Pam Ann: Now boarding for laughter

Sassy airline hostess lands at Majestic
Comedian takes her cues — and her style — from drag divas

COMEDY, Page 14

One of many LGBT people already serving, lesbian FW Scoutmaster vows to resign if BSA doesn’t lift gay ban at its meeting in Grapevine next week

COVER STORY, Page 6
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Anti-gay flier prompts Dallas City Council to review speaker rules
An anti-gay flier distributed at a Dallas City Council meeting this week prompted officials to review guidelines for public speakers. Rich Sheridan distributed the flier attacking three gay City Council candidates during the council’s meeting on Wednesday, May 15.
Sheridan, who finished fourth and last in the District 13 race, also gay-baited candidate Leland Burk during the campaign. And a similar flier was found in a newspaper box in Preston Hollow on Election Day. The latest flier, shown above, is a distortion of Dallas Voice’s April 26 cover showing the three gay council candidates this year, with X’s through their faces and 6’s on their foreheads.
“God’s voice was heard in Dallas Saturday. No openly gay LGBT City Councilmember!!” the flier states, referring to the fact that all three gay candidates lost their races.
Sheridan, who received just 28 votes out of 10,350 that were cast, also left a threatening, profanity-laced voicemail for a People Newspapers reporter, attacking him for failing to mention in his coverage that Burk is gay. But it was his actions at City Hall on Wednesday that got the attention of officials. Sheridan was distributing copies of the flier to the audience during the City Council meeting when he gave one to gay former Councilman Craig Holcomb, who later stood up to address the council.
“If I were quiet that would be wrong,” Holcomb said. “It allows that kind of thought to flourish. It allows the person to think that is acceptable thought, and it is not acceptable.”
In response to Sheridan’s flier and Holcomb’s comments, Councilman Dwaine Caraway asked Mayor Mike Rawlings to change the rules so that speakers can address the council only once a month, to limit the amount of hatred that can be spewed by people like Sheridan. Councilwoman Angela Hunt seconded Caraway’s suggestion.
"You don’t lose your freedom a mile at a time. You lose it an inch at a time," Dutton said. "This is another attempt to take away some of the freedoms we have."
Daniel Williams, field organizer for Equality Texas, said the amendment "barely squeezed through" and had bipartisan opposition. He said the amendment can still be dropped from the legislation as a committee creates a compromise bill that combines the Senate and House version. That bill then goes to another vote.
"There are still many steps left in the process and we will continue to work with our allies in the House and Senate," he said. "I am very hopeful that this amendment will not become law."
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OCTOBER 2–20

MUSIC HALL AT FAIR PARK
Lesbian mom is one of many LGBT people already serving as leaders, says she plans to resign if BSA doesn’t change policy next week

**Cover Story**

**Gay FW Scoutmaster speaks out**

FORT WORTH — A lesbian Cub Scoutmaster recently took what she expects to be her last camping trip with her pack.

The Fort Worth leader told Dallas Voice she plans to resign from her post within the next month if the Boy Scouts of America doesn’t vote to allow gay youth members next week.

The organization was originally considering allowing gay Scouts and leaders in February, but postponed a decision until the National Council’s 1,400 members could vote. In April, the BSA said the council would consider a compromise allowing only gay youth at its meeting May 22-23 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine.

But the Cub Scoutmaster, who asked not to be identified because her partner still plans to be involved in their son’s troop, said she doubts the policy will change, and she plans to resign from her position if it doesn’t. She said she nearly resigned last year when a Boy Scout in California, Ryan Andresen, was denied his Eagle Scout award because he came out as gay.

“I love the Boy Scouts, and I love what they stand for, but I can’t be a part of them teaching kids to hate gay people,” the Fort Worth Scoutmaster said.

Councils across the country have spoken out against the resolution to allow gay youth. Meanwhile, some leaders have already resigned because of the ban. And while many religious and gay rights groups are supporting the compromise, the Human Rights Campaign has pledged to continue advocacy until the BSA implements a nondiscrimination policy.

**Gays have long been Scouts, leaders**

The Fort Worth Cub Scoutmaster began volunteering as a den mother with her partner five years ago when their son joined Cub Scouts. When he moved onto a Boy Scout troop, she stayed with the Cub Scout pack, while her partner went on to become a leader in their son’s troupe.

Taking over the pack two years ago, she said she inherited a handful of kids and a small amount of funds in an area where many of the kids come from low-income families. But she raised money through private donations to fund events for the pack, which has grown to more than 40 boys under her leadership.

Although her work has gained the respect of many volunteers from local packs and troops — many who know she is gay — she fears she would be removed if the regional council found out about her sexuality. And with little parent involvement in her pack, she worries about who would take over if she resigns. But she said she’s not sure she can continue to serve if gay leaders aren’t eventually welcome by the BSA.

“We give a lot of money and a lot of time to this program. I don’t want to continue to give my time and money to any organization that doesn’t consider me equal,” she said. “I have a real issue with them saying, ‘OK, yeah, you can be a Boy Scout until you’re 18 — and then you’re out.’”

Gays have served in silence or with the approval of their troops from the BSA’s beginning. Scouts and leaders have been kicked out when they came out or were outed. Ohio den mother Jennifer Tyrell launched a national push last April when she was removed from her position for being gay. Two national BSA board members have served in the policy.

Gays have served in silence or with the approval of their troops from the BSA’s beginning. Scouts and leaders have been kicked out when they came out or were outed. Ohio den mother Jennifer Tyrell launched a national push last April when she was removed from her position for being gay. Two national BSA board members have served in the policy.

Jon Langbert’s son belonged to a Dallas-area troop that allowed Langbert, who’s gay, to serve as a popcorn colonel for two years, until parents complained about his sexual orientation in 2010. He was then removed from the position.

Langbert called the current proposal a “compromise in name only” because it says that some gays are OK, but gay leaders aren’t.

