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Turtle Creek Chorale history added to UNT archives

The Turtle Creek Chorale donated its entire catalog of recorded music and videos to The Dallas Way at its May 19 rehearsal.

Members of The Dallas Way, the North Texas LGBT history project, and University of North Texas, the repository for items donated through The Dallas Way and other LGBT organizations and individuals, were on hand to receive the donation. Chorale Executive Director Bruce Jaster, along with chorale President Kevin Hodges, passed a basket of the recordings to Mike Anglin. Anglin was a founder of both The Dallas Way and Turtle Creek Chorale and, as an attorney, incorporated both organizations. Anglin passed the collection to Dreanna Belden, UNT Libraries assistant dean for external relations, who will add it to the LGBT collection and portal to Texas history.

— David Taffet

Texas House reaches accord on Pastor Protection Act

A bill reaffirming the rights of clergy to refuse to perform marriages — including same-sex marriages — that violate their religious beliefs in their official capacity.

Despite rumors that Rep. Cecil Bell, R-Magnolia, intended to try and attach his anti-gay HB 4105 to Sanford’s bill as an amendment, the amendment never came. HB 4105 would have withheld pay from county clerks issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. It died last week without coming to a vote.

— James Russell

Gates tells BSA to change policy

Robert Gates, president of the Irving-based Boy Scouts of America, has called on the organization to change its policy on gay scout leaders.

“I remind you of the recent debates we have seen in places like Indiana and Arkansas over discrimination based on sexual orientation, not to mention the impending U.S. Supreme Court decision this summer on gay marriage,” he said.

He said he wasn’t asking the board to make any changes at this meeting, but said he was speaking to them as bluntly as he did when he headed the CIA and Defense Department.

“We must deal with the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be. The status quo in our movement’s membership standards cannot be sustained. ... We must all understand that this probably will happen sooner rather than later,” he said.

— David Taffet

Mike Anglin, left, and Kevin Hodges present an entire set of Turtle Creek Chorale’s recordings to the LGBT archives at the University of North Texas. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)
Discover PrideFest in the heart of downtown Denver. Join the two-day celebration that includes family activities, live music, a festive parade, dancing and entertainment. And while you’re in The Mile High City, explore Denver after dark. Check out the hottest restaurants, craft breweries, cocktail lounges and dance clubs.

Show your pride June 20–21. VISITDENVER.com/LGBT
My name is Bunny and I am looking for a home and someone who will love me forever. I don’t take up much room and I am completely devoted to those who love me. I only weigh seven pounds so I fit right in to any loving home. I am a 6-year-old long-coated Chihuahua and I weigh 7 pounds. If you are looking for a loyal friend and need someone to keep you company, you’ve been looking for me.

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

MAY
- Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. State Rep. Celia Israel is the guest; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce Street, Suite C; Fuse game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; Fuse Connect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.
- May 22: Harvey Milk Day Celebration Honor the memory of Harvey Milk from 8-10 p.m. at the Legacy of Love Monument for a celebration and candlelight march concluding with a birthday cake reception with entertainment and speakers. For more information e-mail milkdaydallas@gmail.com or visit On.fb.me/1ODO1Uy.

THE GAY AGENDA
Pride screening benefitting Equality Texas

Pride, released in 2014, tells the true story of LGBT and union activists in England working together against a common foe: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. As Thatcher works to bust the power of the mineworkers’ union, the London LGBT activists reach out to support the striking miners and their families in a tiny rural Welsh town. It’s touching, timely and will also screen as part of a fundraiser for Equality Texas at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27 at the Angelika Plano at the Shops @ Legacy, 7205 Bishop Road, Plano. $12 tickets in advance or $15 at the door.

• May 30: Evening of Hope
Benefits AIDS Outreach Center. 6:30 p.m. at Worthington Renaissance Hotel, 200 Main St., Fort Worth. Pre-party for sponsors at 6 p.m. Tickets are $175. Tables are $1750. For sponsorship opportunities and ticket information, call 817-916-5224.

• June 4: Fort Worth PFLAG meeting
Meets every first Thursday of the month from 7–9 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information call 817-428-2329 or visit PflagFortWorth.org.

• June 5: Fairway to Equality Auction and Calcutta
Auction and fundraiser for HRC DFW’s Fairway to Equality Golf Tournament with celebrity emcee Dana Goldberg begins at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton. Free and open to the public.

• June 6: Fairway to Equality Golf Tournament
Benefits HRC DFW. Sold out. For more information visit HRC.org/Dallasgolf.

• June 8: Trans/SOFFA Meeting
Monthly Meeting
Meets from 7:00–8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail info@dfwtransladies.org or visit dfwtransladies.org.

• June 11: LifeWalk “What’s the Fuss?” Tour and Mixer
Meet the people behind the work at AIDS Arms clinics with a tour and mixer beginning at 6 p.m. at the Trinity Health and Wellness Center, 219 Sunset 116-A. Tours begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7:15 p.m. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Hannah Orsburn at hannah.orsburn@aidsarms.org.

• June 14: SPCA Paws Cause 2015
20th anniversary celebration of SPCA fundraiser for SPCA of Texas’ Mary Spencer Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic at Village Fair from 6–9 p.m. at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Dr. Tickets are $150 each. Limited quantity. For more information, visit Pawscausedallas.org.

