group has reached a larger audience with social media, and membership has never been higher.

"The difference for people who live in Collin County is you kind of go about your gay life in a more mixed society," Shimmin said. "It's less of a public scene and more of a homebound, nesting environment because it's the suburbs."

Youth First Texas Collin County, a group for LGBTQ youth, fell under the organization's umbrella, as did Business Network Collin County, which will now be the GALA Business Network. Rubin said the affiliation with Dallas' Youth First

group ended when the Resource Center took over YFT over June 1. So the Collin County group will continue as GALA Youth.

YFTCC has had a number of meeting places to call home over the years and Rubin said one of the long-term goals is to have a community center where all of the local LGBT groups can meet and socialize, including North Texas Pride and Plano's HIV nonprofit, C.U.R.E.

But while several groups have started over the years and lost membership, CCGLA has maintained strong and sought partnerships with Equality Texas, North Texas Pride and Carrollton Pride. And Rubin expects to only expand the outreach, especially with the recent addition of board members from Dallas and Carrollton for the first time.

"I think just the fact that we've been able to keep a presence and keep busy says something for an organization in one of the most conservative areas in North Texas and to still be going strong," Rubin said. "The need was there even 10 years ago. And obviously I think the need still exists here." ■

■ ELECTION, From Page 10

a misuse of time, well, you know what? We're wasting a lot more time talking about it."

And while Abtahi said supporting equality is personal to him because his sister, who is lesbian, was recently engaged and deserves the same rights as him, he also makes the business argument for supporting the LGBT community.

"People talk about Uptown and the urban core," he said. "Without the gay community, none of that would have been possible. It's an expansion of the work in Oak Lawn."

He said the city has benefited from its LGBT population and he called a resolution supporting the rights of that group a no-brainer.

Elsewhere, in the newly created District 5 in Pleasant Grove, Jesse Diaz faces Rick Callahan. Diaz received the endorsement of Stonewall Democrats. Neither candidate sought the endorsement of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Callahan finished first in the low-turnout May 11 election by 118 votes but failed to capture the 50 percent needed to avoid a runoff.

Diaz was also initially endorsed by The Dallas Morning News, but the newspaper rescinded its endorsement, saying Diaz had falsely claimed endorsements from council members Tennell Atkins and Carolyn Davis. Both denied ever speaking to Diaz or endorsing him.

Callahan campaign manager Penny Anderly said the Diaz campaign also has sent race-baiting mailers.

"We need to elect a candidate who will unify the district and is not divisive," Anderly said.

Callahan said in response to Dallas Voice's candidate questionnaire that he supports civil unions but not marriage.

However, Anderly said Callahan would support the equality resolution, describing him as open-minded and fair.

She also said he would defend domestic partner benefits despite an attack on them by Attorney

General Greg Abbott.

Anderly said she served as campaign manager for gay former Councilman Craig McDaniel and for the first openly gay Dallas council candidate, Bill Nelson. Anderly said Callahan believes same-sex partners should have all the same rights as heterosexual couples.

"The only way to do that is with some legal recognition," she said.

Meanwhile, the Diaz campaign sent out mailers of an editorial in the newspaper El Lidor that accused Callahan of being a racist. Among the charges is that he has an all-white campaign staff "and his campaign has only issue [sic] one check to a minority: a \$92 reimbursement for postage to his secretary Erika Rodriguez."

Diaz has not returned calls from Dallas Voice over the past several weeks to his home and to his campaign.

In Fort Worth, school district trustee Carlos Vasquez came in second to Jacinto A. Ramos Jr. in the election. Vasquez is one of only two openly gay school board members in Texas.

However, many in the LGBT community are supporting Ramos.

J.D. Angle, the husband of gay Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns, is campaign consultant for Ramos.

"Jacinto came to be a client because people were looking for new leadership for the district," Angle said. "I was impressed by his personal story."

He said Ramos' story is compelling, involving his juvenile justice work and gang prevention and intervention. He said Ramos grew up in the area and returned with his family to the neighborhood and called that an important part of the renaissance of urban schools.

Vasquez did not return calls for the story. Ramos led Vasquez in the May 11 election 46.4 to 30.7 percent, so the incumbent faces an uphill battle in the runoff to remain on the board. ■

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. For more info, visit DallasCountyVotes.org.

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viewpoints

And the horse he rode in on

Law passed this week effectively banning gay-rights organizations is latest sign of Russia's rapid descent under President Vladimir Putin

The staunchly conservative and moralizing Russian czar, Vladimir Putin, announced he and his wife of 30 years are divorcing. This was met with a strange silence from Kirill I, the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch and a Putin bootlicker who allowed the state to co-opt his racket. Vsevolod Chaplin, a spokesman for the church, said in an interview with the Public Post that Putin's decision to end his civil marriage was "between him and his spouse."

How convenient.

Of course, this is a church whose corrupt leaders appear to care more about jewels than Jesus and comfort than Christ. Last year, the church apologized after bloggers noticed that a \$30,000 gold Breguet watch worn by Patriarch Kirill was edited out of a picture on the church's website. (They noticed there was no watch on his wrist, but a reflection of the fancy ornament on a shiny table remained.)

It is stunning to watch a one-time superpower transform into a superstitious nation of ignorant fools. Whether it's Putin making a parody of his manhood by posing shirtless with a horse or the state's persecution of the band Pussy Riot, it sometimes seems as if a bizarre cocktail of vodka, vanity and vacuousness defines modern Russia.

To highlight the hypocrisy of Putin's marriage charade, parliament's committee on the family released its "Concept of State Policy on the Family." This document urges Russian families to have several children, considers a tax on divorce, limits abortion, offers a large role in family planning for the corrupt Russian Orthodox Church and viciously attacks homosexuality.

Speaking of which, the State Duma passed an anti-gay bill this week for allegedly "protecting children from information that can bring harm to their health and wellbeing." The new law essentially bans gay-rights organizations and fines up to 1 million rubles to anyone who is accused of promoting gay "propaganda." Interestingly, if one is accused of spreading Nazi propaganda, the fine is a mere 2,000 rubles. This discrepancy tells one much about today's Russian values.

This fascist anti-gay law should be ignored, resisted, defied and undermined at every opportunity until it is abolished. Performers should boycott Russia, and the country should be isolated culturally, economically and diplomatically. This is a gross violation of human rights and Russia should be made to pay dearly for its ambitious descent into barbarism.



Vladimir Putin

Furthermore, why should anyone respect this particular law, when Putin has eroded the very rule of law? In a show trial this week, the repressive regime is prosecuting young protesters in an effort the New York Times describes as a "sharp warning to other ordinary Russians, especially educated professionals, about taking part in street protests."

Putin has created a toxic climate of fear that is stifling free speech and abrogating liberty. On Facebook, the Russian chess champion Garry Kasparov wrote: "Putin is cracking down harder than ever and is showing he is willing to create a new generation of political prisoners unseen since the days of Stalin." Kasparov, who is now in Switzerland, says that he has no plans to return home to live in Putin's dictatorship.

The chess star is not alone in his decision to reject this ugly New Russia. The markets have also spoken and capital is not flowing into Moscow. Despite an effort to turn Moscow into a financial hub, the city competes with Warsaw — instead of industry leaders such as New York, Tokyo or London. The Global Financial Center Index, published in March by Z/Yen, a consulting agency, placed Moscow 65th out of 79 cities studied. The ranking placed Moscow between Bahrain and Mumbai.

The reason the state is cracking down on homosexuality, punishing divorce and demanding larger families is because they want to boost population. Indeed, 1.25 million Russians have emigrated from the nation in the past decade. Population experts say that the mass exodus is comparable in size to the migration following the Bolshevik Revolution.

Unfortunately, Russia is trying to repopulate in the wrong way. Instead of attracting the best

and the brightest by expanding freedom, openness and ingenuity, it has opted to become a police state that has no future. The population will surely continue to decrease unless the church, with state sanction, begins pressuring families into having kids they don't want. After all, who would want to raise children in such a hopelessly glum environment?

It is heartbreaking to watch the totalitarian political class become insular and resort to a Cold War mentality. Putin's thugs are cracking down on the Internet, banning foreign adoptions and erecting new walls — even if they are just legal barriers — to keep people inside its depressing borders.

Vaudeville Vladimir wants to be taken seriously, but he is just a street punk with no vision, and ultimately a ridiculous cartoon character who brought Russia from the brink of freedom to the bottomless pit of failure.

