Major Dallas bars still pouring Stoli

Owners buck boycott of vodka over Russia’s anti-gay crackdown
PLUS: Gay Russian immigrant who lives in Dallas speaks out about situation in his home country

GENDERQUEER

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Man who killed gay Houston banker in ‘91 again up for parole

Jon Buice is again up for parole in the 1991 murder of gay Houston banker Paul Broussard, who was brutally beaten and stabbed in the Montrose area when Buice and his friends decided to “beat up some queers.”

Buice, who was sentenced to 45 years in prison in 1992, is the only one of the 10 teens from The Woodlands who remain behind bars. But Andy Khan with the Houston Crime Victim’s Office said Buice’s case is under review for parole. His hearing is set for Sept. 24.

Statewide LGBT advocacy group Equality Texas is again calling for Buice to be denied parole and urging people to contact the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Broussard’s mother, Nancy Rodriguez, has said she wants Buice to remain in jail for at least 27 years, the age of her son when he was killed.

“When is it OK to allow a violent criminal out of jail early? A criminal, who blatantly snubbed his nose at the laws of humanity and, with hate in his soul, struck down another simply because the victim was gay.” Equality Texas wrote on its blog. “A criminal who found enjoyment at going out and ‘beating up some queers.’ A criminal who used his fist, steel toed boots, and a nail studed 2X4 to slowly murder another human being. A criminal who incited nine others to join him in this crime. That is the question that, once again, is before the Texas Board of Pardon and Paroles and the question that Equality Texas answers: NOT YET!”

Buice was granted parole in 2011 until the decision was reversed with the release of undisclosed “new information” to the board after a campaign from the LGBT community to prevent Buice from leaving prison.

There are different opinions on whether Buice should remain in jail and whether the media handled the coverage of Broussard’s murder fairly. The blog Grits for Breakfast has a take on letting Buice out, while a writer at Off the Kuff sees the benefit of more punishment.

Rodriguez, Broussard’s mom, responded to the latter post, saying she is hardly the only one calling for Buice to remain incarcerated. “My son suffered a great deal and was murdered by Buice simply because he was gay,” she wrote in part. “Paul was a very kind, intelligent loving and wonderful person who graduated from Texas A&M. How dare you try to make Buice the victim. He needs to stay in prison. What has Buice done except cause a lifetime a pain and heartache.”

Waco committee recommends job protections for LGBT workers

Waco’s LGBT city employees may soon be protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

With four of six members present, the city’s Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee voted unanimously last week to recommend to the city manager that the protections be added to the city’s EEO policy.

LGBT activist Carmen Saenz, who addressed the committee, said the proposal will go to the city manager pending the city attorney’s approval in the coming weeks.

There was confusion back in January when Waco resident Susan Duty said she and a few others were trying to add LGBT protections to the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance instead of its EEO policy. Waco doesn’t have a citywide nondiscrimination ordinance.

The initial plan was to go before the committee and have them vote on a recommendation to have the Waco City Council look into an ordinance, which would protect LGBT workers citywide. But that meeting was delayed until April and then July. By then, Duty said she found out the committee only deals with city employees, so the ordinance would have to be presented directly to the City Council.

Saenz said despite the mix-up, “this was our original plan.”

Duty said she’s not sure whether she’ll still pursue the citywide ordinance.

Houston suburb of Pearland adds sexual orientation to EEO policy

After seeing our post about Waco adding LGBT protections, openly gay Pearland City Councilman Scott Sherman sent us word that the Houston suburb has also changed its policies.

At Sherman’s request, the council discussed adding sexual orientation to the city’s Equal Employment Opportunity policy and same-sex partners to its bereavement leave policy on July 1. The changes passed unanimously a week later.

“Pearland is the third-largest city in the Houston region and we employ over 500 people,” Sherman said. “While I was not aware of a specific instance where someone was discriminated against in either the hiring process or during their employment with the city, it was important to me that we add sexual orientation to our Equal Employment Opportunity provisions because if we are going to be a progressive city and a regional leader we need to treat all employees and potential employees fairly. Moreover, it is just the right thing to do.”

“I have also pushed for a revision to our bereavement policy because as I stated during the council workshop, the death of a lifetime partner is equally as painful as the death of a legally recognized spouse,” Sherman said. “I want to commend my fellow council members who wholeheartedly supported my proposed revisions to our employment policies. The proposals were accepted without any opposition. I am honored to be able to serve with a group of people who are willing to stand up for equality.”
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My gender identity began 40 years ago — 14 years before my birth, a premeditated existence etched out before conception.

My mother had planned for a girl since the day she married her high school sweetheart.

A brief history of the name Amy Joanna Price:

“I always wanted a girl, but God had other plans,” my mother said in her petite, nurturing tone. “My firstborn was a boy. But by my second time around I was certain this would be my baby girl. I could feel it.”

She’d picked out the name Amy Joanna – Joanna being in honor of Jesus’ loyal follower in the Bible and Amy because she just enjoyed the way the two syllables sounded.

Her second child was a boy and so was her third. My mother thought she would never get to use the name. A surprise pregnancy granted her one more try. She did not know she was carrying twins.

And when the doctor pulled me out by my tail end, he yelled, “It’s a girl!”

As the story goes, my dad, after recovering from a momentary loss of consciousness, spent the next hour calling family and telling everyone how they finally got their precious girl along with an unexpected boy.

My brother and I celebrated our 27th birthday this year. Two birthday cards were tilted at an acute angle against a vase of assorted daisies and leather leaves, atop my parents dining room table.

One was addressed “Andrew,” the other “To my Amy girl.”

I had been going by “Maddox” for a month, and a mounting revelation was beginning to unravel the seams — ripping apart a building pressure to conform to a 40-year-old gender predisposition.

I am genderqueer.

It’s a word still annoyingly underlined with that tiny red-squiggly-line-of-doom as unrecognized.

Genderqueer, a term with origins in the '90s according to Nonbinary.org, is an umbrella term for people who don’t identify as gender-normative. This includes but isn’t limited to those who are gender-variant, agendered, transgender, gender nonconformist, bigendered, third-fourth and some-gendered.

In other words, it’s an identity that can fall somewhere between and sometimes nowhere on the gender spectrum. These terms, however, don’t correlate with my sex or my sexual orientation; for me, it’s merely an expression of my gender identity on a social scale rather than a biological one.