“It’s absolutely a step forward because it does solve the problem for gay boys that want to be in the Scouts,” he said. “It continues to send a very negative message about how they view gays.”

Langbert said many gay parents have served as Scout leaders over the years despite the national ban. But he said the ban serves as a deterrent to gays who want to join the BSA and also allows a way for anti-gay parents to get them removed.

“There are absolutely gay youth and leaders now serving in the closet, and some where their troops have never cared,” he said.

Leo Cusimano, Dallas Voice publisher, is an Eagle Scout and served as an assistant Scoutmaster. Now one of Cusimano’s sons is a Boy Scout in a special needs troop, where he regularly attends meetings and events. His troop has asked Cusimano to become more involved, but he said he declines because of the ban and will continue to until gay leaders are welcomed at the national level.

“Because of the ban, I’m not willing to immerse myself in volunteering for the Scouts,” he said. “I don’t wear the uniform, and I don’t take part in the troop committee.”

He also doesn’t attend council functions where he’d need to bring his partner. And even though he thinks not allowing gay leaders prevents talented LGBT parents from contributing to the organization, he said he wants his son to experience Scouting.

“I’m keeping my son in Scouting because I want him to have the same opportunities I did,” he said.

**HRC calls proposal ‘a good start’**

Religious leaders had threatened to sever ties with the BSA if the gay ban was lifted. But the compromise brought support from both conservatives and gay rights groups. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the country’s largest sponsor of Scout troops, praised the decision to welcome gay youth while maintaining the ban on gay leaders.

Many councils have voiced how they’ll vote next week. In Houston, the Sam Houston Area Council voted to oppose the compromise in April. The council, which covers 16 counties in southeast Texas, has 12 voting members.

“We have had an open and respectful discussion with regard to the various points of view on this complex issue. The Council will, as it always has, support and implement all policies of the Boy Scouts of America, regardless of the outcome of the upcoming vote,” Board Chairman Rodney Eads said in a statement.

However, two North Texas councils are staying neutral.

Pat Currie, Scout executive at the Dallas-based Circle Ten Council, said the council is not making its opinion of the proposal public, but will follow whatever is decided.

“Our council’s position is that our role is to serve kids with a quality Scouting program and we intend to do that regardless of the outcome of the vote,” Currie said.

He said the council has seven voting officials and another six that are members of the board who will vote because of their volunteer positions. Circle Ten covers 12 counties in North Texas and Oklahoma.

John Coyle, Scout executive for Hurst-based Longhorn Council, said his council is not taking a public stance either. The council serves 23 counties across Northwest Texas and will have eight voting members at the national meeting.

“We feel when the vote takes place, we need to follow it,” Coyle said, adding that councils who have taken a stance will still have to follow any change the national council approves. “Supposedly local units are going to need to allow youth to join regardless.”

The initial proposal in February would have allowed local troops to determine if they wanted to allow gay Scouts or leaders. But Coyle said, according to the BSA, the survey group surveyed members and parents in March, it was determined that all troops should follow the same policy.

“Everyone kind of agreed that we need a consistent policy across the nation,” he said.

**Timeline leading up to BSA policy vote**

**April 12:** Ohio lesbian Jennifer Tyrell is removed as a leader of her son’s Cub Scout Pack because she is gay.

**April 12:** Ernst & Young CEO Jim Turley and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson join forces to change the policy as members of the BSA’s National Executive Board.

**July 17:** BSA releases results from a secret two-year study that found its gay ban was the best policy for the organization.

**July 18:** Tyrell delivers her Change.org petition with 300,000 signatures to the BSA’s living headquarters and is told in a brief meeting the policy won’t change.

**Oct. 5:** California teen Ryan Andresen is denied his Eagle Scout Award after coming out as gay.

**Feb. 8:** It’s revealed that a leak from within the BSA led to the organization announcing its plan to consider a policy change.

**April 19:** The BSA announces a proposed compromise to lift its ban on gay youth members, but not adult leaders.

**Jan. 31:** The Human Rights Campaign demands that the Boy Scouts implement a national nondiscrimination policy for gays.

**Feb. 4:** Tyrell returns to BSA’s Irving headquarters along with several gay Scouts and leaders to deliver four Change.org petitions. Two days later, the BSA’s National Executive Board delays a vote on removing the national gay ban until May.

**June 21:** Intel states it will cut funding to Boy Scout troops and councils that discriminate against gays. UPS and Merck follow in the coming months.

**Sept. 21:** BSA announces a proposal to allow local chapters to decide whether to allow gay members and Scout leaders.

**April 2012:** Ohio lesbian Jennifer Tyrell is removed as a leader of her son’s Cub Scout Pack because she is gay.

**July 17:** BSA releases results from a secret two-year study that found its gay ban was the best policy for the organization.
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Gay rights organizations have praised the compromise as progress for the BSA.
Zach Wahls, founder of Scouts for Equality, said that “passing the resolution is an important first step.”
He noted that this is the first time in the history of the Boy Scouts that it is considering allowing gays and said he hopes it will lead to more inclusion.
HRC spokesman Paul Guequierre said the organization is supporting the compromise, but it will continue to advocate for the BSA to add a nondiscrimination policy.
“It’s a good start, but it needs to go further,” he said.
Guequierre said HRC has decided to dock points on the Corporate Equality Index from companies who donate to the BSA even if the compromise passes. Beginning in 2015, companies will lose points for giving to anti-gay organizations, but the number of points deducted hasn’t been decided yet.
Ernst & Young CEO Jim Turley and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, whose companies both receive a perfect score on HRC’s CEI, joined forces last year to push for change to the policy as members of the BSA’s National Executive Board.
Several United Way chapters have stopped funding Boy Scout councils without nondiscrimination policies.
But United Way of Metropolitan Dallas has given Circle Ten Council grants from its Community Impact Fund over the years, including more than $300,000 in 2012. United Way of Metropolitan Dallas spokeswoman Michelle Frith told Dallas Voice its grant recipients would be announced May 24.

