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• COVER STORY, Page 6
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headlines

- **TEXAS NEWS**
  9 Candidates begin filing for 2014
  10 Allyson Robinson speaking at TDOR
  14 Anti-gay slurs regularly tossed around
  17 Sprinkle’s book published in Korean

- **DRIVE!**
  20 Well priced, stylish, built to haul
  22 Fashionable, fast, sexy compacts
  26 Styling, color and gadgetry
  28 2 SUVs: Butch vs. Femme

- **ON THE COVER**
  Cover designed by Kevin Thomas
  Photo by Chuck Marcelo

departments

- Texas News: 19
- Drive! Calendar: 31
- Pet of the Week: 36
- Viewpoints: 39
- Classifieds

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texas school refuses to run trans teen’s photo in yearbook

Officials at La Feria Independent School District are refusing to allow trans student Jeydon Loredo to appear in La Feria High School’s yearbook because he’s wearing a tuxedo.

Loredo, a senior, reached out to the Human Rights Campaign, and The Southern Poverty Law Center is also coming to his aid, even threatening the school district with a federal lawsuit if officials don’t allow the photo to run.

After Loredo was photographed in a tuxedo for the yearbook, school district officials instructed the photography studio to withhold the photo from the Loredo family, who had already paid for it, according to a press release.

District Superintendent Rey Villarreal told Jeydon’s mother and HRC vice president Fred Sainz that featuring Loredo’s photo would offend “community standards” and that Loredo’s photograph would only be included if he wore feminine attire.

“The La Feria School District’s ongoing attempt to force Jeydon back in the closet is not only deeply harmful to him personally, it sends a dangerous message to LGBT young people throughout the community that they are better off hiding their true selves,” HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement. “It is unconscionable that the school district is going out of its way to single out Jeydon because he’s transgender. This appalling message to LGBT young people throughout the South to fight these battles, and is delighted to join with the Human Rights Campaign to protect young people who are victims of discrimination.”

— Anna Waugh

Sen. Ted Cruz talks Obamacare, gay marriage, with Jay Leno

Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz appeared on The Tonight Show Nov. 8, discussing his public image, Obamacare and gay marriage with host Jay Leno.

Leno jumped right in, asking Cruz during his late-night debut about his unfurling image during his 10 months in Washington.

“I’ve been reading a lot about you lately,” Leno said, “and they describe you as aggressive, arrogant and abrasive. What is it?”

“I don’t know that you can believe everything you read,” Cruz said. “You know, what I’m trying to do is do my job. And occasionally people don’t like that.”

Leno later touched on Obamacare and how the 25 percent of uninsured Texans must want the coverage, but Cruz countered with it wouldn’t help people who have insurance keep their plans and would hurt jobs.

Asked if he’s against gay marriage, Cruz said, “I support marriage between one man and one woman. But I also think it’s a question for the states. Some states have made different decisions depending on the values of their citizens.”

Leno then brought up Cruz’s father, Dallas-based pastor Rafael Cruz, who’s made headlines recently for saying that the goal behind gay marriage is to destroy the traditional family in order to pave the way for communism.

“My father is a pastor. He’s a man of deep integrity and you know, some folks have decided to try to go after him because they want to take some shots at me,” Cruz said. “… I think the critics are better off attacking me. My dad has been my hero my whole life.”

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll released last week found that 32 percent of Texas Republicans favor Cruz as the GOP presidential nominee in 2016. As for other possible nominees, 13 percent of Texas Republicans favor Jeb Bush and Chris Christie, 10 percent favor Rand Paul, 6 percent favor Bobby Jindal, and 5 percent favor Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan.

— Anna Waugh
Changing laws changed their lives

The recent Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act led Greg and Peter to take a serious look at their investment planning needs. The rapidly changing legal landscape meant it was crucial that they worked with someone who was knowledgeable, so they turned to Wells Fargo Advisors. Our Financial Advisors who have the Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor™ (ADPA®) designation are well-versed on the current set of challenges, so Greg and Peter walked away with a solid plan and confidence in the future.

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Saving LGBTQ youth

Group started to help Fort Worth-area youth celebrates 3 years of giving teens a safe and fun place to be themselves, find acceptance

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — When Taysia Ortiz was outed to her mother in the seventh grade, she thought her life was over.