While some genderqueer individuals might be addressed using neutral pronouns, such as “they,” “them,” “zie,” “hir” and so on, I lean toward the masculine (male-of-center) side. Not female, but not quite male either.

I can recall the moment I knew I was genderqueer, but not a defining moment I knew I wasn’t binary-compatible. I grew up painfully shy and under constant counseling since the age of 7 for my social anxiety disorder and selective mutism.

Coming from a middle-class home with a stay-at-home mom and an evangelical pastor father who was a pro-life lobbyist, anything queer-related was foreign for most of my childhood. But even at the age of 5, I knew I didn’t fit in. Maybe it was the lack of social skills or being uncomfortable in my own skin that caused the internal turmoil.

When puberty hit, I fell into a profound, often suicidal depression, not wanting my body to change and hating my breasts. While classmates’ closets were filled with flowery dresses, tiny bras and hoarded amounts of Lisa Frank nonsense, mine was laden with sports bras and boxers.

I kept my nose in my books. Those books and later the Internet helped me see beyond my circumstances and question everything.

I found solace coming out as a lesbian, although it cost me my home and forced me to live in my car for a month and a half. The lesbian community gave me something to be part of, and I flocked to it, clinging to its every move.

But even the lesbian community does not embrace gender expression so readily, and last year I
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Angel was born Aug. 9, 1972, and graduated from Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas.

He lived in Dallas for the last 23 years. He worked as assistant director of logistics at Stevens Transport. He leaves behind many friends and family members.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 9 at St. Mark Catholic Church in Plano. Memorial contributions may be made to Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage, 828 S. Tyler St., Dallas, TX, 75208.


Rick was a professional magician, florist, event planner and designer.

He was born Nov. 25, 1948, in Monticello, Miss. He graduated from Monticello High School, Copiah-Lincoln Junior College and Whitworth College.

Rick co-owned a clothing boutique in Mississippi until 1977, when he moved to Dallas, where he worked as a fashion model and started his own company. R.W. Innovations Inc. was incorporated in 1983 with two divisions: Rick Walker Designs and Rick Walker Magical Productions.

Rick worked in the Blackstone Magic Show as an assistant to Harry Blackstone. In 1988, Rick was named one of the top five magicians in the U.S., leading to a tour of Europe.

Rick made numerous TV appearances, and served as a movie consultant and adviser.

Rick’s act featured large-scale illusions, such as cutting a woman in half and levitation. He opened for celebrity acts, including Patrick Duffy, Ray Charles, Kay Star, Susanne Summers and Frank Gorshin.

Rick also trained Miss America contestants in talent and presentations, including one who was crowned winner and one who came in the top 10.

Rick was a member of the Airliner Social Club from 1988 to 2012, and served as president of the Teleflora North Texas Unit Board in 2011. He was also a member of the Texas Association of Magicians and the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Rick is survived by his mother, Gerry Walker of Monticello, Miss.; and sister, Kathy Walker Robers of New Hebron, Miss.

A celebration of life will be held at the Dallas home of Rick’s friend, Al Daniels, on Aug. 18. For more info, email allenjdaniels@aol.com.

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**Dayanara**

Dayanara is a female, 8-pound young adult. She’s very playful and affectionate and would love to have a home of her own. She’ll be spayed and microchipped before you take her home. Her adoption # is A793794.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and noon till 5 p.m. on Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are $85 for dogs and $55 for cats, but right now the center is offering $30 adoption fees for pets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets that have been at the Adoption Center more than four weeks, for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen who adopts a pet, and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org.

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Most Dallas bars still pouring Stoli

Local gay immigrant from Russia calls vodka boycott ‘good idea,’ reconsiders visit to his homeland during Sochi Games

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

David Wyrick hasn’t visited Russia in five years, but now he fears returning to his homeland at all in light of a recent anti-gay crackdown.

Wyrick, a gay Russian immigrant, moved to Oklahoma at 13 when he was adopted. He later moved to Dallas.

The last time he went to visit his Russian friends was before anti-gay sentiment became extreme. He’d planned a ski trip in February and hoped to see some of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. But the trip may have to wait.

“I might have to reconsider until things calm down,” Wyrick said. “I might not go for my own safety.”

Wyrick said he has gay friends in Russia who are trying to flee the country. One friend was beaten up for being gay and the others fear for their lives.

Wyrick voiced support for the international boycott of Stolichnaya Vodka and other Russian spirits, calling it “a good start” to get the attention of the Russian government. Stoli should do more than sponsor LGBT events in the U.S., he said. The company should work with Russian citizens to help change the government’s views of LGBT people.

“From the LGBT perspective, it’s a great way to get your voice across and stand up for what you believe to be unfair treatment,” Wyrick said of the boycott. “For Russia, it’s a complicated web. They are a nation in identity crisis, led by a dictator who is enforcing his views rather than the majority’s.”

Most gay bars in North Texas continued to serve Stoli this week, despite the growing boycott of the company.

Randy Norman, who owns the Rainbow Lounge and Best Friends Club in Fort Worth and Cherries in Dallas, announced that his establishments would no longer carry Stoli. The Brick and Joe’s and the Deep Ellum lesbian bar Eden Lounge have also stopped serving it. The Dallas Eagle, meanwhile, reportedly stopped carrying Russian spirits a few years ago because of the country’s anti-gay views.

The local response comes a week after Seattle activist Dan Savage called for a Stoli boycott to start an international dialogue about the treatment of gays in Russia. LGBT advocates remain divided about whether the boycott is a good idea, but proponents say if nothing else it has raised awareness about the situation in Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a “gay propaganda” bill into law last month. The law prohibits citizens from providing information to minors about homosexuality and bans Pride rallies. Foreign residents face deportation under the law and gay tourists have already been detained in its short enforcement period. Putin also recently signed a bill forbidding same-sex couples from adopting Russian children.

The law has sparked concern about the safety of tourists and Olympians at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi next year.

Some have called for a U.S. boycott of the Olympics and said the Winter Games should be moved. But because those scenarios are highly unlikely, gay athletes and LGBT advocacy organizations are discussing the best way to make a statement at the Games.

According to the International Olympic Committee, the Russian government has said gay athletes and spectators won’t be targeted, but Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said Thursday, Aug. 1, that athletes and visitors to the games will be subject to the country’s laws.
Henderson takes reins of Fairness Fort Worth

Four years after Rainbow Lounge raid, longtime activist says it’s time for Cowtown’s LGBT community to shed notion of being a ‘stepchild’

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

As an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Arlington in the late 1970s, David Mack Henderson played the school’s mascot at sporting events.