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



Wayne Besen
Contributing Columnist

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Rebel with a Cause

Sulphur Springs native and country music sensation KACEY MUSGRAVES has a thing or two to say about gay rights. And she doesn't care who she ticks off.

FOLLOWING HER ARROW | 24-year-old singing sensation Kacey Musgraves talks about things most country music songs avoid — but she doesn't think that makes her a bad girl.

Kacey Musgraves is country music's It Girl, but right now, she's sitting around "with a zit mask on my face."

It's that kind of frankness — not just when talking to the press, but on her album, the smash hit *Same Trailer Different Park* — that has made the young Texan a sensation. When it comes to country music, tradition says you should be a narrow-minded churchgoer who condemns lesbian love, drugs and casual sex (at least the women — the men can do what they want). And you should definitely never, ever release an album about any of those sinful deeds unless you want to be considered loose.

Musgraves must have missed that day in Sunday school.

The breakthrough artist's stellar album shows that not all country acts are meatheads who worship their trucks. If they're like this 24-year-old, they also love the gay community, and sing about it ... as well as occasionally puff a doobie.

We chatted with the Sulphur Springs native about how she came to embrace the gay community and how she hopes to change minds for a more progressive country music culture. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Tell us about growing up in a small town in Texas. Did you know many gay people when you were living there? Kacey Musgraves: No, actually. My first roommate out of high school came out to me and it was a big deal, because he came from a really conservative family. I just knew how hard it was for him to come to terms with that; [we were] in the Bible Belt in a really small town where everybody knew everybody. It really opened my eyes to a lot when he came out to me; I could see how hard it was. Since then, several guys that I grew up with have come out, and I'm just so proud of them.

It just makes me sad that there are other kids who are struggling with that and parents are worried about whether their kids are gonna come out of the closet; in reality they should be worried about way scarier things.

So that friend was the first gay person you knew? Yeah. It made a big impact on me. I absolutely love gay people.

Anyone who listens to "Follow Your Arrow" gets that impression; it's rare the gay community be acknowledged in a country music song. It never happens and I'm sick of it. It's ridiculous. Whether or not you agree with gay marriage or the fact people don't choose to be gay, we share the same emotions, needs and wants. I just think that everyone should be included in that. It's definitely time.

Would you like to see more change within the country music world as far as LGBT inclusively goes? For sure. Have you ever seen an openly gay male country artist be successful? No. That would be badass. But guys get grossed out by guy-on-guy ... but then if they see two chicks kissing at a party, they're like, "Oh my god, I gotta videotape this." I'm like, "That's the same shit!" You can't have a double standard.

Were you worried about releasing "Follow Your Arrow," a song that advocates marijuana and homosexuality? I didn't expect country radio to play it, and they're not gonna. That's OK, though. The song can be bigger than country radio. They wouldn't know what to do with it, anyway!

As far as backlash goes, the reaction has been surprisingly positive, and when I sing it live people really like it and they really listen to the lyrics. Even older people that I wouldn't think would be into it get a laugh out of it. I think even if you don't agree with everything I'm saying, as a human, hopefully you can just recognize that people should be able to do what they want to do and love who they want to love.

Tell me about the line, "Kiss lots of boys, or kiss lots of girls if that's something you're into." Was this based on personal experience? [Laughs] I wrote the song with one of my producers, Shane McAnally, who's gay, and Brandy Clarke, who's an amazing writer and also gay. And I'm not gonna say it's not from some personal experience, but we were writing it and with the "kiss lots of boys" I said, "I wish, because of the nature of the song, we could just say '... or kiss lots of girls,'" and Shane was like, "Why can't we?"

Did you worry the line would ruffle feathers? I *knew* it would a little, but surprisingly it didn't as much as I thought. At the same time, I didn't care.

Have you received feedback from the gay community? Yeah! Perez Hilton did a cover contest for "Follow Your Arrow" where he challenged people to come up with covers for it. He's been really supportive about it all. And my manager is gay. It's kind of all around me.

I've had guys come up to me at shows and say, "'Follow Your Arrow' means so much to me." I think people are thankful that they don't have to be ashamed to be themselves and they can also listen to country music. Those don't have to be two separate things.

Would you like to be considered the Lady Gaga of contemporary country music? [Laughs] Dolly is the closest thing that we've had, right? Maybe Reba. But as far as being loud about it, yeah, I would love to take that position.

I guess because of the nature of country music, there's deep-rooted tradition and there's a lot of gospel influence in country, but people need to get on the right side of history.

There used to be songs about black and white differences and that's no longer an issue — and it shouldn't be. And this shouldn't be either. I would love to change that about country music.

Tell me about some of your country influences. I've always loved Dolly, and I used to sing her songs when I was little. She's a great storyteller and that's probably where I got a lot of my influence from. I love Loretta Lynn and Willie Nelson and his truth-telling. I love Glen Campbell and a lot of old-school country. I'm really all over the map, but the country I seem to like is a lot older.

This album is being called your debut, but this isn't your first album. This is actually your fourth, right? Well, this is the only one that I want people to *hear*! The other songs were a learning curve and I'm a different person musically, so this is what I want the world to hear first. I'm a better writer and I've come into my own personally more.

Weren't there some songs that the label wanted you to release on *Same Trailer Different Park* but you didn't want them on there? Yeah, just because I wrote it doesn't mean that I like it! [Laughs] The label will be like, "Oh, this song is a hit, it's a radio mash," and I'm like, "I don't give a shit. If it doesn't go on the record, it doesn't go on the record." The hits will come if I believe in them. It won't be a hit if I don't believe in it.

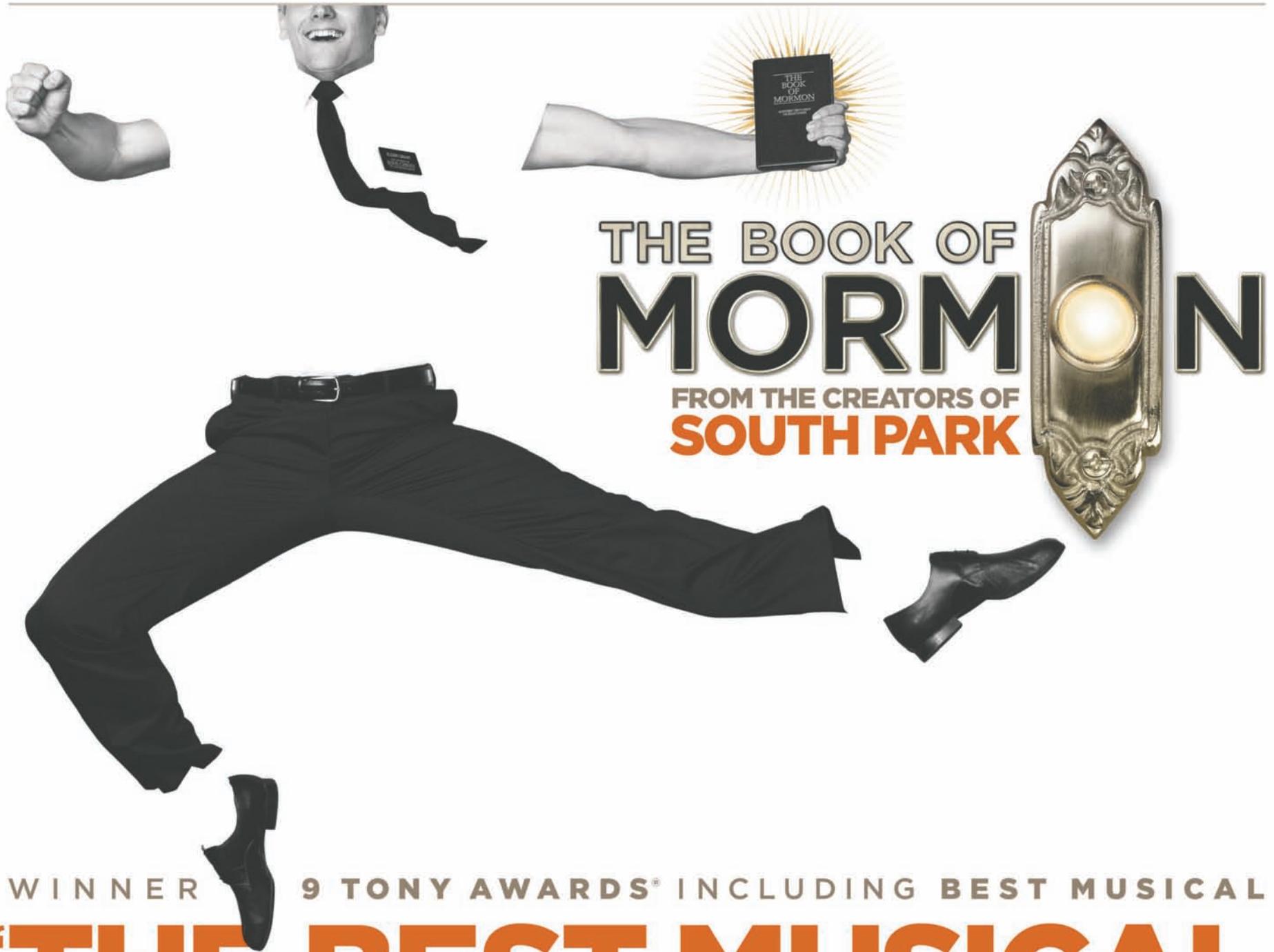
Were you nervous about suggesting you smoke pot? I was more worried about my grandma hearing it!