Lesbian leader vows to be heard
The Cub Scoutmaster is currently planning one last event with her Fort Worth pack before she plans to resign, but it all depends on the national council’s vote.
She said news has spread of her decision to quit the Scouts and the Scoutmaster of the troop her pack feeds into has asked her to come and serve with them because he doesn’t want to lose her. But she says she must take a stand if the BSA’s leadership continues to discriminate against gay youth.
“Until people stand up and say something and leave the program, the program’s not going to change,” she said.
Although she’s signed up to teach a youth volunteer class this summer, she said she’ll finish the school year out with her Cub Scouts and then go before her council so its members know exactly why she’s leaving.
“If they do not pass this vote, then I will absolutely go before my council’s roundtable and tell them why I’m leaving,” she said. “And I will be heard.”

This gentle creature doesn’t yet have a name, so ask for #A785682. He is an adult large shepherd mix with a sweet disposition. Although found as a stray, he has the manners of a dog who once had a person. His black coat has tips of brown and his eyes will melt your heart. See what a great friend he can be at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30 in Dallas.

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SCOUTMASTER, From Page 6

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Collin County’s John Roach Jr. enforces ‘morality clause’ in divorce papers saying woman can’t have roommate unless they’re married

MCKINNEY — Page Price and Carolyn Compton have been together for almost three years, but a Collin County judge is forcing them apart.

Judge John Roach Jr., a Republican who presides over the 296th District Court, enforced the “morality clause” in Compton’s divorce papers on Tuesday, May 7. Under the clause, someone who has a “dating or intimate relationship” with the person or is not related “by blood or marriage” is not allowed after 9 p.m. when the children are present. Price was given 30 days to move out of the home because the children live with the couple.

Price posted about the judge’s ruling on Facebook last week, writing that the judge placed the clause in the divorce papers because he didn’t like Compton’s “lifestyle.”

“Our children are all happy and well adjusted. By his enforcement, being that we cannot marry in this state, I have been ordered to move out of my home,” Price wrote.

Price also mentions that Compton’s ex-husband rarely sees their two children and was once charged with stalking Compton. She said he also hired a private investigator in order to bring the case before the judge. Court records show the ex-husband, Joshua Compton, was charged with third-degree felony stalking in 2011 but pleaded to a misdemeanor charge of criminal trespassing.

Price declined an interview until her lawyers figure out the next step.

Compton was granted a divorce from her ex in 2011, according to court records. The case was reopened in April to dispute custody, which she shares with him.

Compton’s attorney, Barrett Stern, didn’t return a phone call seeking comment. Her ex-husband’s attorney, Paul Key, also didn’t return a phone call. Ken Upton Jr., senior staff attorney for Lambda Legal’s Dallas office, said he is familiar with the case. He said morality clauses are rarely enforced and were historically used to prevent unmarried people from cohabitating with children present. Courts often include the clauses without people knowing, especially in conservative areas like Collin County, he said.

Gay couples are unfairly targeted under the clause because they can’t legally marry in Texas, Upton said. So, an ex who is upset that his marriage ended because his wife was gay could use it against her later.

“What the clause has become is an extra burden on gay people because they’re no more likely to violate it than straight people,” he said. “It’s a problem that continues with homophobia.”

Upton said Compton wasn’t held in contempt for living with Price, but the judge is going to issue a new order that cites Price must move out under the clause.

The couple can appeal the decision, which would likely be overturned. Upton said many appeals courts look at the relationship and if it causes any harm to the children in deciding whether to honor the morality clause. Being that the couple already lives together with a healthy environment for the kids, Upton said they stand a good chance to win on appeal.

If the couple decides to appeal, he said the case could set an example in Texas for how courts will interpret the clause for gay couples.

“This could be an important case in Texas,” he said. “I think it’s a case to watch.”

The situation is similar to a 2011 Houston case where a judge ruled that William Flowers couldn’t leave his children alone with his partner, Jim Evans, because they were not related by blood or adoption, despite the couple being married. Had he ruled under the morality clause, the partner would have had to move out.

The appeal was filed in October 2011 with the oral arguments heard in November 2012, according to court records. The ruling is still pending.

A fundraiser for Page Price and Carolyn Compton’s attorney fees is 3-6 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at Eden Lounge, 2911 Main Street. Admission is $25. Checks can also be sent to Dee Pennington, c/o Dallas Credit Union payable to Page Price. Mark Personal on envelope and mail to 1301 Young Street #100, Dallas, TX 75202.

Judge says lesbian mom’s partner must go
Caught off guard

Gay Texan cut off from partner of 34 years who has Alzheimer’s after sister-in-law obtained guardianship

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

PITTSBURG, Texas — With his partner of 34 years in a nursing home, a court order preventing him from entering the facility and two weeks to get out of his house, Lon Watts sold his wedding ring to pay for gas to get to his mother’s place in Oklahoma.

Watts never expected to be in this position, because he always thought of himself as part of his partner Jim Heath’s family.

But after Heath was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, his sister stepped in and took guardianship from Watts, who is now unable to see or talk to Heath.

After the story of Heath and Watts recently made national news, Watts has renewed his fight to bring Heath home and launched a legal fund, but the fight could take years.

Power of attorney wasn’t enough

Watts met Heath at a predominantly gay church in Houston in 1979. “He was my first love,” Watts said. “He was gorgeous.” Heath was 10 years older than Watts, who was just 21 at the time.

From Houston, the couple moved to Dallas, then to Oklahoma. Watts said they were very close to Heath’s family — so close that in 2000 they decided to move back to Heath’s hometown, Pittsburg, a town of 4,500 people about 120 miles east of Dallas. Heath continued to work in insurance. Watts became a receiving manager for Walmart. And Heath’s sister, Carolyn Franks, helped them buy a home.

Watts said Franks’ best friend was president of the local bank. She arranged a loan and the couple made the $5,000 downpayment. They had the money, but not the credit to qualify for the mortgage.