Her mother found a note in Ortiz's jeans that she’d written to a girl she liked. Her mother didn’t respond well to having a gay daughter.

Now a junior at Arlington Heights High School, Ortiz said her mother has come around since her middle school days, but she fears coming out to her extended family because many of them are vocal about not liking gay people.

Ortiz has recently found groups to help her talk about being who she is. She joined the Gay-Straight Alliance at her school and has been attending events put on by the local community group LGBTQ Students, Administrators, Volunteers, Educators, Support, or LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S.

The group, which will celebrate its three-year anniversary this month, started to help LGBTQ youth in Fort Worth and beyond since the area doesn’t have any LGBTQ youth programs, like Youth First in Dallas or GALA Youth in Collin County. Events like end-of-the-year barbecues and winter proms have now grown into more regular events sponsored by local churches and area venues that allow the group to use the space for free.

Sharon Herrera, who’s openly gay, started LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. in 2010 after the rash of LGBT teen suicides. Herrera works at Fort Worth Independent School District and knew there were queer teens who needed a place outside of GSAs to get to know each other, and she wanted to create that outlet.

“We’re not alone. Other young people who desperately seek acceptance find refuge in the group. “These events actually help me show who I am. It means the world to them.”

A personal mission

At 16, Herrera attempted suicide, but her aunt came in and stopped her. Her aunt kept Herrera’s sexuality a secret until she was comfortable coming out later at 21. Growing up in a conservative Catholic home in Texas, she thought no one would accept her, and she feared being bullied at school if kids thought she was gay.

She wanted a group to help other kids who felt alone find a community of people they could trust. “I know I didn’t want anyone to feel like I did back then,” Herrera said.

Around the same time three years ago, Marvin Vann, a teacher at Southwest High School and co-sponsor of its GSA, started doing research online about bullying and contacted the school district for someone to help with GLSEN training for LGBTQ youth.

He was directed to Herrera, and they later met with a handful of others on Herrera’s porch. And LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. was born.

Vann said the events provide a comfortable, safe place for youth to have fun and be themselves without fear of judgment.

“It means a great deal to them just to be comfortable in their own skin,” he said. “To just not have to worry about sticking out as different means the world to them.”

A student at a previous school where Vann taught attempted suicide outside his classroom. The student was later sent to live with family out of state, and Vann said he’s doing well now.

At the time, Vann was the only out teacher. He often thought if there’d been something like LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S., the kid wouldn’t have harmed himself. That school now has a GSA, but the experience affected Vann greatly and makes him want to save other students before they become too isolated and desperate.

“That’s pretty much why I do this,” he said.

For Ortiz, the events help show her friends and family who she is and how she can lead a normal, happy life being gay.

“These events actually help me show who I am. Our parents can see who we are and what we want to be,” she said. “They just show that there’s gay people out there. That it’s not just us.”

‘It actually saves those kids’

For others, Ortiz said the openness at the events, like bringing a same-sex partner to an LGBT S.A.V.E.S. prom, helps them know they aren’t alone. Other young people who desperately seek acceptance find refuge in the group.

“I think it’s important to have these events and show people that being gay doesn’t mean you have to hide,” Ortiz said. “It actually saves those kids who are gay when they tell their parents because it shows there are people who care for the gays and support the gays.”

That sentiment rings true for Malieik Berryman, a senior at Southwest High School.

Berryman came out to his mother in seventh grade. While she still has trouble accepting him for being gay, he said he’s also still coming out to his
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The workplace equality group Out&Equal presents a panel discussing life in a post-DOMA era. Panelists include attorneys Rebecca Covell and Timothy Thomas, tax attorney Rob Ruhlman, Citi’s Jill Rorschach and financial adviser Ezra Litton. John Connell moderates.

How can your company adapt to the new post-DOMA environment and continue to attract quality employees? What new state and national changes can we expect to see in the coming months? What do you, as an employee or employer, need to know about how the DOMA decision affects Texas workers?

The free event takes place at Eden Lounge, 2911 Main St., Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

CoH presents ‘Normal Heart’

The theater ministry at Cathedral of Hope presents Larry Kramer’s The Normal Heart. Set in the early 1980s, the play looks at the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

Among the cast is the Rev. Carol West, local activist Daniel Cates and Todd Whitley.

