Major and Beau vow to fight charges
Couple arrested at marriage sit-in say they won’t accept plea bargain
Protest planned outside Crowley building during court appearance Tuesday

The Modern: 10 years of amazement
The Design District, from trinkets to food
Tattoos transform arms into comic books
Chihuly Nights at the Dallas Arboretum

COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 16
Dallas Voice is searching for the TOP HAT in LGBT North Texas, kicking off our annual contest for the Readers Voice Awards. This year’s theme is TOP HAT, and we are asking readers to submit photos featuring HATS. The winner will be featured on the full page cover of the March 22, 2013 Reader Voice Awards edition and a $1,000 donation will be made in the winner’s name to their favorite charity. Use your imagination, and send your best Hat photos to TopHat@dallasvoice.com. Submission deadline is Friday, December 7.

THROW YOUR HAT IN THE RING TODAY!

Dallas Voice editors will chose the 9 TOP HAT Finalists. Finalists will be given a Top Hat professional photo shoot. A model release will be required before publication. Results will be used for promotional materials and online balloting. Readers will pick the 2013 Top Hat in Readers Voice Awards voting Jan. 4 - 31, 2013. Please include Photographer name, email and cell phone, and a statement of model release if you have photographed a friend. “Top Hat” is a liberal term and all entries will be considered.
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Cover design by Kevin Thomas
Drama Room owner says bar isn’t closing despite ‘For Lease’ sign

Lonzie Hershner, whose family owns the Drama Room on Cedar Springs Road, tells Instant Tea that the “For Lease” sign that recently appeared in the window of the gay bar isn’t an indication it’s closing.

Hershner said his family, which also owns the Tin Room on Hudnall Street, is in the process of renegotiating its lease for the Drama Room, and the property owner put up the sign as the two sides continue to haggle. Hershner said the lease expired in January and has been extended month to month since then, but the property owner had wanted it to be renegotiated within six months. The owner of the property — identified as Penelope Hatteras in Dallas Central Appraisal District records — didn’t immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

“We have no plans on giving up the Drama Room,” Hershner said. “We’re just holding out as long as possible.”

Mickey Briggs, the owner of the bar that previously occupied the Drama Room site, Mickey’s, blamed a rent increase when he closed the bar in 2009. Hershner’s family also plans to reopen the Hideaway on Buena Vista Street in Uptown. However, neighbors are trying to block the Hideaway from reopening, and a hearing on the liquor license for the bar is now set for Dec. 7. Hershner said the delays related to the Hideaway have not impacted the lease negotiations for the Drama Room.

“Each establishment pays its own bills,” he said.

— John Wright

Anti-gay group spreading lies about TX same-sex adoption bill

Under the impression that the bill would mandate a change in all birth certificates in the state, Saenz suggested that his three children would have to have theirs changed. But the bill would only apply to adopted children of same-sex couples, allowing both parents to have their names on the certificate. Texas law currently only allows one man and one woman to be listed on birth certificates.

“In the state of Texas, homosexual adoption is allowed, so that’s not the issue here. The issue is that you have a small group of people that want to change a birth certificate for everybody else,” Saenz said. “This is an issue about what is natural and what is common sense. You have a mother and a father.”

Saenz continued to say that the bill would grant gay couples special rights and suggested certificates would allow two or three fathers to be listed on the certificates in cases of polygamy.

Mentioning that the bill has been filed before and never got out of committee, Saenz said it has no chance of passing when the session begins Jan. 8. He also argued that changing the law for birth certificates would impact at least 31 other sections of the family law.

“This type of change would essentially eviscerate the family law as we know it,” he said.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith also spoke to Fox 7, highlighting that inaccurate birth certificates make it harder for children to get a passport or register for school.

“The current law, as it’s written, is forcing thousands of Texas children not to be able to get a supplemental birth certificate that shows who their legal, adoptive parents are,” Smith said.

Following the news report, Smith posted a fact check about HB 201 on Equality Texas’ website.

“Mr. Saenz apparently had not actually read HB 201 because his on-air statements were factually incorrect,” Smith wrote. “I don’t know about you, but as a fifth-generation Texan, my ‘Texas Values’ include telling the truth and working to support the health and well being of all Texas families. And yes, that literally means ALL TEXAS FAMILIES!”

— Anna Waugh
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It’s been several months since Beau Chandler and Mark “Major” Jimenez handcuffed themselves together at the marriage license counter in the Dallas County Records Building.

Since then, the two went ahead with their wedding plans in September, despite being denied a marriage license. But their court cases are just beginning.

The couple had their first court date Aug. 2 after their July 5 arrests on charges of criminal trespassing for refusing to leave the County Records Building without a license. A rally of supporters on their first court date morphed into another sit-in at the marriage license counter and a second arrest for Jiminez.

The couple is planning another rally in front of Frank Crowley Criminal Courts Building at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, to support Chandler, who’s scheduled to be in court after his Sept. 26 appearance was rescheduled.

Chad West, one of the attorneys representing the couple, said Tuesday will be an opportunity for the prosecution and defense to discuss how the case should move forward. He said the case is in the development stage and the district attorney’s office is still reviewing it. Jiminez’s next court date hasn’t been set.