Franks did not return a call seeking comment for this story.

In 2006, Heath began to show signs of Alzheimer’s Disease. The next year, Watts retired to take care of his partner full-time.

This wasn’t the first time he’d been the caregiver. When Franks’ mother-in-law became gravely ill, Heath and Watts took her in rather than put her in a nursing home.

“She died in my arms,” Watts said. He called it an honor to have cared for her. That’s just something families do, he said.

Heath was in his late 50s when he started becoming forgetful. Watts said he noticed when he asked his partner to do something, it wouldn’t get done, and there was a blank stare.

Watts thought he had all the paperwork in place — wills naming each other beneficiaries, mutual powers-of-attorney.

As the Alzheimer’s progressed, Watts said Heath was comfortable in his surroundings and never wandered. But he kept bells on the doors just in case Heath decided to leave the house at night alone.

In 2011, Watts noticed large blisters on Heath’s foot. He noticed swelling elsewhere. “He had love handles where he never had them before,” he said.

He called 911, but paramedics refused to take him to the hospital.

“I couldn’t get him to a doctor,” he said. But when the blisters opened, he got him to the emergency room, tricking him to leave the house by telling him they were visiting a friend.

From there, Heath was transferred to Pittsburg Nursing Center.

That’s when things turned ugly. He said a nurse was “badmouthing” Heath. Watts reported it. The nursing home called police and filed criminal trespassing charges against him. Even after that employee was fired a few weeks later, Watts was barred from entering the nursing home.

Franks, who had not seen her brother in awhile, visited him in the nursing home, saw the blisters and called police.

Watts is now trying to bring Heath home while also organizing a legal fund to help support the case. He said he has received donations from all over the country.

HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HEATH

Watts and Heath have been together for 34 years. They met at a predominantly gay church in Houston in 1979, where Watts was the church’s chaplain.

“We met in the beginning of both our lives,” Watts said. “We’ve shared a lot. We’ve shared almost everything.”

In 1977, Watts and Heath moved to Dallas, where they started a packaging company and lived together. In 1979, they moved to Houston, where they lived until 2000.

Watts said he and Heath have always been close, and that Heath is more of a family member to him than a partner.

“He’s been like a son to me,” Watts said.

Watts said Heath is now in a care home in Oklahoma. He said he is working with a lawyer to help bring Heath home.

“I’m not going to continue to be separated from my love,” Watts said.

“I love him and I’m going to keep fighting.”

Watts said he has not heard from Heath in two weeks and that he has no idea how his partner is doing.

“I just want him to be happy,” Watts said. “I want him to feel loved.”

He said he has been locked out of his partner’s room in the nursing home, and that Heath cannot talk to him.

“I want to be with him,” Watts said. “I want to be my partner.”

Watts said he is not sure how long the fight will last, but he said he is not giving up.

“He’s my love,” Watts said. “I’ll fight this.”

Watts said he is planning to hold a press conference in Dallas next week to announce the legal fund.

“I’m going to keep fighting for him,” Watts said. “I’m going to keep fighting for my love.”
and accused Watts of abuse. She called adult protective services.

He said Franks hired an attorney from Mount Vernon, 25 miles from Pittsburg. Without mentioning her brother’s relationship or Watts’ power of attorney in court, she was declared her brother’s guardian.

“When she filed for guardianship, she didn’t acknowledge I existed,” he said.

Then she sent Watts an eviction notice from his house. He said they were 12 years into paying off the 15-year note when Heath was hospitalized.

Watts challenged the guardianship immediately, but the court date kept being postponed.

“She got the house, took everything, leaving him penniless, before it came up in court,” Watts said.

He lost the guardianship fight a year ago, was out of money and depressed, but has renewed his bid to care for Heath.

Watts has started a legal fund and hired Austin attorney Dax Garvin, hoping to be reunited with his partner. Garvin is out of the country and was unavailable for comment for this story.

Fighting to bring his partner home

Dallas attorney Rebecca Covell, who specializes in LGBT estate planning and probate law, said, “A court-appointed guardian supersedes powers of attorney.”

She said same-sex couples in Texas, with no protection under the law, should have a declaration of guardianship in addition to their other paperwork. That document would state that if one partner is incapacitated, the other would control all health and financial decisions.

“That’s how you stop a family from doing an end run-around,” Covell said.

She said Garvin would probably file an application to remove Franks as guardian, but waiting so long could be problematic.

This week, Watts tried to contact Heath by phone. He was told Franks posted a “no outside phone calls” sign on Heath’s door.

Watts called that inhumane and reported it to the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

Elaine Renoire, president of the National Association to Stop Guardian Abuse, said wresting away guardianship is difficult.

“Mediate it,” she said. “Settle it out of court.”

She said money is usually at the root of the conflict over control. She called locking Watts out of his partner’s life “ill-intent.”

“Isolating him is not a good sign,” she said. “But keep the heat on or they won’t ever let him see his partner.”

She said the guardian has three jobs — to protect wards from hurting themselves or others, conserve their assets and property and protect the public from becoming public charges.

Instead, the assets are gone. Heath is a public ward. And interaction with people he’s known for years to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s has stopped. But she’s still not optimistic the court will revoke Franks’ guardianship.

Watts would like to care for Heath himself.

“He should be at home,” Watts said.
Resolution too little, too late

Scott Griggs’ measure backing marriage equality, state ENDA would have been more useful in January, is no substitute for true leadership.

When the Dallas City Council takes up a pro-LGBT resolution in June, it will have been seven months since the measure was first introduced by Councilman Scott Griggs.

If passed, the resolution would express the council's support for marriage equality and a statewide bill amending Texas' employment protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Griggs says he intends the resolution to not only send a message to the North Texas LGBT community that they have support from city leadership, but also to put pressure on lawmakers in Austin and Washington. No doubt, the early part of 2013 would have been a perfect time to pass such a resolution. We have been in the middle of the 2013 Texas Legislature — only which meets on odd-numbered years for a short 140 days.

