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LET'S RIDE! DEO!

Clowns Jerry Cunningham and J.C. McDonald will keep cowboys safe at World Gay Rodeo Finals

By Tammye Nash, Page 8

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Meeting set for destruction of Oak Lawn property

The last house facing Lee Park will soon be gone. What about all those oak trees covering the property? Don't worry, they'll be gone, too. Who needs stinkin' trees messing up a park? A zoning change will allow a 10-story building to replace the house built in 1940. That's because there isn't enough traffic around Lee Park and there are too many old trees. The Oak Lawn Committee is already on record as opposing the proposed changes. The applicant proposes changing setbacks so that the tower will cover most of the property. While nothing

in the status of the building prevents its demolition, there's no reason to allow developers to violate new standards that have been put into place for properties around the park. George Poston, owner of the property, applied for and was denied, setback variances in 1999. Comments may be sent to the administrator of the Board of Adjustment, Steve.Long@dallascityhall.com, or may be made in person at the Board of Adjustment meeting at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St. on Monday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. A guard at the desk near the west entrance will direct visitors to the right elevators and meeting room.

— David Taffet

Texas marriage case fast-tracked by 5th Circuit

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed to fast-track its review of two lawsuits challenging bans on legally recognizing same-sex marriages in Texas and Louisiana. Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman of Austin, one of two gay couples challenging the ban in Texas, asked Monday, Oct. 13, that the appellate court expedite the cases because Dimetman is pregnant with the couple's second child and they want their marriage legally recognized before the child — due next March — is born. De Leon gave birth to

their first child and Dimetman had to complete a second-parent adoption to be legally recognized as that child's parent. Unless the couple's 2009 Massachusetts wedding is recognized in Texas before the second child is born, only Dimetman will be automatically recognized as the child's legal parent, forcing De Leon to go through the lengthy and expensive second-parent adoption process. Victor Holmes and Mark Phariss of Plano are the second couple in the Texas case. The two have been together for about 14 years but are waiting for Texas to legally recognize same-sex marriage before tying the knot. U.S. District Court Judge Orlando Garcia ruled in February that the Texas gay marriage ban is unconstitutional.

— Tammye Nash

Del Shores to make 'Sordid Lives' sequel in Dallas

Del Shores is finally following up his hit play/movie/TV series *Sordid Lives* with an official sequel. His next feature film will be *A Very Sordid Wedding*, picking up 16 years after the original. Castmembers Leslie Jordan, Bonnie Bedelia and Caroline Rhea are set to reprise their roles, and as the title suggests, there'll be a wedding ... and a same-sex one, at that. And the above-named folks won't be the only familiar names in the cast — one of the scenes will take place in the Rose Room, and Shores has even written parts for some of the ladies there. "I never felt, like much of the *Sordid Lives* fan base, that I was done with the denizens of Winters, Texas," Shores says. The film will be produced by Shores' business

partner (and Dallas Voice contributor) Emerson Collins. — Arnold Wayne Jones

Texas voter ID law struck down, then reinstated

Federal district judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos struck down Texas' voter ID law on Friday, Oct. 10, calling it a "poll tax" and "discriminatory" against African-Americans and Hispanics. The ruling was immediately appealed and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the lower court's ruling on Tuesday, Oct. 14. The appeals court ruling stated that Ramos' decision "substantially disturbs the election process of the state of Texas just nine days before early voting begins. Thus, the value of preserving the status quo here is much higher than in most other contexts." Texas Secretary of State Nandita Berry, the state's top elections administrator, said the court's stay "means photo ID requirements will continue to be in effect for the Nov. 4 election, just as they have been for the last three statewide elections. Voters should prepare, as many already have, to show one of seven approved forms of photo ID if they plan to vote in person." Plaintiffs, including Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Campaign Legal Center, plan to appeal to U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the ruling. There is still time to get one of the seven qualifying photo identification cards before early voting begins on Monday, Oct. 20. You may obtain a photo ID any time before the Nov. 4 election. — James Russell

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**2014
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Early Voting starts Monday, October 20th, through Friday, October 31st.
Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th.

Go to DallasCountyVotes.org to check your voter registration,
 locate early voting locations or locate your Election Day polling place.

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 to make sure you vote for all of your Democrats in 2014!

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 Comptroller of Public Accounts – **Mike Collier**
 Comm. General Land Office – **John Cook**
 Commissioner of Agriculture – **Jim Hogan**
 Railroad Commissioner – **Steve Brown**

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 Justice, Supreme Court,

Place 6 – **Lawrence Edward Meyers**
 Place 7 – **Gina Benavides**

Judge, Court of Crim. Appeals – Place 3
John Granberg

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 Dist. 11 – **Nancy Bean**
 Dist. 12 – **Lois Parrott**
 Dist. 13 – **Erika Beltran**

State Senator,
 Dist. 9 – **Gregory R. Perry**
 Dist. 23 – **Royce West**

State Representative
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 Dist. 102 – **George M. Clayton**
 Dist. 103 – **Rafael M. Anchia**
 Dist. 104 – **Roberto R. Alonzo**
 Dist. 105 – **Susan Motley**
 Dist. 107 – **Carol Donovan**
 Dist. 108 – **Leigh Bailey**
 Dist. 109 – **Helen Giddings**
 Dist. 111 – **Yvonne Davis**
 Dist. 113 – **Milton Binkley**
 Dist. 115 – **Paul Stafford**

Justice, 5th Court of Appeals,
 Place 5 – **Ken Molberg**

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 68th Judicial Dist. – **Martin Jerome Hoffman**
 101st Judicial Dist. – **Staci Williams**
 116th Judicial Dist. – **Tonya Parker**
 134th Judicial Dist. – **Dale Tillery**
 160th Judicial Dist. – **Jim Jordan**
 192nd Judicial Dist. – **Craig Smith**
 193rd Judicial Dist. – **Carl Ginsberg**
 194th Judicial Dist. – **Ernest White**
 195th Judicial Dist. – **Fred Tinsley**
 203rd Judicial Dist. – **Teresa Hawthorne**
 204th Judicial Dist. – **Tammy Kemp**
 254th Judicial Dist. – **James Martin**
 255th Judicial Dist. – **Kim Cooks**
 256th Judicial Dist. – **David Lopez**
 265th Judicial Dist. – **Jennifer Bennett**
 282nd Judicial Dist. – **Amber Givens**
 283rd Judicial Dist. – **Rick Magnis**
 291st Judicial Dist. – **Stephanie N. Mitchell**

292nd Judicial Dist. – **Brandon Birmingham**
 298th Judicial Dist. – **Emily Tobolowsky**
 363rd Judicial Dist. – **Tracy Holmes**

Crim. District Judge
 Court No. 1 – **Robert Burns**
 Court No. 5 – **Carter Thompson**
 Court No. 6 – **Jeanine Howard**
 Court No. 7 – **Elizabeth Davis Frazell**

Family District Judge,
 301st Judicial Dist. – **Mary Brown**
 302nd Judicial Dist. – **Tena Callahan**
 303rd Judicial Dist. – **Dennise Garcia**
 304th Judicial Dist. – **Andrea Martin**
 305th Judicial Dist. – **Cheryl Lee Shannon**
 330th Judicial Dist. – **Andrea Plumlee**

Criminal District Attorney – **Craig Watkins**
 County Judge – **Clay Jenkins**

Judge, County Court at Law
 No. 1 – **D'Metria Benson**
 No. 2 – **King Fifer**
 No. 3 – **Sally Montgomery**
 No. 4 – **Ken Tapscott**
 No. 5 – **Mark Greenberg**

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 No. 2 – **Julia Hayes**
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 No. 4 – **Nancy Mulder**
 No. 5 – **Lisa Green**
 No. 6 – **Angela M. King**
 No. 7 – **Elizabeth Crowder**
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 No. 10 – **Rob Canas**
 No. 11 – **Shequitta Kelly**

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 No. 1 – **Kristin Wade**
 No. 2 – **Jeffrey L. Rosenfield**

Judge, County Probate Court
 No. 1 – **Brenda Hull Thompson**
 No. 2 – **Ingrid Michelle Warren**
 No. 3 – **Margaret Jones-Johnson**

County Commissioner, Place 4 – **Elba Garcia**

District Clerk – **Felicia Pitre**

County Clerk – **John F. Warren**

County Treasurer – **Pauline Medrano**

Justice of the Peace
 Pct. 1, Place 1 – **Thomas G. Jones**
 Pct. 1, Place 2 – **Valencia Nash**
 Pct. 2, Place 1 – **Bruce Parrott**
 Pct. 4, Place 1 – **Norris "Stretch" Rideaux**
 Pct. 4, Place 2 – **Katy Hubener**
 Pct. 5, Place 1 – **Sara Martinez**
 Pct. 5, Place 2 – **Juan Jasso**

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 Pct. No. 4 – **Roy Williams Jr.**
 Pct. No. 5 – **Beth Villareal**

localbriefs

GLFD
 presents
Owl-O-Ween

A Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas brunch takes place at Trinity River Audubon Center on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9:30-11 a.m.

Following the brunch, Owl-O-Ween celebrates the first anniversary of A Feathered Affair. Learn about what all of the LGBT community's support has made possible. A new Gay & Lesbian Fund for Dallas/Trinity River Audubon Center membership partnership with special perks and benefits will be announced.

To attend, RSVP to Ben Jones at bjones@audubon.org

After brunch, hoot-it-up at Owl-O-Ween, a free family festival from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with food, live music, live owls of all shapes and sizes, costume contests, pumpkin painting, owl arts and crafts, guided hikes, apple bobbin, pumpkin'-chunkin' (hurling pumpkins across the prairie with cata-



pults), glass blowing, backyard poultry demos, and more.

Trinity River Audubon Center is at 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way (South Loop 12).

Chorale begins 35th season

The Turtle Creek Chorale begin its 35th season this weekend with two performances of *Brave* at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. on Oct. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The first concert of the season will be a poignant and powerful statement of courage, faith and perseverance featuring men of the Turtle Creek Chorale and community artists as they share, through music, their personal stories of bravery and hope.

What's on your mind

Third Sunday at Gala Youth is "What Is on Your Mind?"

The open discussion is about anything attendees would like to discuss including current events, coming out, school, music, celebrities, Halloween, Thanksgiving, life, cars, jobs. Bring a friend and bring an open mind.

Gala Youth, for LGBTQ youth and allies through age 22, meets at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton at 6 p.m. on Oct. 19.

pet of the week / WANDA

Can you tell she's a staff favorite? And a photographer favorite. And a manager's favorite. Wonderful **Wanda's** a 1 year old Border Collie mix. Her adoption fee is waived, she's spayed, vaccinated, microchipped and ready to roll. Meet her at Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center, 1818 N. Westmoreland, 75212. Ask for Wanda #A853160.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Mon-Sat, and noon-5 p.m. Sun. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen that adopts a pet and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit www.DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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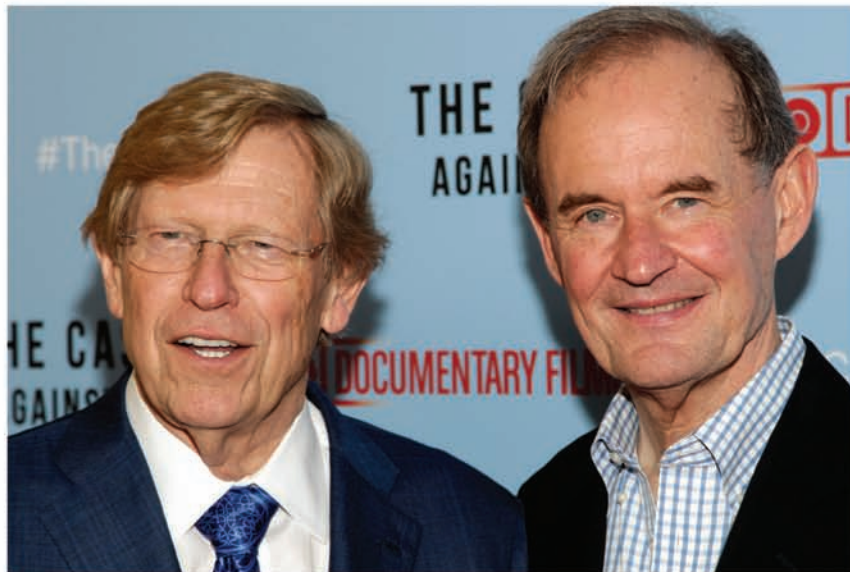
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Not just clowning around

Jerry Cunningham and his partner J.C. McDonald help keep the competitors safe in the arena at the World Gay Rodeo Finals

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

In the world of rodeo, there's a difference between being wrecked and being racked. Jerry Cunningham has experienced both.

Cunningham, who also happens to be owner and publisher of *Out Front*, an LGBT news-magazine in Colorado, has been active on the LGBT rodeo circuit for about 25 years. His partner of 15 years, J.C. McDonald, is also a rodeo cowboy.