When UTA’s administration found out Henderson was gay, school officials asked him to resign.

“I was distraught,” Henderson said.

That night, he went to the Tarrant County Mining Company, a gay bar in Arlington. He met friends there who had lost everything to arson the night before and were harassed with graffiti and broken windows for a week before the fire destroyed their house.

“They couldn’t fight back,” Henderson said. “I could.”

So he refused to resign as mascot and founded the first LGBT group on the UTA campus.

And Henderson, who would later serve on the Dallas Gay Alliance board before moving to Fort Worth, has been fighting back ever since.

After the raid on the Rainbow Lounge in 2009, he was involved in the formation of Fairness Fort Worth — and last week, he was elected president of the group.

Henderson said this week he’d like Fairness Fort Worth to become the go-to organization on LGBT issues for Tarrant County. He’s pushing for more gays and lesbians to be appointed to Fort Worth boards and commissions, continuing work on comprehensive transgender health benefits for city employees and expecting members of his expanded and diverse board to tackle a variety of new issues.

“We came together out of extraordinary need four years ago,” Henderson said. “But now it’s time to expand and reach into the broader community.”

That effort began a year ago when Jon Nelson became president and he began expanding the board to reflect the LGBT community’s diversity. Current members are Hispanic, African-American, transgender, straight allies, parents of LGBT children, ranging in age from 20s to 60s, representing a variety of professions and educational backgrounds.

Henderson called his board a good cross-section of the city, crediting Nelson with doing a good job of expanding beyond the four or five founders of the organization and moving past that crisis.

But he said the city is in an odd position.

Fort Worth is the 16th-largest city in the U.S. that ranks second in size in a metropolitan area.

“We’re not the stepchild, but [we’re] thought of that way,” Henderson said.

Henderson’s vision for Fairness Fort Worth as the go-to organization for Tarrant County is already starting to take shape, he said.

When a group of teenagers was arrested for spray-painting an Arlington lesbian couple’s car with anti-gay graffiti, Henderson attended the court proceedings. When the couple’s 2-year-old child needed to be shielded from the press, Henderson helped, and when the couple couldn’t appear for the sentencing of one of the defendants, he read the victim impact statement to the court.

When a gay Everman couple’s home was targeted for vandalism, the men called Fairness Fort Worth for guidance.

Newly elected FFW Vice President Jim McAlister said while the group has been involved in those cases, a big part of its work involves under-the-radar bureaucratic issues.

He gave the example of comprehensive transgender health insurance for city employees, a proposal which is still being discussed at Fort Worth City Hall.

“Our job is to make people in authority feel comfortable about doing the right thing,” McAlister said.

Fort Worth Assistant City Manager Fernando Costa said Fairness Fort Worth has been instrumental in protecting the rights of all citizens and he expects continued success in the future. Costa considers the group a trustworthy resource for the city that he would rely on should an issue arise.

“They formed in the wake of a tragic event,” he said, “but much to their credit, they’ve always been constructive — never adversarial. Fort Worth as a whole can take pride.”

Costa cited the Fort Worth school district’s anti-bullying policy as an example of the group’s work, as well as LGBT diversity training for city employees and the police department.

“Change takes time, but their progress is little short of phenomenal,” he said.

Costa suggested the group might work with local businesses to bring the same employment policies to companies that it brought to the city.

Henderson said he expects various board members to take up different projects and run with them.

McAlister said he’d like to see the group get involved in youth advocacy.

Nelson said nondiscrimination policies and partner benefits in other Tarrant County cities and at the county need to be addressed.

Henderson said he’s not trying to compete with Dallas organizations. Instead, he’d like to see FFW provide services that groups like his offer in other cities his size.

“We need to have a community infrastructure that will bind Tarrant County’s LGBT community comparable to cities our size elsewhere,” he said.

And while HIV services in Fort Worth are provided by established organizations, the community has no paid staff providing LGBT services. So FFW has teamed successfully with Resource Center Dallas on several issues, like updating policies and providing partner benefits for DFW Airport employees. He’d like to see that partnership grow.

Henderson, who served on the DGA board when Bill Nelson was president of the group in the 1980s, recalled that after Oak Lawn Councilwoman Lori Palmer won election with strong support from the LGBT community, she began making LGBT appointments to boards and commissions. Others followed as council members began to respect the LGBT community.

“In Fort Worth, that hasn’t quite happened yet,” he said. “That might be one of our next steps. If we’re going to be stronger in the fabric of Fort Worth, we need to play our part, too.”

The Rev. Carol West, pastor of Celebration Community Church, said she expects the group to expand on the work already started. West has served on the board since the group’s founding.

“We’ve made great strides toward a more fair Fort Worth, Tarrant and surrounding counties,” she said. “Fairness Fort Worth will continue to do the good work it has been doing.”
Some cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago and Lansing, Mich. have tried to cut ties with their Russian sister cities unless those city officials speak out against the anti-gay laws. Dallas and Saratov, Russia, have been sister cities since 2004. Paula Blackmon, Mayor Mike Rawlings’ chief of staff, didn’t respond to a request for comment on whether the city would consider ending the relationship.

But while the sister city effort has been slow to catch on, the Stoli boycott has caught fire, with Russian vodka all but blacklisted at gay bars from New York to West Hollywood to London and Australia.

The company that owns Stolichnaya Vodka, Luxembourg-based SPI Group, sent out a statement last week saying it isn’t connected to the Russian government. Company officials also clarified that the vodka’s production is divided between Russia and Latvia.

SPI Group CEO Val Mendeleev said in an interview with Michelangelo Signorile on SiriusXM Progress radio this week that the company has a distillery in Russia and uses Russian ingredients. Mendeleev said production in the country has been reduced over the years and that the company would look to other countries for ingredients, but he didn’t outline a plan to cut ties with Russia altogether.

In response to the boycott, Mendeleev said the company would make a donation to an unspecified group working on behalf of Russian LGBT activists fighting against the government’s anti-gay policies.

While SPI group owns the Stoli name worldwide, the company cannot sell the brand inside Russia, where a state-owned company owns and sells it. However, SPI still sells other brands in Russia.

“Stoli has been a friend of the LGBT community and has been an opponent of the Russian government,” Mendeleev said. “They decided not to carry Russian spirits a few years ago because of the country’s anti-gay views.

Other bar owners seemed hesitant to take a stance on the boycott.