West said he hasn’t received a plea bargain offer from the district attorney’s office, adding that prosecutors have until Chandler enters a plea of guilty or not guilty to propose a deal.

Chandler will have until late January to enter a plea and the case could go to trial as early as March.

West doesn’t expect a plea to be entered or a plea bargain to be reached Tuesday. He expects the DA to eventually offer Chandler and Jiminez plea deals, but he said the couple isn’t considering accepting at this point.

“They’re very adamant on their position on this case,” he said. “My understanding after talking with my clients, they’re still weighing the options basically on whether they can even consider taking a plea or whether they want to push this as far as they can.”

Jiminez agreed.

“We’re not going to take a plea deal,” he said. “By taking it to trial, we want to make them look at us in the face and tell us we’re not worthy. If a jury of our peers tells us that, then we know where we stand.”

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Trevizo is the prosecutor on Chandler’s case, which she said is the only case pending. She said Jiminez’s case hasn’t been processed yet.

Trevizo said both sides will discuss a possible plea deal and negotiate how to move the case along on Tuesday, adding that “any resolution we can come to is always great.”

Chandler said some people don’t understand why the couple is pushing to take the cases to trial since they are fighting criminal trespassing charges, not fighting for marriage equality. But he said it’s important because the charges resulted from standing up for their rights to marry, so they will see the cases through with a dismissal or a trial.

“The point was to raise awareness,” Chandler said. “If we got one person to pay attention that we’re being treated unequally, then we’ve done our part.”

Chandler and Jiminez face class-B misdemeanor charges of criminal trespassing, punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a maximum fine of $2,000.
POLICE PEERS | Cpl. Tracey Knight, back left, Fort Worth’s LGBT liaison officer, addresses the crowd at a reception for the department’s new ‘citizen peers’ earlier this month. (Logan Carver/Dallas Voice)

FWPD program allows LGBT citizens to develop training for new officers

Halstead cites Rainbow Lounge raid at 1st meeting of new Multicultural Agency — made up of subgroups from city’s minority communities

LOGAN CARVER | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — A group of civilians is shaping the future of LGBT education within the Fort Worth Police Department.

Inside a small police academy classroom at the department’s training center, LGBT “citizen peers” from varied personal and professional backgrounds will spend the next several months developing the curriculum for future academy classes.

“This is groundbreaking,” said Detective Marc Povera, one of two LGBT group facilitators. “This has not been done anywhere around the country.”

The LGBT group is one of a half dozen break-out groups from the department’s Multicultural Committee.

Each group, comprising citizen volunteers, will meet separately to develop training materials, which will be used to educate new officers about the culture and customs specific to the respective groups.

Essentially the groups are letting officers know how they want to be treated and what officers can expect to encounter.

The goal, per the committee’s mission statement, is “to build a foundation of excellent service through ethical behavior based on mutual respect, education and understanding of our multicultural communities.”

The process is expected to last up to six months but it’s up to the citizen peers how long it takes, Povera said.

Each group has two department facilitators who will help steer the meetings and will be able to convey the rest of the department the information derived from the break-out groups.

Neither Povera nor Detective John Bayer is gay. Department command staff strategically chose facilitators who were not members of the target group.

“If you were part of that group, you really wouldn’t be able to relay that to folks because I think it may be a bit of a credibility issue,” Povera said.

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Marmalade and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is $110 for cats, $135 for kittens, $150 for dogs over 1 year, and $175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a $20 discount.

Volunteers serve up a Thanksgiving meal for clients, staff and others who dropped by Resource Center Dallas on Wednesday, Nov. 21. The main meal was served in the Rainbow Room and dessert and coffee in the Color Rooms. Among the servers were members of Lost Souls, a new Dallas gay rugby team committed to community service. (David Tafet/Dallas Voice)
FW woman alleges she was kicked out of Dollar General store for being transgender

Teresa Cross plans to file complaint under Cowtown’s nondiscrimination ordinance, which was amended to include gender identity in 2009

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Teresa Cross has been a frequent shopper at the Dollar General store near her home since last fall.

But when she went into the store on Saturday, Nov. 3, she said she was kicked out of the store after she corrected an employee about her gender identity.

Now Cross says she plans to file a complaint under the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance, which was amended to include transgender protections following the Rainbow Lounge raid three years ago. She also said she’s looking into the possibility of filing a lawsuit against Dollar General and hopes the company will learn from the ridicule she endured and make employees undergo sensitivity training.

“They just don’t know any better and they need to be educated,” she said, adding that no one should have to go through a similar experience. “I think I have restitution coming to me for pain and suffering and humiliation.”

Joel Mallory, Cross’ attorney, said he is reviewing her case to decide the best approach. There is no state or federal law prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity — or even gender — in public accommodations.

Dollar General did not respond to phone calls or emails requesting a comment by press time.

Cross said she stopped in the store at 1000 Sycamore School Road, grabbed a few items and headed for the register. She overheard store clerks mentioning one register may be cash only, so when she was next in line, she asked if she could use her debit card.

A female employee standing next to Cross told the clerk behind the register that “he” could try to check out with his card, referring to Cross as male.

Cross immediately corrected the employee, telling her that she’s a she, not a he. The employee said she wasn’t talking to Cross, but to the other employee. Cross said she told the employee that...
Fort Worth Police Chief Jeffrey Halstead spoke at a reception before the groups began their introductory meeting.