• June 14: Fifth Annual North Texas Gay Pride Festival
Family-friendly festival features entertainment including former McKinney resident Hollie Cavangh and Jane McGarry of WFAA as well as games, photo booths and vendors from 1–5 p.m. in downtown McKinney, 218 E. Louisiana. Benefits Collin County’s Hope’s Door, an organization offering domestic violence resources and services. Tickets are $5 per person beginning May 1 at Northtxaspire.org or on $10 per person at the gates. Children 12 and under are free. For more information visit Northtxaspire.org.

• June 16: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting
Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• June 18: Urban Engagement Book Club: Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty
CitySquare’s monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• June 18: Pride Party in Plano
Celebrate pride and toast the pending Supreme Court decision on marriage equality with GALA North Texas from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at the Blue Martini Lounge, 7301 Lone Star Drive, A-110, Plano. Event includes half price discount drinks, free appetizers and raffle prizes. For more information visit On.fb.me/1PR9HrD.

• June 19: Dallas Juneteenth Festival
Free event and festival features vendors, games, food, live music and games from noon–5 p.m. at Martin Luther King Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. For more information call LaRhonda Bacon at 214-670-8419.

• June 20: Gaybingo: Super hero/villain
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6–9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or e-mail Gaybingo@myresourcescenter.org.

• June 24: Lambda Weekly fundraiser
Draconis van Trapp, Molly Midori, Brook and Vincente, Athena C Sapphire and Syd Gotswood perform at 7-10 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road to raise money for KNON, the non-commercial radio station that has hosted the world’s longest continuously running weekly LGBT radio show since 1983.

• June 27: Be An Angel Benefit for Legacy Counseling
Fundraiser for Legacy Counseling three course dinner and passed hors d’oeuvres by Chef Wendy Krispin, complimentary red and white wine, specialty cocktails by Stoli, live and silent auctions, and fabulous entertainment by Vince Martinez.

• June 28: TAG Pride Picnic
Tyler Area Gays hosts its largest pride picnic yet with more auction items, entertainment, food and vendors. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Southside Park, Tyler. For more information e-mail info@tylerareagays.com or visit Tylerareagays.com or on Facebook at Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays.
Beyond the Rainbow: Baltimore, Ferguson, New York and the pursuit of justice

JaMeS RUSSeLL  | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Editor’s Note: This is Part 1 of a two-part look into relationships between police and the LGBT community in North Texas, and how we are working to avoid the unrest that has erupted in Ferguson, Baltimore and New York.

Between June 27 and June 28, 2009, Fort Worth police officers filed 577 reports, providing a glimpse into the often unexpected and complex situations facing law enforcement. Where one officer intervened in a suicide attempt and helped the individual into rehabilitation, others arrested sex offenders and sought runaway children.

But report 090071988, filed shortly after midnight on June 28, stands out. That’s when a Fort Worth police officer grabbed Chad Gibson and slammed him headfirst to the floor inside the Rainbow Lounge, then dragged him outside the then-newly-opened gay bar. As a result of the officer’s aggressive force, Gibson suffered bleeding in his skull and was taken to the emergency room.

Gibson was cited for public intoxication. Five others were arrested and booked at the city jail.

In the police report filed afterward reporting officer K. Gober wrote that he, along with a sergeant, five other officers and an agent with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, visited the Rainbow Lounge and the nearby Rosedale Saloon and Cowboy Palace out of public safety concerns — a common practice.

“They are public places and are known to routinely over-serve alcohol to patrons who are already intoxicated to a degree they are a danger to themselves and others,” Gober wrote in the report summary.

Despite palpable rage at the time of the incident, Police Chief Jeff Halstead initially resisted calling the incident a hate crime or excessive use of force. Instead, he defended the officers.

It didn’t help the raid fell on the 40th anniversary of another police raid on a gay bar: the Stonewall Inn in New York City.

In the sum of 2009, the nation was in an uproar over the Rainbow Lounge raid, rage exacerbated followed by coverage of other bar raids in Atlanta and elsewhere. To those who knew the story of the 1969 Stonewall raid and riots 40 years before, it was déjà vu, as if nothing had changed and no gains had been made for the LGBT community.

Six years later, the nation is once again embroiled in controversy over police bias and use of excessive force. In Baltimore, Ferguson, Mo., and New York, a toxic combination of segregated urban policy, economic injustice and police force has fueled the deadly results leading to riots and unrest.

But the Rainbow Lounge raid did not spark violent riots akin to Stonewall. Change did not come fast in Fort Worth, but through the work of determined activists and an embarrassed city government, the raid ultimately fueled reforms and LGBT relations within the department, the city and TABC.

Despite the strides made in Fort Worth following the raid, the question remains especially in light of recent shootings as close as Grapevine: was the Rainbow Lounge an anomaly, or could the next Ferguson happen here, in North Texas?

Just one incident

In the ongoing struggle for LGBT equality, it just takes one incident to break the community’s fragile trust in law enforcement. Communities are the sum of their parts, consisting of individuals with a wide range of lived experiences and personal history. But in every community, some are more disadvantaged than others.

One report detailed the disparities when it comes to reporting violent crimes and reporting biases by, among others, the police. The 2013 National Report on Hate Violence Against LGBT, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities, by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, reports nationwide fewer survivors of sexual assault or rape report their cases to the police out of fear of reprisal. The report, issued by a nationwide coalition of LGBT advocacy groups including the Montrose Center in Houston, reveals some of those disparities.

Only 45 percent of LGBT, queer and HIV-positive individuals reported cases of hate crimes or intimate partner violence, down from 56 percent in 2012. Just 32 percent reported experiencing hostile attitudes from others.
the police in 2013, a slight increase from 27 percent during the previous year.

The report indicates the transgender community is the most likely to experience discrimination and violence at the hands of police, evidenced supported by the National Center for Transgender Equality and other groups.