We have also seen more support in our Legislature than in any previous gathering with many pro-LGBT bills gaining broader support.

However, time is running out. When the City Council meets to vote on the resolution June 12, the Texas Legislature will be reeling up for another 140 days of hard work in 2013. This resolution, when passed, will be nothing more than a smile in our direction. The immortal words of Alanis Morisette come to mind: “It is like 10,000 spoons when all you need is a knife.”

Why did it take so long to bring this resolution to a vote? In truth, leadership just wasn't there. Let me preface the following by saying I am appreciative of the gesture. Not that many years ago, the thought that a Dallas City Council would even consider such a move was mere fantasy. Not that long ago, our community was happy just to have a handful of council people who would take our calls. This is a sign of progress. However, our community is learning that we need more than grand gestures and heartfelt handshakes — we need leadership.

Part of me wants to blame Mayor Mike Rawlings for this lack of representation. After all, the announcement gets a C-minus (I’m feeling generous) on his report card for LGBT support. After side-stepping the signing of a “Mayor for the Freedom to Marry” pledge, he said he would rather focus on concrete solutions for the LGBT community, like putting pressure on the state for employment nondiscrimination. The mayor’s office even promised to send a city representative to Austin for LGBT Lobby Day. None of these things materialized, leaving LGBT activists with Equal Housing Texas, GetEQUAL TX and countless others to fight for passage of Senate Bill 237 (The Fair Employment Act) without the help of our “friend,” Mayor Rawlings. The bill still sits in committee with one vote needed to get it to the Senate floor.

Now Rawlings has repeatedly referred to Griggs’ resolution as a “misuse of city council time.” Sad to say, this late in the game, he is almost correct. Almost.

But it seems the mayor is not the only city leader who needs to learn the difference between friendship and leadership. Perhaps the assumption that the mayor would once again hog the LGBT ire spotlight by saying something completely boneheaded was just too much? Where were Angela Hunt, Pauline Medrano and Delia Jasso? Other than telling the Dallas Voice that they were supportive of the measure, what steps did they take to ensure its quick passage? Griggs says he didn’t want to bring the resolution up for a vote until it was clear that it would pass — a smart move, but one that carried no real sense of urgency.

A better understanding of the needs of this community might have prompted our friends on the City Council to move faster, passing these measures in January when they could have helped to bring about actual change here in Texas. This late, a vote in our favor may feel good, but the more than 30 percent of LGBT Texans who have reported being fired and the 100 percent who must live in fear of losing their jobs simply because of who they are? Well, they will have to wait until 2015.

Being a friend to our community means more than riding in the Pride parade, hosting a Pride reception at City Hall or even writing resolutions on our behalf. Being a friend, especially being a friend we have elected to lead our city, means real leadership on issues that matter to this community. Don’t just say it. Do it. Don’t just support us. March by our side.

The business of changing Texas and the rest of the nation is a dirty one. It is time for all of us, even our city representatives, to get a little grit under our nails. The LGBT community is proud to have friends in our local government, but we have evolved beyond proclamations and parties. It is time to get serious about civil rights. It is time to move. It is time to lead.

Daniel Cates is North Texas regional coordinator for the direct action group GetEQUAL TX. He can be reached at daniel@getequaltx.org.

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**Poll:** Does LGBT marketing influence your travel decisions?

- Yes: 53 percent
- No: 45 percent
- Unsure: 2 percent

80 votes cast

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(Photograph of Daniel Cates, a contributing columnist for the Dallas Voice.)

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LONE STAR RIDE 2013 EVENT HOSTS

[List of event hosts]
On the Wings of A-holes

Pam Ann takes airline humor from economy to first class with her drag-influenced comedy act

M.

aking fun of modern airline culture is easy to do. You make a joke or two about the food, complain about the guy farting away in the seat next to you, maybe get a little edgy with a terrorism one-liner, and boom! You’re done.

If only it were that simple.

That formula’s probably why airline humor has been mostly relegated to dingy comedy clubs with names like The Laugh Attack — it’s neither particularly thoughtful nor particularly funny.

Not so with Australian comedian Caroline Reid. Reid — better known for her stewardess alter ego Pam Ann — has spent years cultivating an act that revolves solely around airline humor. It’s not just standup: Reid crafts different characters and scenarios, and her act is campy and conceptual.

But most of all it’s funny.

When Reid brings her latest stage show, Cockpit, to Dallas this week, audiences can expect a raunchy ride hosted by Pam Ann, a Pucci-clad air-hostess straight out of the Mad Men era. Part of Reid’s appeal to the gay audience is her glamorous portrayal of the past eras of travel. While she may spoof it, she also loves it.

“I like that time in the airline industry when hostesses were so passionate about flying, and about their brand,” she says. “We’ve kind of lost that along the way. Some of the crews today could give a shit who they fly for.”

Many of Reid’s comedy bits riff on the apathy of the modern flight attendant (her beverage cart goof has become a favorite), but she also likes to push the aesthetic limits to drag queen proportions. Her look — which includes costumes based on classic vintage flight attendant uniforms — has evolved into something of a spectacle.

“I’m surrounded by a gaggle of gays,” she notes. “I’ve been kind of like a doll to them. They’re always saying, ‘Bigger! Bigger! More sequins! Higher heels!’ So I’m taking it on. I’ve got really human hair on this tour, which of course will relate to Dallas.”

Part of Reid’s genius is her ability to use airline references as cultural shorthand, in a way that’s humorous rather than insider-y.

“I just love Dallas,” she says. “The accent, it’s so glamorous. In my mind’s eye, when I think of Dallas, I think of women from Braniff Airlines, with their hair so big it hits the overhead bin.”

Reid’s pedigree may be edgy, but that hasn’t stopped her from making a commercial success of herself as well as a comedic one. Pam Ann has been the centerpoint of advertising and training videos for British Airways; her live DVD Come Fly With Me is part of Qantas Airlines’ in-flight entertainment; and she is the face of Heathrow Airport’s SkyTeam Terminal. Reid was hired by Elton John to provide the entertainment on his private jet.