What did your grandma say? She always has an opinion. "The Slut Song" is what she calls "It Is What It Is." And she doesn't get any of the marijuana references.

Do you want to be country's bad girl or would you rather leave that to Miranda Lambert? I'd rather not. If I were gonna be a bad girl, I'd rather it be more in a progressive way than a "I'm gonna burn your house down" way.

In a way that brings hope and change to people's lives? Right. If that makes me a bad girl, then what does that make society?

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Gray Pride is a program of Resource Center Dallas.
All events at: Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St., Dallas 75219 • www.rcdallas.org



L+S stage

Up in the air



Exhilarating 'Traces' gives the circus street cred with dazzling 'acroballetics'

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

When *Traces* begins its show with a snarky curtain speech (encouraging you to text during the show and use flash photography), you know: This is *not* Cirque du Soleil. Cirque shows nuzzle up to you with a nudging wonder, transporting audiences into a mystical realm of fantasy with elaborate costumes and abstract music. *Traces* — at the Winspear Opera House for a two-week run to close out the current season of the Lexus Broadway Series — presents a bare-bones set with minimal costumes, while the cast of seven 20some-things (a Brit, a Parisian, two Americans and three Quebecois, including one woman) do all the work: The singing, the dancing, the acrobatics, the laughs.

For those who find circuses (even "cirques") kind of cheesy, *Traces* is a tonic that may change your mind. The first number resembles a traditional modern dance performance with the performers *en pointe* and leaping through the air in pliés. Then the pirouettes morph into somersaults, and suddenly we have a hybrid: Acroballetics.

The performers introduce themselves by name, age, height and likes/dislikes — a Match.com profile projected on a huge screen. That feeds the loose premise of the show, which conjures a bunch of former high school friends gathering on a neighborhood playground to re-

live their younger days. (All that's missing is a Billy Joel song.) It's the Sharks vs. the Jets, though everyone comes out a winner.

Not the least of the winners is the audience. Many of the elements of the show will be familiar to Cirque du Soleil veterans (the Cyr wheel, the hand straps), but *Traces* gives even those tropes street cred, similar to how shows like *Stomp!* turned music-making into a *MacGyver* sideline of creativity. The men are strapping, muscular guys who look to have spent as much time in the boxing ring as at the barre. Men salsa dance with each other flirtatiously, then turn around and goof.

Everyone will have their favorite performers and bits, though who could not be amazed at Mathieu and Lucas on the monkey bars (moving with an alacrity that would astonish even actual monkeys), or LJ soaring 12 feet in the air through a ring the size of a manhole cover, or Mason spinning tiny Valerie around his body like a baton, or Brad and Philippe back-flipping across the stage of the Winspear like tumbleweeds?

The acts of derring-do are impressive, but it's the personality that sets *Traces* apart — not just of the artists, but of the show itself. There are a lot worse ways to spend 85 minutes on a warm Dallas night ... in fact, there probably aren't many more fun things to do in town right now. ■

TRACES
Winspear Opera House,
2403 Flora St. Through June 23.
ATTPAC.org.

JUMP THE SNARK | Brad soars over the other cast members on 'Traces,' going from one skateboard to another in one of the many bits of derring-do.

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Super freak

Zack Snyder explores a softer side to the 'Man of Steel'

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

The thing about iconic characters is, they can never get away from their history. James Bond has to be a womanizer, Hamlet has to be indecisive, Clark Kent has to wear spectacles.

Or does he?

Zack Snyder, the director who made war movies seem uber-gay with *300*, fiddles a lot with Krypton's favorite son in the Superman reboot *Man of Steel* — to the point where the word "Superman" is only uttered once, and that's near the end. Clark eventually does pull out the eye-glasses, but only after Snyder has undermined most of what we have come to identify as the mythology of Krypton's Kal-El. Clark (Henry Cavill as an adult) was a farmboy who made it in the big city as a "mild-mannered reporter for the Daily Planet" while keeping his identity a secret from Lois Lane (Amy Adams). It was always a lark that a hard-nosed investigative journalist like Lois couldn't ferret out the alter ego of Superman, simply by looking at Clark with his glasses off.

Snyder changes all that around: Lois and Clark meet *before* he becomes a reporter, and she learns his true identity early on. We barely catch a glimpse of Lana Lang, and aside from "Lex-Corp" signage peppered around, Lex Luthor doesn't come up at all.

Instead, Clark's nemesis (as it was in 1980's *Superman II*) is treasonist warmonger General Zod (Michael Shannon, such a peculiar looking actor he doesn't even need makeup to appear alien), who follows Kal-El to Earth with the plan to re-colonize his homeworld here.

In terms of plot, *Man of Steel* should be called *Man of Steal*: It pilfers not only from prior *Superman* movies, but *Independence Day*, the *Star Trek* franchise, *The Dark Knight*, *Thor* (eek! A Marvel character!) and more. But Snyder mixes up the story-telling, with flash-backs and mind-probing and the digital essence of Jor-El (Russell Crowe), Kal's bio-dad. (Best thing

about Crowe's performance? He doesn't sing.)

Snyder and his scenarists — Christopher Nolan, who not coincidentally directed *The Dark Knight*, and David S. Goyer — have made *Man of Steel* both hyper-realistic and outrageously silly. The cinematography employs harsh lighting and a neutral palette (the colors aren't just muted, they're positively dumb-struck), emphasizing textures, especially of the actors' deglamorized faces. The women appear older,

more haggard, without the mask of makeup; the men craggy and shop-worn (even Cavill, whose protean face toggles somewhere between "handsome" and

■ SUPER Next Page



HOLY KRYPTON | Henry Cavill makes a conflicted hero in the reboot of Superman.

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■ SUPER From Previous Page

“plate of mashed potatoes”). It feels almost like a black-and-white movie, or perhaps a dog-eared issue of Action Comics left too long in a tree fort.

Snyder adds to the verisimilitude by employing a shaky, handheld look in many of the action sequences, imbuing a kind of YouTube reality overlaid on the CGI. In 1978, *Superman The Movie* marketed itself with “You will believe a man can fly.” Today, we believe buildings can fly and bullets can bend — and that’s in 30-second commercials. This style changes the rulebook for what seems “real.” (It teases you with what the *Spider-Man* franchise would look like if taken over by Terrence Malick.)

But then Snyder overdoes it, with action sequences that can become as muddled as a *Transformers* movie. (The cameraman, Amir Mokri, has DP’d several Michael Bay pictures.) He seems especially tone-deaf to the idea of ravaging New York City — pardon: Metropolis — in a post-9/11 era. It’s a sad function of our society that following a spate of Roland Emmerich movies where the devastation of the Big Apple — whether by flood, tidal wave, alien or Godzilla — is considered commonplace that no one hesitates to bring skyscrapers crashing down like Osama bin Laden’s wet dream.

In many ways, *Man of Steel* is the obverse of



OH, CLARK | Cavill as buff farmboy Clark Kent.

Dark Knight: Batman is immersed in the evil around him; Superman is hopeful, his identity crisis more about self-discovery than overcoming his darker angels. It’s a bold contrast, and *Man of Steel* is a more uplifting and affirming film, even as its look can be starkly, marvelously gloomy. (Cavill’s buff bod doesn’t hurt, either).

Will it be a classic, the kind of inevitable launch of a franchise that will define superhero movies the way the *Avengers* films have done for Marvel? Who knows? But it makes you want to see where it’s going. And coming back for more is the essence of a good movie serial.