“Transgender persons — and more specifically, transgender persons of color — are picked up for solicitation for the simple fact that they are carrying more than one condom. One could certainly make a case for profiling,” wrote Sally Huffer, the community projects specialist at Montrose who also contributed to the report. “Trust of law enforcement gets chipped away when it continually releases crime reports that re-victimize transgender persons when it uses phrases like ‘a man dressed as a woman,’ [or the] wrong pronouns to refer to the victim.

“It isn’t that far of a reach when we see what’s happening in Ferguson and Baltimore to wonder how individual bias can supersede police department policies, especially in situations where the adrenaline is elevated,” she added.

But don’t isolate social unrest and rioting to just police negligence, noted Emily Farris, an assistant professor of political science at Texas Christian University who studies urban policy. “There seems to be a lot of interest in what city might be the ‘next Ferguson’ or ‘next Baltimore.’ I don’t believe the events in Ferguson or Baltimore were anomalous,” Farris wrote.

Socioeconomic and geographic factors historically have played a role in unrest. She pointed to a report released in July 1968 by an 11-member commission appointed by President Lyndon Johnson, a year before the Stonewall Inn raid. The Kerner Report, named for commission’s chair, Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner, analyzed and detailed the causes of the ongoing nationwide race riots. It indicted the structural oppression wrought by white Americans toward black Americans.

The report concluded the country was “moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal.”
Hot.
That’s the name of the game when it comes to summers in Texas. And what better way to beat that heat than to head to the pool or one of our many area lakes. And that tan you’re bound to get would just be icing on the cake, right?

Well, maybe we need to rethink that plan. Oh, you can still head for the pool or the lake. Just be sure to protect your precious skin from the damage all that sunshine can inflict.

Skin cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control, is the most common form of cancer in the United States, and melanomas of the skin are the most common type of skin cancer. In 2011 — the most recent year for which CDC data is available — 65,647 people were diagnosed with melanomas of the skin in the U.S. Of those, 38,415 were men, according to the U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group.

In that same year, 9,128 people — 6,001 men and 3,127 women — died from melanomas of the skin.

Those numbers are scary enough, in and of themselves. But a new study released in March by researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, suggests that gay and bisexual men in this country get skin cancer at twice the rate of heterosexual men.

Twice the rate.
Researchers mined data from government health surveys conducted in California between 2001 and 2009 to come up with their numbers. They also found that gay and bi men are more likely to engage in indoor tanning than straight men.

About 6.6 percent of gay and bi men in the study had experienced skin cancer, compared to only 3.3 percent of the straight men. And around 5 percent of the gay and bi men said they had participated in indoor tanning in the past year, compared to only 1.7 percent of the straight men.

Lesbians and bi women, according to the study, are no more likely than hetero women to get skin cancer or to engage in indoor tanning.

UCSF Associate Professor of Dermatology Sarah Arron stressed the importance of making sure people see the link between indoor tanning and skin cancer. “The primary reason that men and women engage in indoor tanning is because of the cultural association of tanning with a healthy look and overall attractiveness,” Arron told USA Today. “We need to dispel the myth of the healthy tan.”

And more recent news, this from Consumer Reports, suggests that even those of you who thought you were protecting your skin by using sunscreen might not be as safe as you thought.

Of the 34 sunscreens tested by Consumer Reports, 11 failed to meet the SPF levels advertised on their packaging, especially after being exposed to water.

Dallas dermatologist Dr. Farhad Niroomand noted that in truth, there’s not much difference between SPF 30 and SPF 100. He recommends using sunscreen with SPF 30-50 and applying it every two to three hours while you’re in the sun. After two or three hours, he added, get out
Growing older presents singular challenges that LGBT community members seek to address.

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In the 1980s, the gay community was suddenly hit by the AIDS epidemic, and the community rallied to provide care and services to the ever-growing number of people getting sick and dying quickly. Many of those newly-formed organizations based their model of care on mainstream services provided for the elderly.

Today, the picture of the LGBT community is quite different. AIDS has become a manageable chronic illness, rather than a death sentence. And the community is making amazing headway toward equality.

But a new crisis is looming. As baby boomers approach retirement age, the LGBT community is facing a silver tsunami.

Cannon Flowers has been concerned about this problem for a number of years and has been quietly looking for support from inside and outside the LGBT community. In February, he attended a conference at the White House on LGBT aging, and Flowers is the main organizer of an LGBT Aging Summit set for June in Dallas.

The summit will be open to community members and allies of all ages at Senior Source on Harry Hines Boulevard.

Flowers worries that a large number of gays and lesbians are facing old age alone. Many never had children and some are alienated from their families, he explained. The aging summit will address these problems and is looking for a number of solutions.

Bart Poche, a researcher at the Center for Psychosocial Health Research at the University of North Texas and project manager for the center’s aging LGBT study, will present at the summit.

He said his study is looking for quality of life issues. Research into the aging LGBT population is a fairly new field, although UNT’s psychology department has been doing research for more than four years.

“We expect to find things we don’t even know we’re looking for yet,” Poche said.

He added that one of the things making his study interesting is that he’s studying people in Texas — and he expects to see different results from what researchers are finding in New York and California.

Poche said he hopes the summit will provide an opportunity to bridge the generational divide.

“This generation barely survived,” he said. “The new generation has less fear.”

The community has “work to do to create a hero mentality deserving of this generation that fought in Stonewall and survived the AIDS crisis,” Poche declared.