Although both started out as competitors, now they spend most of their time at the rodeo keeping other competitors safe in their roles as the International Gay Rodeo Association's official rodeo clowns/bullfighters. Both Cunningham and McDonald are in Fort Worth this weekend for the IGRA's 2014 World Gay Rodeo Finals.

Cunningham said he was fascinated with rodeo from the first time he saw it. But he didn't have the training or the experience to compete in any of the traditional rodeo events, like the rough stock events (bareback bronc or bull riding), or the less dangerous events like barrel racing or calf roping, which still require great skill.

Fortunately for Cunningham, though, Wayne Jakino, the man who founded IGRA, "knew there were a lot of these gay boys who would want to be part of the rodeo, but who could never be ropers or bull riders," he said. So for them, Jakino created a series of what are, basically, relay races — but with a very gay and very rodeo flavor. They are called goat dressing, steer decorating and the wild drag race.

These three events are unique to the gay rodeo circuit, and while they sound relatively easy at first, each event does take some finesse. And none of them are without risk.

In goat dressing, teams of two compete to be the first to get a pair of men's tighty-whitey underwear onto the rear end of a goat, which has been tethered in the center of the arena. In steer decorating, teams of two work together to chase a steer around the arena, then while one team member holds the steer still, the second ties a ribbon on its tail. For the wild drag race, teams of three are tasked with getting a — usually uncooperative — steer out of a chute and across a finish line while one team member — in drag — rides on its back.

"I started out in the goat dressing competitions," Cunningham said. "That's where most people start. Then, when you graduate, or maybe when you get a little more courageous, you move up to the steer decorating. Then when you conquer that, you move up to the wild drag race."

He added, "J.C. started as a competitor in the



FACE OFF | Jerry Cunningham, right, and J.C. McDonald, near left, get ready to move in to distract the bull as a cowboy nears the end of his ride. (Photo ©CowboyFrank.net)

speed events — barrel racing, pole bending, flag racing."

Eventually, both men moved up to compete in the rough stock events, including rodeo's most "glamorous" — and potentially dangerous — event, the bull riding.

Cunningham said he competed as a rough stock rider for about nine years before deciding to take a crack at it from the other side of the bull. But being a rodeo clown takes just as much training and practice as being a competitor — if not more.

So Cunningham decided to apprentice with the

best in the gay rodeo business, rodeo clown and bullfighter David Pizzuti. He got his first chance to work as clown/bullfighter by himself at a gay rodeo in Oklahoma.

Then McDonald, after riding bulls himself for six or seven years, decided to make clowning a family business, and after serving his apprenticeship with Cunningham, he now works alongside his partner in the arena.

Some people think of the guys with the painted faces and the funny clothes simply as pranksters, just there to entertain the crowd. But the

clown/bullfighter's primary purpose is to keep the competitors safe. And, Cunningham said, there is a difference in the role of the "clown" and the role of the "bullfighter." The two usually work in partnership during the rough stock events.

The job of the bullfighter, Cunningham said, is to be ready to move in and distract the bull or horse if a rider is thrown. The bullfighter gets the animal's attention, drawing it away long enough to give the rider time to get to safety. In the event a rider gets tangled in the "rigging" — the ropes or reins they use to try and keep their seat on the

angry animal — the bullfighter will move in to help them get free before they get hurt.

"I've kind of stepped back recently and let [McDonald] take more of the front seat in terms of being the bullfighter," Cunningham continued. "I concentrate more on the role of being the clown."

The clown, he continued, is there to entertain the crowd with silly gags and skits and antics. But he also has to be ready at a moment's notice to move in and assist if a competitor or the bullfighter gets in trouble. And when you have a couple tons of belligerent bovine on the loose, accidents can and do happen.

And that is where the wrecks happen.

"I've seen a lot of wrecks in my years with the rodeo," Cunningham said. You know, I rode bulls for nine years, and I have decided that I feel safer in front of the bull rather than on its back.

"There have certainly been some scary moments," he continued. "The worse you could possibly imagine happening has happened, not more than two feet in front of me."

Cunningham said he doesn't like to talk about that incident. But he did describe one wreck that could have been much, much worse.

"I was in Las Vegas, working at their [gay] rodeo there. Now, one of the first things you learn as a rodeo bullfighter is never stand square to the chute. When they open that gate up, that bull is coming straight out of, and if you're standing in the way, he will run over you," Cunningham said. "Well this time, I messed up. I was standing square to the chute when they

opened the gate."

Appropriately enough for a rodeo in Las Vegas, the bull that came out of the chute was named Elvis, he said. "And Elvis hooked me. He got his horn between my legs and popped me up in the air. They told me later I went about 15 feet up.

"Well, while I was flailing around up in the air, the bull ran underneath me. But when I came down, I landed on my feet," Cunningham recalled. "It took me a second, you know. I was like, wow, that really just happened. I looked up at the announcer, who was looking down at me with a 'good god are you ok' look on his face. I nodded at him to let him know I was OK, then I turned around and hammed it up for the audience, pretending I had been racked, groaning and howling and carrying on."

Other than being "really sore 'down there' for a few days," Cunningham wasn't injured in that wreck. But he knows he was fortunate. Less than inches, fewer than seconds separated him from serious injury or death.

"That was a real turning point for me," he said, "a very sobering moment. Up until then, I'd been like, 'I'm invincible!' But that proved to me I wasn't invincible at all.

"My confidence was compromised when that happened," he admitted. But after a pause, he added, "But not enough to make me quit. I am the official IGRA rodeo clown and bullfighter. I have had dozens and dozens of injuries. I've been kicked. I've dislocated my shoulder. I've tried to retire three different times. But they won't let me. I guess there just aren't any other rodeo clowns willing to come do their schtick at the gay rodeo."

Cunningham does have a life outside the rodeo circuit. He worked for years as a publicist for the city of Arvada, a suburb of Denver. "When that tour of duty came to an end" in 2011, he said he did some part-time work and some consulting and marketing stuff.

Then in November 2011, "I was laying in my bed, just speaking to the universe," Cunningham said. "I said I've had the cush, high-profile job. What I want now is a job that affords me the opportunity to make a bigger difference. I don't need a bunch of accolades. I just want to make a difference.

"Literally a week later," he said, Mark Richardson called to urge him to buy Colorado's LGBT newsmagazine. "I didn't answer the phone, just let it go to voice mail. He told me that Out Front was quietly for sale, and 'you're the next owner. Call me.' I didn't want to do that. I deleted the message."

Richardson called him back the next week, "mad as hell" that Cunningham hadn't returned the call. "He said, 'I'm not asking. You're going to take a meeting'" with the owners looking to sell.

"A month later, there we were," signing papers to make Cunningham the new owner of Out Front.

When Richardson first broached the subject, Cunningham said he was adamant. "I told him, why would I want to buy the Titanic? Why would I want to invest in what looked like a sinking ship? But now I know it was the best decision of my life, hands down. I have an awesome life now. That's the short version of it!" ■



J.C. McDonald

Jerry Cunningham

Let's Rodeo!

The International Gay Rodeo Association's 2014 World Gay Rodeo Finals takes place through Sunday at John Justin Arena, 1051 Rip Johnson Road in Fort Worth.

The IGRA Royalty contest began Thursday night at the Rose Room inside Station 4 in Dallas, and continues tonight at 8 p.m. at the Hilton Arlington, 22401 E. Lamar Blvd. in Arlington.

Rodeo competition begins at 9 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday, with the grand entry being held at about noon each day, at John Justin Arena. Food, drink and merchandise vendors will be open throughout both days.

The event schedule for both Saturday and Sunday is: 1. calf roping on foot; 2. steer decorating; 3. mounted break-away roping; 4. team roping; 5. steer riding; 6. goat dressing; 7. grand entry; 8. bareback bronc riding; 9. chute-dogging; 10. pole bending; 11. wild drag race; 12. barrel racing; 13. flag racing; 14. bull riding.

Tickets for individual days are \$15 for adults. Two-day passes are \$25 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted free.

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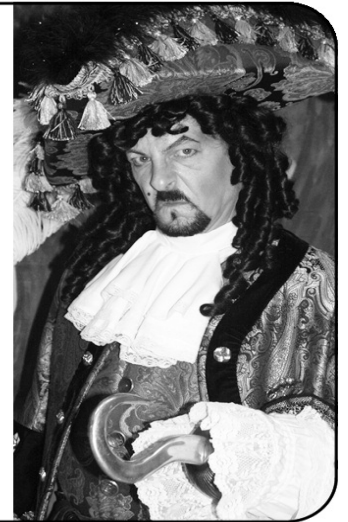
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Xavier Kahn's life changed in 8th grade when his mother found a text message exchange in his cell phone — with a guy. He told the guy, "I love you."

When Kahn returned home that day, his mother asked to see him in her bedroom.

Now 15 years old and a sophomore at O.D. Wyatt High School, Kahn didn't know that day exactly why his mother wanted to talk to him. But he knew she regularly went through his phone. The thought she may have found "those messages" crossed his mind.

Walking to her bedroom, "I was so nervous I was almost in tears," he recalled in an interview this week.

Kahn entered his mother's room, sat down and waited. She wanted him to say it — "I'm gay" — but he was too nervous. He couldn't say it.

So she said it for him. And she told him, "It's okay. I don't care who you love. I'll still love you."

Kahn said that coming out changed his life. It also taught him to delete his message history, he laughed.

Now, by day, Xavier Kahn is a full-time high school student who plays the violin, has lots of friends and, with the help of a few mentors, successfully founded his school's now-defunct gay-straight alliance. By night, he's chasing his siblings, doing homework and taking care of more than his fair share of household duties.

But the chores will have to wait on Friday, Oct. 24, because Kahn will be joining Fairness Fort Worth and its supporters that night at FFW@5, The Legacy Project, an event recognizing Fairness Fort Worth's fifth anniversary. Kahn is one of the first five people honored through FFW's new Legacy Project.

David Mack Henderson, president of Fairness Fort Worth, said the fundraiser celebrates community leaders who "pay it forward," and who demonstrate what it takes to advocate for LGBT services in Fort Worth as well.

Joining Kahn as honorees are Police Chief Jeff Halstead, Tommy's Hamburgers owner and community advocate Kelly Smith, H.E.L.P. executive director DeeJay Johannessen and Jean Wallace, vice president for human resources at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

The Rev. Carol West will receive the inaugural Tom Anable Recognition of Excellence Award, named for Fairness Fort Worth's founding president.

Henderson said the fundraiser will address the needs of the rapidly growing city, the 16th largest in the country.

"People would ask me, 'Why don't we have services like Dallas?' I'd reply, 'We need to work for them,'" Henderson said. "We don't have an LGBT community center. Nor do we have a program like Youth First Texas."

Henderson said he hopes the fundraiser and ceremony will be an annual event to help fund those very priorities.

An inspiration

Kahn stands out among the honorees, most of whom have been battling ignorance and fighting

Standing out

15-year old Xavier Kahn of Fort Worth is one of five inaugural Fairness Fort Worth honorees



in the crowd

RAINBOW BRIGHT | Xavier Kahn, left, pictured with David Mack Henderson of Fairness Fort Worth, got decked out in all his rainbow Pride gear for the recent Tarrant County Gay Pride Week parade. (Tammie Nash/Dallas Voice)

for LGBT equality for a long time. For one, he's 15. For another, he's been out and an advocate only for a few years.

Sharon Herrera, a LGBT advocate who works for the Fort Worth Independent School District, said she knows why he's being honored: Kahn gives her hope.

She said she formed LGBTQ Saves, of which Kahn is a member, because of students like him.

"He calls me his 'Fairy Gaymother,' Herrera said of Kahn. "I'm so proud of this young soul."

Being honored as a visionary takes guts. It requires one eye on the present and one looking to the future. Not everyone can do it. Even as "youth are catching up with the times," it's those like Kahn "who, in many cases, are surpassing it," said Henderson.

Henderson said he first met Kahn after the student contacted him on Facebook.

"He was 14 years and a few days old, and he blew me away," Henderson recalled. "He was about to be a freshman at O.D. Wyatt, a pretty tough

school, and was prepared to march into the principal's office to start a GSA. I never had one-half of the confidence at his age when it came to sexual orientation."

Kahn said starting a GSA seemed "like the thing to do." Almost immediately he faced pushback from the principal. But teachers, many of whom Kahn said were supportive, recommended he contact Henderson and Herrera.

The duo gently pushed the principal to talk to Kahn about the GSA, which ultimately formed.

"We just nudged the principal," Henderson said, crediting Kahn for doing all the work.

A year later, the school's alliance is no more. "Students said they're not able to help. They're too busy," Kahn said. "Or they say they don't want to 'seem gay.'"

Kahn's not holding grudges against his peers, though his tone indicates clear agitation with them. Asked about his support network without a GSA, he approached the question cautiously, not wanting to cause strife.

He humbly credited a good support system among his "hundred or more friends." And he is thankful for amazing and equally supportive teachers.

Henderson's another mentor. Henderson said he took the "good-natured, inquisitive and inspiring" student under his wing with Kahn's mother's consent. As a mentor, he's keenly aware of the skill set necessary for navigating contemporary challenges facing LGBT youth, like the one Kahn faced a year ago with his principal.