And a good comic book. ■



Fresh ‘Blood’

The seasons of *True Blood* have been as unpredictable as *Star Trek* movies: They seem to alternate good and bad. Season 1? Spectacular. Season 2? Eh. Season 3? Much better. Season 4? Disaster.

Last season? A bloody mix, with no interesting new villain (save a smoke monster — and *Lost* beat them to that by almost a decade), just recycled drama among vamps (led by Denis O’Hare), werewolves, fairies, shifters and humans. The season felt compartmentalized, taking place over the course of barely two weeks; it felt more soap opera than ever, with the blessing of Joe Manganiello very frequently naked. Even the cliffhanger ending, where Bill (Stephen Moyer) became SuperVamp, made you wonder: Have they run out of ideas?

The first three episodes of Season 6, the first of which debuts Sunday, hints that maybe they *are* winding down. Luna is killed off in the first three minutes, Bill is acting godlike, Sookie (Anna Paquin, pictured right, with Ryan Kwanten) is depleting her fairy powers. And the governor of Louisiana (new castmate Arliss Howard) has declared war on “fangers.” The way characters spit out the word “fangers” always sounds vaguely like “faggots,” which has a lot to do with the ethos or *True Blood* as an idyll on gay rights. This season, there’s even an activist who wants Sam (Sam Trammell) to “come out of the closet” as a shifter. Can’t miss that message.

You’re not meant to. There’s still lots of nudity, still lots of gay humor (including my fave, Nelsan Ellis’ drag diva Lafayette, who announces, “That’s the strangest thing I’ve ever seen on TV ... and I watch *Dance Moms*”), a lesbian plot with Pam (Kristin Bauer van Straten) and Tara (Rutina Wesley).

Has it jumped the shark? Best not to look down and confirm it; just keep soaring and hope for the best.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

True Blood. Two-and-a-half stars. Debuts June 16 at 8 p.m. on HBO.



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Gay-temala

Charming Guatemalan village of Antigua offers history and gay appeal

RICK VANDERSLICE | Contributing Writer
rickvanderslice@gmail.com

In a world economy, one of the biggest considerations in international travel is how strong your buying power is overseas. While Europe can be pricey, the world in the *other Americas* add great value to their long list of treasures. And perhaps none is a better bargain than Guatemala (where one dollar buys you seven quetzals) ... and no place in the Central American nation is more charming than Antigua. This small town some 70 miles from the capital of Guatemala City sits a mile up a mountain and is as breathtaking as that sounds. This ancient town of 40,000 boasts cool year-round temperatures between 60 and 80; in fact, the hottest thing going here are the men.

Although there is no active gay scene here, Antigua's hotels, markets, restaurants and other public venues are very gay-friendly — several even gay-owned. The local gay populace call it "Gay Light" and they love sharing their beautiful oasis with visitors. (One curious bit of gay

history was made in Antigua in the 1940s, when gay author Gore Vidal lived here in a house that was once a convent next to the ruins of the Church of El Carmen. There he wrote one of the first popular novels with a gay theme, *The City and the Pillar*.)

Though you can rent scooters or cars for your stay, better to explore on foot. Just walking around the cobblestone streets (a mere 15 blocks square!) ensures you won't miss any part of this charming village.

The center of town, and of activity, is Central Park, founded in 1595 and surrounded by the glorious Cathedral of San Jose, and many cafés and shops. (Don't let its age fool you — it's also a wifi hot-spot.) You can rent a horse-drawn carriage here for sightseeing or enjoy exquisite hot chocolate drinks at the gay-owned Café El Gringo-Chapin nearby.

Just beyond the southeast corner of Central Park is Ricky's Bar, which attracts cute men of all ages. Two-and-a-half blocks west is the lesbian-owned Frida's Mexican Bar & Restaurant, claiming the best nachos and margaritas in town. A popular gathering place for women, guys are



HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE | A cobblestone street in Antigua recalls the city's storied past, which welcomes gay travelers.

welcomed here, too.

Though Antigua is a tourist mecca, unrelated businesses also provide a draw. We ventured to one of the local coffee plantations, the famous Filadelfia Coffee Resort & Plantation located in the hills overlooking the city. On a wonderful three-hour guided tour, we received an education on how differences in the size and color of a coffee bean can make all the difference in its taste and aroma. For caffeine addicts, it's a not-to-be-missed experience.

Lodging options run from five-star hotels and other luxury accommodations (including the wonderful Hotel Soleil La Antigua on the southwest edge of town), as well as more affordable chains, B&Bs and even youth hostels.

Antigua is easy to get to as well. American Airlines has daily flights from DFW to Guatemala City, landing at the modern La Aurora Airport inside this capital of 3 million. But why linger in the hubbub of activity when an hour away is a laid-back gay oasis? ■

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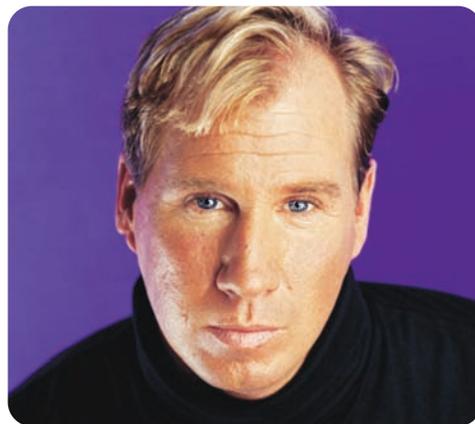


Friday 06.14

Holocaust Museum presents play about being gay under Nazi rule

A Jew and a gay man stood about equal chances of survival in Nazi Germany, which forged friendship between folks reviled simply for being who they were. *The Timekeepers* is a three-man play that portrays one of those relationships, where searing humor helps them each face the grimness of reality with their humanity intact. The Dallas Holocaust Museum presents Theatre New West's limited-run production with talk-backs on Friday nights.

DEETS: Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through June 22. Wednesdays–Saturdays. \$20. TheTimekeepers.eventbrite.com.



Sunday 06.16

Danny Wright plays under the stars in Arlington

With the weather warm and the nights going long, there's no better time for an outdoor concert — and there's no better outdoor concert than a free one! Pianist Danny Wright has been tickling the ivories in the gay community for ages, but if you haven't seen him, your chance is this Sunday at Levitt Pavilion, where he'll tackle everything from movie themes to pop to classical.

DEETS: Levitt Pavilion, 100 W. Abrams St., Arlington. 8 p.m. Free. LevittPavilionArlington.org.

Thursday 06.20

A night of Inspiration & Hope with Sandi Patty and the Turtle Creek Chorale

When it comes to Christian music, there's nobody more respected than Sandi Patty, a five-time Grammy Award winner. But Patty isn't your "typical" Christian musician, as her appearance with the gay Turtle Creek Chorale should attest. She joins TCC artistic director Trey Jacobs onstage for the group's final concert of the season, themed, appropriately enough, Inspiration & Hope.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2103 Flora St. June 20. 8 p.m. \$20–\$75. TurtleCreek.org.



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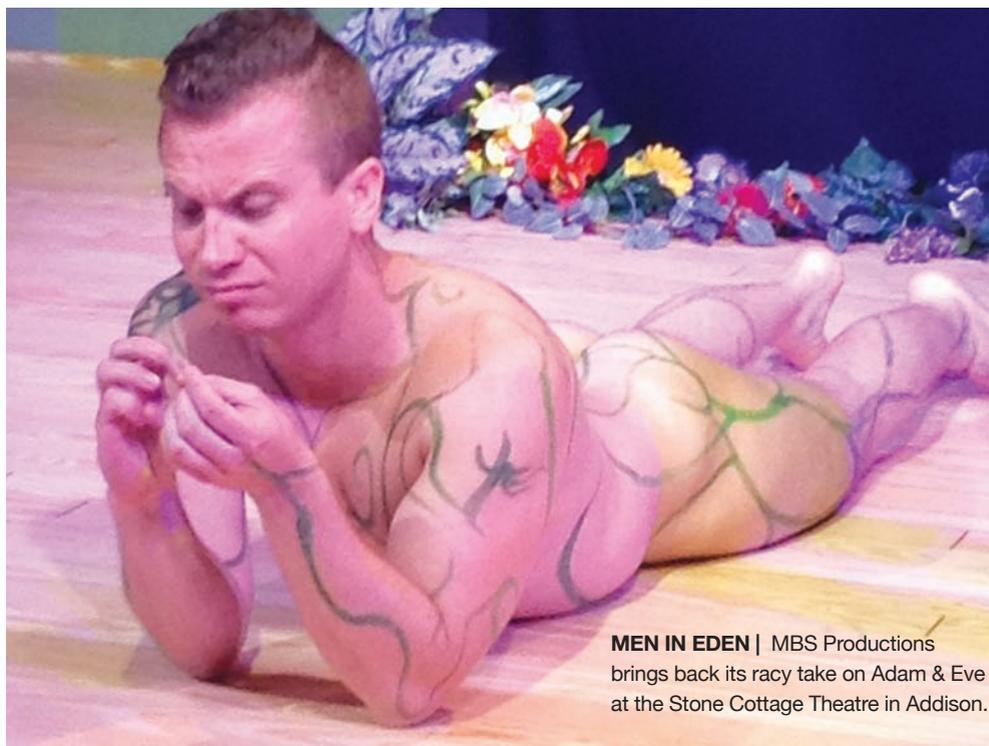
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MEN IN EDEN | MBS Productions
brings back its racy take on Adam & Eve
at the Stone Cottage Theatre in Addison.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The annual festival of plays by small indie companies returns — this year, a month earlier than usual with its assortment of unique and edgy plays. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through June 22. For a complete lineup, visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Delights. A revival of local playwright Alejandro de la Costa's wicked comedy about sex — and how it began. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Circle. Through June 29. 214-477-4942. MBSProductions.net.