While UNT studies begin to reveal the needs of the aging LGBT community, Rob Emery’s organization, SafeHaven is working to provide a safe and stimulating place for LGBT community members to live.

Emery has visited assisted living and memory and nursing care facilities across North Texas and around the country. He said most welcome gay and lesbian residents, but none offer any activities specifically for LGBT residents — or even assurances of safety.

“Having no programming is problematic,” he said. “Even more problematic is when it turns out management is not cool with Mr. Smith in 3G.”

Often, gays and lesbians have to go back into
Diana Finfrock Farrar weaves her unexpected story into a book that tells the story of Texas’ diverse LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Diana Finfrock Farrar was a happily married suburban wife and mother of three. Today, she says, she’s the same person, except she’s married to a woman, has written a book and has become what she describes as “an unlikely advocate” for the LGBT community.

“Post divorce, I fell in love with my best friend,” Diana explained. “I had never been attracted to women before.”

Diana met Charlotte in church. They had children at about the same time, were friends for 20 years and both divorced at about the same time.

“Our emotional bond post divorce began evolving into something,” Diana said. She called the period after their divorces a scary time, each having lost relationships two decades long.

Over the next two years, the friendship between the two women developed into an attraction. But neither said anything to the other, both worrying, Diana said, “What if I’m wrong?”

Charlotte said something first about her changing feelings, but Diana said she doesn’t even remember where or when she said it. Even as their relationship developed, Diana said, she never saw it coming.

In 2010, they went to Canada and got married. Having both been married before, they understood the legal and social benefits of marriage. They knew in this case, when they got back to Texas, they’d receive none of those benefits. But it was still important to them to get married.

“We were doing it for us,” Diana said, adding that she and Charlotte wanted to show each other how committed they were to their relationship.

“We focused on just us,” Diana said.

For a year, they told no one they had gotten married. When they finally decided to tell family, it was quite an undertaking.

Diana has three children. Charlotte has two. Each woman has four siblings. Some were out of town and they wanted to talk to each one in person.

Diana said every family member was accepting. One said, “I don’t understand this well, but I love you.”

Diana knew she’d have the support of her
brother, Channel 5 meteorologist David Finfrock — he and his wife met through their best friend, who is gay.

She described David as “not a jumping up and down sort of guy,” but he did jump toward her and hug her. They had recently lost their mother and Diana was the only unmarried sibling.

“He was glad we were happy,” she said of her brother. “David was hurting for me because I was alone.”

Once family knew they were married, Diana and Charlotte started living more openly. In 2012 they took the next step and told their friends, most of whom they knew from church and most of them who knew from church and most of them who knew from church and most of them who knew from church and most of them who knew from church and most of them who knew from church and most of them who knew from church.

The next step in becoming an unlikely advocate, Diana said, was writing her book. The Door of the Heart is a tapestry of stories of characters based on her, people she knows and a composite of many other people intended to paint a picture of the LGBT community she has come to know.

Diana said she was sitting in church one Sunday morning and she and Charlotte had been talking about ideas for a book about the LGBT community she has come to know. “Everything in that worship service told me, ‘You have a story to tell,’” she recalled. “Charlotte leaned over and said, ‘I feel it too.’”

Within three days Diana was busy writing. Her religious beliefs steered much of the story. “I can’t be part of a Christian faith being used as a weapon,” she said. “If we profess to be Christians, we need to be disciples in all ways.”

Diana wrote the book in real time from March 2013 to March 2014. During that time, events like the Supreme Court’s Windsor and Prop 8 decisions were issued. When she began writing, only nine states had marriage equality. By the time she finished, 17 states had rulings declaring their marriage laws unconstitutional.

[The Texas trial court ruling] had just occurred when I sent the book to the publisher,” she said. Diana called writing the book a life changing experience. She learned to live more openly and show people, “We’re not scary,” she said and lives her life trying to make a difference.

Diana has gone to Austin on advocacy days and marched in parades. She’s spoken at PFLAG groups and in churches. It’s an important part of progress toward equality, she believes.

The Door of the Heart by Diana Finfrock Farrar is published by AuthorHouse and is available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.
Like the Kerner report, Farris emphasized anger toward the police is a part of, but not the whole reason behind, urban riots. “People participate in upheavals for a reason that usually is not just the anger at the precipitating event but also frustration at a larger set of underlying issues in their community,” she wrote.

The Los Angeles riots of 1992 are another example. That summer, police officers were indicted for beating a black taxi driver named Rodney King. Black residents had had enough.

“A combination of the conditions of poverty among blacks and ethnic diversity with racial tensions, and the effects of increased immigration and economic restructuring in addition to the beating of Rodney King” triggered the looting and violence that shut down the city, Farris noted.

Fort Worth however is not Ferguson or Baltimore or Los Angeles. Farris pointed to promising figures both nationwide and locally in the decennial U.S. Census report.

The Dallas/Fort Worth area was one of the least segregated in terms of large cities, Farris wrote. “Dallas-Fort Worth’s dissimilarity index, which measures how evenly two groups are distributed in a neighborhood, fell by 10 points between 1970 and 2010.”

After the 2009 Rainbow Lounge raid, Fort Worth appointed its own commission to address LGBT disparities and needs.

One of the action items included appointing an LGBT liaison within the police department, similar to positions in the Dallas Police Department and now, the Dallas County Sheriff’s Office. In the aftermath of the Rainbow Lounge, Officer Sara Straten served as the first liaison; the position is currently held by Cpl. Tracey Knight.

Knight described the role as another approach to the city’s community policing policy. As LGBT liaison, she presents the LGBT perspective to the department. She also presents the police’s perspective to the LGBT community.