He said he has been waiting almost 24 years to see a program like the Multicultural Committee come to fruition.

Halstead said it was important for the community to gather around a table preemptively because eventually there will be a struggle that requires the police department to sit down with the same people.

The chief nodded to members of the LGBT group as he referenced the Rainbow raid that brought the department and the gay community to the table three years ago.

“What hit home was the hurt we all felt in 2009,” Halstead told the room of officers and volunteers. “If you want a successful program, the community has to be involved.”

Officer Sharron Neal summarized the committee’s goal.

“We will not be satisfied until our department mirrors the city of Fort Worth,” she said.
Gore steps down after only 2 months as ED of Hope 4 Peace & Justice

Longtime local lesbian activist cites ‘philosophical differences,’ resigns as leader of social justice ministry founded by the Rev. Michael Piazza

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Hope for Peace & Justice is without an executive director after Susan Gore, who was hired in August, left in October.

Gore, a longtime local lesbian activist, said she stepped down from H4PJ due to “philosophical differences.”

Gore said she wasn’t with H4PJ long enough to be able to discuss specific programs and declined to comment further.

Steven Jolly, chair of the H4PJ board, issued a statement.

“We are grateful for the time that Susan was with H4PJ,” Jolly said. “She is a person with a great deal of talent and a warm personality. We wish her the very best as she continues to pursue her passion and works towards her Masters of Theological Studies program at Brite Divinity School at TCU.”

Jolly said a national search for a new executive director is under way.

“We hope to have someone by the second quarter,” he said.

H4PJ was launched in 2004 by Michael Piazza, the longtime senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope. Piazza, who is now pastor of Virginia Highland Church in Atlanta and co-executive director of United Church of Christ’s Center for Progressive Renewal, remains president of H4PJ.

Piazza didn’t respond to a message seeking comment about Gore’s resignation.

The Rev. Jo Hudson said the board of Cathedral of Hope established H4PJ but they operate as separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

“We consider ourselves yoked as partner organizations,” Hudson said.

Hudson serves on the board as one of five H4PJ board members that the Cathedral names out of a total of 15.

“We have no other links,” she said. “We keep separate finances.”

She said that H4PJ keeps the Cathedral of Hope congregation engaged with social justice issues.

“When they have an action, we’re a base of strong support,” she said.

She said she was thrilled with the work of interim director Lynn Walters and her work restarting the Safe Schools program. She said she looked forward to linking with additional peacemaking organizations.

“This is a time of rebuilding and reforming,” she said.

Hudson declined to comment on Gore’s departure but said she likes and admires her.

H4PJ’s stated mission is to equip progressive people of faith to be champions of peace and justice. It is based at Cathedral of Hope and works closely with the church on social justice issues.

Piazza served as H4PJ’s executive director from its founding until his move to Georgia in 2011. MJ Kaska became program director after Piazza’s departure and served until earlier this year. Gore was hired this summer and stayed about two months.

The work of the organization will continue with Walters as interim director. Walters has been a board member since 2007 and was previously on staff. She said the organization currently has a paid staff of two.

“And two on staff at Cathedral of Hope are lent to us a few hours a month,” Walters said.

The organization uses between seven and 20 volunteers a month.

According to H4PJ’s 990 report filed with the IRS, the organization had an annual budget of $97,813 in 2010. That was down from almost $297,034 in 2008 and $110,012 in 2009.
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Felix Navidogs!

Death

Wesley Ed Phillips, 55, died Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, after a long illness. Phillips was born in Brownwood, Texas, on Dec. 20, 1956. He graduated from Brownwood High School, before studying at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

While most of his adult life was spent in Dallas, he lived in Buffalo, N.Y., for several years — quite the climate change for a Texas boy. He had a varied and distinguished career, working as a young man for the telephone company, before starting a career in the funeral industry. He later moved into banking and finished his career managing a help desk at a local company. His career in the funeral industry prompted many stories and comments about the varied aspects of public service and human nature. He, like his grandmother before him, became an avid reader of obituaries. (We hope we did you proud with this one, Ed!)

He had a quick wit and a quiet sense of humor. He loved a tall tale and easily introduced himself to new friends. He attended the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, serving in the usher ministry, and aided the community in other ways as well. He loved to travel, and he enjoyed quiet time at home with those he loved. He was devoted to his dog, Bambi, who was a Hurricane Katrina rescue.

Phillips dealt with illness with grace and dignity, rarely letting on that he was almost always in intense pain. He refused to let his condition prevent him from giving service to his church or community, and living his life to the fullest.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tyson and Jo Phillips. He is survived by his life partner, Randy Johnson; his sister and brother-in-law, Jeff and Ty Lawrence; three nephews, Tyson, Justin and Jamie Lawrence, and their wives and children; aunts, Katherine Pate of Dallas and Lucille Ratliff of Lawton, Okla.; and close friends, Ken Kizer of Dallas and Jim O’Dea of Buffalo, N.Y. Phillips was also close to his cousin, Mary Ellen Irving, and her husband, Henry. Kizer, his friend of many years, was vitally important to his care — many thanks to him for his love and support. And last, there is Bambi, who was always at his side. Phillips will be greatly missed by all. Services were Nov. 18 at the Cathedral of Hope.
The Dallas Design District is a neighborhood 50 years in the making where old meets new. This is where converted warehouses and newly constructed apartments merge to create a vivacious new neighborhood with a decidedly established feel.