While much of her life is glamorous, it’s clear that Reid’s entire concept is still rooted in the fact that she’s an aviation geek.

“I’m very influenced by the ’60s and ’70s [airline] era,” she says. “Everyone was just so passionate about flying. We’ve kind of lost that today.”

DAME EDNA IN REVERSE | Like her fellow Aussie Barry Humphries, Caroline Reid (aka airline hostess Pam Ann) uses a drag sensibility in her comedy act, which raises the bar for airline humor.
Machiavellian “what’s achievable” attitude — and fiscal conservatism with a can-do, quintessential New Yorker character, profiles Da should be worthy of Sun Tzu). In his 1977 campaign, his “Give ‘em Hell, Harry” of the era of pretty-boy politics, Koch was the everyman, nattering away with that Bronx macho, talkin’ tough and being proudly abrasive.

Only not everybody was charmed. The blacks hated him, and eventually, the gays. He was like a turkey buzzard and looked, when walk- ing down the street, like an unmade bed. Before the era of pretty-boy politics, Koch was the everyman, nattering away with that Bronx whine, cackling his call-line “How’m I doin’?” like a motion-sensor door to anyone who passed. He was the “Give ‘em Hell, Harry” of the 1970s New York govern- machine, talkin’ tough and being proudly abrasive.

There’s an old line that politics is for people too ugly to make it in the movies. If that’s true, Ed Koch was a born politician: He had a face like a turkey buzzard and looked, when walk- ing down the street, like an unmade bed. Before the era of pretty-boy politics, Koch was the everyman, nattering away with that Bronx whine, cackling his call-line “How’m I doin’?” like a motion-sensor door to anyone who passed. He was the “Give ‘em Hell, Harry” of the 1970s New York govern- machine, talkin’ tough and being proudly abrasive.

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Koch was always aware that he was playing a role — that of the hard-scrabble chief executive of the Big Apple — and he didn’t always play it right, but with conviction. “I give as good as I get” was his strategic philosophy. Of course, it served him well until it didn’t any- more. What he demonstrated, though, was tremen- dous political will, even though it occasioned strange bedfellows (his arch-nemeses, the Cuomo, eventually became useful allies). Koch was always, until the end, dodgy about his sex- uality. In his 1977 campaign, his consultant faked a lavender love affair with popular former Miss America Bess Meyerson to fool voters into not believing the ru- mors. (Koch himself later admit- ted it was all a ruse. “We were never going to be married, and we were never going to be lovers,” Koch said in an interview conducted for the film.)

Koch sometimes comes off as a bit scattershot, with Barsky favoring a more-or-less chronologi- cal history rather than profiling Koch from the stand- point of themes or characteristics. It only suggests how Ed went from being a celebrity to celebrated as an elder statesman of New York politics. But love him or hate him, Koch lingers on the political palate like a bitter almond or a sour-apple candy: Pungent, memo- rable, remarkable ... and ultimately hard to re- sist.
In high spirits

Spike Vodka's gay team wants to queerify Dallas' cocktail culture even more

Gays and cocktails are a match practically made in heaven: Where would we be without happy hour, martini madness or the ever-popular “U-call-it” nights? Bacardi, Absolut and Jose Cuervo may all top the faves list for spirits, but a local company is making headway into the community, putting its vodka where its mouth is.

Spike Vodka — by all accounts, the only gay-owned spirit on the market, and Texas-based at that — wants Dallas gays to know its product isn’t just like all the others. Carlo Barone believed in the product so much, his account rep and marketing firm OneBar joined forces with Nick Spink’s Spike to take over the world one gay bar at a time.

“I have the same gut feeling [with Spike] that I had with Ciroc when they targeted the African-American market,” Barone says. “We’ve been ungodly successful in gay bars in New York, California and Illinois. I can’t stress how proud we are.”

Of course, they’ve also made fast strides in the Lone Star State, landing clients in Houston, San Antonio and, of course, Dallas, since the beginning of the year. But in some ways, their sponsorship of last Saturday’s BearDance could be seen as their coming-out party.

“Those guys are just good people and I will do anything they ask me to. I believe so much in what they’re about,” Barone says.

“They have a vested stake in their community and as our primary sponsors, they take an active role in advancing our message of inclusiveness and assisting those most at risk in the LGBT community,” adds Darren Graff, a BearDance sponsor.

VODKA'S SOUTH OF THE BORDER PROFILE  |  Chris Marriott, left, and Carlo Barone say their prickly pear-based vodka mixes like a tequila, especially good with orange. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)
board member and longstanding friend of Barone’s.

Many of BearDance’s events will donate proceeds to Youth First Texas, which resonated deeply with Barone, the father of four. While his children are all adults now, Barone believes in mentoring and also wants Spike to even set an example — even as a liquor company.

“We don’t go for silly sex-laced names for our cocktails. We’re not about that,” he says. “Liquor doesn’t have to be abused. Most people are looking for social events and to make attempts to go out and say hello. It’s really about good times and good people and less about drinking abusively.”

With sales, the company has committed to putting percentages back into the community. Spike intends to take a financial and even physical role in lifting up gay Dallas. So it would happen that his “top-selling rep” Christopher Marriott is something of a redemption story: Barone took Marriott under his wing and mentored him into joining the company. And Barone would have everyone know, it was his best decision.

“We had met and he was I guess something of a lost soul at the time. I got him involved and he’s the single greatest salesmen, and I’ve been in this business a long time,” Barone says.

“These guys coached me into finding out who I really am,” Marriott says. “I had been self-destructive for so long. Good things started to happen when I met Carlo and then he let me fly with my creativity. Every day has just been a confidence builder.”