“I understand community fears and I can also (sometimes) do a better job of explaining ‘why’ things are done a certain way by a police officer,” Knight wrote.

Another part of her role includes maintaining relationships with the department’s LGBT officers as well as with community leaders and activists in the city. That includes attending weekly sessions at Celebration Community Church, where officers, the police chief and community members address concerns in a relaxed environment.

But are we the next Ferguson?

“There are most likely many different reasons and points of view on this but personally I believe that one of the reasons is because we [Fort Worth and FWPD] have a long history of community policing – this is not a new thing for us here,” Knight suggested. “We also have a highly trained and very professional police department. That’s not to say that improvements can’t be made because there is always room for improvement. … We strive to maintain our community relationships and build upon the trust that we have in each other.”

But as Huffer sees it, oppression is still embedded in LGBT history. Addressing problems requires a comprehensive approach and sensitivity to repair the past.

“Like many communities, you cannot forget your history, and especially for our senior population, police raids at social clubs were a reality … along with the verbal and physical harassment,” she wrote. “One split second can be deadly and unravel the trust that has taken years to build.”

Next Week: More on the aftermath of the Rainbow Lounge Raid and how it sparked reform in other North Texas communities.

Come See What Is Trending... the new topic of conversation

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AGENDA, From Page 7

JULY

• July 2: Fort Worth PFLAG meeting
Meets every first Thursday of the month from 7–9 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information call 817-428-2329 or visit PflagFortWorth.org.

• July 2–5: 50th Anniversary of LGBT Civil Rights Movement
The 50th anniversary in Philadelphia celebration includes panels, LGBT history exhibits, parties and more. Each day features LGBT history exhibits at the National Constitution Center, National Museum of American Jewish History and Independence Visitor Center along with fireworks on July 3 and 4. For more information, visit LGBT50th.org and Gaypioneers.com.

• July 4: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting
Meets from 7:00–8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail info@dfwtgladies.org or visit DPWTC/Ladies.org.

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Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• July 16: Urban Engagement Book Club: Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto
CitySquare’s monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• July 18: Gaybingo: Salute the Troops Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6–9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or e-mail Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• July 21: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting
Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.
of the direct sun for awhile to let the skin DNA repair itself. Then re-apply your sunscreen before heading back out.

He said that the FDA has recently reclassified labels on sunscreens, “so major reputable brands should be okay.”

Avoiding the sun, Dr. Niroomand added, is better than any sunscreen. That means wearing SPF-proof clothing, hats and shades when you’re in the sun. And Dr. Breck Thrash with Highland Dermatology agreed.

“Physical sun blockers are always better than chemical sun blockers like sunscreens,” Dr. Thrash said. “Zinc oxide and titanium dioxide block both UVA and UVB rays, and that gives you complete coverage.”

Chemical blockers block either UVA rays or UVB rays, not both. And the chemical sunscreens tend to carry an increased risk of causing allergic reactions. Plus, Thrash reiterated, “the chemical sunscreens get worn out by the sun; they have a finite life span.”

If you’re going to be in the sun, “definitely put a physical sun blocker on your face and the backs of your hands. Use the more expensive zinc oxide or titanium dioxide as a base coat, then add the cheaper sunscreens over that for extra protection,” Dr. Thrash said.

He noted that physical blockers have been improved so that they now rub into the skin better and are transparent instead of white. They are also hypoallergenic.

Dr. Thrash added that people with richer complexes, such as Hispanics and African-Americans, are not immune to skin damage from exposure to the sun. They, too, should wear sun blockers and sunscreens. And even on cloudy days, the sun can damage your skin.

“It’s not that damage from the sun will be worse on cloudy days. It’s that people tend to stay out longer on cloudy days because they don’t think they are getting any sun,” he said.

That’s similar to the reasoning behind a recent study from Australia which seemed to indicate that wearing sunscreen didn’t prevent the skin from being damaged by the sun.

“It’s more likely that people put on sunscreen and they think they are protected so they stay in the sun longer,” Dr. Thrash said.

“Remember, just because you’ve put on sunscreen or a sun blocker, you aren’t making yourself invincible.”
A message for black SGL/gay men:

WAKE the hell up!

June is rapidly approaching, and we will soon know if the U.S. Supreme Court will deliver a landmark ruling deciding whether the U.S. Constitution requires states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and whether states must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Thinking about this takes me back to when I was a new LGBT activist in 1994, bright-eyed and bushy tailed and ready to take the world by storm by burning down bridges of bigotry and ignorance.

When I came out, I didn’t gently open the closet door; I kicked that SOB down. And there was no turning back. I immediately connected with an old friend, the Rev. Philip V. Matthews, a former minister at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, who I didn’t know was a gay man when we first met while doing outreach in an area housing unit for persons living with AIDS. Phil was the foundation through which my activism was birthed.

In addition to attending CoH for a brief period (sanctuary from my United Methodist Church home), I was provided with books and materials to read about the LGBT community, homosexuality, religion, and historic/temporary black figures in the LGBT movement. It changed my life.

Phil had started a small group of black men – 12 members – who met in each other’s homes once a month to dialogue about all of these subjects over a simple meal and drinks. These men were professional, educated, well-spoken — and what you would call “masculine.” After attending for the first time, I liked what I saw and expressed a need to Phil to extend the scope of the group beyond its 12 members. I received his blessing and moved forward.

Within a year, the group known as The Men’s Gathering — Dallas (TMG-Dallas) grew to 120 members, with meetings at the former Oak Lawn Community Services Center “Daire Room.” We also started meeting outside of our standard monthly meeting just for fun, building a complete community.