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viewpoints

Reality bitch-slaps the GOP

In its seemingly endless search for scapegoats after Romney’s defeat, Republican Party managers look right past the elephant in the room.

It’s funny that a party with an elephant as their symbol can’t see the elephant in the room. That’s the real issue following the stunning loss for Mitt Romney in the general election.

Republicans are looking everywhere for a scapegoat, and they have found plenty of them. The scavenger hunt began with Karl Rove on Fox News during the election trying to dispute the math that gave Ohio to Obama. He fiddled madly with his calculator trying to re-crun the numbers while the Fox team used their computer models to correctly project the outcome. He blamed the exit polls for being somehow biased in favor of Democrats. He was wrong!

The next possible scapegoat came from the failed candidate himself, Mitt Romney. In a conference call to his big money supporters, he pawned the loss off on the Obama administration giving “gifts” to minority constituents. In Mitt’s universe affordable healthcare is strictly a “poor folks” issue. That would be the 47 percent again.

Fox News host Bill O’Reilly agreed on this point, saying that the new majority of Americans who are not old white guys, apparently wanted “stuff” and Obama was willing to give it to them. Again, there is absolutely no data to back any of this up, but that has never stopped O’Reilly or Fox.

Meanwhile, Mother Nature was not exempt from the finger pointing. Haley Barbour, former Republican governor of Mississippi, put the blame squarely on the superstorm. Somehow a natural disaster stunted Romney’s momentum. Never mind that some would call the superstorm an “act of God” and the religious right has been strangely silent on that front.

Ron Johnson, a Republican senator from Wisconsin, blamed stupidity for the loss. According to him, the voters who defeated Romney didn’t understand “the very ugly math facing this country.” This is part of the failed “Obama is a big spender” tactic the GOP tried. The truth is Obama spent less in federal money than any president since Eisenhower. I guess Sen. Johnson never studied “pretty math”?

One commentator this past weekend blamed the lack of “brown faces” in the GOP. Apparently all the Republican Party needs is a face lift. Add a few Hispanic surnames, a few darker-skinned folks and BINGO — you have a winner! Romney even tried it when he got a super-dark spray tan to speak in front of a Hispanic audience. They really believe it’s all about appearances. Tell that to Allen West, who lost his seat in Florida, even after a recount. Window dressing won’t win votes; the American people are smarter than the GOP thinks.

And that brings us to the real issue and that is the issues themselves. The whole GOP platform is the problem. It seems they are unable to look inward enough to see the real cause of the loss since that would mean re-examining their trajectory. As they moved further and further right, they lost more and more votes. Add to that a lackluster candidate — and Romney is a poster child for that — and you have no enthusiasm from any moderate voter and downright disgust from independents.

The GOP has been living in a fantasy land, and now reality is giving them a “bitch-slap” wake-up call. They have believed Fox News, forgetting that it is a propaganda machine, not news. They have bought the whole idea put forth during the Doby years that “we create our own reality.”

In case you don’t remember, here’s the excerpt from an article by Ron Suskind in the New York Times Magazine in October 2004:

“...The aide said that guys like me were ‘in what we called the reality-based community,’ which he defined as people who ‘believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernable reality.’ ... ‘That’s not the way the world really works anymore,’ he continued. ‘We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you’re studying that reality — judiciously, as you will — we’ll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that’s how things will sort out. We’re history’s actors ... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.”

And so here we are, studying what they did, only this time reality is a little bigger than anything they can manage or create, and that’s the elephant in the room.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhill Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.
I am a partner, an editor, and a runner. 
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- Oriol

Oriol (left) has lived with HIV since 1992.

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Showing his metal

Anteks has always showcased rustic decor. Now owner Jason Lenox is taking a stab at design, too.

In the 17 years that Jason Lenox has been running Anteks, his family’s 30-year-old business, the one rule has been this: “Provide people with uniquely American lifestyle furnishings.” One thing he does not call it is “Southwestern.”

“Our style is sophisticated rustic,” Lenox stresses — whatever that means. And what that means at Anteks is a warming assortment of earth-toned furniture, trinkets, art and décor that has marked the shop for decades. From the animal-hide upholstery to the collection of antique American flags, Lenox has carved a recognizable niche for himself. And carving seems to play a part in much of the work anyway: Rough-hewn woods and classic club chairs exude the comfortable masculinity of a mountain lodge.

It’s a style that Lenox — who lives with his longtime partner, Matt, in the Kessler Park area of Oak Cliff — has carefully cultivated, lending his hand to the look of many items on his showroom floor. Despite its name, Anteks is not full of antiques, but new, specialty items that meet Lenox’s standards. When he orders furniture from manufacturers, Lenox rarely takes products as-is; rather, he has them customize pieces to fit with Anteks’ aesthetic.

“All my designs start with me thinking, ‘What would someone want to buy or use that could be easily adapted’ to a variety of purposes, he says.

In recent weeks, though, he has expanded his hand as a designer, going so far as to manufacture his own line of home décor pieces exclusive to Anteks.