Avenue Q. Theatre 3's hit from last summer and fall returns for an unlimited run in its Theatre Too space. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Open-ended run. \$10–\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Black Tie. A comedy by A.R. Gurney about a man whose spirit returns to haunt his son during a family wedding. Directed by Rene Moreno. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Circle. Through June 22. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

City of Angels. The Tony Award-winning movie-within-a-musical comedy goes into previews at Theatre 3. 2900 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. Through July 13 (opening night June 17). \$10–\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Knock Me a Kiss. The 1928 marriage of African-American activist W.E.B. DuBois' daughter to Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen was the social event of the decade ... until Cullen scandalized the community with his revelation. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* \$10–\$25. 817-338-4411.

The Music Man. Lyric Stage ends its season with a full-orchestra staging of this American classic. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. McArthur Blvd., Irving. June 14–23. LyricStage.org.

The Odd Couple. A gender-bending adaptation of the comedy classic, with Florence and Olive replacing Oscar and Felix in the story of mismatched roommates.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 Mockingbird Lane, Suite 119. Through June 22. 214-821-1860. PocketSandwich.com.

Proof. Lon Barrera directs this Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning play about family and madness. 2809 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. *Final weekend.* 817-354-6444. OnStageInBedford.com.

Se Llama Cristina. A drama by Octavio Solis, staged as part of the New Works Festival. Through June 22. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Sister Act. The musical based on the hit movie, comes to Fair Park, courtesy Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. *Final weekend.* DallasSummerMusicals.org.

The Timekeepers. The Dallas Holocaust Museum and Theatre New West present this live production of a play about the interaction of two men in Nazi Germany — one Jewish, one gay. Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through June 22. \$20. Reservations at TheTimekeepersEventbrite.com.

Traces. Montreal-based troupe 7 Fingers puts on this modern circus that melds a street performance style with dazzling acrobatics. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. June 11–23. \$25–\$150. ATTPAC.org.

this week's solution

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FINE ART

The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece: Masterworks from the British Museum. A collection of marbles and pottery and bronzework from Greek antiquity focusing on the human form, especially the male nude. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 6. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Dan Rees. Work from the man just designated the first artist in residence at the Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 27. GossMichaelFoundation.org.

Gold on Black: Japanese Lacquer from the Jacqueline Lavant Collection. The beauty of lacquered finishes is highlighted. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Sept. 15. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Connecting Dallas to the Holocaust. A temporary exhibit at the Old Red Courthouse in cooperation with and curated by the Dallas Holocaust Museum. 100 S. Houston St. \$8 admission, \$4 special exhibit fee. Through July 14. OldRed.org.

Alex Remington: Architectura. Views of iconic Dallas buildings by gay photographer Alex Remington. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107. Through June 22. ilumegallerie.com.

Ruben Nieto: Shadow Paintings. Dallas-based abstract artist hosts a solo show. Cris Worley Fine Arts. 1415 Slocum St., Suite 104. Through June 22. CrisWorley.com.



BETTY GOES COWTOWN | Broadway legend and Fort Worth native Betty Buckley performs her new one-woman show Saturday at the Modern.

field — and anyone else. The Pour House Dallas, 1300 W. Davis St. 5:30–7:30 p.m. PHDallas.com.

SATURDAY 06.15

CONCERTS

Betty Buckley: Vixens of Broadway. The Tony Award-winning Fort Worth native sings some of her favorite songs. Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St. Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 06.14

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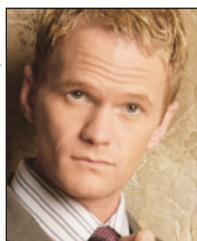
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GEMINI: May 21 — Jun 20

It would be great if you could figure out how to shut up and listen. You're the best when it comes to ideas, but when it comes to being able to see the big picture, you've become myopic. Volumes of experience are about to translate into something that will allow you to pull years of work into a nutshell.

CANCER: Jun 21 — Jul 20

Every once in a while we come up against a choice that gives us a chance to stick with what we've got or trust that something else might work out better. You are right there, right now, and the need to be circumspect will allow you to go forward without feeling like you're throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

LEO: Jul 21 — Aug 20

Riding herd on people won't make them rise to your expectations. If you want this to grow give it room. And before you convince yourself that a deeper commitment is what you're after take a month off and look at what it is you want out of it.

VIRGO: Aug 21 — Sep 20

If you thought this period was going to be all sweetness and light, you've learned a thing or two. Going deeper into things has shown you how dark life can get when you really look at what motivates people to do what they do.

LIBRA: Sep 21 — Oct 20

You've come to the conclusion that you have to rearrange your perspective on things that have gotten to be too much about money. This about face has brought you back to a simpler place. It has also reminded you so much of some long-ago stuff and rekindled a desire for love and truth and simplicity.

SCORPIO: Oct 21 — Nov 20

Getting blown out of the water has its good and bad points. You're either shellshocked or amazed that your life has taken off like a rocket. It's all the same, no matter how it looks.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21 — Dec 20

You've got opportunities brewing that are bound to come with a few strings attached. What seems so attractive may have less to offer than what you've got going on right now. Instead of jumping on the next best thing, take a look at what's here and see what you can do with it.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21 — Jan 20

Politics and diplomacy need to be brought into play if you want to come out of this better off than you are now. Step out of the situation far enough to see that you don't have as much leverage as you once did, and your associates are pushing a whole new agenda.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21 — Feb 20

You've got it made on so many levels, it's hard to see that much of what you're doing needs to change. Complacency may be comfortable but it doesn't lend any excitement to your life.

PISCES: Feb 21 — Mar 20

The need to go out on a limb for anyone isn't something you need to be doing. It's great to be 100 percent there for people, but not if it's killing you. This particular behavior is expressing itself to a greater or lesser degree depending on your history.

ARIES: Mar 21 — Apr 20

You have too many things converging all at once to be able to do much, but take one thing at a time. The log-jam in your brain is keeping many of you awake at night.

TAURUS: Apr 21 — May 20

Nobody gets to you the way a certain so-and-so gets to you. And this is either feeling bad or good depending on where you stand with each other. In some ways it's OK to care this much and/or be this involved.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

361

HEY, GUYS... FRESH TOWELS!

AH...RIGHT ON TIME, KYLE.

THEY'RE HOT OUT OF THE DRYER.

MMM...JUST HOW I LIKE 'EM!

'FRAID I GOTTA' SKIP OUT ON BREAKFAST TODAY, KYLE. GOT ME AN EARLY MORNING MEETING.

AND THERE'S HOT PANCAKES WAITING FOR YOU BOTH UPSTAIRS AFTER YOU DRY OFF.

IN FACT... I BETTER GET UPSTAIRS, GET DRESSED, N' HIT THE ROAD OR I'LL BE LATE.

OH, DREW... BEFORE YOU RUN OFF...

I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE ADVERTISING AWARDS DINNER NEXT MONTH?

WOULDN'T MISS IT, LANCE.

SEE YA' LATER, STUD. N' KYLE...

... SORRY 'BOUT THAT MESSY PDA.

I'LL LIVE.