The style of Spike also sets it apart, Marriott says. The prickly pear-based spirit may technically be a vodka, but is intended to be enjoyed like a tequila. After Spink perfected his distillation process, the liquor went into production in San Antonio. There, Rachel Price heads the product creation and adds to the unique qualities of Spike.

“There’s a very good chance that we may have the only lesbian master distiller,” Barone declares. “She goes out, whacks the cactus, picks off the needles and creates the vodka. She has a true artisan spirit to the drink.”

The pioneering nature of Spike isn’t lost on Barone, but despite his 33 years in the liquor business, he’s also thrown back by the response. In short, Spike is blowing up and at a rapid pace.

“I’ve never seen anybody make a drink out of prickly pear which is vodka but tastes like tequila,” he says. “And beyond gay bars, Del Frisco’s has reached out to us. We have our product at Sigel’s and Spec’s and PK’s, who was an early ally. I don’t think anyone ever attempted to target our own bars and now we have trendy mixologists and straight bars picking us up.”

They created eight cocktails specifically for their bear fans, but it goes beyond that, Barone says: “We want [the gay community] to know that the company is them.”
**Friday 05.17**

**Alex Remington photo exhibit of Dallas opens at ilume Gallerie**

Out photographer Alex Remington specializes in large-scale portraits of everything from drag queens to wildlife (same thing?), but he’s found a subject that reflects the scope of his eye: The city of Dallas itself. Remington’s new exhibit, Architectura, looks at the iconic buildings and landmarks of our ‘burg, which always believes bigger is better. The show opens at the ilume Gallerie, with artist’s reception, Friday.

**DEETS:** ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. May 17–June 22. Reception May 17, 6–10 p.m. ilumegallerie.com.

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**Saturday 05.18**

**Turtle Ball moves to Trinity Groves**

The Turtle Creek Chorale is accustomed to making music, but they know how to party, too. The Turtle Ball, the group’s annual fundraiser, returns this weekend with something new. It has always had food and drink and a silent auction, but this year it has a fun new location: The Trinity Groves development west of the new Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. That means not only can you nosh and sip, but shop while bidding on items. And you will get the inside scoop on the TCC’s upcoming season of music.

**DEETS:** Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. 7 p.m. $100. TurtleCreek.org.

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**Friday 05.17**

**BAM! Comic Con has more celebs than you can shake a gloved fist at**

The gays love their icons, whether it’s women who make music (Cher, Barbra, etc.) or men who wear tights (Batman, Superman, Baryshnikov). Well, there’s no ballet at Dallas Comic Con this weekend, but there are plenty of celebrities (among them Capt. Kirk himself, William Shatner, as well as Brent Spiner, Brandon Routh and bisexual Terminator Kristianna Loken), as well as comic authors and artists, and plenty of new titles to keep your summer reading list up to date ... at least until Memorial Day.

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GOODBYE, SUGARBAKERS | This weekend is your last chance to see Uptown Players’ ‘Re-Designing Women,’ a drag spoof of the hit sitcom, at the Rose Room.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Avenue Q. Theatre 3’s hit from last summer and fall returns for an unlimited run in its Theatre Too space with most of the original cast. A puppet show, but not for kids (there’s lots of sex). Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Ongoing. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. $10–$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Enron. A musical adaptation of the events that led to one of the biggest corporate scandals in history. Regional premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 25. $10–$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.


The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley. Presented by Dallas Children’s Theater; intended for ages 5 and up. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through June 2. DCT.org.


FINE ART


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.


TO SUBMIT AN ITEM FOR INCLUSION IN THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, VISIT TINYURL.COM/DVSUBMIT.

FOR A MORE COMPLETE COMMUNITY CALENDAR ONLINE, VISIT TINYURL.COM/DVEVENTS.
FRIDAY 05.17
FINE ART

EXPO

FESTIVALS

SATURDAY 05.18
GALA
Turtle Ball. The Turtle Creek Chorale’s annual fundraiser and gala, featuring food, cocktails, a live auction and even shopping, plus news about the upcoming season. Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. May 18 at 7 p.m. $100 (sponsorship pricing also available). 214-526-3214. TurtleCreek.org.

EXPO
Dallas/Fort Worth Ultimate Women’s Expo. More than 500 exhibits, entertainment and attractions tailored for women. Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. May 18–19, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. $5. DFWWomensExpo.com.

DINING
White Out Party. A spirits event featuring the “clear liquors,” at the Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. 5:30 p.m. (VIP), 7 p.m. (general admission). $35–$90. DallasWhiteOut.com.

FINE ART

BROADCAST
Lambda Weekly, radio show addressing LGBT issues. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY 05.19
FUN RUN
Disco Run. The inaugural Disco Run, a fundraiser benefiting Nobody’s Normal (a mental health nonprofit), offers 5k and 10k options, and includes DJ-manned aid stations. Starts and ends at Fair Park. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. Runs start at 7:30 a.m. $35–$55. DiscoRun.com.

COMEDY
Pam Ann: Cockpit. The comedian performs. The Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.co

TASTE THAT | Spring festival season is in full force, with Taste Addison among this weekend’s choices for food, entertainment and fun.

TUESDAY 05.20
COMMUNITY
FUSE Foundation discussion group for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

WEDNESDAY 05.22
COMMUNITY
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

THURSDAY 05.23
MIXER
Priscilla Queen of the Desert Cast Party. The official disco-themed party, open to the public. Free with RSVP or ticket stub. Luxx Night Club, 723 N. Pearl St. 10 p.m.

this week’s solution

RAY  MBAS  IMP  FLAX  ASTM  SCALD  DESPERATE  ODDLY  BOX  GONERIL  HOUSEWIVES  REEL  APR  COLISEUM  RE  NOTRE  ONNEYED  FROTHED  SERVE  SLA TERRI  INITIATE  BUT  A S A N  TUCWATKINS  BARROOM  TAG  ARIAS  BOHUNTER  SASHA  LURE GORE  ENEMY  EROS  APEX
TAURUS: April 21—May 20
You have a pile of abandonment issues that make it hard for you to be OK with being alone. Underneath that, you are totally strong and self-sustaining. You don’t need anyone or anything to remind you of your worth. Letting go of whomever or whatever is no longer part of the picture is a theme for many of you.