“I have no background [in metal design], I just love collecting Native American works,” he says of his newfound interest. “I just saw [similar] stuff in a shop in Albuquerque and I thought, ‘I could do that.’”

The results are hand-tooled pieces shaped then stamped with a die. Individual dies are tweaked, adding gemstones or other details, so that most are unique.

The line, made of a copper-nickel alloy that carries the look and weight of hammered silver, ranges from jewelry boxes to curio cases, picture frames to ashtrays and cigar rests — all the kinds of things Lenox himself likes to surround himself with.

Other retailers have already expressed an interest in the collection, which Lenox says will continue to grow, as new ideas come to him all the time. What it all amounts to is an engaging selection of the manliest of gifts, all with a careful sense of design.

Lenox rejects the idea, though, that the style belongs only in a ranch house next to a gun rack; despite the persistent appearance of antlers and fur, it’s a cozy shop — and it is a shop.

Since moving from Lovers Lane to the Design District nearly four years ago, Lenox says one of the biggest challenges is reminding people that the area isn’t just for buyers, designers and corporate clients; there are many retail businesses along Dragon Street, Slocum Street, Hi Line Drive and the other avenues that make up the region. “So many people don’t know you can just pop your head in here,” he says.

But that perception is changing. With the influx in recent years of dining options (Oak, Meddlesome Moth and most recently FT33 — see story on Page 19) and residential developments, in addition to the growth of many galleries, the area is slowly becoming its own destination. “There’s a lot to see here,” Lenox says. “[The Design District] is open to the public.”

Ben Stevenson’s Brand New

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In just a year, tattoo late-comer Ronnie Reynolds has transformed his skin into a living comic book.

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

For many people, it starts with a tiny butterfly on the nape of the neck, or maybe a four-leaf clover on an ankle. The ritual of the tattoo: You start small and build.

Not Ronnie Reynolds. The 44-year-old bartender and aspiring novelist has been under the needle at least 17 times, representing literally dozens of images. And he’s collected all of them since last year.

He began, ironically, with a tattoo tribute to his mother, who passed away three years ago.

“She would kill me for getting a tattoo,” Reynolds says of the ink marking her birthday and death. That one paved the way for additional tattoos: His and his partner’s names, their anniversary, illustrations of their pets. But now his arms are like living comic books.

Easily his most elaborate tat is the half-sleeve depiction of The Avengers superheroes on his left forearm. It features 100 character heads, including Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and his own favorite, the Scarlet Witch. In addition, a scene from The Avengers wraps around his entire leg.

Reynolds’ love for comic books is evident elsewhere, too, with Spider-Woman on his upper arm and Batgirl and Black Canary on his right forearm. That side will eventually display DC Comics’ Justice League of America.

If you think he’s comic crazy, you’re right: Reynolds has a collection so massive, he hopes one day to sell it and retire from the proceeds. But his personal favorite among his tats isn’t even a fictional character.

“It’s Agatha Christie — I can see it every time I am writing on my computer to give me inspiration. I love my old murder mysteries even more than my comics,” he says.

His first novel is a murder mystery set in a London theater, a labor of love that is almost complete. He has already published several short stories and a play with his twin brother.

Reynolds advises people to get tattoos with specific meaning to them.

“Don’t get a tattoo too small or in the wrong spot. And develop a theme [rather than get one on the spur of the moment],” he says. “Think out how you want your whole arm, leg or whatever before getting the first one to avoid screwing up a later idea.”

Each of Reynolds’ tattoos were created by an artist at Ink Rats in Irving.

“Bad has done all 17 of my tattoos. He is very quick, professional and takes an active interest in my tattoos and myself as well. He’s a great guy,” Reynolds says. “I send everyone that asks about my tattoos to him.”

And plenty of people ask him about his ink on a daily basis, but he loves the attention.

“To me, the best thing that came out of me getting my tattoos is the random conversations that present themselves. I am a basically shy, quiet guy.

— My partner is the outgoing, friendly kind of guy that everyone loves. I’m the guy standing behind him that rarely talks,” he admits. “But since getting my tattoos, more people are just coming up and talking to me. They love Agatha Christie or collect comics themselves. We just start discussing them and I slowly come out of my shell. They have actually made me more social, which was a bonus I didn’t expect.”

Wallflowers of the world might just be a needle and some ink away from an improved social life. And a few other perks, too.

“I’ve come to find out that most gay guys think tattoos are hot, which was a huge bonus,” he laughs. “Although straight people stop and comment more often. I’ve gotten free drinks, dinner and free tickets to The Avengers movie.”

Hmmm … under the right circumstances a Mercedes-Benz logo could be your ticket to a brand-new ride. Or at least a free beer.
Art on the plate

Chef Matt McCallister brings an artistic flair to the kitchen of his new Design District restaurant, FT33

Most fine dining veterans will tell you a great restaurant experience is not merely about the food, but about the Gestalt of eating out. Sure, we’ve all talked into a clown’s nose while ordering a burger on the way home from work, but if you’re gonna go out and drop a few bills for a night on the town, you want something beyond tasty dishes. You want creativity. You want a show.