Chris Benston, on-site events coordinator with Caven Enterprises Inc., which owns Sue Ellen’s, JR’s, Station 4 and TMC: The Mining Company, said the company currently has no comment on the boycott.

Caven’s bars were still serving Stoli this week and were promoting “The Most Original Stoli Guy” Dallas search on their social media pages. The competition is Aug. 17 at Station 4.

Alan Pierce, co-owner of the Round-Up Saloon, said he didn’t plan to join the boycott because the company behind Stoli was a strong supporter of the LGBT community and “people jumped on board too quickly.”

“Stoli has an international presence in GLBT support,” Pierce said. “I think we should be careful before we rush to judgment. It’d be easy to say we disagree with Russia. We all do. It doesn’t have anything to do with Stoli.”

Michael Doughman, executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, made up of Oak Lawn area bar owners, said the organization’s bylaws prevent the organization from getting involved in day-to-day operations of its members, including which products they sell. “That decision as far as pulling the liquor from the shelves will be decided club by club,” he said.
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started to feel discomfort again. It wasn’t about needing to fit into a demographic; it was about searching for what I’ve always really wanted.

I had an epiphany during a telephone conversation while driving in Dallas rush-hour traffic September 2012. I remember telling my friend: “I don’t understand why I can’t just be both genders. I definitely don’t feel like a woman but I don’t quite feel like a man either. This isn’t fair.”

She laughed and replied, “Well, that would be genderqueer.”

My world opened up, and I became comfortable with my newfound identity, even adopting the name Maddox, which I’d thought I’d been saving for my first child but now realized I’d actually been saving for myself.

I’ve worked for Albertson’s as an assistant bakery manager for nine years. I am a journalism major studying at Brookhaven Community College and editor-in-chief for The Brookhaven Courier. Both Albertson’s and the Dallas County Community College district prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

When I was approached by people at my newspaper job about my new name on Facebook, I simply said, “That’s my name now, and I’ll explain later.”

Explaining genderqueer to cisgender, heterosexual people isn’t easy. The language needed to be a delicate. I told some of them “Amy” is a name that makes me uncomfortable and traps me into a pronoun with which I don’t necessarily identify.

On a good day I only get, “Ammm … er, I mean Maddox” five times a day in the newsroom. It’s an adjustment that my fellow newsies and I are getting used to.

Luckily, I had already been a longtime employee at these establishments. I can only imagine having to compete with “less complicated” individuals for a job.

As the Village Voice pointed out in an article published in June 2013 on genderqueer issues, when it comes to hiring in this market, anything that stands out as different is going to be a strike against somebody. I’m crossing my fingers for my future as well as for other gender non-conformists.

When I walk into establishments outside the gayborhood, people’s eyes draw lines that intersect directly on, above and behind me — and that’s when the whispers begin. There’s the simple, inconspicuous glare one might otherwise get from a 3-year-old; the direct approach, which involves invading my personal space and asking ignobly demeaning questions; and my favorite, the passive-aggressive tactic, in which people cup their hands against their companions’ ears while covertly trying to focus one eye out the corner of their sockets, thinking I haven’t the faintest clue they are conversing about me.

Usually an abrupt turning of the head and an intrusive smile shakes them up a bit. It’s as if they have spotted a unicorn, and they’re trying to figure me out.

At first I thought it was all in my obsessive mind, but I am often reminded by my friends and
Time to forgive ex-gays

Exodus officials have apologized, but many in the LGBT community don’t seem willing to move on given tremendous harm they caused.

When Alan Chambers, the president of Exodus “ex-gay” Ministries publicly apologized for the hurt he has caused LGBT people, I forgave him. There are few things more powerful to change attitudes about LGBT lives than religious leaders publicly sharing their personal journeys toward understanding. No need to flagellate him for past wrongdoing; he’s here now. Let’s look forward.

My fellow LGBT commentators haven’t been so eager to hand out forgiveness to anyone who asks for it. Look no further than the comments sections of LGBT media reports on the apology to see a litany of the psychological and spiritual torture that Chambers and his ilk have perpetuated, however well-intended his apology.

Their issue with Exodus wasn’t that they simply disagreed with the message, but that the message caused real harm, even death. In light of this, how could I have been so willing to let it all go and move on?

The problem, if you want to call it that, is that I have never once doubted that my sexual orientation was perfectly fine in the eyes of my creator. Even when I faced discrimination at work and school, or worried that my family would never understand, or if being gay would doom me to a life of loneliness, I laid all my concerns at the feet of other people, not God. My spirituality only ever served to give me strength and determination in a world of human frailty. I have no idea what it’s like to think that my very being, as Joel Osteen frequently puts it, isn’t “God’s best plan” — a new and improved way of saying God still thinks LGBT lives kinda suck.

Now, yet another Exodus leader, former VP Randy Thomas, has apologized. The responses are just as damning as before. His apology is vague, hollow, or means nothing until he actually does something to undo the damage. Some suggested that Thomas donate all the money he ever made from Exodus to PFLAG, or any other organization doing the clean-up work.

This all makes sense to me on an intellectual level. We throw words like “forgiveness” around the same way that we call anyone who manages to survive a calamity a “hero.” The power of those words is too easily diluted by sloppy, facile use. Here we have men who, correctly, acknowledged their mistakes.

Good. This is important. But just how admirable is it to decide to do the right thing after you’ve been doing the wrong thing all your life? I truly don’t know.

Both of these men have made declarations to keep providing support and ministry to people who choose to keep trying to be straight—or something along those lines. I’m not sure that’s the accepted terminology. Could it be “struggling with homosexual inclinations”? Something like that. Again, I have no idea why you’d want to do anything other than make peace with your gayness, unless you still feel there’s something inherently wrong with it.

This shows me they have not yet understood their own complicity in others’ pain, let alone sacrificed enough to atone — and how could they ever do enough to fully make up for the slow, excruciating, soul-etching effect of the “not God’s best” happy talk? These apologies, at best, are statements of intention to begin the process of helping piece together shattered lives and spirits. No more than that.

And also, no less. I still want to forgive them. I have the right to, as much as anyone else has the right not to. I was struck by one comment, alone among the many justifiably angry ones, from someone named Czahn: “God made me gay. He also made me have the capacity to forgive […] Today I am free to be me. Because I chose to forgive, and move forward…fiercely.” [sic]

Like Czahn, I have to believe that there is power in my forgiveness. I won’t disparage those who can’t let these ex-gays off the hook, but there must be some small measure of healing to be found in accepting an offer of reconciliation. My forgiveness means that I expect a lot from these men, that Thomas donate all the money he ever made from Exodus to PFLAG, or any other organization doing the clean-up work.