“I am so excited about this historic production being performed by such a talented cast,” interim Senior Pastor Rev. Jim Mitulski said. “I have taught a seminary course several times called HIV and Theology, and students sometimes ask, ‘Why do gay people from that time seem so angry?’ This play explains that—and also reveals our strength.”

The show is part of the church’s World AIDS Day observance. Two performances will be presented at CoH, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Martin Sheen in staged reading

The Dallas Peace Center presents a staged reading of the play, Noahs Ark by Ginny Cunningham featuring Martin Sheen. Inspired by James Douglass’ book, JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters, the play will be staged in eight cities including New York City and Seattle in November.

The staged reading will be followed by a talk back with Sheen, Douglass and the cast.

The reading takes place at Unity of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane on Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 and benefit the Peace Center.

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Danny is a 1-year old smooth-coated Chihuahua with an even disposition. He’s been watching over and comforting the smaller puppies at the DAS Every Day Adoption Center. He’s been vaccinated, neutered and ready to become part of your family. His number is A811751. Please come see him at the newly opened Dallas Animal Services Adoption Center at Petsmart on Coit Road just north of Campbell Road. It’s open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 12 noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are $85 for dogs and $55 for cats. 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.
The race for Dallas County treasurer recently became more crowded after two members of Stonewall Democrats, including former Dallas City Councilwoman Pauline Medrano, announced they’re running for the position. David Bradley, another longtime member of Stonewall Democrats, also is running in the treasurer’s race.

Dallas County Treasurer Joe Wells decided not to seek re-election.

While Medrano said Wells “has done a fabulous job” and “has a wonderful track record,” she sees this as an opportunity to run in a partisan race. City races are nonpartisan, while candidates run with party affiliation for county positions.

“It’s an opportunity to re-acquaint with people around the county,” she said.

Medrano said she has been meeting with people who supported her in previous Dallas City Council races but were unable to vote for her because they weren’t in her district. They’re encouraging her to run in the county race.

“Hey, this time I get to vote for you,” she said they’ve told her.

Medrano will have to pull ahead of an experienced Dallas County employee for the treasurer’s position.

After working in banking for 20 years, Bradley went to work for the county as a collection manager. He’s now an accounting supervisor. He described the treasurer’s job as an administrative one with four main functions — collecting, disbursing and investing money and then accounting for it.

“It’s [county treasurer] a good fit for me,” he said. “It’s something I know how to do.”

Deciding between candidates for a position that’s administrative will be difficult, Bradley said, because there really aren’t any policy issues to debate. While the treasurer acts as the county’s chief investment officer, investment decisions are made by a committee, but he said his professional background separates him from the other candidates.

“I spent my full career preparing for this,” he said.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Omar Narvaez said choosing between Medrano and Bradley will be challenging. While Medrano has been active in elective politics, Bradley has been active in party-level politics.

“It will be a very difficult choice for the organization,” he said.

Stonewall will hold its endorsement forum in early January.

In addition to Medrano and Bradley, the treasurer’s race also includes two other Democrats and a Republican. Democrats Paul Ingram and Bennie Brown are filing for the position as well as Republican Charles Lingerfelt. Ingram works in the county auditor’s office, and Brown challenged County Commissioner John Wylie Price in the 2012 Democratic Primary for county commissioner and lost. Lingerfelt challenged Price in the 2012 General Election, which he also lost.

Mark Jiminez, a gay candidate, is challenging incumbent John Warren for the Democratic nomination for the Dallas County clerk’s office. Emmanuel Lewis Jr., a straight Republican ally, also is running.

Jiminez jumped into the race to counter what he called “bad customer service” when he and his partner, Beau Chandler, applied for a marriage license. After being denied the license, they refused to leave the Dallas County Records Building after closing time. They were then arrested.

Lewis said he’s running because of the opportunity it provides to bring up the issue of marriage equality.

“As a black male, lots of folks of all stripes fought for us,” he said. “This is my way of giving back.”

He said he’s running as an open-minded Republican. When Jiminez and Chandler applied for their marriage license, Lewis said there was a better way to handle it than having them arrested. He said Warren’s membership at First Baptist Dallas, which he called “a hateful, anti-Semitic, antigay church,” was an issue that contributed to his decision to run. He said he wouldn’t have told Jiminez and Chandler the reason they were denied a license was because of the Bible.

“I can’t look people in the eye and tell them they don’t have rights,” Lewis said.