The menu at the newly opened FT33, courtesy of chef/owner Matt McCallister, exudes creativity like sweat from the pores of the marathoner. A celebration of the art of dining, merely looking at the dishes is as much a part of enjoying the meal as the flavors on the tongue. And while that kind of approach necessitates some hits and misses, there’s no denying the consummate hand behind them, wringing beauty from sauces and soups, meats and mergingues.

For McCallister, composed plates are de rigueur at FT33. You don’t just look at the food, you behold it — and not just with your eyes, but with all your senses. Flavors here make stranger bedfellows than politics.

Take, for instance, the uni and chive short stack ($19) — something you will almost never imagine somewhere else. Who puts sea urchin on a pancake and passes it off as an appetizer? But the flavors were phenomenal and unique, and begged for repetition elsewhere on the menu.

The cauliflower soup ($11), redolent of earthiness (almost like mushrooms, though no mushrooms are in it), is a perfect autumnal starter, though, with a single grape floating in it, perhaps too precious. The 70-day aged ribeye, about 8 oz., was a stellar piece of meat. Cooked perfectly in and of itself, with striations of fat adding in depth, it was completed by a terrific bone marrow purée on top and a roasted hollandaise with celery root puree. The components came together exquisitely, although at $44, we expected more.

The short ribs plate ($33) ideally encapsulated the aesthetic here: With a smattering of root vegetables, a dollop of beef fat and herb salmoreigio, plus finely whipped potatoes, the effect is a deconstructed shepherd’s pie — tender and soulful. The problem, of course, with deconstructed dishes is you often need to reconstitute them to get the full impact, as with the chicken, chanterelle, quince and peanut plate ($27), a peachy riff on a chicken casserole that only comes together when you mix it all up.

Presentation is part of the joy of dining at FT33 (a bad name that sounds like an ATM PIN, but refers to “fire table 33,” code for the chef’s table). One dessert, arriving on an elaborate palate of twisted burl driftwood, looked like Gandolf’s dinner plate. Beauty aside, the panna cotta was the culinary equivalent of Hansel and Gretel’s trail of breadcrumbs through a forest of well balanced flavors. The citrusy hints in the custard were exaggerated by bits of pulp atop, while the meringue, seemingly arrested by exposure to liquid nitrogen, took on the characteristics of divinity. The entire log was dotted with lemon curd and lime purée with wafers of mint.

Going all-out on some but not all items does have its downside. Simultaneously, my companion ordered a dessert that looked like an abstract painting. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

The trout ($28) kept our salivary glands in overtime: two planks of skin-on fish, moist and completed with a sprinkling of tarragon, was marred only by a slightly over-salted rice accompaniment.

The bourbon-glazed pork belly ($16), as beautifully composed as a Shakespearean sonnet, was a disappointment: Essentially a slightly elevated version of bacon, while lovely it does not stand out as a signature item. Belly has been a specialty of fine-dining chefs for a time, and this doesn’t compare to the best in town: Salty, rich, but unremarkable.

Remarkable is exactly what FT33 needs to be. Located in the Design District, it is on the distaff side of Hi Line Drive, nestled among the showrooms and ateliers of Dallas’ purveyors of fine fashions. The fit should be a good one, and it may be, if FT33 can become the destination restaurant it needs to be. The décor (browns, antiqued mirrors, rusted metals) is simple and winning, but not edgy — something that would’ve been cutting in perhaps 2002 but which now seems slightly predictable. The raw wooden chairs are sleek and the barquette is comfortable, but what is the reason for a shotgun layout when Dallas is awash in space?

The homemade breads, while good, included baguette, lavash, sourdough and multigrain; where’s the raisin bread, something a New York restaurant will simply insist upon if it wanted to be considered five stars? How about a nutbread? And beyond San Francisco, sourdough feels out-of-step.

Still, service was practically flawless. At one meal, our server leapt at the chance to explain the obtusely written dessert menu in accessible terms (really? “lemongrass” means “panna cotta?”) and the food came out deftly. As I contemplated ordering an aperitif, on her own initiative the waitress brought me a taste of that wine.

Like its neighbors, FT33 is design-centric: Put together textures and colors for an eclectic creation to call your own. That’s what great chefs do, and what McCallister certainly has in him.

FT33, 1617 Hi Line Drive. Open Tuesday-Sunday for dinner, 4:30-11 p.m. FT33Dallas.com.
As The Modern nears its 10th anniversary in its award-winning space, curator Michael Auping reflects on his unique vision of art and architecture.

“Illuminate Art” | Michael Auping decided to exhibit artist Dan Flavin’s untitled light sculpture in a remote corner of the museum to generate curiosity in an otherwise nondescript wall of The Modern.

“Spellbinding storyteller of a remarkable life.” - The Los Angeles Times

“Maximum Minimalism” by Jef Tingley | Contributing Writer
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

Walking through the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth with its chief curator, Michael Auping, is like being invited over for tea by a happy new homeowner. Although the Tadao Ando-designed building celebrates its 10th anniversary next month, Auping still moves through the space with a fresh eye, giddy about finding the perfect pieces to highlight every specific nook and cranny in this award-winning museum.