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Like Czahn, I have to believe that there is power in my forgiveness. I won’t disparage those who can’t let these ex-gays off the hook, but there must be some small measure of healing to be found in accepting an offer of reconciliation. My forgiveness means that I expect a lot from these men, and that the hard work begins now.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionstraighttalk.com.
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Lost Boy Campbell Walker Fields’ 2 dads helped him ‘Fly’ at DTC

Arnold Wayne Jones | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

It’s probably no coincidence that Campbell Walker Fields’ favorite TV show is Dance Moms. He’s kind of living that life.

No, Campbell isn’t Abby; he’s the kid of the story, the young actor who had a hankering to act and just happened to have two dads who encouraged him.

“I wanted to be a parent for as long as I can remember,” says Tim Fields, one of Campbell’s dads. (Fields is Daddy to Campbell and his brother Sam; his partner, Eddie Walker, is Poppy.) When he and Walker began dating 18 years ago, they discussed having children. Twelve years ago, they adopted Campbell at birth; four months later, Sam came along and they did the same.

But being gay parents, they didn’t immediately jump into the idea of forcing their sons into sports.

“Our philosophy was to avoid sports until the fourth grade,” Fields explains. “We encouraged the arts, and as long as they wanted to stick with it,” they followed through. Sam was attracted early to art; Campbell, now 12, liked performing. “We saw something in him from birth,” Fields says. “Before Campbell could speak, he was singing.”

“Is that true?” Campbell chimes in. “Hmm.” Campbell’s interest has now hit a high-water mark, as he’s Foo, one of The Lost Boys in Dallas Theater Center’s world premiere musical adaptation of the Peter Pan story, Fly.

“I wanted to be a police officer when I was younger,” Campbell says over a plate of pad see ew. “Then I started singing.”

He entered a performing arts elementary school in Oklahoma City, getting started in singing half his lifetime ago (he’s now enrolled in another performing arts high); he even appeared as the Artful Dodger in Oliver! at the acclaimed Lyric Theatre in OKC. But this is a huge leap forward.

“In Oliver!, not everyone was a professional; in Fly, everyone is a professional. And it’s my first paid show,” he says.

It’s also his first show that required actual relocation. When Campbell was doing Seussical at the theater at the University of Oklahoma, the show’s director spotted his talent and recommended he audition for Fly. Fields and Walker discussed it; because it was in Dallas, they figured they could manage it if Campbell got cast.

Campbell was quickly signed — the first of the child actors to be cast — and his dads began the process of coordinating life for an out-of-town run. Fields, a hairstylist and fashion editor, and Walker, the CEO of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, have spent most of the summertime swapping weeks with Campbell in Dallas while the other stays home looking after Sam; on weekends, they all unite in Dallas as a family.

Not that Campbell has much time for traditional family stuff — Fly runs for a total of 52 full performances (including weekend matinees), as well as promotional shows and many weeks of rehearsal leading up to the opening. It’s been a full-time job.

It’s also been one for Fields, who has to drop about half his clients to accommodate Campbell’s schedule. But it hasn’t been all lounging around the pool while his son works; Fields (and Walker on alternate weeks) is responsible for dropping off and picking up the young actor, including fetching him for lunch/dinner breaks. And there have, of course, been some of those Dance Moms moments.

“One night I was picking Campbell up from rehearsal at midnight and he came limping out to the car in a bad mood. I asked him what happened. He said, ‘One of the other kids ran over me with his scooter.’ Well, the kids were told not to ride their scooters around. I did go a little Momma Rose about that,” says Fields, alluding to the quintessential stage mother from Gypsy.

“They’re not crazy,” adds Campbell gingerly. “[Poppy], though, is more relaxed than Daddy.”

“He’s certainly a better diplomat,” Fields agrees.

Campbell exudes a rare maturity and sophistication about the whole experience, from being apart from his home for the summer (“there are 11 kids in this show; they are replacing my friends back home — I’ll be sad to see them go … unless we move to Broadway”) to his own taste in music (“I sing lots of genres. I like Broadway and have developed a liking for some Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis — I don’t rap, though”) to the process of being part of a world premiere, including script changes and adapting to the new choreography on a routine basis. And he’s glad his dads are as supportive of his career as he is.

“If God didn’t give me a daughter I could shove into pageants, at least He gave me a son with an interest in musical theater,” Fields says.

Momma Rose would be so proud.

Fly runs at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St., through Aug. 18. For tickets and more information, visit DallasTheaterCenter.org.
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Almost everyone of the mother’s side of Raul Rulli Torres’ family pursued a career in the medical field — doctors, nurses, etc. But it was not in the cards for Torres.

“I can’t handle the sight of blood,” he says.

But as it turns out, Torres is still doing his part for those infected with HIV. And he gets to use his profession to do it.

Torres has organized the first DFashionWeek summer fashion show, a fundraiser for AIDS Arms.

Funds raised will go toward the Guys & Dolls team for LifeWalk.

“I have been a member of the Guys & Dolls team since I moved down here two years ago from Arkansas,” Torres says, “but I wasn’t very active. So this year I have tried to be more involved.”

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“I have been a member of the Guys & Dolls team since I moved down here two years ago from Arkansas,” Torres says, “but I wasn’t very active. So this year I have tried to be more involved.”

Being in fashion, Torres decided to reach out to others in the community to see if there was an interest in doing a charity show. He posted a notice on a networking site, and before long, people began signing up.

“I started getting models and designers, and we started posting that on Facebook and that attracted more models, photographers and hair-stylists,” he says.

The idea was for designers to come up with fashions that they would donate after walking down the runway, and 100 percent of proceeds would go to the LifeWalk team. (Guys & Dolls is one of the most successful teams, having raised more than $600,000 since its founding more than 15 years ago.)

Torres now has a slate of about a half-dozen designers (including Karolina Karo, Ju’els Collection, King Onye and more), each of whom will design, in addition to other fashions, a red garment.

“I just thought about the red ribbon representing HIV and AIDS and that color popped into my mind,” he says.

In addition to women’s fashions, there will be men’s underwear from Gasoline (modeled, of course, by hot men) — and even a paper dress Torres made to promote the event. He promises one of the models will wear it on the runway, too — anything to get people to pay attention to a cause that’s close to his heart.