Kahn, an active participant in PFLAG and LGBTQ Saves, said he would love to eventually be a mentor as well. But one look shows he's doing it already: A closeted friend recently asked him how to come out. Another friend wants to join PFLAG because he "always talks about it."

And it's that spirit, that willingness to stand up and stand strong when it counts, that makes Kahn — despite his young age — worthy of the honor he is receiving. It's also what puts him in position to become a leader for tomorrow's LGBT community. ■

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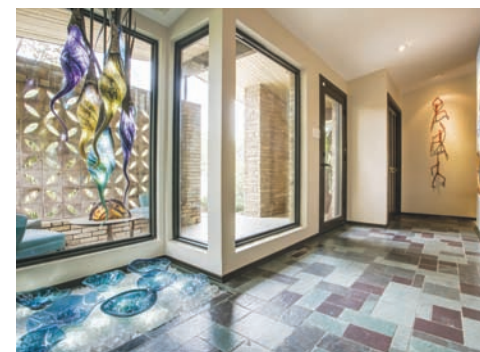
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Cliff dwelling

The city's oldest home tour includes 10 homes, four of them built right into the cliff



THIS GAY HOUSE | Homes on the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League Tour of Homes spotlight the area's terrain and incorporate steep dropoffs into dramatic settings. (Photos courtesy Old Oak Cliff Conservation League)

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Old Oak Cliff Conservation League tour of homes includes three homes south of Kiest Park this year, the most in those neighborhoods in the tour's history.

Former OOCCL President Michael Amonett is excited about the variety of homes and neighborhoods highlighted in this year's tour, but especially in the work going into homes in new areas of Oak Cliff. One of the things that makes some Oak Cliff homes so interesting is how builders set some homes into the cliff to create yards and views unlike anything else in the city, he said.

"Four of the homes [on this year's home tour] are built into the cliff," Amonett said.

He also said only four of the 10 houses on this year's tour are gay-owned. That's down from the usual number, but shows the commitment of the entire community to maintain and restore their homes and yards.

One of the homes built into the cliff belongs to Judy Pollack.

"There used to be a tattoo parlor downstairs," Pollack said, describing her house's colorful history. "I turned it into an exercise studio."

Her screened porch, which she called the treehouse, stands 20 feet above her backyard and overlooks Five Mile Creek that flows

through a small canyon in that part of Oak Cliff.

A bridge connects two parts of Pollack's home, which was built in the 1970s. She updated the house by gutting the kitchen and bath and using Patagonian rosewood for the floors.

Bill Robertson's home is in Kiestwood, also south of Kiest Park. He purchased his house from the original owner, an elderly woman who had let it fall into disrepair. By the time he acquired the house, vines were growing

through the walls and six raccoons had taken up residence.

"We sit on top of a hill," Robertson said of his home, which is situated on 2.5 acres with a steep drop off to the creek. Robertson said there are 40 steps down to the lower patio in the back.

While he left the original floor plan, Robertson is doubling the size of his sunroom, the only add-on since the house was built in 1961.



MID CENTURY | Many homeowners have updated 50-year-old homes into modern showplaces.

The floors and cabinets are also original but have been resurfaced.

Robertson said the stonework inside is another interesting architectural element that originally attracted him to the house.

As a bonus stop, this year's OOOCL home tour includes a visit to the Oak Cliff Bank Building, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. AIDS Services of Dallas and former Councilman Domingo Garcia have offices in this building.

The building's oddest feature is its elevator bank. There are no buttons to push inside the elevators. Punch in the floor to call the elevator and when the car arrives, it indicates which floors it will stop on.

Last year's tour brought in \$30,000, which was returned to the neighborhoods for a variety of projects, including street sign toppers to designate streets included in Oak Cliff's strong neighborhood associations, along with other projects sidewalk improvements to median beautification projects.

The OOCCL tour is the largest in the city as well as the oldest. The tour was started in 1975 by neighborhood preservationists at a time when Oak Cliff was seen as one of the city's declining slums rather than the collection of strong neighborhoods with skyrocketing property values that it is today. ■

Old Oak Cliff Tour of Homes, Oct. 18-19 at noon-6 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at Ticket Central at Simply Austin, 8th and Bishop or at any of the homes for \$25 and \$15 for seniors. Tour is rain or shine.



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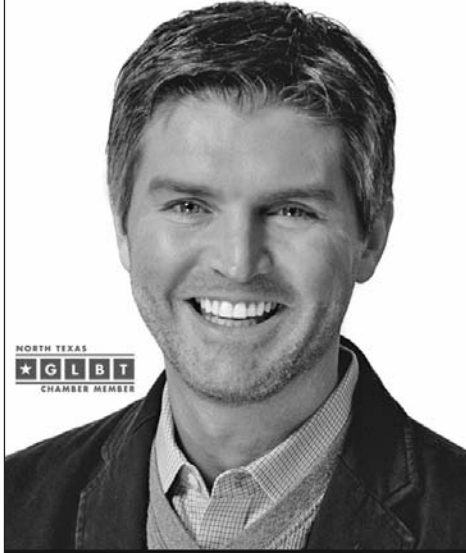


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Nurturing scholars

ONE SMALL STEP | Larisa Maxwell, left, met attorney Rebecca Covell through the LEAP Scholarship program and is now practicing with her firm. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

LEAP Scholarship winners talk about how the GLBT Chamber made a difference in their lives

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Pam Hancock has won the North Texas GLBT Chamber's LEAP Scholarship twice. And now teaches at the University of Alaska Anchorage where, she said, she can't see Russia from her front door.

Hancock was celebrating this week because her marriage in her new state was recognized as a result of a court ruling over the weekend. She was also excited that another round of LEAP Scholarships is due to be awarded. Her scholarship meant she was able to finish her dissertation and apply for her current position.

She said LEAP was the first LGBT scholarship she applied for and received.

"I received it at the exact time my funding was running out," she said. "It was perfect timing that allowed me to get equipment necessary to finish my dissertation."

But, Hancock said, winning the LEAP Scholarship meant more than just funding.

"Beyond the financial, the whole board took me under their wing," she said. "That was just as valuable as the financial contribution."

Hancock called LEAP's nurturing approach to assistance "holistic" and said board chair Candy Marcum's ideas helped her complete her degree.

LEAP, which stands for Leadership Education & Advocacy Program, began awarding scholarships three years ago, according to Marcum. Funding comes from one annual fundraiser, previously known as the Holly Jolly Ball. Marcum said that was too close to Christmas and Thanksgiving, so this year the LEAP board pushed the event back to Halloween and renamed it Spooktacular.

Spooktacular takes place on Saturday, Oct. 18 and features a silent auction, a costume contest and a cork pull — match a cork with a bottle to win the bottle of wine.

As successful as LEAP has been in its first years, Marcum said she wants the program to grow.

"I'd like us to give more and more every year," Marcum said, noting that the Hispanic Chamber

of Commerce awards \$1 million in scholarships.

Marcum said LGBTs, children of LGBTs and allied students are all eligible to apply for LEAP scholarships. The application should be online at [GLBTChamber.org](#) in February.

The funds may be used for anything from trade school or community college to undergraduate or graduate studies.

"The best way to get ahead is with an education," Marcum said.

Larisa Maxwell won a LEAP scholarship last year, enabling her to complete her law degree at Texas A&M.

"I thought it was a great honor to be recognized," Maxwell said.

Maxwell's scholarship also involved a bit of nurturing from the LEAP board and eventually helped in kicking off her career.

Her work in the community is among the things that impressed the board in granting her the award. In Dallas, Maxwell volunteered at Lambda Legal. At A&M, she restarted the OUT-law group for the school's LGBT law school students.

Maxwell also traveled to Austin to lobby legislators with Equality Texas during the last legislative session. Among the bills being considered that session was one to cut funding for state schools with an LGBT resource center. A&M was the principle target of the bill.

Since graduation, Maxwell has returned to Dallas and is working in Rebecca Covell's law firm. Covell is an estate-planning and business attorney with more than 25 years experience working in the community who met Maxwell through the GLBT Chamber and LEAP.

Maxwell continues to show her appreciation for being a scholarship winner by serving on the LEAP board and chairing the silent auction committee for Spooktacular.

Maxwell said she funded most of her graduate education through loans.

"The scholarship eased my financial burden," she said, "and let me stay focused on school work more."

Now, as a LEAP board member, her focus has turned to helping other LGBT students finish their degrees and graduate with less of a financial burden.

Spooktacular takes place in the Great Room at ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. Oct. 18 at 7-10 p.m. \$50.

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Facing up to controversy

Davis' 'wheelchair ad' invigorates disabled LGBTs and allied Democrats

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
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"A tree fell on Greg Abbott. He sued and got millions," intones a narrator in an ominous voice, speaking over an image of an empty wheelchair.

Those first five seconds of a 32-second television advertisement released last weekend by Sen. Wendy Davis' gubernatorial campaign once again put her in the national spotlight.



SPEAKING OUT | Sen. Wendy Davis listens to a supporter of her campaign during a recent press conference on the 'wheelchair ad.' (Courtesy of Wendy Davis campaign)

The ad, which airs in select markets, describes her Republican opponent for governor as a hypocrite, noting for instance that he argued against a rape victim and against people with disabilities.

Abbott's accident in 1984 permanently paralyzed him and he has used a wheelchair since.

Ben Dreyfuss, a staff writer for Mother Jones magazine, called Davis' now-infamous wheelchair ad "offensive and nasty" and said it "shouldn't exist. She's basically calling Abbott a cripple."

Aaron Blake, a national political correspondent for the Washington Post, called the ad "the sort of highly risky gambit you only see from a long-shot campaign. And, as often as not, these sorts of 'Hail Marys' fail miserably."

And an Abbott campaign spokeswoman said, "It is challenging to find language strong enough to condemn Sen. Davis' disgusting television ad, which represents a historic low for someone seeking to represent Texans."

But the Davis campaign chose to face down opponents and dig in its heels in defense of the ad. At a press conference on Monday, Oct. 23, at her Fort Worth field office, Davis reiterated the ad's point: Abbott doesn't fight for all Texans.

Davis was flanked at the press conference by disabled supporters and victims' rights advocates,

among them Lamar White, a straight SMU law student with cerebral palsy.

Though both conservative and liberal critics skewered the ad, none of a number of disabled LGBT and allied Texas Democrats interviewed for this article were offended. In fact, they praised Davis' ad as factual and for pointing out what they said was hypocrisy.

"The ad was spot on. Being rich and disabled, like Abbott, is like being straight and white at a country club. He has done everything within his power to disenfranchise and distance himself from people with disabilities. [People with disabilities] disown him," said Vicki Lynn Jurney-Taylor of San Antonio, who is bisexual and has spinal

muscular atrophy.

Michael Cole, whose right leg was amputated below the knee, agreed. The LGBT ally is a Democrat running for an open seat in the conservative Congressional District 36.

"As a disabled person, I don't see a problem with it," Cole said. "It is a valid point raised by the Davis people. His wealth stems from the accident. He then used that wealth to take away the ability for others to seek legal redress. To me, Abbott made that hypocrisy an issue."

Abbott's response is to deflect, he added. By veering the message away from the facts, Cole indicated Abbott might be winning.

"We are too busy talking about the wheelchair and not the message of hypocrisy," Cole said. "They can't attack the message ... so they are fighting it this way hoping to deflect [it]."

But Republicans condemning the ad are just as guilty of hypocrisy, Jurney-Taylor said. "[They] say it's offensive to people with disabilities; yet they cut funding for the support programs that we need."

It's personal to Mary Ann Thompson-Frenk of Dallas, too. An LGBT ally who suffers from hearing loss, she said her personal challenges with her disability have only increased her "empathy for others facing their own challenges. I would expect any decent person to feel likewise. Which is what bothers me about Greg Abbott's record demonstrating the opposite.

"The issue is not his disability but his hypocrisy," Thompson-Frenk said. "I admire his drive to not allow his own disability from holding him back, but wonder why he would hurt other's chances to recover and get their lives back on track as well."

Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 20, and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4.

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Broadcast news

It's not enough networks give lip-service to gay inclusion; they must deliver

For the avid television watcher, the fall season is like Christmas — the major networks unwrap and roll out an all-new slate of shows and stories to dive into.

For the LGBT fan of all things television, this exciting time is tempered with expectations, waiting to see where and how LGBT characters and storylines appear in the new TV landscape.

How characters from the LGBT community are represented on television is important because it reflects where we are as a culture. It's important that along with the progress we are making politically and legally, we also continue to be included artistically and socially. Tolerance is only one step on the way to understanding and acceptance, and the arts and media have the greatest ability to facilitate movement in that direction. How we are seen on TV by ourselves — and more importantly, by others — matters.

This fall includes out actors and LGBT storylines to be excited about, though in keeping with history, the landscape is still dominated by arcs of



Emerson Collins
Contributing Columnist

Mulaney, which debuted earlier this month, features Elliott Gould as a gay man outside the 18-49 demo; and out actor Wilson Cruz as the bestie of Octavia Spencer on *Red Band Society*, both on Fox.