“One of the comments I get most is that my way of installing work is so minimal,” admits Auping — but he’s proud of that. “There are very few things in the building, but each is potent. Each
A seasoned veteran who has curated and written about art for more than 35 years, Auping is insightful about his varied career path that brought him to Fort Worth more than 17 years ago. He began as a freelance curator in Los Angeles before moving to Berkeley in 1977. “San Francisco was an amazing place culturally and aesthetically at the time,” he says. “It was the beginning of the gay revolution, and as a straight man coming from Southern California it was an eye opener to see a city taken over by that… [The city] was really a key point in my education as a contemporary art historian.”

Auping’s director at the San Francisco museum was gay and introduced him to many LGBT artists whom he befriended, including poet Robert Duncan and his longtime companion, the artist Jess. Since then, Auping has created exhibitions on Jess’ works and included stories about the couple’s relationship in his writings.

After stints with the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Fla., and Buffalo, N.Y., Auping found a lasting home in Fort Worth.

“It was a completely different place,” he says. “If I ever do get around to writing my memoir the title will have to be Wayward Moss, because I’ve gone to a lot of wayward places—all of which have been good, but Fort Worth is the best of all. I’ve never had this much support.”

Auping scored a major coup in 2012 with the Lucien Freud exhibit, which just closed. One of the most engaging exhibitions of art ever seen in North Texas, it received national acclaim for the museum.

Auping is quick to note that many curators would be envious of his tremendous opportunity. Not only did he get to work with a world-class architect to design and build the museum, but he was also given money to purchase art for the space. And that’s where his passion truly shines, in acquiring pieces that showcase both the art and the architecture.

“The thing that makes this [museum] special is that it not only honors the artists, it honors the building,” he says. “And as a curator, I try to do that; I try to honor both. Artists are my first priority, but the building is a high second. I don’t want to put art in rooms that makes the rooms look bad or choose rooms that make the art look bad.”

Examples of this intentional editing include Martin Puryear’s 432-foot-tall Ladder for Booker T. Washington which Auping knew was the perfect fit for a clear story, concrete-walled space. And there’s Anselm Kiefer’s lead sculpture Book with Wings, placed in the ellipse gallery to marry together the curved walls and concrete. A recent acquisition is a fluorescent light sculpture Untitled by Dan Flavin, selected by Auping to illuminate an otherwise non-descript corner of the museum and thereby pique the curiosity of the visitor to further explore the space.

But even with his discerning taste driving the aesthetics of the museum, Auping ensures that The Modern is a place art lovers of all levels can enjoy. And just like his curating style, his advice to would-be art enthusiasts is minimal yet effective:

“Don’t try too hard. Just walk around. Treat it as a nature walk and let art speak to you. Maybe later you’ll reflect on what jumped out at you and why.”

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. To mark the 10th anniversary, the museum will unveil a series of new acquisitions culminating in a celebration gala and dinner on Dec. 6. 817-738-9215. TheModern.org.
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Dallas

‘Xmas Carol’ sings for its last time at the Kalita; TBT’s ‘Nutcracker’ goes en pointe at Winspear

It’s not even Thanksgiving yet, but you can already start getting into the Christmas season. And in Dallas, that means one thing: A Christmas Carol at the Dallas Theater Center. For the final time since moving there in 2002, the annual holiday heartwarmer will be at the Kalita Humphreys in Uptown; next year, it’ll move down to the Wyly for a complete overhaul. That means it’s your last chance to see the classic staging, again with Chamblee Ferguson as Ebenezer Scrooge. Over at the Winspear, Texas Ballet Theater begins the Dallas performances of its most beloved Christmas show, Tchaikovsky’s ballet The Nutcracker. It plays here for two weeks before moving to Fort Worth for the remainder of its run.


Addison

WaterTower broadcasts ‘Wonderful’ radio play; ‘Bur-Less-Q’ returns to Stone Cottage

Up in North Dallas, the Addison Theatre Centre is abuzz in holiday cheer. WaterTower Theatre premieres a new Christmas tradition, a radio play version of It’s a Wonderful Life which tells the classic tale with only five actors (including B.J. Cleveland, pictured far left) portraying the entire town. Across the courtyard in the Stone Cottage Theatre, uber-gay MBS Productions revives its own yuletide tradition of The Nutcracker ... and it’s nothing like TBT’s version, as a company of strippers are inadvertently hired to dance-dance-dance, but not to what you’d call the accepted choreography in The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!


FRIDAY 11.23

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center’s traditional holiday show begins its final season at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in Uptown, once again with Chambree Ferguson in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge and Liz Mikel as Christmas Present. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 23 (in previews through Nov. 29). $15–$85. DallasTheaterCenter.org.


BALLET

COMMUNITY
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet on the patio of the rec house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

BROADCAST
Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas on its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

SUNDAY 11.25
WORSHIP
The ONE Church, 5427 Philip Ave. Services 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

BROADCAST
Liz & Dick. A Lifetime TV movie starring Lindsay Lohan as Elizabeth Taylor makes its premiere. Reviewed this week at DallasVoice.com.

COMMUNITY
Youth First Texas Collin County. Group for LGBTQ youth up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection, 201 W. Boyd Road. Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

MONDAY 11.26
COMMUNITY
Log Cabin Republicans. Mattito’s, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

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

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., #108.

BROADCAST
RuPaul’s Drag Race: All Stars. Favorite queens return for this competition. Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 11.27
COMMUNITY
Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4–9 p.m. 214-879-0400.