SEEING RED | Designer Raul Torres, left, with his model, Lindsey, showcasing a red goddess gown — one of several that will be up for sale to benefit LifeWalk. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)
The Supreme Court’s decisions involving marriage equality earlier this summer have meant a lot to couples anxious to express their commitment publicly and have it acknowledged and sanctified by their government. And no industry has seen the practical effects of those decisions quite as concretely as jewelers.

“It’s been pretty spectacular on a lot of different fronts,” says Kim Burgan, co-owner of the Uptown private jeweler Nine Eighteen. “It was an amazing step in the right direction. And it has already made a significant impact on our business.”

In fact, it took no more than a few days after the court decisions were announced before Burgan and her brother and business partner, Darin Kunz, noticed an uptick in gay couples seeking wedding bands and engagement rings.

“We’re at the front end of the trend,” Kunz says. “[Since the decisions], for the first time since we’ve been in business we’re working with more gays and lesbians on bridal bands than straight couples — easily twice as many at any one time before. We can’t wait to be a part of this.”

Even previously committed couples — those who have exchanged rings in holy unions or other ceremonies — are approaching Burgan and Kunz about formalizing their relationships in line with the new laws.

“We have two male clients who’ve worn matching bands for a while,” Burgan says. “One of them wants to add a carat-plus diamond into his partner’s band” to symbolize their now-legal “engagement.” “We’re seeing a lot of that — turning a band more into an engagement ring.”

Kunz, who is gay and active in charitable causes around town (especially DIFFA), attributes some of this newfound interest in gays finding a way to be part of the larger culture.

“I think being engaged is a part of the marriage process [for heterosexuals],” he says. “For a long time, we’ve been denied that — we go from dating to one day, magically, you’re ‘partners.’ We’re used to creating our own way, but now we can include family and tradition [in our process].”

Kunz says he’s seen a lot more formality in courtship in recent months. “If a partner doesn’t call his father-in-law-to-be, he’ll call a brother or sister to ask for a blessing,” he says. “We have one lesbian couple, and one of the girls is Indian; her parents are the product of an arranged marriage — so, very traditional. When [the couple] told the Indian girl’s mother their plan to marry, the mother was very happy for them and offered the traditional Indian garbs she wore for her wedding. I think it’s very exciting as a gay person to see this response of tradition and importance of family when we’ve been told forever that we are untraditional. Perhaps we don’t see that as much with straight couples because we take it for granted.”

But there are ways gays are remaining on the cutting edge.

“The big thing I’ve noticed is [clients] have been really interested in being part of the creative process. We’re seeing men go for a little more detail — a pattern in the gold or edging. And the gay men almost all want diamonds,” Burgan says.

And they are getting deeply involved in the design, not wanting to buy off-the-rack bands.

“We have noticed less of an emphasis on budget than on design, uniqueness and symbolism — like having a certain number of stones that represent something special between the two,” Kunz says. “It’s fun for us to help them create that so that when someone is looking at your wedding band they say, ‘That represents you.’”

Still, the gays can go over-the-top.

“We just did a 5-karat pavé men’s band,” Kunz says, “not in a Liberace way, but not subtle! It still looked very masculine.”

For more information about customizing bands, visit Nine-Eighteen.com.
HGTV’s newest renovation stud, Francis Toumbakaris, is as comfortable in a pair of tights and pointe shoes as he is in work boots and overalls. Trained in classical ballet since age 12, Toumbakaris has high-kicked his way onto stages in national tours of Fosse and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and on Broadway in the revival of Fiddler on the Roof starring Alfred Molina (and later, Harvey Fierstein and Rosie O’Donnell). Other theatrical career highlights include the award-winning Susan Stroman dance musical Contact and Candide at New York City Opera.

“Drama is in my blood,” he says. “I am Greek, after all. Drama was born in my country.”

His sense for the flamboyant shines in Brother v. Brother, HGTV’s latest competition show where renovators are split into two teams — headed by Property Brothers siblings Drew and Jonathan Scott — to compete for a $50,000 cash prize. Toumbakaris is one of the contestants on Team Jonathan, hoping to take home the big prize. And he’s not shy about being the token gay on the show.

“I’m out and loud,” he says. “I’m not afraid to get dirty and I thrive on making decisions on the fly. I want to think I am a likable character, but it’s a show where even within our own teams, we are pitted against one another. The show is filled with conflict.”

A lot of that conflict has been fueled by Toumbakaris, whose decision to use a vivid wall color in the series premiere nearly got him booted. Since then, he has alternately flummoxed and delighted his teammates with his antics and fiery Greek personality.

Toumbakaris has been financially independent since he was 15, when he left his Athens home on scholarship to attend the prestigious Rudra Béjart dance school in Switzerland. The same year Toumbakaris entered high school, he signed a lease on his own studio apartment. To make the tiny studio a home away from home, he painted, decorated and, with the help of his stepfather, constructed customized furniture for it.

“I designed a dual purpose kitchen island that would allow me extra counter space and storage. What 15-year-old thinks of that?” he laughs. “But I loved it. I felt the same thrill handling tools as I did pointing my toes and trying to leap higher than anyone else in my ballet class.”

In 2000, on a tourist visa, Toumbakaris set out for New York City. He had only $2,000 in his pocket, money he had saved from being a backup dancer for a pop singer in Greece. But he was young, driven and ambitious. He would land the occasional theater and film job, but he needed another job to see him through the lean months between gigs. After returning from touring with Scoundrels, he placed an ad looking for small painting projects, repair work and other odd jobs.

“I would ride around the city on my bicycle and a backpack full of tools,” Toumbakaris says. The big surprise was when his survival job began to take on a life of its own. One satisfied
client referred another, which led to another and so on. Within a year, Toumbakaris went from completing simple jobs to doing full-scale renovations in Manhattan apartments. In 2007, his contracting and design company, Greek & Handy, was established.

Toumbakaris believes his years as a dancer helped prepare him for design. The stage taught him to be fearless, to perform under tremendous stress and to make the job work even when all appears to be going wrong. It taught him to trust his gut instinct and most importantly, dance taught him about the art of space.

“Dancers learn to appreciate how bodies and objects flow through space. I bring that philosophy into my renovations, striving to find the perfect balance in a room through smart design and efficient layout.”

According to Toumbakaris, good design is not simply about pretty colors, fabrics and accessories. It is an art that requires precise and intricate problem solving. “I am constantly calculating new ways to improve my clients’ work and living environments.”