GEMINI: May 21—Jun 20
All manner of stuff is popping up and you are learning how to roll with the punches. Some of it is on the hard edge of experience, so much so that the last few months have turned out to be one long period of coming to terms with life’s harsher truths.

CANCER: Jun 21—Jul 20
You’ve become a clearinghouse for others’ shit. Between your friends and the people you work for, you seem to be the one who’s holding the whole thing together. You’re either getting sucked dry, or you’re smart enough to know that you have to give yourself whatever you need in order to keep up with it all.

LEO: Jul 21—Aug 20
How you’re going to work your way through this one is hard to figure. Nothing is impossible. Most of the time it’s just a question of knowing you can do it. Other things take the edge off.

VIRGO: Aug 21—Sep 20
You’ve got a lot of confusing relationship issues that are testing your ability to stay clear about who you are. The tendency to rush in and play savior, healer or therapist must be monitored. There is a fine line between co-dependence and real help.

LIBRA: Sep 21—Oct 20
It’s time to step out of the box, or the phone booth, or whatever confines you. This is feeling more or less freaky. Those of you who have been hiding out, under the illusion that you are less than who you are, are finally ready to outgrow your limits.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21—Jan 20
The last few weeks have allowed you to get your bearings. You had no idea how far off the track things had gotten. Too much of other people and their stuff has made it easy for you to misplace your sense of direction.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21—Feb 20
You’ve been working too hard to notice that your emotional needs have fallen through the cracks. Months of this have made it clear that it’s time to get a life. At the point where duty and responsibility goes over the top, there is an opening that allows us to see what we really need. You’re just about there.

PISCES: Feb 21—Mar 20
You have such an open soul it’s easy for you to get sucked in by people and things that take you for granted. At times you get taken for a ride. I don’t know what’s going on right now, but it would behoove you to pay attention to the company you keep.

ARIES: Mar 21—Apr 20
You have more support than you’ve had in a long time. If it feels a little weird it’s because you’re so totally self-sufficient, it never occurred to you that you needed any!
Across
1 Foam at the mouth
5 Business degs.
9 Philip Johnson contemporary
14 Linen fiber
15 Wine region of Michelangelo’s land
16 Burn with water
17 With 23-Across, soap with Lee
19 In a queer way
20 Fight with fists
21 Shakespearean sister
23 See 17-Across
28 Rod attachment
29 Lending letters
30 Gladiator area
32 Sausage unit
33 Log Cabin member (abbr.)
34 Part of a cathedral name in gay Paree
39 Like some kings or pirates
41 Formed bubbles
43 Start something with Mauresmo
45 Garr of Tootsie
46 New member
50 Except
51 Healthy ___ ox
52 That’s a wrap
53 Leave the sack
55 Roo’s mom
61 Wilder’s ___ Town
62 Bart, to Maggie
63 Cocks and bulls
64 Early preposition
65 Title for Oedipus

Down
1 Gomer’s mail service
2 Heady stuff
3 It has a hot nozzel
4 Montreal team of old
5 Mardi Gras mo., often
6 “Morally straight” org.
7 Person with a J.D.
8 Greeks’ operation against the Trojans, et al.
9 “Help ___ the way!”
10 Lee, in a soap
11 Kahlo’s father
12 Porn director Francis
13 Pastoral poem
18 Business boss
22 Fruit sugar ending
23 Circles over Mary and Peter
24 Put in two cents worth
25 Tested, to Marc Jacobs
26 Glen or Glenda: ___ Two Lives
27 BMOC, e.g.
31 Game with “Reverse” cards
32 Portrayer of Lee
36 Bottom’s lover at the circus?
37 The Golden Girls episode
38 Cuts
40 Kobe currency
41 Defect of precious stones
42 Tat opener
44 “___ semper tyrannis”
47 Lance at court
48 Roll in the hay
49 Rebuke from Caesar
51 Demean
52 That’s a wrap
53 Leave the sack
55 Roo’s mom
57 Key opening
60 Lee’s husband
62 Younger daughter of Michelle
67 Drawing card
68 Myra Breckinridge author Vidal
69 Hostile state
70 Boy who shoots off arrows
71 Very top

Solution on page 21

This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE
This week's entertainment at Sue Ellen's begins with Marisela on May 17, Ciao Bella on May 18 and Barefoot Hippies on May 19. BJ's NXS holds an Armed Forces Day Party on May 18. The Round-Up Saloon welcomes Miss Gay USofA 2013 on May 19-23 with hosts Laya LaRue and Lavanda Jackson. The finals on May 24 take place at the Palladium Ballroom. Gary Floyd and Denise Lee appear at Alexandre's on May 17. Three Drunk Monkeys performs on May 18. On May 20, JR's Bar & Grill holds a single release party for Calvin Harris' 1 Need Your Love. On May 23, get a copy of Alpine's new CD A Is for Alpine, named Australian alternative album of the year by iTunes. The theme for GayBingo in the Rose Room on May 18 is "A Different Kind of Sister Act" with the DFW Sisters. Jason Huff performs on Woody's Back Patio on May 17. A DFW Leathermen seminar begins at 2 p.m. on May 18 at the Dallas Eagle. That night Mr. Texas Leather Send-Off Party & Fundraiser takes place in advance of the big International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend. On May 19, the United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents A Night at the Hop — the sock hop, that is, with music from the '50s hosted by KD Dunn. The night benefits AIDS Interfaith Network. Join Dallas Alley Cats for Extra Innings at The Brick on May 19 after the softball games. Monique Foster, Nia Courtland and Barbie Dupree appear at 1851 Club on May 17.

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

Austin and J.C. at Alexandre’s. Chris, Darren and Aaron at the Rose Room. Girls’ night out at Best Friends Club.

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