GOOD. I... JUST NEEDED TO KNOW TO RESERVE OUR TICKETS.

UH-HUH. N' ONE OTHER THING 'FORE I SKEE-DADDLE...

ALL RIGHT. SAY IT.

SAY WHAT?

WELL...IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE "NO-STRINGS-ATTACHED" LANCE POWERS MAY ACTUALLY BE IN A RELATIONSHIP!

DON'T OVERESTIMATE IT, KYLE.

REALLY? AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU MADE PLANS A MONTH IN ADVANCE... TO GO TO THE ADVERTISING AWARDS DINNER... WITH A "CASUAL FLING"?

UM... WELL...

I THOUGHT SO...

WHAT DREW AND I ARE HAVING IS MORE OF A... CASUAL FLING.

WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE JUST BURSTING TO SAY.

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E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

hotwired

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE EXCITED THAT I'M COMING TO THE STATES.

I AM EXCITED.

YOU DON'T SOUND EXCITED.

SORRY, DEVI... BAD VOICE LINK, I GUESS...

HANG ON...

LOOK - WE'VE HAD A GREAT, UM, HOT CYBER-THING GOING LONG-DISTANCE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL BE THE SAME KIND OF CONNECTION IN PERSON...

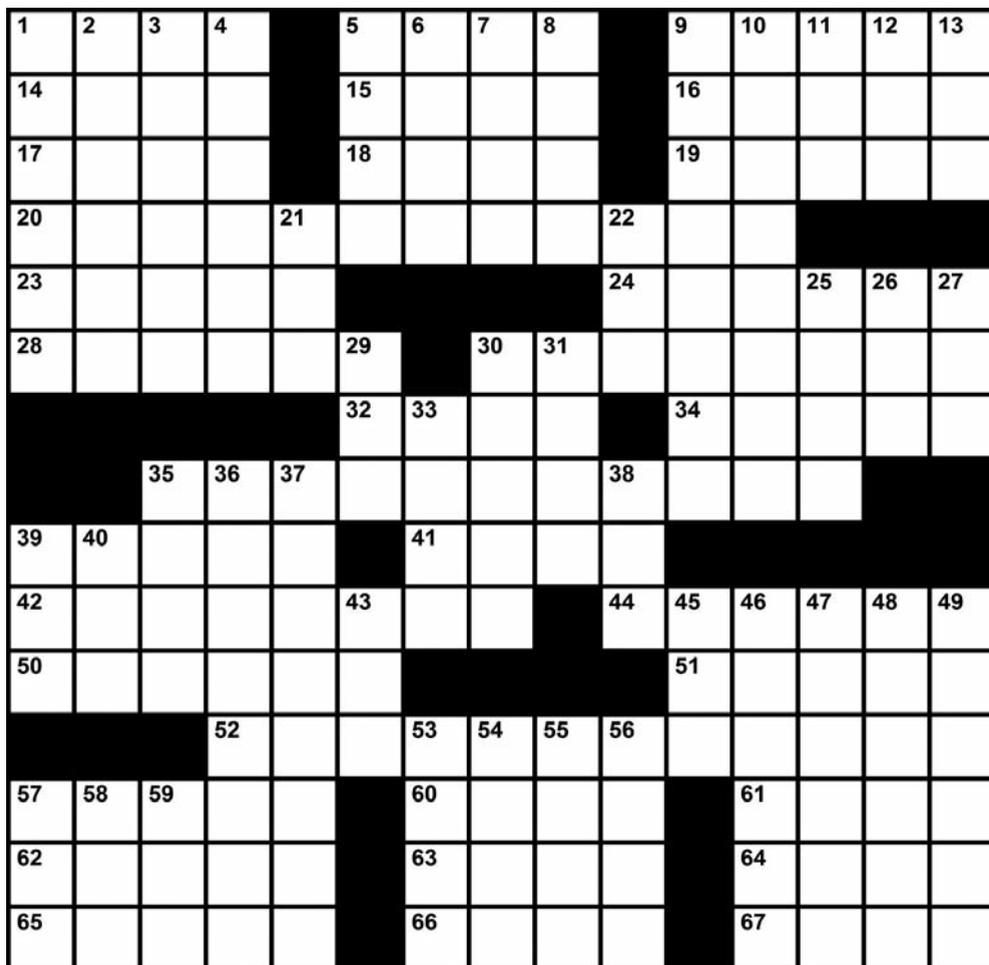
HOW'S THIS FOR CONNECTION, BABY??

SHRIEK!

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JOAN HILTY ©2009



Share the Freedom

Solution on page 25

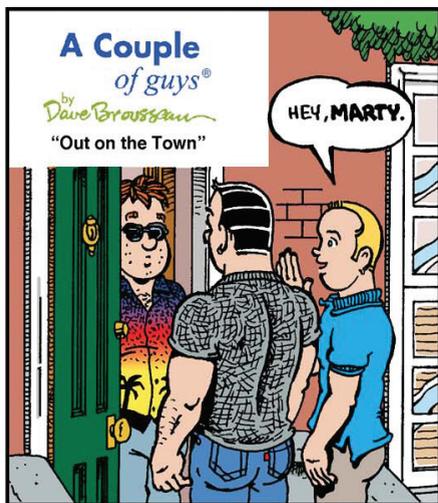
Across

- 1 It can help you hold your liquor
- 5 I ___ *Andy Warhol*
- 9 Orlando group that plays with balls
- 14 Michelangelo's David, and such
- 15 Prefix meaning "half"
- 16 You must remember this
- 17 British carbine
- 18 Persian Gulf land
- 19 Story of Greeks and Trojans
- 20 Start of the answer to "Why can't we give 35-Across to LGBT people?"
- 23 12-inch stick
- 24 Pastoral pieces
- 28 Threat words
- 30 Think tank output
- 32 Big part
- 34 When repeated, a Funny Girl song
- 35 Freedoms that all should enjoy
- 39 She had her hand up Lamb Chop
- 41 Sultry Horne
- 42 Dean Cain's Clark Kent, for one
- 44 Part for a Singer
- 50 Species of Mr. Squarepants
- 51 Fire, to Frida
- 52 End of the answer

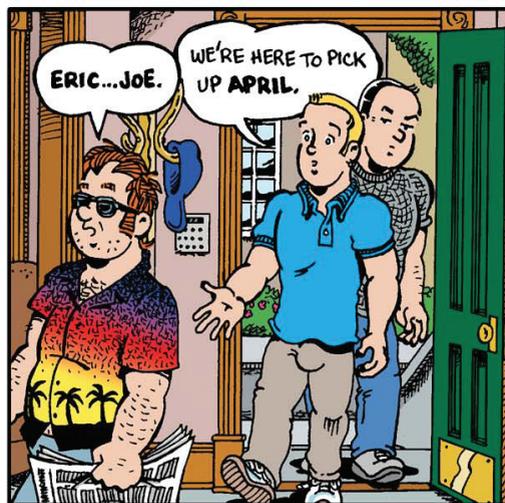
- 57 Dallas dweller
- 60 Skye on screens
- 61 "Catch you later"
- 62 Funny Cheri
- 63 Admit openly
- 64 Latin poet
- 65 Greek sorceress
- 66 Part of YMCA
- 67 The L.A. Sparks strip them