Lewis said he’s a Republican because there’s enough minority representation in the Democratic Party. But, he hasn’t been particularly welcomed there.

“I had to fight hard just to be a precinct chair,” he said.

The position in his Irving precinct was vacant, but the party resisted naming him, he said. Only after correspondence that went as high as the Texas attorney general did he become chair.

Narvaez said quite a few Stonewall members are up for re-election, including out Civil District Court Judge Tanya Parker. Stonewall member Susan Lopez-Craig, who is openly gay, is challenging incumbent Beth Villarreal for Constable of Precinct 5.
Transgender activist Allyson Robinson knows the value of service.

As an Army officer, minister and later an activist, she’s held to the belief that service to others is her calling.

“One of the values that was handed down to me through my family was the value of service, of serving others,” Robinson said.

She attended West Point and later became an officer in the Army, but in 1999, she left the military for a higher calling — the ministry. She later served as a pastor at a church in Temple, Texas, for a few years and then graduated from the seminary at Baylor University in 2007.

Advocacy with the Human Rights Campaign would later take her away from Texas, but she’ll be in Dallas on Sunday to speak at Transgender Day of Remembrance at Cathedral of Hope. The event is a day to remember those killed because of their gender identity.

“For me, Day of Remembrance is a reminder of exactly what’s at stake in our advocacy for transgender and transsexual and gender-non-conforming people,” Robinson said.

It was in Texas, while studying at Baylor in Waco and preaching in Temple, that Robinson came out as transgender and began her transition. While people often think her coming out was miserable in the conservative towns, she said it was anything but.

“There’s this assumption that that must have been a terrible experience,” she said. “It was actually a really wonderful experience for me, and I’m grateful to have had it. I think it shows how far astray stereotypes can lead us. That was certainly not the experience I expected to have.”

Robinson said her coming out as trans was welcomed by her fellow Baylor students and her church members. And while there were some negative responses, she said overall people embraced her and helped her find the resources to begin her transition.

“I certainly didn’t expect my transition to be well received by anyone that I knew, whether it was at school or in our church or around us in the community, but that couldn’t have been further from the truth,” she said.

Baylor made news last month when its student Senate voted to remove “sexual acts” from the university’s Sexual Misconduct Code in an effort to be more welcoming to members of the LGBT community. As a Baptist university, the school is against any sexual relations outside of marriage.

Robinson pointed to the student Senate’s actions as just one way in which the university is moving toward becoming more inclusive. With her receiving such a warm acceptance for coming out while attending the university’s seminary, she said it’s just a matter of time before the university becomes an accepting campus, not just a tolerant one.

“The university has carved out for itself a market for students and for other supporters that’s rapidly growing,” she said. “I think as time passes and more and more of the younger generation who are welcoming, who don’t see the need for the kind of division that the generation ahead of us had created, I think you’ll see the institution begin to change from the inside out.”

After graduating from Baylor with a master of divinity degree in theology with an emphasis on social justice, Robinson went to work for HRC in 2008, overseeing its Workplace Project.

Again, it was her devotion to service that led her to advocacy.

“It was this sense of giving myself and offering my best so that others could experience the great things that I had, like a welcoming community, like a supportive family, like steady employment,” she said. “That sense of calling to serve has been at the heart of all of those things.”

During her years with HRC, she helped the number of corporate companies add comprehensive transgender healthcare for their employees, including gender reassignment surgery. Companies offering comprehensive healthcare went from 49 in 2009 to 287 at the end of 2012.

Robinson said she takes “a very, very small amount” of the credit for that accomplishment.

“I was fortunate to be in that position at that moment, which I think was a historic moment for transgender people in this country and for our community,” she said, adding that the impact has greatly affected trans people across the country. “I can’t point to another change that we have advocated for or successfully advocated for that has had a more positive impact on the lives of more transgender people than that.”

Robinson left HRC last year to head OutServe-SLDN when the two military LGBT organizations OutServe and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network merged in October.

In the role, she became the first trans person to lead an LGBT organization without a specific trans focus. But she later resigned suddenly in July amid falling donations and support for military LGBT advocacy after the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

Among the challenges for OutServe-SLDN was the perception that everything regarding LGBT equality in the military has been accomplished, Robinson said. Research also showed that giving to LGBT military organizations dropped 50 percent the year after DADT was repealed.