Shonda Rhimes has a gay man in Viola Davis' new potboiler *How To Get Away With Murder*. With her subversive ability to include characters whose minority characteristics are not their primary plot points, Rhimes has consistently made interesting and three-dimensional gay characters that are fully sexual beings including Callie and Arizona on *Grey's Anatomy* and Cyrus and James on *Scandal*.

On *Marry Me*, Casey Wilson's character was

gay, white males. However, the trend of diversity is making tiny steps in telling stories of characters that move beyond the token gay with stereotypical mannerisms in an expectedly fabulous profession.

raised by gay dads — one black and one white. *The McCarthys*, starring Laurie Metcalf, centers around her openly gay son. *Jane The Virgin* has a lesbian doctor, and it is rumored that a gay villain will arrive quickly on *The Flash*.

Nick Jonas has been hinting all over the place that his character on DirecTV's new mixed martial arts drama *Kingdom* is somewhere left of heterosexual (read our interview with Jonas at InstantTea). These new LGBT characters will add to ones on returning shows that continue to thrive.

It's unfortunately typical that bisexual and transgender characters are nearly non-existent on the current landscape. One potentially bright spot is Amazon's *Transparent* featuring Jeffrey Tambor as a trans woman in a dramedy that is receiving high praise, as well as Laverne Cox on Netflix's *Orange is the New Black*, though both are streaming shows, not available on the main networks.

Yes, you could have learned all of this from your TV guide, but the other important piece of LGBT characters on television is that we find the shows, watch them and support them.

There are many justifiable complaints about LGBT portrayals. It's white-washed (still a problem for TV in general), many LGBT characters never behave as sexually as their cisgender, heterosexual counterparts and generally they often still have all of the traits of being a token. It also seems the simple solution that the way to avoid the token problem is to have more than one LGBT character at the center of a show is a regularly forgotten concept.

Showing up for the characters that do exist (and the shows that showcase them) is the best demonstration that there is an audience for our stories. It's hard to imagine, given how we are often frustrated we are by the safeness or one-dimensional nature of the characters, but the network executives still see our stories and characters as risks and we need to support them when they work.

Supporting our characters and shows that introduce supporting and recurring LGBT characters and interesting LGBT storylines easily goes hand-in-hand with continuing to agitate for greater depth to our characters and a wider variety of representation.

It's important to hold shows accountable for how they represent the LGBT community. Calling out offensive stereotypes and lazy or harmful stories (read: trans characters that are either murder victims or the perpetrators of "gotcha" gags) ensures our portrayals are wide, varied and representative.

However, it's also important to be aware before being outraged in some circumstances. This fall, NBC is introducing *Constantine*, based on a



'CONSTANTINE' | NBC 'straightened up' the LGBT comic book character for its new TV show, which premieres Oct. 24.

beloved bisexual comic book character. Yet on TV, his sexuality will not be a part of the show, and that erasure is deserving of the attention and protests it has already received.

In other circumstances, perspective is important. When comedy gags seem stereotypical, asking questions is important. Is the stereotype being used to mock us, or those who hold the stereotype? Is the show "offensive" in all sorts of ways and using that to say something larger? Is the character expressing the homophobic, biphobic or transphobic attitude one the audience is supposed to relate to or despise? Because those attitudes and perspectives represent real people, too, and a knee-jerk reaction before considering the conversation a show is attempting can be a disservice.

Of course, outside of outright LGBT storylines there are also shows with queer sensibilities and the subtext of potential for non-heterosexual relationships. It is a much more nebulous concept and can be a result of the actors, the setting or the general tone and subject matter of a show. Lately this has introduced a newer concept into the discussion of TV shows and characters called "queer-baiting." It's essentially the idea that a show is adding homoerotic tension to attract queer viewers without having any intention of every following through on it.

Using non-heterosexual behavior for attention is certainly worth protesting because it reinforces the idea that there is something more titillating or salacious about bisexual or homosexual relationships and sexuality. That said, it can also beg the question, "Are we asking for special treatment?" if we demand that shows and show runners direct their characters and plots in the way we want them to as LGBT fans.

It's great to love a show. It's great to love the characters. It's wonderful when the idea that a

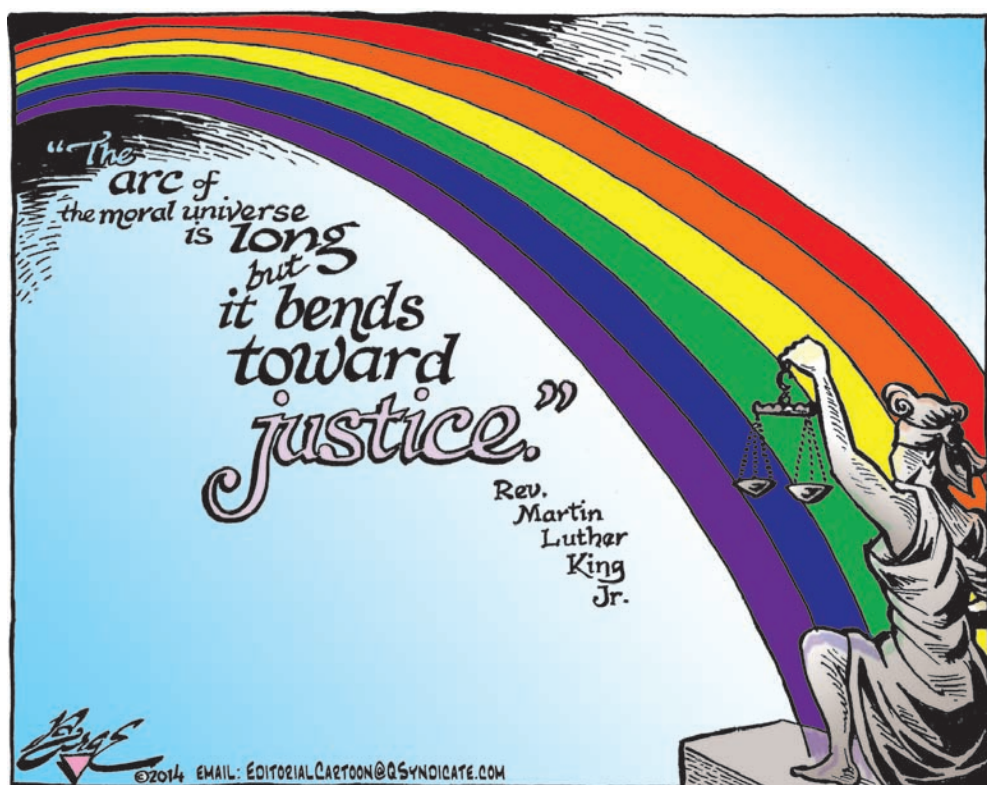
character might be gay or bi is hinted at. If it does not happen, it's important to genuinely consider whether what is happening is really any different than the massive amount of suggestion, misdirect and red herrings that all scripted shows introduce and dismiss in so many ways with all of their characters.

Demanding that a show follow through with a hint that a character might have a sexuality other than strictly hetero is ultimately not that different than demanding that two characters who demonstrate obvious romantic tension get together because we think they just need "to do it already." Seeing the difference between having our attention taken advantage of and what is standard storytelling is the difference between having our protestations heard or brushed aside.

Our outrage is a useful tool in affecting change in the television landscape, but it needs to be used specifically and wisely to be effective. Similarly, our attention and viewership does the same thing. Showing up for great LGBT characters and storylines is the best way to ensure that we continue to get them and that they grow deeper and wider to continue to represent more of the vast array of our community.

So, set your DVRs. Check out how we are being seen on TV. When you find ones that are wonderful, tell other people. We have a long way to go, but each time it is done well, the closer we get to having to worry far less about stereotypical portrayals and can be excited about new LGBT characters not simply because they are from our community, but because of what else they are far in addition to that simply as great characters in great shows telling great stories, some of which happen to be ours. ■

Emerson Collins is one of the hosts of The People's Couch on Bravo, which has just begun its new season.



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Uptown Tammie Brown

Drag Racer and native Texan Tammie Brown goes unplugged at the Texas Veggie Fair

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

With his dreamy, porcelain look, shock of twisted henna hair and earth-mother aesthetic, you might peg Tammie Brown — who shot to fame on the first season of *RuPaul's Drag Race* — as a Bay Area hippie chick. And you'd be sort of right. But not the San Francisco Bay ... instead, Texas' Aransas Bay is where Brown calls home.

"I love Texas!" he says. "I wish it didn't have such a bad rap because of the politics. I've lived in the Valley, in Bayview. I've been to Bandera — the cowboy capital — and went to Houston and San Antonio a lot as a kid. We never really cruised on up to Dallas but I am a huge Texas buff."

Brown was born Keith Glen Schubert in Corpus Christi, but grew up in the nearby Rockport-Fulton area. Like many gay kids from small towns who end up doing drag, Brown moved to "the big city" — in his case, Los Angeles — and has traveled the world as an entertainer. But unlike most of those same folks, Brown has only affection for his hometown.

"It's a cool community — I really do appreciate it. My mom and my sister are there, and one of my dear friends, who was really supportive of me doing drag back when I was still in high school, is still there," he says by phone from his home in L.A. "My plan is to move back there within the next six years. I would love to open a roadhouse restaurant along Highway 35 and just be a philanthropist, preserving the oak trees and the whooping cranes. Have you ever been there? It's very beautiful."

As his passions might suggest, Brown's fondness for the three Big Fs — flora, fauna and food — made him a natural to be sought out to entertain at the fifth annual Texas Veggie Fair, which returns to Reverchon Park on Sunday.

"I'm a foodie — I love food, and I love to cook," Brown says. "My roadhouse would serve country food and recipes I've accumulated from my travels around the

ANIMAL LOVER | Earth-mother and orca defender Tammie Brown will entertain at the 5th annual Texas Veggie Fair, which returns to the gayborhood's Reverchon Park this Sunday. (Photography courtesy MissMissyPhotography.net)

world."

His own style he describes as "homemade Southern and soul — which are practically the same; both are fried and there are greens and lots of pies. Then there's also Mexican, because I lived in Mexico for six years, as well as a lot of Asian-European influences."

Brown's favorite dish to make? "Camarones a la diavolo," he says. "Every area of Mexico has a version of it, but my favorite is from Nayarit. It's like a cocktail sauce with garlic and butter."

Hmmm ... wait a second.

Shrimp? Though Brown is not a vegan himself — or even a vegetarian — he respects and works

toward better treatment of the planet, from the trees to the cranes to the mammals of the ocean.

"I do like meat, as long as it's humane, but I think I was asked to be part of the Veggie Fair because of my work bringing awareness of the planet, especially the orcas — these sentient beings in captivity," he says.

Even carnivores are welcome at the Veggie Fair, as long as they are willing to put flesh aside for the day to experience the meatless options served at the many food trucks on hand, learn about animal welfare/rescue groups and access cruelty-free consumer products from soaps to clothing at the numerous booths. Last year, the event attracted 7,000 and organizer Jamey Scott expects that many or more this year as well.

Brown's hippie, self-possessed attitude was

one of the traits that distinguished his time on *RuPaul's Drag Race*. He famously went home by refusing to "lip sync for his life" during one episode's finale.

"You've just got to stand by who you are," he says with no regrets. "I don't need to be in a big city — I can perform in the bushes if I want. My job is not to conform to someone else's life. Yes, you have to provide a living for yourself, but what's the point of selling out? Do you now know who you are? I do have big dreams and I have been accomplishing them [on my own terms]. Shock value is not going to last — what's next? Are they gonna cut themselves with a

can? Talent is what lasts."

Brown is one of those increasingly rare queens who actually doesn't have to lip sync, but can sing on his own. His first album, *Popcorn*, came out in 2009, and a second, *Hot Skunks*, is on deck.

"At the fair, I'll be performing my live concert, with my accompanist Michael. It'll be mostly acoustic with me singing and Michael on guitar."

If an unplugged Tammie Brown is less glamorous than you've come to expect from a drag queen, well, she'll take that.

"I'm not afraid to try new things," she says, "but mostly I play it so straight that you could put me in the middle of the Republican National Convention and they'd never know. I find that more fun!" ■

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TASTING NOTES

October is National Seafood Month, and **Dish** is celebrating with a selection that includes bay scallops, halibut, gulf shrimp, day boar rockfish, west coast oysters and wild striped bass, served with seasonable vegetables. Visit Dish-Dallas.com for make a reservation.

The **Dallas Farmers Market** has announced that four restaurants and a coffee shop will be anchors in the permanent space called **The Market** (formerly Shed 2), set to open in spring 2015. Among them: **Stocks & Bondy**, the triumphant return to central Dallas of former Ciudad chef **Joanne Bondy, pictured**, who spent a long stint working in Grapevine at the Gaylord's **Old Hickory** steakhouse. Stocks & Bondy will focus on soups and sandwiches, along with a retail component offering classic stocks and sauces.