I was able to secure funding through Dallas Urban League Inc. for program support for condom distribution, presentations and pre-post survey data collection, making our activities more well rounded.

We and other minority/black LGBT organizations also garnered local and national attention through co-sponsorship of the former National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in 1996.

The forum was usually hosted alternately in Los Angeles or a city on the East Coast; Dallas was the first southern city to host the event. My “official” public coming out was marked by a cover photo and story with myself and other black LGBT leaders in the No. 1 black weekly newspaper in Dallas.

Topics of discussion were selected very strategically, and sometimes included attendance from folks other than black gay men — like lesbians or the non-black partners of some members.

One issue that usually ignited deep conversation was community labels, i.e., masculine/feminine, top/bottom, butch/femme. I have to admit those meetings perplexed me because my dating/LTR choices have always been dictated by a person’s personality traits and characteristics, not solely the outside appearance or bedroom proclivities.

After serving as president of TMG-Dallas for two years, I stepped down to start my theater company, still keeping in touch with members periodically. My desire to move out was marked by a cover photo and story with myself and other black LGBT leaders in the No. 1 black weekly newspaper in Dallas.

We have to stop these internal divisions. We can’t depend on the white LGBT community to do it for us. We’ve hidden our coattails for too long. What is it about being masculine that is superior to being feminine? Why is one state of being preferred over the other? Does patriarchy still have that strong a hold on how we perceive women? Is being a woman, looking like a woman or adopting habits associated with women (i.e., certain clothing, makeup, shoes, etc.) wrong and not desirable?

Why do we hate women?!

With all of the strides that have been made in the LGBT movement (a lot of it with minimal black LGBT involvement), I continued to sit there completely dumbfounded as comments kept coming, most affirming the “other’s” sentiment — including some from straight black females, which was really puzzling.

We are on the cusp of history as a LGBT community, one I have worked on to see this day. As a newly married person, the significance of this day cannot be understated. It is the single most defining moment of my life as a black SGL/gay man, a moment those before me like Langston Hughes, Richard Bruce Nugent, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, Wallace Thurman, Alain Locke, Bayard Rustin, James Baldwin, Alvin Ailey, Sylvester, Glenn Burke, E. Lynn Harris, Phil Reed, Roy Simmons and countless others couldn’t have envisioned seeing.

And all my black brethren can concern themselves with is how a person chooses to present themselves publicly. Are you fucking kidding me?!

The more things — and times — change, the more they stay the same. Black SGL/gay men: WAKE THE HELL UP!

Buster Spiller is a longtime activist and award-winning playwright from Dallas.
Dallas Voice Second Annual
Swimsuit Edition

Theresa in a Grecian-inspired one-piece by Charlie by Matthew Zink.
Though we have found ourselves in the middle of a few rainy weeks recently, we all know that summer is coming — in Texas! — and that means months of chances to hit the pool, lake and beach. But why show up looking shady when you can help set the trends in this season’s hottest swimsuit fashions.

So what will it take to stand out at your favorite watering hole? Graphic prints, daring colors, and a flirtatious attitude all combine this summer to create a certain confidence that will make you feel attractive and get others to stand up and take notice. Whether preferring a more conservative cut, a short length swimsuit or an itty-bitty bikini, these American designs can help you make a fashion statement to rival any royal.

Welcome to Dallas Voice’s second annual Swimsuit Edition!

Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones
Additional Photography: Kat Haygood

Styling and text by J. Denton Bricker and Arnold Wayne Jones
P.J. gets our hearts racing in a racer by Charlie, and taunts us in the weeds in cannabis-inspired trunks by Marek+Richard.
Frederick glistens in a "moist" racerback tank and blue tidal wave trunk (both by Marek+Richard). Terrance gushes at puppy Pepe in a white patriotic T by Cockpit USA, while Joel dotes in a nautical inspired blue shirt by Southern Tide.

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Joseph shows it’s all about that b-ass in a bold tidal wave trunk and wet crop tee, both by Marek+Richard. ... Frederick looks on in an eye catching orange/green tropicale bikini by M+R. Theresa glimmers in a turquoise deco foil bikini by Charlie by Matthew Zink with a gold framed gemstone necklace by OpalMilk. .... Show off your dualities in all the right ways in the unforgettable coral red & turquoise Charlie scarf print trainer shorts by Charlie by Matthew Zink. ....

Opposite: A.J. brags a bit in this Marek-Richard crop top, but Joel and Terrance are too into each other to notice while wearing N2N Bodywear.
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Joel makes a splash in blue/yellow racer bikini while Terrance leans into his six pack in a black/red blazer bikini, both by N2N Bodywear.

Joel and Terrance sunbathe their backsides in an irresistibly colorful LA pop sport bikini by N2N Bodywear and a classic navy bikini by Colt.

Terrance dares to pose (with an eight-pack, no less!) in an orange/grey daredevil bikini by N2N Bodywear.