Down

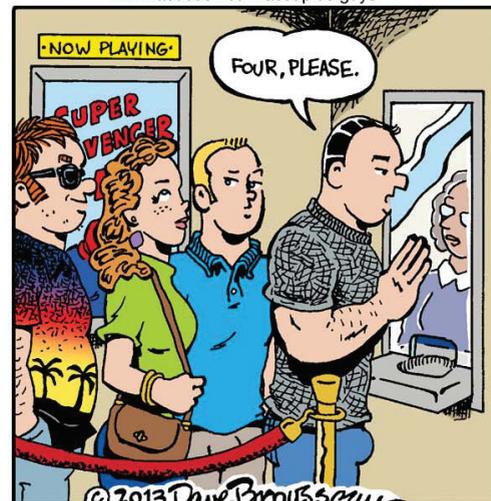
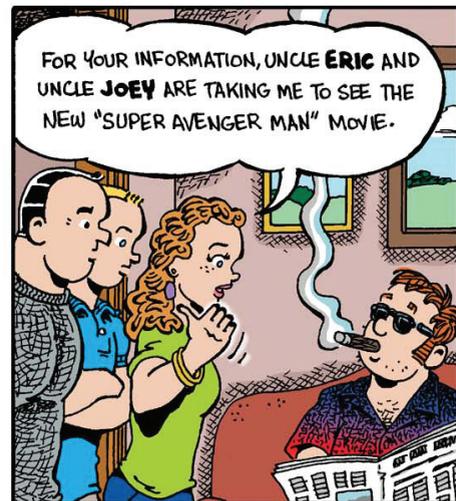
- 1 Milk neighborhood
- 2 Bea of *The Golden Girls*
- 3 Remington ___
- 4 Where bitches hang out
- 5 It might poke you in prison
- 6 On the spot
- 7 Poet Khayy-m
- 8 Like Tim
- 9 Principle course at Star Canyon
- 10 Urban pussy
- 11 Queer in Quebec
- 12 " ___ Yankee Doodle Dandy"
- 13 Provincetown's Cape
- 21 Hesitation sounds
- 22 Lubricant
- 25 Jar tops
- 26 Island necklace
- 27 U-turn from NNW
- 29 Cotton gin inventor Whitney
- 30 Fruit peeler
- 31 Top Norse deity
- 33 Woods of *Legally Blonde*
- 35 Melissa may attach one to her neck
- 36 Pots and pans, e.g.
- 37 State named for a queen who wasn't sexually active
- 38 Gift of Ellen DeGeneres
- 39 June grads
- 40 Like cool cats
- 43 Address book no.
- 45 Frequently, to Shakespeare
- 46 Place where you often see the slogan of this puzzle's theme
- 47 Mind one's manners
- 48 "No need to explain"
- 49 Rootless types
- 53 Neeson of *Kinsey*
- 54 Didn't go straight
- 55 Source of this puzzle's quote (abbr.)
- 56 Randy Shilts' area
- 57 Hulce of *Amadeus*
- 58 Season abroad
- 59 Crossed through, with "out"



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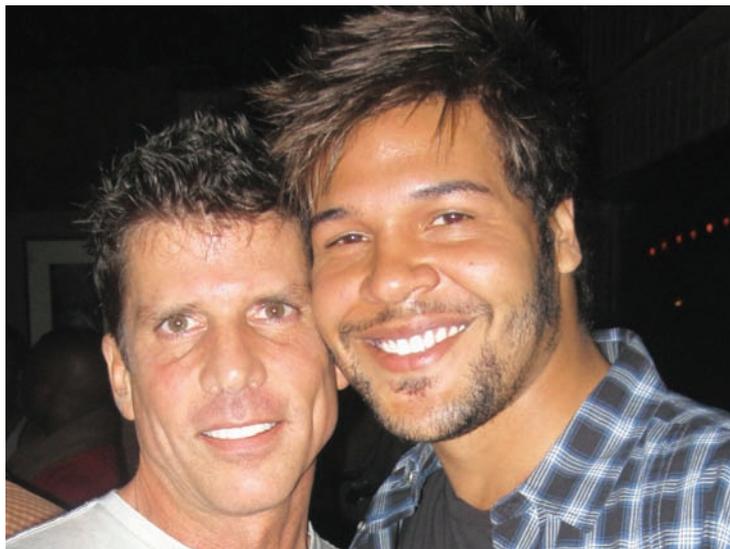
Dee and Robin at Station 4.



Bartenders at the Dallas Eagle.

Head over to **The Brick** on June 15 for the kickoff of its **Juneteenth Weekend** with special guest **Miss Sophia**. ... Party it up with **Three Drunk Monkeys** and their ever-changing set list at **Alexandre's** on June 15. ... Perfect your hula for the **Luau Party** on June 15 at **Club 1851**. ... **Rob Hickman** hosts the **United Court's Grand Duckie Ball** to benefit **Legacy Founders Cottage** on June 15 at **The Dallas Eagle**. ... **Does Your Daddy Know? Turnabout 2013** on June 16 at **Woody's** benefits **Resource Center Dallas**. ... The band **Chix** lights up the night on the rooftop at **Eden Lounge** on June 15. ... The **CEBA Pool Tournament** is on June 17 at **Sue Ellen's**. ... **Garlow's** presents **Dancing with Drag Queens Amateur Contest** on June 15 with emcees **Rusty Winters** and **Sable Alexander**. ... Check out **Kaliente's** hot **Noche Hawaiiana** on June 14. ... On June 15, head to **Peker's** for a night of fun and laughs as it hosts **Singing Pekers**, a karaoke night. ... June 17 is **Be the Star Karaoke Night** at the **Rainbow Lounge**. ... If you like **Sandra Bullock** or **Melissa McCarthy** be sure and head to **JR's Bar and Grill** on June 19 for the chance to win a movie pass to **The Heat** and if you're a fan of Broadway musicals, be there on June 20 to win a cast album of the new musical **Kinky Boots**. ... The annual **Miss Texas Trailer Trash Pageant** hits **The Hidden Door** on June 15 with **SoFonda Man-Meat** stepping down after her two-year reign over at the **Lazy J Trailer Park**. This is a bought title and a pre-lim to **Miss Charity America** with only two categories — trailer park evening wear and talent. Proceeds benefiting **TGRA Charities**. ■

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



Michael and Jonathan at Zippers.



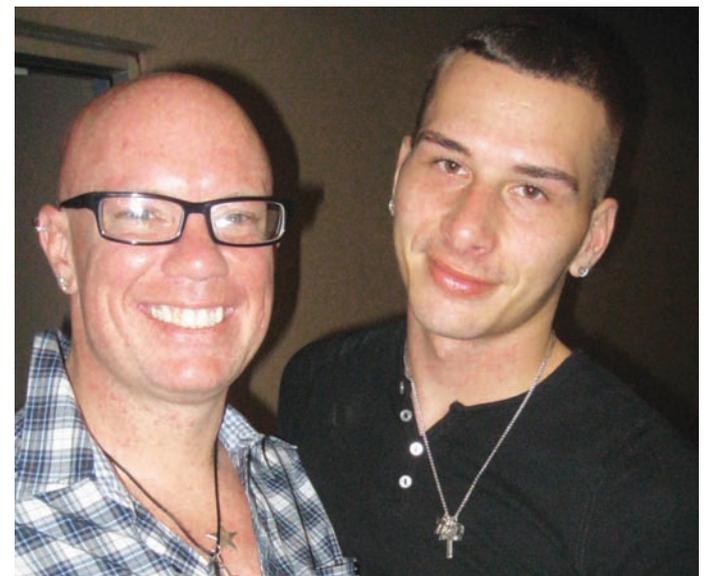
Jennifer and Tracy at Sue Ellen's.



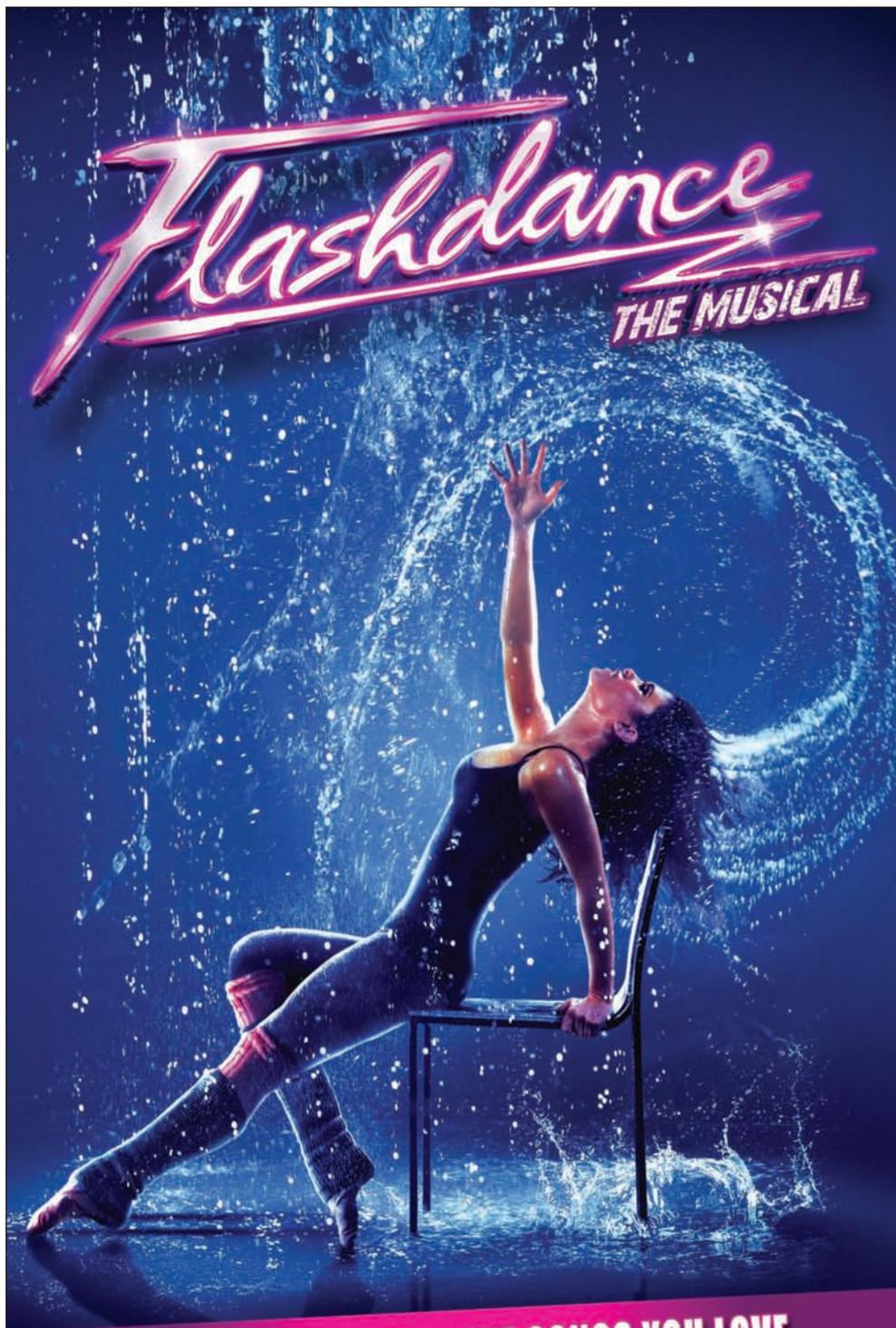
Marvin and Tony at the Tin Room.