Speaking of the Farmers Market, on Oct. 26 it will be the site of **Chefs for Farmers'** inaugural Oyster Bash. Some top-notch chefs (**John Tesar, Matt McCallister** and others) will be among those coming up with inventive ways to create fabulous dishes involving the delicious shellfish. I'm actually one of the hosts of the event, so come say hi!

The Grape, Dallas' pre-eminent wine bistro and Readers Voice Award winner for most romantic restaurant, celebrates 42 years along Lower Greenville Avenue Oct. 21–25 with a schedule of events including a wine and cheese chat (Oct. 21), a wine dinner featuring old-world wines (Oct. 23) and a special four-course dinner prepared to mark four-plus decades (Oct. 24–25). Visit TheGrapeRestaurant.com for details and to make a reservation.

Danyele McPherson, former chef de cuisine at The Grape, will be the exec chef at **Remedy**, a new concept set to open in December along Lower Greenville. It's the follow-up to creator **Elias Pope's** excellent **H&G Sply Co.** ... also a neighbor.

Zen Sushi in the Bishop Arts District is launching a trial run of a home delivery service. Delivery times are 6–9 p.m. nightly, and there's a \$5 fee (but no minimum) during the trial. Call 214-946-9699 for reservations.

We're in Texas, so of course we need to mark with appropriate solemnity **Chicken Fried Steak Day** (Oct. 26). Hey, it's officially a Texas holiday (since 2011)!

— A.W.J.



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Lennox, crystal clear

Nearing 60, Annie Lennox — rock's coolest chick ever — rails on 'feminism-lite,' why we need to get rid of the word 'gay' and what makes her nostalgic



They don't make hearts bigger than the one beating inside of Annie Lennox. Despite the icon's legendary recording career — dating back to the late '70s — music has taken a backseat to another passion: people. While still dedicated to philanthropic work focused on causes like HIV/AIDS and global peace, the singer-songwriter returns with her first disc in four years, a covers album called *Nostalgia*.

Just prior to its U.S. release — it drops here Tuesday — Lennox called from London for a frank conversation about loathing her "gender-bender" label, the reframing of feminism (Beyoncé is "feminist lite," she says) and being uneasy with the superficiality of the music business. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

LIFE+STYLE

music

Dallas Voice: Because you've always embraced your LGBT audience, your music has been a safe place for many people who identify as such. What do you attribute to the loyalty of your gay fan base? Annie Lennox: You see, that's a question you have to ask the people that you're describing. I can't answer for the gay community. I truly can't. I just make music, and I have no idea who is going to listen to it. I'm just the person that I am.

When I was given this label of "gender-bender," I really felt it was diminishing in a way. It was very simplistic. I wasn't bending gender, I was making a statement in a kind of subtle way. I thought it was subtle, but to some people it might have seemed overt. I was saying, "Look, as a woman I can be equal to a man," and in this partnership with the Eurythmics, where I was in a partnership with a man [Dave Stewart], the two of us felt so connected that my gender didn't matter. In a funny sort of way, ultimately I was coming out to say, "Look, I'm not going to be what you think I am. I'm intelligent. I'm not a dancing doll just because I'm female and I'm singing. I'm not singing for your pleasurable entertainment. It's not about that. It's cerebral and it's heartfelt and it's intelligent."

This is something I've been saying to a lot of my gay compadres: One day we'll get rid of this word "gay," because it's irrelevant. Of course it's terribly relevant when you are trying to create a campaign. During a human rights movement, it's terribly important to have labels and to have platforms that are very identifiable, but ultimately we should just be fine with everybody no matter what our sexual orientation is. It's nobody's effing business.

Our use of labels is evolving. So many people are resisting them or calling themselves "queer" because it's a broader term. Even that — no. It's diminishing. Broaden out. And it will come.

As a longtime feminist, how do you feel about the way the term "feminist" has been reframed in contemporary culture? It's a process. It continues to be reframed, and necessarily so, because people's relationship to the word has been a bit ambivalent over the last few decades. According to who you speak to, they don't sometimes quite know what to do with the word. I did one event in particular called [Barclays] Women of the Year and they select certain people for certain kinds of recognition, and I was given an award not so long ago. I was so touched to have this award. I felt like I'm with a certain kind of camaraderie here and we're all together in this room — 400 women from all walks of life — and I said at the podium, "I'm proud to be a feminist; let's everybody stand up." Half of the room stayed seated. It was such a hard moment for me because I realized that some women, many women, still have issues with the word and almost distance themselves from it because they're afraid it's synonymous with hating men.

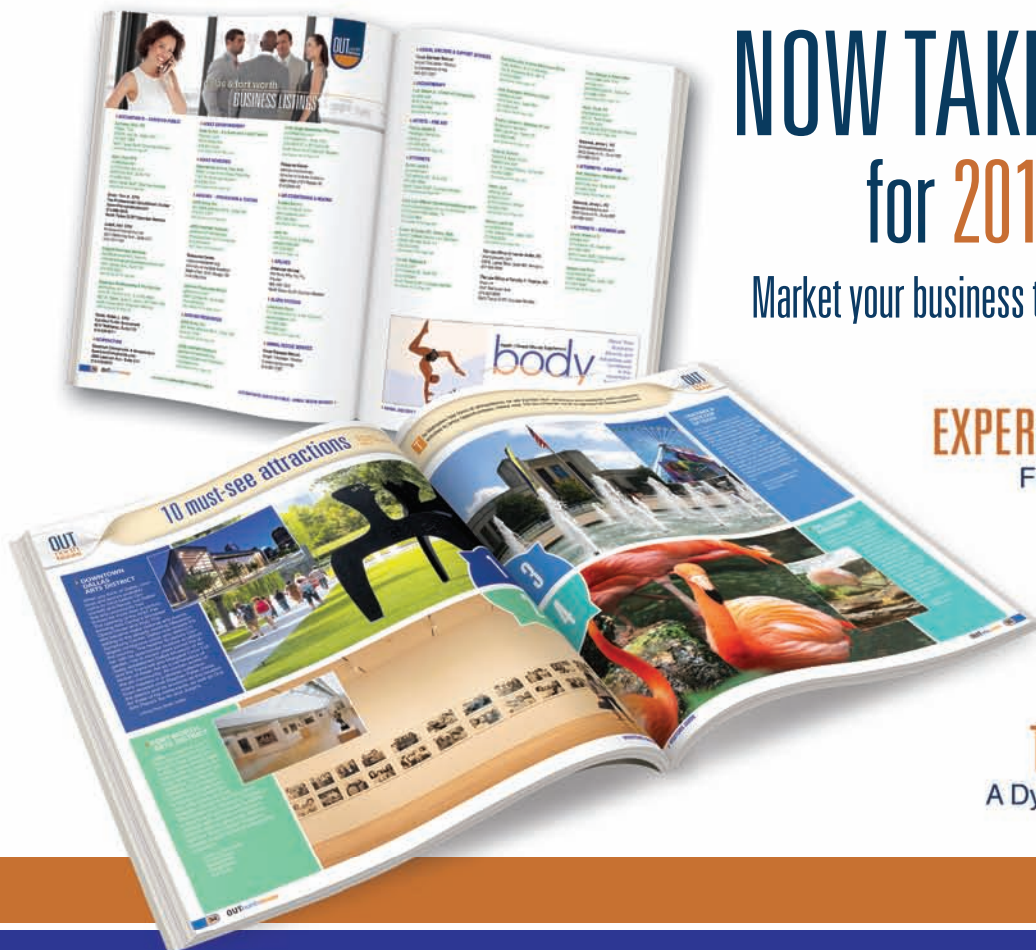
“One day, we'll get rid of this word 'gay,' because it's irrelevant. It's nobody's effing business.”

Which is something you don't believe to be true, right? Not at all. I think that what happened over the years, and quite rightly so, is that women had to be incredibly radical, stringent and strident about the voice of feminism. They had to do that, but I think that nowadays it's a more subtle thing. But we need men to be onboard with us. That's my view. Some women might disagree with me. I'm not saying I hold the key to the absolute truth — I'm not saying that at all — but I also feel very much that the LGBTQ movement and the women's movement need to get together far more frequently because we're coming from the same place of human rights and civil rights.

So what do you make of someone like Beyoncé? She recently performed on the MTV Video Music Awards and proclaimed herself a "feminist" during her set. I would call that "feminist lite." L-I-T-E. I'm sorry, it's tokenistic to me. I mean, I think she's a phenomenal artist — I just love her performances — but I'd like to sit down [with her]. I think I'd like to sit down with quite a few artists and talk to them. I'd like to listen to them; I'd like to hear what they truly think.

I see a lot of it as them taking the word hostage and using it to promote themselves, but I don't think they necessarily represent wholeheartedly the depths of feminism — no, I don't. I think for many it's very convenient and it looks great and it looks radical, but I have some issues with it. I have issues with it. Of course I do. I think it's a cheap shot. I think what they do with it is cheap and ... yeah. What can I tell you? Sex always sells. And there's nothing wrong with sex selling, but it depends on your audience. If they're 7-year-old kids, I have issues with it.

Your new album is called *Nostalgia*; what about your own life makes you feel nostalgic? If I look back at my own life, it goes right back to the '50s. I was 6 when it turned into 1960, you see, so I still have very strong memories of my childhood in Scotland. There was a lot of hardship — I don't come from a silver spoon. It was never handed to me. It was working class, and [my parents and their grandparents before them] had to work damn hard. I remember a time when there were hardly any motor cars on the road. I remember the man coming to light the gaslights on the street. Stuff like this, it's really nostalgic. I don't want to go back, obviously. Anyway, one can't. There is no turning back, but sometimes I just kind of yearn for a gentler time. I say it was "gentler," but looking back through *Nostalgia*, through this American Songbook, I also understand that going back to the '30s in the United States and in so many parts of the world — this is pre-civil rights, before the movement had really got up and running. It's like the voice of the civil rights movement was not being really acknowledged and the platform wasn't as big as it became through Martin Luther King and all the work of these incredible activists.



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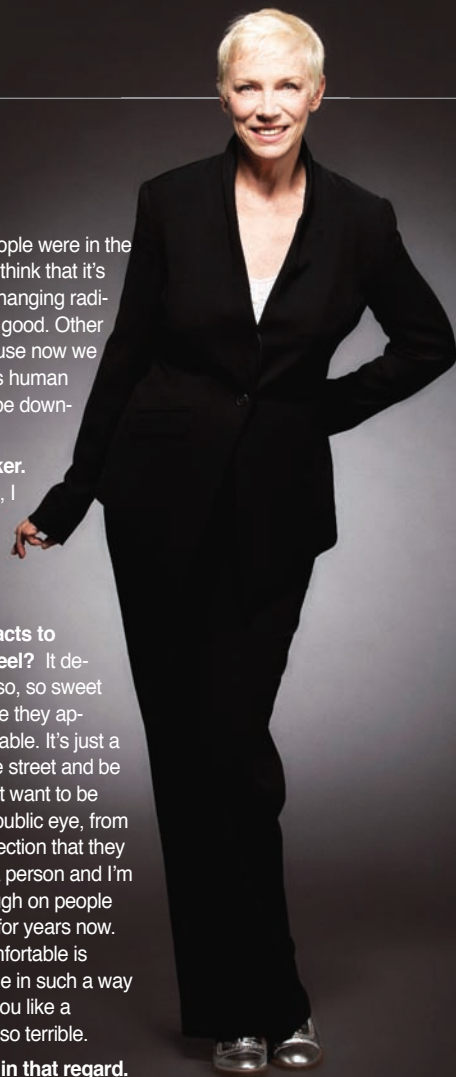
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■ LENNOX, From Page 20

If you think about it, it's really not that long since people were in the closet about gay rights. It's been extraordinary. I think that it's accelerating in the West. I think that things are changing radically, and some things — many things — for the good. Other things I think will be challenging for people because now we have a whole new paradigm and it's complex, as human beings are. There will be upsides and there will be downsides, and it won't just be heaven on a stick.

For years, you've resisted the "celebrity" moniker.

You don't like to think of yourself as that. No, I don't. Again, I feel quite diminished by it. Obviously, I'm sometimes given that moniker, but every time it happens I feel reduced by it. I cringe inside.

When somebody sees you on the street and reacts to you as a celebrity, how does that make you feel?

It depends on how it's done. Sometimes people are so, so sweet and it's so touching, and it's very human because they approach me in a way where I don't feel uncomfortable. It's just a human exchange. Of course I try to just go in the street and be like everybody else. I've always done that. I don't want to be singled out, but of course being a person in the public eye, from time to time, you will be. People will see the projection that they know you to be. In that sense, I'm who I am as a person and I'm also this projection for people, so I cannot be tough on people that recognize me because I've been doing this for years now. The only time when it becomes incredibly uncomfortable is when people are just a bit thoughtless and invade in such a way where they really don't think. They kind of treat you like a species in a safari park, and really, it's awful. It's so terrible.

Cameras haven't made things any better in that regard.