Terrance’s chin is on fleek in a black/white competitor trunk by N2N Bodywear.
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Terrance beams on the patio in red trunks by Colt and a Naval-inspired navy T by Cockpit USA.
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Frederick looks smart in navy Go Deep swim shorts by Marek+Richard and a maroon Dallas-specific Oaklawn T designed by area boutique Bullzerk. Joseph shows he isn’t offended by any means in an orange ‘Do These Guns Offend You’ tank by Bullzerk and turquoise perroquet swim shorts by MacKeene.
Spending in America’s LGBT media is at a record high of $381.4 million, up 18.2% from 2012. Circulation and readership of LGBT media are also up a healthy 15.1%*

Now that’s just SUPER!
Joseph stretches it out in the pink OMFG floral snapback by Marek+Richard and turquoise perroquet swim shorts by MacKeeene. ... Joel looks like he was made for the creatively cunning LA pop sport bikini sexily styled by N2N Bodywear.
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Theresa shines like the sun as she steps into the water in a yellow/white Charlie scarf bikini by Charlie By Matthew Zink, accompanied by fringe leather neckpiece and brown armband by OpalMilk. Skylar is right behind her in a Caribbean blue lifeguard brief by Charlie by Matthew Zink and righteous hat screaming YASS! about those abs ... Terrance ponders life in the tropics in a purple print by N2N Bodywear. ... P.J. shows the new meaning of washboard in a pink palm resort short while A.J. turns up the heat in the striking berry trainer, both from Charlie by Matthew Zink.
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- **A.J. Sepulveda**
- **Pepe**
**Saturday 05.23**

**TWCD, Metropolitan Winds unite for ‘Planet Earth’ symphony performance**

Two of Dallas’ longstanding music ensembles, the Women’s Chorus of Dallas and the Metropolitan Winds, have never performed together ... until now. The groups join forces Saturday for a matinee concert of Johan de Meij’s Symphony No. 3: Planet Earth, which makes its North American premiere this weekend.

**DEETS**: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 2:30 p.m. TWCD.org.

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**Friday 05.22**

**Kitchen Dog New Works kicks off with racially-charged drama ‘The Firestorm’**

With race issues again (sadly) part of a divisive national political debate, The Firestorm — which kicks off Kitchen Dog Theater’s annual New Works Festival as the mainstage production — couldn’t be more timely, as a politician in an interracial marriage gets in more trouble than he bargained for. Tina Parker directed this hot-button premiere.


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**Sunday 05.24**

**Wendy Ho drags herself to Cedar Springs for midnight show**

Wendy Ho lives up to her name ... well, we’re assuming. Sometimes called America’s only “female drag queen,” she’s fresh off of her Dragcon appearance, and will settle in for a one-night stand at the Rose Room Sunday. Expect the rapper, singer and performance artist — she also calls herself “truth teller” — to entertain with music, stories and all around fabulousness.

**DEETS**: The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Free cover until 11 p.m. $6 after ($15 for 18–20 year olds). Show at midnight. Station4Dallas.com.
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**calendar highlights**

**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**

*Sense & Sensibility*: Stage adaptation of Jane
Austen’s romantic comedy of manners. Final weekend.
Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

*The Firestorm*: A politician in an interracial marriage
finds his campaign compromised in this centerpiece
mainstage production of Kitchen Dog Theater’s annual
New Works series. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. May

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**undone**

Second Thought Theatre presents ‘Bellville’ at Bryant Hall, opening this weekend.
(Photo by Karen Almond)

*Belleville*: Drew Wall stars in this heartbreaking
examination of a relationship in crisis, written by Amy
Herzog and directed by Lee Trull. Presented by Second
Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys
campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through June 13.
2TT.co.

*The Lady with All the Answers*: Gay playwright David
Rambo wrote this solo show about advice columnist
Ann Landers. Starring Gene Raye Price. Theatre 3 in
the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the

**The Lady with All the Answers**: Gay playwright David
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**TUESDAY 05.26**

**FILM**

*M.* Peter Lorre stars in this early classic talkie from Fritz Lang, playing a child murderer on the run. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark’s Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

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**THURSDAY 05.28**

**THEATER**

*True West and Speed-the-Plow.* Fun House Theatre and Film embarks on this repertory run of two shows by classic American playwrights Sam Shepard and David Mamet, performed by a cast of teenaged actors. Plano Children’s Theatre, 1301 Dolphin Dr., ste. 706, Plano. May 28–June 6. $8. FunHouseTheatreAndFilm.com.
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Dear Howard,

Why is it so impossible to find a decent boyfriend through online dating sites? Am I alone here, or does every gay man have this problem? I’ve joined three of those stupid sites in as many months, but every time I agree to meet one of my “matches” for coffee or lunch, I instantly feel like some sort of escort callboy being flimflammed for a freebie. It’s like every man out there is just cruising around for live porn to hook up with. Nobody wants to actually date.

I’m so over trying to find love through social media. I have an uncle who met his partner “old-school” back before the Internet even existed, and they’ve been together now for almost 20 years. My best friend’s sister is a lesbian, and she’s been with her “wife” now for more than 30 years. What did they do right way back in the olden days that I’m somehow missing? — Scott

Dear Scott,

Well, way back in the prehysterical days of yore when dragons breathed fire from Pangaea’s flat edge in a long-forgotten epoch — that is, the 1990s — people were forced via necessity to actually talk one-on-one with each other. They engaged in an archaic term known as “conversation.”

You might wanna give this “conversation” thing a revival shot sometime, Scott. You’d be shocked and more than a little awed by what miracles of romance can be achieved face-to-face over texting, via zombie-punching buttons from the palm of one’s hand.

Dear Howard,

Recently, here in the gayborhood where I live, a new tenant moved into the apartment adjacent to mine. I was off work the day his moving van pulled up. The man’s in soap-opera-star shape, owns a lacquered baby grand piano, several waist high alabaster obelisks, a big box of vintage vinyl records (the one on top being Barbra Streisand’s Butterfly), three gargantuan fake Warhols, two Persian cats and one female… wife.