Albert and Selis at Havana.



Aaron and Eric at Randy's Club Cherries.



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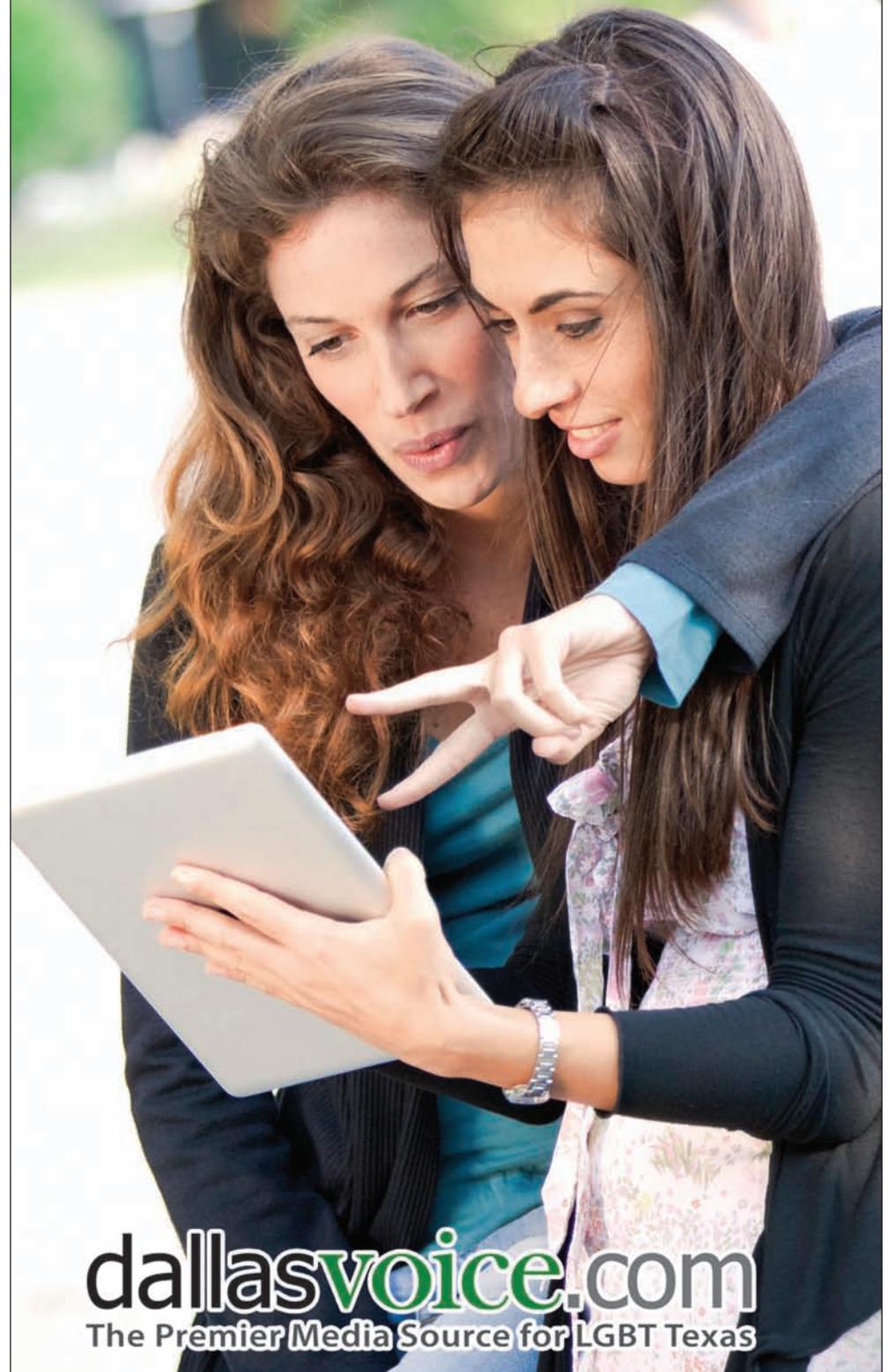
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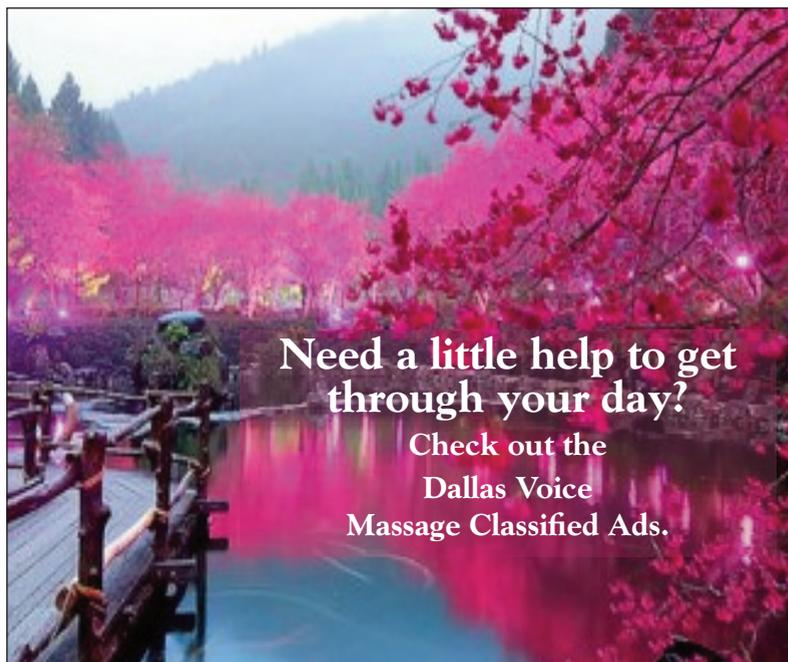
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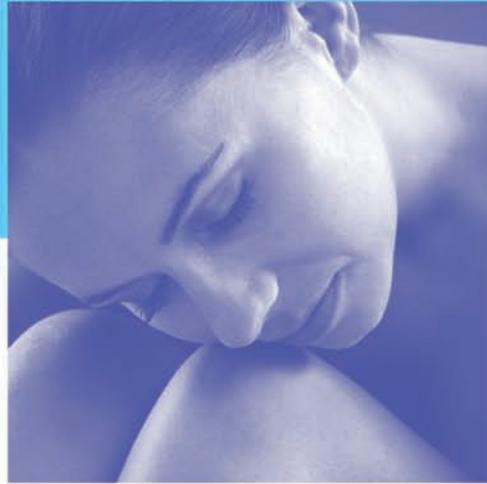
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