WEDNESDAY 11.28
COMMUNITY
FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays–Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

THURSDAY 11.29
COMMUNITY
Standing on the Promises an Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. Rec Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6526 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

‘LIZ & DICK’ | After gorging yourself on turkey this weekend, try a little ham on Sunday with the Lifetime movie ‘Liz & Dick,’ starring Lindsay Lohan as Elizabeth Taylor.

Hot ’n horny hookups.

Horny? Hookup with local gay and bi men.
CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Ryan Kwanten turns 36 on Wednesday. The Aussie-born actor burst onto the scene with the debut of True Blood, playing the sexually insatiable (and frequently naked) Jason Stackhouse. Kwanten quickly became a gay pin-up.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21-Dec 20
The rest of your life is at stake — you can’t be wasting your time with all of this B.S. It would be great if you could release it and/or let go of the need to prove your point. None of the people you’re dealing with are using the same deck.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 20
The thorn in your side could be anything. For some it has to do with one person who can’t behave; for others, it’s about something tying you down. The rest seem caught up wondering why the sum total of things is so endlessly unfulfilling.

AQUARIUS Jan 21-Feb 20
Don’t be confused by the way people behave — and don’t buy into the idea that it’s your fault. You’re in a situation that requires everyone involved to take full responsibility for themselves. It’s obvious that you’re doing the best you can.

PISCES Feb 21-Mar 20
The way things have been going you really don’t know whether or not you want, or need, to be here for this. Part of you is so ready to beat feet. It’s totally understandable. For the last year at least you’ve been held up in a situation that depends too much on time and the actions of other people.

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 20
Little comes from pushing, though sometimes life needs a shove — it’s in knowing when to press our case and knowing when to leave it alone that we eventually figure out how to behave. There is no right way to handle this, just play it by ear.

TAURUS Apr 21-May 20
Something has come at you like gangbusters and you’re not sure what to make of it. Don’t over analyze that which is beyond comprehension; this is one of those lessons that has to be lived and seen in retrospect before you will understand it.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20
You can’t expect others to be anything more than who they are. For some reason, they need to do whatever they’re doing. If you feel like you’re being victimized by it, you forgot that we create our own reality.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 20
You are looking out at the horizon with a clear eye, seeing things for what they are. For some, things look pretty grim. If this is hard for you, know that you can only move forward when you come to the place of absolute truth.

LEO Jul 21-Aug 20
Don’t worry about how things are going. Keep your heart focused on the idea that this is where you need to be. If it helps, know that you have a certain amount of external support and that it’s there for you to latch on to anytime you need it.

VIRGO Aug 21-Sep 20
Before you make any decisions about what to do next, settle down and get simple enough to see what’s going on. There have been so many things coming at you all at once and you’re trying to juggle a lot of stress.

LIBRA Sep 21-Oct 20
Sometimes you have to bow to the weight of responsibility. It’s hard to see that at times like this there’s really no choice but to keep on trucking. And when there’s no apparent award for the effort, it becomes even more important to hold steady.

SCORPIO Oct 21-Nov 20
You keep breaking the mold for all kinds of reasons, whether not fitting in, needing more space or just running a different timeline than the rest of humanity. Don’t judge yourself for being out of synch; it’s OK not to be like everyone else.

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Jane’s World © Paige Braddock 2012
Tammeri and Robert at Station 4.

Michael, Michael and Matt at the Rainbow Lounge.

Mario and Diana at TMC: The Mining Company.

Girls’ night out at Sue Ellen’s.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.
Tammeri and Robert at Station 4. Michael, Michael and Matt at the Rainbow Lounge. James at Club Reflection. Andrew and friend at Randy’s Club Cherries. Bryan and Bryant at Pekers. Girls’ night out at Sue Ellen’s. Mario and Diana at TMC: The Mining Company. DJ Chris Wood joins DJ Mickey Briggs at The Brick on Nov. 24. Rusty Johnson appears at Alexandre’s on Nov. 23 for a farewell party. Scene wishes him good luck as he moves to L.A. to break into the big time. Bad Habits performs on Nov. 24 and on Nov. 29 it’s Gary Floyd, Denise Lee and Peggy Honea in their first big performance together without accompanist Buddy Shanahan. Rose Room Rising Star amateur contest begins at 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 29. Texas Gay Rodeo Association royalty present their Toys for Tots Show at 7 p.m. on Nov. 24 at the Dallas Eagle. Kelly O’Neil hosts along with Anita Mann. Throb Underwear night and contest is Nov. 28. Ke$ha returns with her explosive new single “Die Young” from the album Warrior. JR’s Bar & Grill holds a single release party on Nov. 26. Then celebrate the release of Kelly Clarkson’s Greatest Hits album on Nov. 27 and Rihanna’s Unapologetic CD on Nov. 29. Win free CDs while supplies last. Miss TGRA 2013 Kelly O’Neil hosts a show at Club Reflection on Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. Come early for a Fort Worth TGRA cookout beginning at 4 p.m. Anton Shaw and the Reas perform at Sue Ellen’s on Nov. 23 and 25. The Bright appear on Nov. 24. Bella and Darla perform on Nov. 28. DJ Roger brings you all the great old country you’ve been asking for every Wednesday at the Round-Up Saloon.
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