I think it's far worse when people are paid to steal your image. They pay money for that stolen image of you and you have no control over it, but they're making money out of it! I mean, I haven't played into that paparazzi thing — I've just tried to completely and utterly downplay it — but you can play it up if you want. You can have them following you 24/7 if you want that kind of life. Some people do. I mean, bizarrely, people seem to want it. I've never understood why.

Recently, you mentioned that you stopped writing because "I'm too happy."

I said a lot of things that night! To be honest, looking back on being creative and what that was about and where the impulse lies to express yourself — there was a lot of darkness in my life. For everyone, we have our own darkness and our light, and I even wrote about that.

You know, I've been through a lot. It's coming up on my sixth decade now, and I have less of the impulse to express myself in that way. I feel as if I express myself very well in other ways. I branched out, you know? Since I started campaigning a decade ago, I've got this need to voice myself and place myself into a certain kind of activism. I find that so inspiring and such a great thing to do, but for the last year I've also decided, "OK, I wanna make some music and that is *Nostalgia*." So, I haven't been able to be as proactive [philanthropically] this year as I normally am. I'm one of those people who, when I do something, I have to do it all the way.

Is it true that you may never write again and that this may be your last album?

Who knows? I don't know. I say this because I'm aware that I'm not a young person, but I'm so spirited in myself — it's really strange. Just because I'm almost 60 now, it doesn't mean that I'm less passionate or less intensely

curious about the world around me. In fact, I'm even *more* curious about it in another kind of way.

There's this youth culture that is really powerful and really strong, but what it does is it really discards people once they reach a certain age. I actually think that people are so powerful and interesting — women, especially — when they reach my age. We've got so much to say, but popular culture is so reductive that we just talk about whether we've got wrinkles, or whether we've put on weight or lost weight, or whether we've changed our hair style. I just find that so shallow. Because it's a shallow place, it's one of the reasons the music industry and the music scene is really not truly for me and never really has been.

Have you thought about your legacy? I can't think about it. I guess if you go onto the Internet you can find many things that were created over these years, and I guess that is the legacy. It is the music that's been made, the interviews, videos, photo shoots, and there were so many creative things that happened and they're *there*. I have no control over what people think about it. They may love it; they may hate it.

But your legacy is more than just music. You're a humanitarian. It's beyond just creating albums and making videos, right? You're part of the bigger picture. Well, thank you; that makes me feel complete, because to feel like an intelligent, rounded person with integrity, I don't think that you can *just* be an entertainer. I think there's another side — to me, anyway — that needs to be satisfied, and that is through contribution. I do it because I feel so despondent about the world at times. I feel I must do something, otherwise I feel useless. I'm not going to ever save the world, but because I have resources, I can at least make a contribution.

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*Source: Dallas Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Polls, 2005 & 2013

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Superhero's handbook

Advice for newbies and pros on navigating Comic Con ... from a fangirl who knows from experience

CHAKA CUMBERBATCH | Contributing Writer
chakacumberbatch@gmail.com

Since 1994, Dallas Comic Con has been serving up a super-powered collision of comic books, cartoons and caped crusaders galore to the denizens of DFW. If history is any indication, this weekend's FanDays event at the Irving Convention Center will be no exception.

But if you've never ventured into the triannual meeting of the pop culture Justice League, you might have some questions — about the dress code (and how it relates to Spandex), or where to park your Batmobile (though true superheroes take public transportation — good for the environment). With great power comes great responsibility, so allow me to give you a quick primer on what to expect.

How to arrive. Expect to pay, and expect to walk — or fly, if that happens to be one of your extraordinary powers. Arrive as early as you can and snag a spot in the parking garage down the street,



ACROSS THE UNIVERSES | Why is Marvel's Spider-Man in front of DC's Batmobile? Forget it, Jake — it's Comic Con.

then catch the shuttle to the center. Trust me — if you're coming in costume, the last thing you want to do is trudge through the perpetually muddy grassy area across from the convention center in a floor length cape and four inch heels. Not that I know this from personal experience. (The light rail does let off near the center, though it can be a bit of a walk ... no biggie for an Avenger, though.)

When to come. I'm a big fan of pre-paying for passes, since the

lines to buy on-site can get long and they can be more expensive. (\$25-\$40 for one day, \$60 for the weekend). And if you're busy fighting crime, and are only able to come for one day? For a more relaxed con experience, go Friday. That's when things are just getting started, and you can see the sights without battling *too* many crowds. To see the con at the height of its activity, go Saturday — that's when all the best costumes hit the floor and most sought-after panels are taking place. If you're looking to stock up on some

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geek swag, check out the con on Sunday. Sellers are often willing to cut you a bargain on remaining stock to avoid having to pack it up and lug it back to headquarters. Yours truly has scored some of her best graphic novels that way.

Panels. Pro-tip: check out the Dallas Comic Con website and make a schedule before you go. The more popular the subject matter, the faster the panels will fill up, so it helps to be ahead of the game. You might have to wait in a line for an hour or so, but you *definitely* won't be sleeping outside in a tent overnight to beat the diehards. (Yes, this happens.) Don't get too married to it, however — you never know when a chance encounter with a celebrity or an impromptu hallway dance-off might derail your plans (yes, this happens, too).

Personalities. The Dallas Comic Con shows are known for bringing big names to Big D. This year, expect to see the likes of Elijah Wood and Adam West, along with James and Oliver Phelps milling in the halls. (If you don't know those names, you should.) Where else can you find hobbits and superheroes and wizards all in the same place? Make sure you bring cash for those photo-ops and autographs, as they can get pricey. If you're like me, and you happen across a certain star of a certain show about a certain high-school-teacher-turned-meth-kingpin, get creative: Just take off a part of your costume and

have them sign that. This is why my Captain America helmet now bears an incredibly cryptic message from Heisenberg.

Parties. After an action-packed day filled with battling villains and protecting the innocent, it's perfectly natural for a superhero to want to take off her mask and cut loose on the dancefloor. Here's the 411 on all the after party action.

Friday: Get to know your fellow con-goers at the Friday Night Kick Off Shindig at 8 p.m., presented by Bacon Samurai Productions. The weekend opener, complete with karaoke and a Cards Against Humanity tournament, is free to attend with two food item donations for the North Texas Food Bank.

Saturday: Let your hair down at the FanDays 2014 Saturday Night Social, which kicks off around 8 p.m. and takes place at the Gas Monkey Bar N' Grill. There will be music of the Jonathan Coulter variety, beverages of the alcoholic variety, and costumes of the comic book variety — what else could a nerd want? Other than the power to resist a hangover, of course.

There you have it, superfriends — you're now empowered to embark on your Dallas Comic Con: FanDays adventure. Remember, no matter how crowded or stressful the convention *will* get, everyone's just there to geek out and have a good time. So power up your cameras, strap on your utility belts and get ready to get nerdy. ■

DALLAS COMIC CON

Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd. Oct. 17-19. \$25-\$60. DallasComicCon.com.

Book review: 'Male Sex Work and Society'

When most people think of sex workers, female prostitutes come to mind. There is evidence, however — explored in *Male Sex Work and Society* (Harrington Park Press, 2014) — that the World's Oldest Profession may have had practitioners of both sexes all along.

It's widely accepted that ancient Greek and Roman men took younger males as lovers, and acted somewhat as mentors. That was appropriate behavior — encouraged, even — as long as the older man didn't "exploit" his younger friend. Slaves and former slaves, however, were a different matter: they "were forced to engage in survival sex," usually for an insultingly low price.

That was the case in 1607, when the Jamestown colonists tried to tough out their first winter: documents mention exchanging favors for stolen biscuits. Meanwhile, British male sex workers enjoyed tolerance ... as long as they represented themselves as their true biological gender. Transgender people were arrested for cross-dressing.

By the late 1800s, those attitudes changed, too. Both Europe and the U.S. saw biological males working as female prostitutes, many in all-male brothels; some specialized in women as clients and others worked the streets. It's believed that the preponderance of male sex workers by the 1960s were gay, although gay writers in those Stonewall years sometimes made issue of the sexual identification of clientele. Were customers of gay sex workers straight or gay themselves?

The answer today, according to male escorts, is that a "significant percentage" of male customers are straight and "many" are married. Furthermore, modern male sex workers utilize paid advertising, which makes it easy for clients to consciously choose partners based on specific preferences. And now, as it was centuries ago, male sex workers most commonly said in a survey that they choose to sell sex for economic reasons.

Male Sex Work and Society isn't bad, just way more academic than I expected — more than a curl-up-by-the-fireplace read should be. The essays feel like doctoral dissertations. There's a place for such erudite work, but it's probably not by the easy chair.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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After years of trying, Chevy Sonic finally scores with barnstorming compact

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

With the Sonic, Chevrolet went from worst to first in the sub-compact segment. Finally, after decades of trying, a small car with big bowtie badges was leading the pack instead of being embarrassed by it. Through the first half of the year, only the Honda Fit outsold Sonic. It's roomy, well-built, and expressively styled. Get the RS sedan and you'll have a little barnstormer with a price that won't bust your bloomers.

I prefer the available 5-door hatchback's utility, but there's no mocking the Sonic sedan's style for its high arching roof, planted stance, and aggressive cross-bar grille opening flanked by large round headlamps. Deeply-stamped sidelines give the side profile a sporty character with neatly-sculpted curves around the front wheel openings adding grace. It only looks better with the RS package's specific grille, lowered ground affects, rear spoiler, and chrome exhaust. Let it glow white-hot.

Open the big doors to peer in at the same African mask-inspired dash design as lesser Sonics, but a glassier piano black and touchscreen theme with stylized instrument graphics step it up. A sporty attitude is fortified with deeply-bolstered heated leather and suede sport seats, aluminum pedals and red stitching on the shift knob. Grip the thick square-bottomed leather-wrapped steering wheel and comfortably-sculpted shift knob to get busy. I'm a big fan of the motorcycle-inspired instrument cluster with digital speedometer.

Check all the technology. Chevy MyLink utilizes easily-linked smartphones to access music libraries and apps for Pandora, Stitcher, TuneIn global radio and BringGo navigation. Our car also includes a back-up camera, forward collision alert and lane departure warning systems.

For 2015, Sonic will even be available with a 4G LTE wifi hotspot. About the only thing our car didn't have was a CD player. Who needs *that* nowadays?

Base Sonics are powerful enough for city duty, but not for stretching out on hilly backroads. For that, the RS corrals Sonic's optional 1.4-liter turbo-four rated the same 138 horsepower, but with torque increased to 148 lb.-ft. The extra grunt digs deeper to keep a good head of steam underfoot. God save the manuals because rowing the smooth six-speed is very nice (a six-speed automatic is available if you're that

boring). Fuel economy rates 27/34-MPG city/hwy.

A peppy engine is the start and end if a car doesn't have the chassis to sing accompaniment. Sonic suspensions are already refined, but RS models add a lowered and

stiffened suspension, 17-in. alloys and quicker steering. Four-wheel disc brakes grab like old men in a strip club. Combine all that with a short wheelbase and you have a car that slurps up parking garages and narrow asphalt while saving its lungs for all-out Interstate bonzai runs.

So, what's the downside? The interior has a ton of plastic, but that's the price for the price. You have to modulate the throttle and clutch just right to keep the turbo from bogging. 34-MPG hwy. is also nothing to throw a parade over in a car this size. Broken pavement can rattle the chassis, but nothing like what I recently experienced in a \$35,000 luxury car. These are small gripes for an otherwise packed package.

Cars like the Chevy Sonic were once bought because you had to, not because you wanted to. Especially in RS trim, the little Michigan-built Chevy is a car that will enlighten young urban drivers, but also a car that will not bore experienced gasoline-fed enthusiasts. An as-tested price of just \$20,925 makes this Sonic affordable for almost everyone.

'14 SONIC RS

Chevrolet. 138 hp., 1.4 liter Turbo-4. 27/34-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$20,025.

Criminal minds

'Bonnie & Clyde' on a spree; Lulu Ward kills Tennessee

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Should we be concerned that Dallas is best known for a presidential assassin, a ruthless oil baron named Ewing, a pair of Depression-Era gangsters and now the Ebola virus?

Well, J.R. is dead, Bill O'Reilly has killed Kennedy again (and the anniversary is ovuh!) and Ebola probably isn't the crisis we're imagining it to be. That leaves **Bonnie and Clyde**, now adapted for a musical and on-stage at WaterTower Theatre, to still haunt our sense of worth.

Bonnie (Kayla Carlyle, born to sport a finger wave) and Clyde (John Campione, all smirking testosterone) may have been infamous in part because they were the first to perfect the selfie: Their relentless pursuit of celebrity (including a willingness to sign autographs and pose for pictures during holdups) is part of what made them notorious. But that was also the inherent drama of the relationship — a romance tied to a crime spree: Tristan and Isolde with a fusillade of bullets.

But there's a folk hero aspect that drives it as well. Cops in the U.S. were corrupt (there's a hint in Ivan Menchell's script that they were no better than the Gestapo at the same time), people were poor (banks heartlessly foreclosed on farmers and homeowners — sound familiar?) and Hollywood promoted an image of glamour that intoxicated an impressionable beauty like Bonnie. Why wouldn't people embrace the brand of B&C, when they were Howard-Beale-ingly "mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore."