“Those of us who were doing the work lost the attention of the movement,” she said. “We’re learning to do more with less, but that’s the way of this movement. We’re able to focus large amounts of resources on critical issues and sub-parts of the community only for a very short time.”

Robinson now works as a private consultant to help companies and organizations become more LGBT-inclusive. But she also serves on the advisory board of LGBT military organization SPART*A, Service members, Partners, and Allies for Respect and Tolerance for All, which launched this summer to help continue the push for equality in the military.

One of those goals is to allow trans people to serve in the military. Robinson said she thinks they will be allowed to serve within five or six years.

She admitted her goal “is optimistic, but ambitious,” but said trans veterans have organized to help active trans members. She also said the military has learned that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly helped build stronger units, so trans inclusion would only make the military even stronger.

As trans issues continue to gain national attention and support, Robinson said trans inclusion reflects a shift in helping trans people to helping them in their fight. It’s a difference of doing the work for them and including them in the fight.

“I hope it reflects a broader change in the movement where our movement leaders stop asking themselves what can we do for trans people now and begin asking what can we help trans communities to accomplish for themselves,” Robinson said.

Allyson Robinson will speak at Dallas’ Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 17 from 7-9 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.
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The group also helps allies. Like Savannah Winters, a junior at Chisholm Trail High School, who started the first-ever GSA in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District this fall.

Winters said her best friend is lesbian, and her friend’s girlfriend had tried and failed to start a GSA before. Teachers worried how students and parents would react to the club on campus and thought kids would be targeted if they joined.

But Winters overcame the doubts and proved that, by law, the administration had to let them have the GSA. And despite parents not wanting their kids to be involved in the club, it still has seven members.

Winters has been involved in LGBT S.A.V.E.S. for about a year. She said she likes going to events as an ally because she often gets judged for supporting LGBT people, but no one judges at the group’s events.

“You get to see a whole other side of the world,” she said.

Looking ahead

Herrera said the group’s events have drawn kids from outside Fort Worth, like Crowley, Mansfield, Arlington, Keller and Frisco.

The first picnic in 2010 had about 30 teens, followed by 70 the next year. The group has marched in the Tarrant County Pride Parade the past few years and had about 100 march this year — the most in attendance ever.

Herrera expects the group’s outreach to only grow. She’d eventually like to become a nonprofit and see the creation of a resource center for LGBTQ youth in Fort Worth because she has seen the need for it. Three years ago, though, she started with a simple thought: to help LGBTQ youth. Now she’s envisioning a resource center.

“I didn’t think this would last three years because it’s hard work,” Herrera said. “But it’s growing, so it tells me we’re doing something right.”

Having her aunt be the one person she could trust with her sexuality all those years ago gave Herrera hope, and that’s the thing she wants to give the kids in her group.

“They know they have somebody who’s a grown adult who has survived,” Herrera said. “I know it gets better. I live that and I’m paying it forward.”

Giving thanks

LGBT S.A.V.E.S. is having a Thanksgiving dinner and a movie night Nov. 15 from 6-9 p.m. at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2700 McPherson Ave., Fort Worth. For more info about the group, visit Facebook.com/lgbtqsaves.
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Anti-gay slurs still tossed around in music, everyday language

Victims of bullying wonder why saying ‘faggot’ doesn’t cause the shock waves the N-word or anti-Semitic slurs generate

STEVE RAMOS I Senior Editor
ramos@dallasvoice.com

The two-word sentence slammed into Paul Escobar like a train, and years later, the emotional shrapnel still painfully twists into him.

“When I was in school, there was a group of guys who bullied a friend and me,” he said. “They called us names, but the worst thing they said, the one that would really hurt home was when they would say, ‘Die faggot.’ Even today when I think about it, I feel sick.”

Escobar’s four years of high school in Houston were a nightmare. He could take the shoving and the mocking, but the polluted anti-gay slurs drilled into his soul’s marrow, weakening his self-esteem and diminishing his worth.

“When they would tell me to die, believe me I wanted to,” he said. “It got to where I couldn’t think about getting through the day. I would tell myself to just get through one class at a time.”

Sometimes, though, he couldn’t, and he’d go home and hole up in his room. Too ashamed to tell his family about the bullying, he suffered alone. The next day he’d return to school to face the assault again.

“It never stopped,” he said. “Those guys wouldn’t let up. I didn’t think I’d make it out of high school alive.”