We’re talkin’ rhinestones and glitter practically spilled out his mouth when he pinched his wife’s shoulder. And he did his best Miss America wave up at my balcony, “Honey, look! Hey, hey, neighbor!”

The whole building has been abuzz ever since they set up home, regarding who should be the one to inform him that he’s gay, but he seems oblivious to everybody except his wife whenever they’re out by the pool — in his metallic magneta Speedo — and now I’m honestly wondering if, maybe, he’s one of those rare men just too queer to be gay? — Raymond

Dear Ray,

Of course, we’ve all heard the urban myths of effeminate heterosexuals being spotted from time to time in our midst… although they’re more elusive, frankly, than Bigfoot and far less credible. To spin a rift on a familial mallard phrase known to all: If it looks like Rock Hudson, and if it talks like Truman Capote, and if it walks like the Lady Chablis in a tiara, then it’s probably attracted to penises.

Dear Howard,

I’m worried about my college roommate. We’re both gay, and he’s filthy hot, but his only goal in life seems to be sex, sex and more sex… although almost never with me. Seriously, man, I’m getting kind of tired about scoring regular sex with a hottie, but really I’m being almost exploited here, just because my bed’s conveniently five feet away. The only time he seems at all into me is when he’s literally in to me, grunting. I feel like I’m nothing but his ‘ho. Advice? — Jeremy

Dear Jer,

“Butcha are, Blanche, you are in that chair!”

— Howard Lewis Russell

Have a question about etiquette, love, life or really anything? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer.
Making the SCENE the week of May 22-28:

• Alexandre’s: Walter Lee at 10 p.m. on Friday. Alicia Silex at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Londee at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
• Best Friends Club: DJ Sno White on Friday and Saturday.
• BJ’s NXS!: Military Maneuvers. Donations collected all weekend benefit the National LGBT Memorial in Washington, D.C. Andrew Christian Underwear Auction at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday hosted by Shebeata Pinata benefits the Turtle Creek Chorale and Dallas Red Foundation.
• Brick/Joe’s: Come out this Memorial Day weekend to Happy Hour, hot dancers and sexy men. Karaoke every Monday night after RuPaul’s Drag Race.
• Cedar Springs Tap House: Tiki Party on Sunday. Wear your island best.
• Club Reflection: Trinity River Bears cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Imperial Court show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
• Dallas Eagle: National Leather Association presents Leather Perspectives at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Together We Stand show benefits Turtle Creek Chorale and Home for the Holidays at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
• Rainbow Lounge: DJ Carl Katana on Friday and Saturday bringing the best in videos on 6 screens.
• S4: Resource Center offers free HIV testing at 11 p.m. on Friday.
• Sue Ellen’s: Barefoot Hippies on Friday. The What’s Up Band on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
• TMC: The Mining Company: Harvey Milk Day celebration begins at the Legacy of Love monument at 8 p.m. and moves to the bar for an after party on Friday. Caven Enterprises Benevolent Association pool tournament on Wednesday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.
A packed house at The Round Up Saloon.

A packed house at The Round Up Saloon.

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AIDS Arms, Inc. is seeking a development associate to support Agency fundraising events, organizing and managing archival documents, managing donor databases and websites, managing all aspects of the Agency Volunteer Corp, and managing the donation process. Interested candidates should apply online at https://aidsarms.companycareerinsite.com/

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Join us for Catholic Mass for the LGBT community First Sunday of each Month Dignity Dallas Mass held at CATHEDRAL OF HOPE Interfaith Peace Chapel, Lower Level dignitydallas@hotmail.com 972-729-9572 www.dignitydallas.net

Pegasus Squares, an LGBT Square Dance Club, meets every Sunday from 2:30pm-4:30pm at the Resource Center. Beginner lessons start in October. Contact Rob Miller at 682-238-3442 for more information or visit pegasus-squares.com.

In His Own Words

Solution on page 43

Across
1 Start of a quote from The Harvey Milk Interviews: In His Own Words
7 More of the quote
13 As a bottom limit
15 Green fruit
16 Open, to Billie Jean
18 Before, to poets
22 Romeo and Juliet, e.g.
28 More of the quote
30 Playful talk
32 It may be under the tongue
35 Ref for Wolff
36 Thought originators
40 Shakespearean prince
41 Editor’s word
43 Opera highlights
44 Cant author Muscio
45 When actors should come
47 More of the quote
48 Poet Dickinson
50 More of the quote
52 Get a load of
53 Queen of the hill
54 Walk like you’re fagged out
57 Best example
61 I Shot ___ Warhol
65 Elton John Broadway musical
66 Bottled spirits
67 Diggs of Rent
68 Disney duck nephew
69 End of the quote
70 Herbert’s Fortune and Men’s ___

Down
1 Log Cabin pundits do this to candidates
2 “Take ___ leave it!”
3 Stick together
4 Ship, to seamen
5 Provincetown souvenir
6 U-turn from NNW
7 Gardner of Shaw Boat
8 Chicago director Marshall
9 Logical beginning
10 Get bent
11 Pigged out (on)
12 Brothers & Sisters mother
14 Laid-back sort
15 Over one’s head
17 Working stiff
18 Before, to poets
19 Solidly behind
20 To nod
21 Palm Pilot, e.g.
22 Jean.___.who ___ is___
23 ___ for Colette
24 siegfried’s partner
25 sticks ___ for ___
26 Somber ___
28 ___ is behind
29 Whimpering sound
30 Shakespeare’s line
31 The ___ of ___
33 ___ is in ___
34 ___ of ___
35 ___ of ___
36 ___ of ___
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LAMDBA GROUP
6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
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