Carlyle and Campione tear up these roles, both portraying deluded dreamers set on a self-destructive path. There's true sexual chemistry between them, and their voices blow the walls off the roof. Frank Wildhorn's score is a mix of ragtime, folk, gospel, and old-school country riffs, interspersed with '80s-style pop ballads; he gets melodically more somber in Act 2, even while the outlaws remain lyrically hopefully. After all, hope was all they had.

The lighting design (by Dan Schoedel) is one of the technical highlights of the production, with also boasts an impressive, expensive set and terrific use of projections — including histor-



KILLER DILLER | Bonnie (Kayla Carlyle) and Clyde (John Campione) shoot the moon at WaterTower.

ical photographs — both by Sarah B. Brown. Indeed, these elements work together effortlessly, with lighting representing gunplay (and bullet-riddled corpses) while the slideshow contributes to the overall sense of nostalgia — a Ken Burns documentary performed live. Director Rene Moreno orchestrates it all beautifully.

The numerous Dallas references make the show that much more enjoyable, and the toe-tapping numbers are performed brightly by the charismatic cast. If they can woo you, no wonder the real criminals got away with murder.

In the program notes for Tennessee Williams' **Two Character Play**, now at the Bath House, director Susan Sargeant acknowledges that the author's post-1960 output was unpopular with audiences and critics. So why trot out this tortured 1975 chestnut, a meta-play about a theatrical team of brother (Kevin Scott Keating) and sister (Lulu Ward) on a failing tour? Our set is their set, we are their tour audience, but much of it seems to take place out of our sight, though it's not always sure which is the case. It retreads Williams' voluble efforts at Southern Gothic extravagance (lots of overblown emotions and purple language). It's not a good play.

But Lulu Ward is a good — no, a *great* — actress, and she overcomes nearly every misgiving about the show itself. She's not given worthy support by Keating, who hams it up (even by Williams' standards) to an annoying degree, but her intensity as an ageing, drug-addicted, self-deluded and insecure belle is a breathtaking example of a performance elevating the material. It's a showcase of how to go big without going overboard. Brava! ■

ON THE BOARDS

BONNIE & CLYDE: THE MUSICAL
at **Addison Theatre Centre**, 15650
Addison Road. Through Nov. 2.
WaterTowerTheatre.org.

THE TWO CHARACTER PLAY
at **The Bath House Cultural Center**,
521 E. Lawther Drive. Through
Oct. 26. WingSpanTheatre.com.

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Friday 10.17
Saturday 10.18

Chorale launches 35th season with Brave concert

It took some guts nearly 35 years ago to launch a gay men's chorus in the buckle of the Bible Belt, so it's no surprise that kind of fortitude — and many other kinds — inspired the 35th season opener of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Called Brave, it tells stories of faith, courage and perseverance through music, song and story (including personal reminiscences of singing members), Patty Breckenridge and inspirational singer Chris Chism, pictured, are the special guest performers.

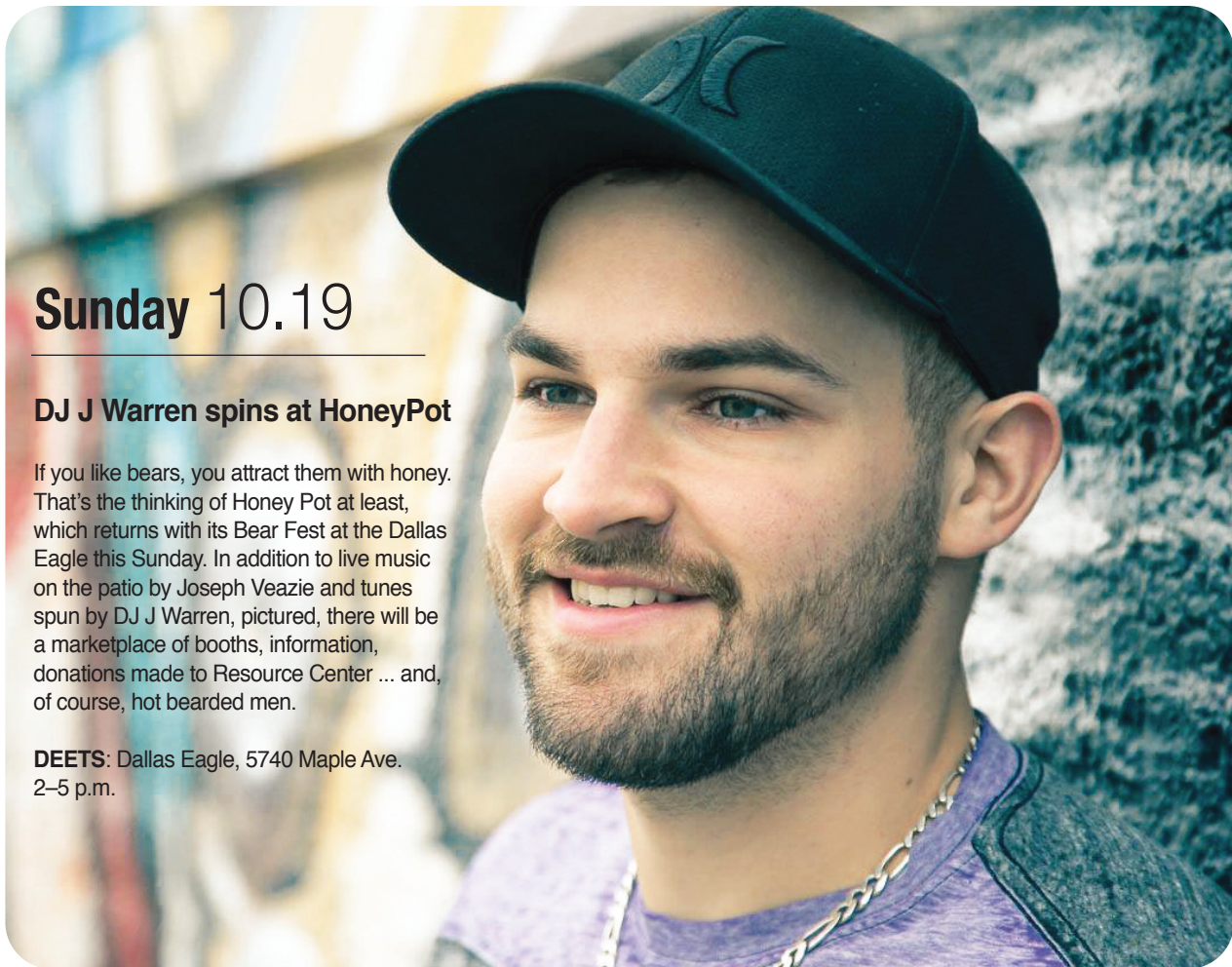
DEETS: Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Oct. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. TurtleCreek.org.

Sunday 10.19

DJ J Warren spins at HoneyPot

If you like bears, you attract them with honey. That's the thinking of Honey Pot at least, which returns with its Bear Fest at the Dallas Eagle this Sunday. In addition to live music on the patio by Joseph Veazie and tunes spun by DJ J Warren, pictured, there will be a marketplace of booths, information, donations made to Resource Center ... and, of course, hot bearded men.

DEETS: Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 2-5 p.m.



Sunday 10.19

The Great Gatsby party swings into Dallas

F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel of the Jazz Age is the inspiration for the annual Great Gatsby Party, a fundraiser for AIDS Interfaith Network that invites you to swing into the 1920s with elegant clothing and booze pouring in a stately Preston Hollow mansion (Long Island was too far to drive). Come in costume and prepare to swing!

DEETS: Home of Faye C. Briggs, 5909 Desco Drive. 3-6 p.m. EventBrite.com. 214-943-4444.



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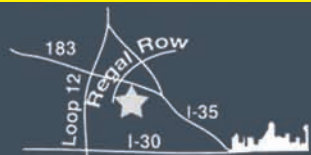
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Bonnie & Clyde. The recent musical adaptation of the famed Dallas bandits of the 1930s makes its regional debut. *Reviewed this week.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Nov. 2. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Brothers Size. Texas premiere of a tough-but-tender drama about siblings. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Oct. 26. JubileeTheatre.org.

Dante: Purgatorio. The annual theater of the dead production from MBS Productions, adapted from the great epic poem about escaping Hell. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Special performances on Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 (Dia de los Muertos). Through Nov. 8. MBSProductions.net.

Driving Miss Daisy. Joel Ferrell directs this Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Nov. 16 (in previews through Oct. 23). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Evil Dead, the Musical. Just what it sounds like. Ohlook Performing Arts Center, 1631 W. Northwest Highway. Through Nov. 1. OhlookPerform.com.

Fellowship! A spoofish send-up of *The Lord of the Rings*. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 22. CircleTheatre.com.

Hands on a Hard Body. The 2013 Broadway musical, based on a documentary set in Longview, concerns a marathon competition where the winner received a new pickup truck. Written by Dallas native Doug Wright. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 26. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Little Women: The Musical. Contemporary Theatre of Dallas stages this modern musical, based on the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through Nov. 2. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Rapunzel! Rapunzel! A Very Hairy Fairy Tale. Denise Lee stars in this musical of the follicle favorite, from the Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through 26. DCT.org.

The Rocky Horror Show. DTC launches its new season with this cross-dressing classic about the sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania. *Final weekend.* Directed by Joel Ferrell. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in Theatre 3's downstairs space where the audience helps solve the crime. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Extended through Nov. 16. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Two Character Play. A rarely-performed piece by gay playwright Tennessee Williams — a play-within-a-play where a brother and sister act out until reality and illusion blur. Directed by Susan Sargeant. *Reviewed this week.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 25. WingSpanTheatreCo.com.

BALLET

Sleeping Beauty. Texas Ballet Theater opens its season with this classic. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Friday-Sunday. TexasBalletTheater.org.

FINE ART

Isa Genzken: Retrospective. The German modern artist gets a rare and dazzling retrospective. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 4, 2015. DMA.org.

Mario Testino: Alta Moda. The famed fashion photographer turns his lens on the ordinary, indigenous residents of Peru. Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. Through Dec. 20. DallasContemporary.org.

FILM

Dallas VideoFest. The 27th annual VideoFest continues through Sunday. For a complete schedule, visit VideoFest.org.



FRIDAY 10.17

COMMUNITY

State Fair of Texas.

The historic event continues with fried food and farm equipment. Fair Park grounds at First Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard. *Final weekend.* BigTex.org.

MOON RIVER | Audrey Hepburn received an Oscar nomination as the kept woman Holly Golightly in the adaptation of Truman Capote's novella 'Breakfast at

worldwide phenomenon for her voice, performs. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 8 p.m. BassHall.com.

SPOKEN WORD

Oral Fixation: Go With the Flow. This month's installment of true stories told by engaging monologists. Wyly Theatre's Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$25. OralFixationShow.com.

COMEDY

Tig Notaro. The queermedian performs her standup. The Majestic Theater, 1725 Elm St. 8 p.m.

FESTIVAL

Dallas Comic Con Fan Days. The celebration of all things nerd returns, with guests including Sean Astin and Elijah Wood (*The Lord of the Rings*), Adam West and Burt Ward (*Batman*), and Ray Park (*Darth Maul*). Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. Friday–Sunday. DallasComicCon.com.

HALLOWEEN

Dark Hour Haunted House. The permanent horror attraction, with scarefests every Friday and Saturday eight months out of the year, but especially sinister during October with multiple themed areas with names like Dominion of the Dead, Coven Manor and Voodoo Vengeance. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. 7 p.m.–midnight. \$26-up. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com. 469-298-0556.

TUESDAY 10.21

FILM

Breakfast at Tiffany's. Blake Edwards directed this frothy entertainment, which deletes some of author Truman Capote's queer subtext (George Peppard is gay in the novella) but is buoyed by Audrey Hepburn's role as the flightily kept woman, Holly Golightly. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 10.23

THEATER

Cabaret. The musical about the decadent life of Sally Bowles and company in Weimar Republic Germany. Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland. Oct. 23–Nov. 15. \$23–\$27. GarlandCivicTheatre.org.

SATURDAY 10.18

HALLOWEEN

Spooktacular. Costume prize, Equality Vodka drinks and more at this fundraiser benefiting LEAP scholarships. ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. 7–10 p.m. \$50. SpooktacularDallas.org.

SUNDAY 10.19

COMMUNITY

Honey Pot Bear Fest. Bear party with DJ J Warren spinning and Joseph Veazie performing. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

The Great Gatsby Party. Annual costume party and mixer/fundraiser for AIN. 5909 Desco Drive. 3–6 p.m. EventBrite.com.

MONDAY 10.20

CONCERTS

Susan Boyle. The *Britain's Got Talent* contestant, a

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

It's Halloween, when all you bitches can get your drag on!