Toumbakaris describes his style as comfortable luxury with a classic urban feel. “I like to think of myself as the orchestra conductor. Although I may not play all the instruments, I direct all the moving pieces to create one beautiful harmony.”

His theatrical training even helped to land Brother Vs. Brother. “I auditioned three times for the network, hoping to compete on season four of HGTV’s Design Star.” However, producers felt Toumbakaris’ background in home construction was better suited for Drew and Jonathan’s new show.

He’s excited that Brother Vs. Brother is giving him the opportunity to combine his love of show biz with his passion for renovation. “I never thought wearing a tool belt would give me the chance to perform on a new stage,” he says. “But why not? I’m an artist. I’m always looking to create something new.”

His ambition extends beyond the show. A Greek & Handy line of tools, paints and home goods is in the works. Toumbakaris also aims to find a husband and build a family. Yes, the dancer-turned-handyman-turned-interior renovator admits he is anxious for his next big role, that of daddy.

And by daddy, he means, being a parent ... just so we’re clear.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Brother v. Brother airs on HGTV Sundays at 9 p.m.
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For directions to the new member clinic locations or any information about DIVA, please visit www.DIVADallas.org

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Visit: www.DIVADallas.org for maps
email: vpmembership@divadallas.org
Friday 08.02

Uptown Players revives Tony-winning musical ‘Kiss of the Spider Woman’

The last time Uptown Players presented Kiss of the Spider Woman, George Bush was in office, DOMA was the law of the land and the troupe was still in its space off Stemmons. What a difference a decade makes! This weekend, Uptown opens its first-ever mainstage revival in its new home at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in a DOMA-free, Obama America. But not everything has changed — Linda Leonard reprises her award-winning role as Aurora, the movie goddess who enchants a gay man (Mikey Abrams) in an unnamed South American prison, as he shares his love of fantasy with his cellmate, a straight political prisoner (John Campione).


Thursday 08.08

DIFFA/Dallas hosts volunteer appreciation party

Groups like DIFFA/Dallas depend on selfless volunteers for their life-blood, so the board of directors and Park Place Volvo host this cocktail party to thank all those who give of their time to make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The party includes American Harvest organic cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, with DJs Jennifer Miller and Paul Paredes, pictured, spinning.

DEETS: Park Place Volvo, 3515 Inwood Road. 6–9 p.m. RSVP to Dallas@DIFFA.org.

Friday 08.02

Dallas drag king troupe Mustache Envy presents annual Kings for a Cause benefit performance

Most of the year, the members of Mustache Envy are driven by their love of chin whiskers. But every August, they are driven instead by their love of fellow Dallasites. That’s why they put on Kings for a Cause, a fundraising performance at Sue Ellen’s, themed Blast from the Past. Proceeds from their wild show in the Vixin Lounge will benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

DEETS: Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10:30 p.m. Raffle tickets available.

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**ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING THEATER**


**Xanadu.** The campy ’80s movie musical gets an even campier stage adaptation. Reviewed this week. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 18. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Assassins.** Onstage in Bedford stages this musical by Stephen Sondheim, which tracks American assassins throughout history. 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Aug. 11. $15. OnstageInBedford.com. 817-354-6444.


**The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged).** A sassy comedy of biblical proportions. Milburn Theatre, TIP A GLASS FOR RCD | Resource Center Dallas celebrates 30 years of serving the community with a cocktail and dessert reception on Friday.

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**Review: ‘Xanadu’**

The great thing about the stage musical of Xanadu is that the premise alone is so outrageous, the audience does a lot of the heavy lifting itself. Based on the 1980 movie musical that, by consensus, was the death knell of disco, it keeps all the ridiculous tropes in place: the ancient Greek muse Clio (Britanny Danielle), who’s inexplicably Australian; the sincerity in making a roller disco a symbol of artistic achievement; a brain-dead, cut-offs-wearing surfer (Sean McGee, who has the muscular legs more of a soccer player); and, of course, the songs from ELO’s Jeff Lynne and John Farrar. The jokes practically write themselves.

Only they don’t. Author Douglas Carter Beane crafts a cascade of hilarious one-liners, poking fun at everything from Lloyd Webber to the artistic vacuum of the Reagan era to Scientology. It’s almost fool-proof. Almost. Technical glitches on opening night were distracting, and the insertion of an intermission in what is essentially a peppy, 90-minute romp doesn’t do anybody a favor, save the concessionaire. But like Mamma Mia, the energy and immense, silly fun of the show wins out.

Adorable Sean McGee has the Keanu Reeves vacuousness down pat, and kudos to Danielle for dancing and singing her way through the show on roller skates. But most of the scenes are stolen by the supporting cast, especially Stacia Malone as a wacky Calliope, rolling her eyes under a nest of unruly hair like Phyllis Diller in her prime. And gags — including Thomas Christopher Renner as a centaur and Darius-Anthony Robinson’s irritable way with sassy, bitch-slapping dialogue — throw a punch just when you need them to.

And let’s not forget the songs. Yes, the script has fun skewering that defining musical style, but it comes from a place of love. Just try to leave the theater without humming the title number. Go ahead. I dare you.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

FINE ART


FRIDAY 08.02
COMMUNITY
Resource Center Dallas 30th Anniversary Cocktail Reception. The Purple Foundation presents a cocktail and dessert party, a fundraiser for RCD’s landmark year. Event takes place at a private home, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Tickets $100. To reserve and for directions, visit RCDallas.org/anniversary-reception.

SUNDAY 08.04
WORSHIP
Cathedral of Hope. Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

COMMUNITY
Mimosas and Music: Sunday Soul Food Brunch. Every week at Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ministry. Weekly Sunday tea-dance-and-more gay mixer with a new DJ each week. LeVu, 2505 Pacific Ave. 6 p.m. Cover 21+: $5 before 7 p.m. (free with flier), $10 after 7 p.m.; cover 18–20: $5.

Be An Angel. Benefits Legacy Counseling Center, 129 Leslie St. 6-9 p.m. $60. legacycares.org

MONDAY 08.05
SPORTS
DIVA new member clinics. Dallas Independent Volleyball Association holds intro lessons for new members. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. Aug. 5 and 7, 7–9 p.m. DIVADallas.org.