It is my favorite time of year: Time for haunted houses, cooler weather and girls (and twinks!) dressed in their sluttiest costumes. I swear, y'all turn anything into a "ho" costume. Last year, I saw a slutty Chucky, Freddy Kruger in a thong and a sexy "head" nurse, complete with knee pads. I ain't mad atcha — I love it. Drag queens get to dress up all year long, so I love it when others get to express themselves. My gays always bring it to a completely higher level. The gays do not play. We usually start planning next year's costume the day after Halloween. I can't wait to see what y'all bring out this year.

Here is a bit of advice for those of you that are

gonna go out in drag: Bring a pair of comfortable shoes. I know you spent a bunch of money on a really fierce pair of cha-cha heels, but trust me: You will probably end up barefoot. Heels hurt your feet after a while. I don't care who you are. I know you think, "It's just one night, I can tough it out." No, you can't. Every year, the clubs and block party are full of first-time drag queens walking with heels in hand. Get you a cute purse that matches your costume. Stock it with comfy back up shoes, lip gloss, your I.D. and some cash. Also bring a powder puff in case you turn into a sweaty, greasy mess. It happens, be prepared.

Dearest Cassie,

For quite some time now I have known that I like a Dallas performer, a very well-known Dallas gender illusionist. My question to you is: What should I do about it!? I love her personality and what she stands up for! She fights all the right causes and knows how to rock a Britney song! (Hint, hint). I'm torn between confronting her about this dilemma, we talk occasionally but I'd like to take her to dinner to get to know the

artist behind the painting! P.S. What words of advice would you give to a struggling gayby who is dipping into the world of drag!? Thanks! Dresden Wilde

Dear Mr. Wilde,
First off, a quick question: Are you serious about your attraction or are you just a star-fucker? Or worse, do you actually just want to do drag but don't know how to start? My



remarks may seem harsh, but it is something drag queens have to deal with all the time. A guy will show an interest in a drag queen, only to later find out he wanted in her dresses not her pants. Drag queens are people, too. We have feelings and we don't like to get played by someone who has ulterior motives. If you want to do drag, do drag. Don't fake a romantic interest in someone just because you want to be them.

Now, if you actually *do* have feelings for this "gender illusionist," then just ask her out. Find a way to spend time with her out of drag. Most drag queens with bigger-than-life stage personas are actually kind of shy once you get them one-on-one. But be warned: It takes a special kind of man to date a drag queen. It's not easy for a lot of guys to see past the makeup and wigs to the individual underneath that just wants to be loved like anybody else. Get to know the dude behind the dress and take a chance. Real men date drag queens. Good luck!

Dear Cassie,

I spent so many years working in clubs and partying like a rock star and ended up a severe alcoholic. Now, six years sober, I find myself unable to get back "out there." I had a seven-year relationship that only ended because he passed away; now, five years after his death, I am ready to date but can't seem to muster up the courage I had when I was drinking. How can I get the same courage I had before now that I have my life together. I'm asking you because you knew me back then ... maybe you could help me now. — Lost artist in San Antonio.

My dear Lost,

It is definitely time for you to get back out there. It is hard to get your confidence back, but you can do it. First of all, you don't have to put yourself around alcohol to meet a guy. Sure, the clubs are the first go-to, but maybe not the best choice if you want to meet a like-minded guy. The goal is to put yourself in social situations. If your faith is important to you, go to church. Check out a gay sports team. If you are not athletic, be an athletic supporter. Don't be afraid to ask a friend if they know someone to set you up with.

If you don't take chances, you don't reap rewards. What I am saying may sound cliché, but *carpe diem!* You can do it! Life is short ... blah blah blah. Advice is just that until you do something with it. Do something' ... today. Good luck my sweet friend. Cassie.

Dearest Cassie,

My partner won't stop watching porn. Don't get me wrong — porn is great, but I've been battling this for years now. Normally I wouldn't really care that he's watching porn, but we have no sex life whatsoever. There's been no sex, no foreplay, no blowjobs, no rimming, no handy-jays, no making out, no dry humping, no fondling, no sexting, no nothing for months on end. But he uses porn on a weekly basis, sometimes more — how unfair is that? I found out today he's now started paying for smut, whilst we're struggling financially. We've talked about it, we've fought about it and he still won't stop. He won't even watch it with me!! I don't know what to do anymore please help! With love and adoration, Over-worked and under-sexed.

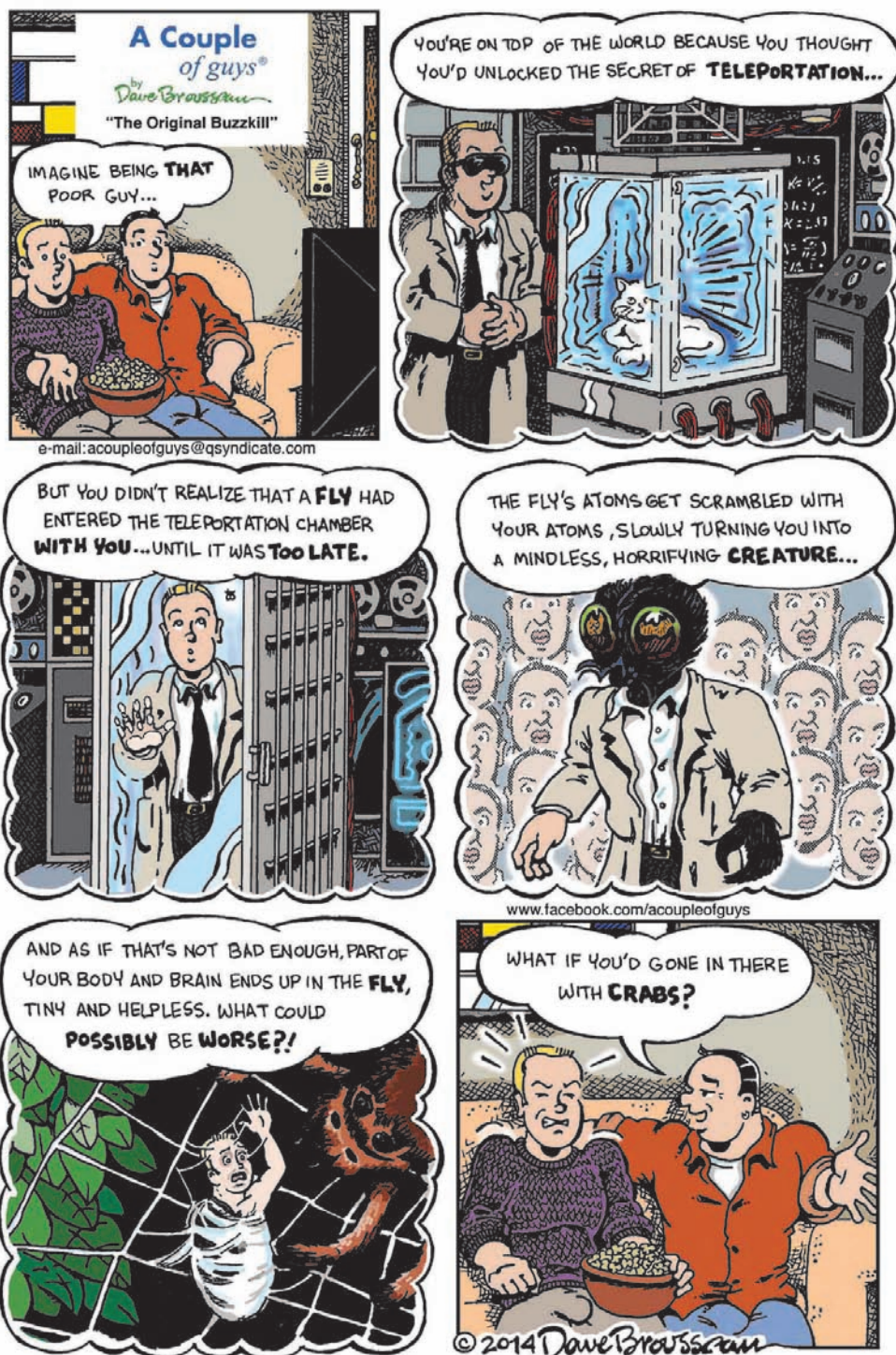
Well O.W&U.S,

I hate to break it to you, but you have a roommate, not a boyfriend. And a shitty one at that. A true partner takes their partner's needs to heart and takes care of their needs. Dude, it is time for an ultimatum. He needs to make you feel wanted and satisfy you or you need to say "Bye, Felicia." Sex isn't everything in a relationship but without it, your resentment of him and his porn addiction will lead to bigger problems. I am mad for you. Seriously, good luck with that.

With so many opportunities to dress up in costumes this month, I expect to be blown away. Between the Zombie Walk on the 17th, the Block Party on the 25th and "real" Halloween on the 31st, you have no excuse not to be everyone you wanna be. Whether you are doing the undead shuffle, monster mash or just a jig, be safe. Keep it spooky, y'all!

Love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO Cassie Nova.

If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.





Jessie and Eric at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Kyle and Anthony at Station 4.



Tyler at the Round-Up Saloon.



Guys' night out at The Round-Up Saloon.

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Visitors from San Diego enjoying The Strip.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Oct. 17-23:

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. Shelia P and Infinity at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Sheran Keyton at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Alicia Silex at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

BJ's NXSI: Gay Movie Monday with your favorite gay movies and free popcorn.

Brick/Joe's: Dannee Phann presents Ben de la Creme with MC Nicole O'Hara Munro and a special performance by G Licious G on Saturday at 9 p.m. Show at midnight. Benefits Sugarstix LifeWalk team.

Club Reflection: Cookout on Sunday at 4 p.m. Texas Gay Rodeo Association underwear auction on Sunday at 6-9 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: The United Court of the Lone Star Empire votes for emperor and empress on Friday at 7-10 p.m., then holds an awards show and banquet on Saturday at 7-10 p.m., and a coronation early bird meet and greet on Thursday at 8 p.m. DFW Leather Corps holds a seminar on Saturday at 2 p.m. Honey Pot Bear Fest takes place Sunday at 2-5 p.m. with DJ J Warren, entertainment from Joseph Veazie and a vendor market on the patio.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: Zombie Walk on Friday.

Round-Up Saloon: Men of Homo Rodeo Cowboy Nights Charity Calendar meet and greet party on Saturday at 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

S4: Zombie Walk on Friday.

Sue Ellen's: Zombie Walk and Darlington + FEA on Friday. Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Jason Huff and Ignition on Sunday. Jessica Grai and Friends on Wednesday.

TMC: The Mining Company: Zombie Walk on Friday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Men of Homo Rodeo on Friday 9 p.m.-midnight. Watch New York Giants vs. Dallas Cowboys on Sunday at 3:25 p.m.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.



Girls getting goofy at Sue Ellen's.

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62						63					64			
65						66					67			

Family Affair

Solution on page 31

Across

- 1 Balls, or chases balls
- 6 Poppycock
- 10 Splinter group
- 14 George of *Star Trek*
- 15 Drama, to Noel Coward
- 16 Melville novel
- 17 Enjoying a hottie visually
- 18 Volunteer St.
- 19 Go to the edge of
- 20 Gay-friendly NBC comedic family drama
- 22 Guy that wears a tiara
- 23 Doug Mattis, for one
- 24 Shape differently
- 26 Cucumber wasted on the kitchen?
- 29 More silly
- 31 Nemesis of Peter Pan
- 35 Birch of Indiana
- 37 It goes on top in a trattoria
- 38 20-Across character who recently came out
- 41 More frigid
- 42 Farm erection
- 43 Dog in *The Thin Man*
- 44 Tater tool

46 YMCA, for example

- 48 Former *Family Feud* host Richard
- 50 Hoffman role
- 55 Major or minor in music
- 56 Actress who plays 38-Across
- 59 Sons of, in Hebrew
- 60 Clay Aiken, almost
- 61 Erected
- 62 Draws a bead
- 63 Land of Emma Donoghue
- 64 Makeup maker Lauder
- 65 Smart-ass output
- 66 Catch them in South Beach
- 67 Takes a load off

Down

- 1 Many go down on them
- 2 Kahlo portrayer
- 3 *The Seven Samurai* director Kurosawa
- 4 Playwright Jean
- 5 Communicated manually
- 6 Three-men-in-a-tub event
- 7 Stick it in milk
- 8 Lorca's guy
- 9 Passed (out)

10 *Desperate Housewives*, for one

- 11 Blood clots can cause them
- 12 Bonheur's revolt
- 13 Package carrier
- 21 Leather community, e.g.
- 25 Have the blahs
- 27 Research rooms
- 28 Line from Porter
- 30 Jaffe or Barrett
- 31 The Queen Elizabeth, for one
- 32 Alexander's kingdom
- 33 She was Daisy Mae on Broadway
- 34 *Sound of Music* song
- 36 Michael of *Six Feet Under*
- 39 Infuriates
- 40 Certify, with "for"
- 45 More pink
- 47 Menotti's man
- 49 Conductor Boulanger
- 51 Take a breather
- 52 Doesn't use
- 53 Rent sign
- 54 Rob of *Melrose Place*
- 55 Corp. recruits
- 57 *Gilmore Girls* daughter
- 58 Stein fillers



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