WEDNESDAY 08.07
THEATER
LGBT Night at Xanadu. WaterTower Theatre hosts a special gay night, featuring a discounted ticket, drink coupon and meet-and-greet pre-show cocktail hour. Mention the promotion when purchasing. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY

THURSDAY 08.08
THEATER

So Help Me God! Maurine Dallas Watkins, who wrote the play which became the basis for the musical Chicago, wrote this newly rediscovered comedy about back-stabbing divas, getting its local premiere from Theatre 3. 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Aug. 8–Sept. 1 (in previews through Aug. 11). $10–$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

COMMUNITY
Boi Thursday. DJ Ranny spins. Winstons Supperclub, 3111 Welborn Ave., Suite 110. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover.

this week’s solution

PATTED SPELT MAD
ICE AGE HAMUP ARE
CHANGE ME BACK RTS
NECKS AESIR ALEC
IF HE DONT LEAVE ME
COERE BENIN
SRS ABOMBS AREST
STRAIGHT
ABFAB SETTEE RBI
FELLA ASTERN
FAITHHEALER ALAS
ARGO ERROR PRINT
ISH PRISON COMEDY
RUT PECOS TRAVEL
SPY DIANE SECED
Orange Is the New Black

Solution on page 25

Across
1 Slapped on the butt, e.g.
7 Took part in a bee
12 Foaming at the mouth
15 Frigid period of history
16 Make comy, as a joke
17 “We ___ Family”
18 Start of a quote from Orange Is the New Black
20 ACLU concern
21 Head turners?
22 Norse race
23 Actor Mapa
24 “___ Walked Into My Life” (Mame)
25 More of the quote
27 Bully
29 West African republic
30 MTF operation
31 Fat Man and Little Boy
36 “Give it ___!”
37 End of the quote
38 BBC sitcom
43 Soft seat
44 Baseball card stat
47 Boyfriend
48 Aft

Down
1 Company outings, sometimes
2 Want in the worst way
3 Emulates Socrates
4 Oil-carrying ship
5 They get laid only once
6 “Look at Me, I’m Sandra ___”
7 Gay-friendly prez portrayer on TV
8 Suds seller
9 Online letters
10 Filthy smackers
11 Rd. where they toll you so
12 Dietrich of Blonde Venus
13 Diana, to the Greeks
14 Going down
19 Red Book author
23 Spit it out confidently
25 Arrears
26 Eases up
28 The Clash’s “Rock the ___”
32 Areas for Dr. Callie Torres
33 West of Hollywood
34 What you put in a stallion’s mouth
35 Army N.C.O.
38 Enjoy phone sex
39 Flings
40 Endures like a hairy guy?
41 Like one of Earhart’s trips?
42 Low-voiced lady
43 Make easier to bear
45 Used irons
46 Trendy
49 Apron, of a sort
50 Tiffany of Orange Is the New Black, who “reoriented” a lesbian
53 Burning desire
54 Almost ready for the tooth fairy
55 Directional ending
59 Minute opening
60 Suffix with bear
61 Orange Is the New Black, for one
63 The daily grind
64 Bill of legend
65 Commit a foul a la Sue Wicks
66 Professional voyeur?
67 Cartoonist DiMassa
68 Leave the union

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46 Trendy
49 Apron, of a sort
51 Beginning to come?
52 Lucci’s Kane in All My Children
53 Burning desire
54 Almost ready for the tooth fairy
55 Directional ending
59 Minute opening
61 Not COD
62 Coins w. Abe images
Celebrate Miss CJ’s birthday with **Beauty and the Beats**, a party at Sue Ellen’s on Aug. 3 with hip hop, top 40 remixes, dubstep, breaks and more with special guest **Starlight**. … **Linze Serell** presents **Miss Tarrant County** on Aug. 3 at Best Friends Club. The pageant is a prelim to **Miss Gay Texas State** and **State at Large**. The show features **Miss Gay Texas 2013 Madison Devoreau** and **Miss Gay Texas State at Large Natasha Alexander Parson**. … **Bad Rabbit** and **Skivvies** present **Mystique** at the Brick on Aug. 4 with **Kayla Kruz**, **DJ Naz** and **TranQ Killon**. … **Selena Whorez** and the United Court of the Lone Star Empire present **Night of Spanish Rock-n-Roll** to benefit the Greg Dolganier Memorial AIDS Fund on Aug. 2 at the Dallas Eagle. That night is also club night for the Dallas Bears and Leather Knights. Dallas Girls of Leather holds its monthly meeting on Aug. 4 and **Miss Wanda** hosts Eagle Amateur Talent Night on Aug. 6. … **Franki Amour** performs in the Rose Room on Aug. 4. Then the Rose Room Rising Star Pageant takes place in the Rose Room on Aug. 8 hosted by **Layla Lurie** and **Edna Jean Robinson** with **Rose Room Rising Star 2012 Nia Courtland**. … Aug. 2 is **Girls Night Out** with Peggy Honea at Alexander’s. **Miss Marcy** performs on Aug. 3. … Celebrate the release of multi-platinum performer Selena Gomez’s new album *Stars Dance* featuring the hits **Come & Get It** and **Slow Down** at JR’s Bar & Grill on Aug. 6. Copies available while supplies last. … **Robert M** hosts **Totally Twisted Karaoke** at Pekers every Friday night. … **Chanel Champagne Sundays** take place at BJ’s NCS! with a weekly strip off contest with cash prizes. … **Yellow Rose of Texas Pageant** takes place at the Round-Up Saloon on Aug. 4 benefiting Texas Gay Rodeo Association and its charities. On his way to Mr. Continental, 0 presents an evening of entertainment on Aug. 7 featuring special guests and raffle items, including an iPad Mini. The 26th annual **Leo Party** and **Miss Leo Contest** benefits the Daire Center on Aug. 3 at the Hidden Door.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.
Guys’ night out at Havana.

Cameron and Ken at the Black Tie Sneak Peek at 7 Senses.

Jose, Bill and Cody at the Dallas Eagle.

Willam performing at The Rose Room.

Brittany and Snow White at The Brick.

Friends at the Black Tie Sneak Peek at 7 Senses.

Brian at the Black Tie Sneak Peek at 7 Senses.

Friends’ night out at Sue Ellen’s.

Josh, Andrew and Kyle at the Black Tie Sneak Peek at 7 Senses.

Nick and Kirby at TMC: The Mining Company.

Friends at the Black Tie Sneak Peek at 7 Senses.

Sean at Alexandre’s.

Friends at the Black Tie Sneak Peek at 7 Senses.

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