But he did. Today, Escobar is an accountant in Dallas. His slim frame is perfectly structured for the designer clothes he wears. The hair is working, and his countenance is calm.

“It’s really all just a veneer, though,” he said. “Inside, I’m sometimes still that high school kid. Whenever I hear an anti-gay slur like ‘faggot’ or even ‘that’s so gay,’ I feel like I’ve been hit with a Taser.”

That pain must be continuous because the slurs contaminate everyday conversations, pop music and where sports are played.

In 2011, the NBA fined Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant $100,000 for an anti-gay slur. Chris Brown, center, was recently accused of using a gay slur during an attack outside a hotel, and rapper Eminem, right, received criticism for his gay slurs used in the song ‘Rap God.’

“I’m not into this gay shit. I’m into boxing,” Brown allegedly said before punching the alleged victim.

And don’t forget Eminem, who’s facing criticism for his use of gay slurs in his song “Rap God.” The rapper told Rolling Stone magazine he doesn’t think the language is anti-gay but rather a generic insult, “like calling someone a bitch or a punk or asshole.”

Escobar can only stare ahead stoically when asked about Eminem’s excuses. He breathes deeply.

“I was called a bitch, a punk and an asshole,” he said. “And I was called worse, if that’s even possible. Where does that hate come from? But I guess what I’m really wondering is why is society letting them get away with it? If people were using the N-word to insult people, half the country would be up in arms. We listen to this crap every day, and we just shrug our shoulders and go on. Meanwhile, thousands of kids are being tormented.”

And worse.

“Billy Lucas was just 15 when he hanged himself in a barn on his grandmother’s property. He reportedly endured intense bullying at the hands of his classmates — classmates who called him a fag and told him to kill himself. His mother found his body.”

The excerpt from a column by Dan Savage, the Seattle-based author who launched the “It Gets Better” project, addresses the continuing problem of using anti-gay slurs as a bullying tool.

“I wish I could have talked to this kid for five minutes,” Savage continued. “I wish I could have told Billy that it gets better. I wish I could have told him that however bad things were, however isolated and alone he was, it gets better.”

Sadly, according to EndOfBullying.com, there are thousands of Billys suffering from unrelenting bullying. The organization says LGBT youth hear anti-gay slurs such as “homo,” “faggot,” and “sissy” about 26 times a day or once every 14 minutes.

A high number, 85 percent, of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 40 percent reported being physically harassed and 19 percent reported being physically assaulted at school because of their sexual orientation. Two-thirds, 61 percent, of those students reported they felt unsafe in school.

Still, Josh Wells, a Dallas professional who is straight, says he doesn’t mean anything when he calls someone a “fag” or refers to something as “gay.”

“It’s just how we talk,” he said. “I don’t mean to
hurt anyone’s feelings when I say that. Instead of saying someone’s an idiot, I’ll say, ‘he’s a fag.’ Or if something is stupid, I’ll say, ‘that’s so gay.’”

Escobar draws a deep breath.

“Can you really imagine someone thinking it’s OK to use those words and expressions?” he asked.

“He’s saying that being gay is so bad and nauseating, it can be used as a synonym for those things. In what world?”

Wells counters.

“I have gay friends, and I’m not in the least uncomfortable around them,” he said. “That language has nothing to do with an anti-gay attitude.”

Daryl Hannah, director of media and community partnerships for GLAAD, disagrees.

“It doesn’t matter whether anti-gay slurs are used to target someone specifically for being gay, for acting outside gender norms or for something completely unrelated,” Hannah wrote in a Jan. 10 article on GLAAD’s website. “What matters is what these words mean to the young people against whom these words are used as weapons, day in and day out, often alongside other verbal or physical assaults.”

And the damage shows.

According to PFLAG, suicide is the leading cause of death among gay and lesbian youth, and about 40 percent of homeless youth are identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual. The statistics continue to sting. PFLAG statistics show gays and lesbians are seven times more likely to be crime victims than heterosexuals, and about 75 percent of those crimes are not reported to anyone.

“A lot of people think they have no one to tell,” Escobar said. “I didn’t think anyone cared. Teachers saw what was happening to me and my friend, and they didn’t do anything about it. I know now there were teachers who would have stepped in had they known, but at that time, I was so ashamed of being bullied. I thought it was my fault.”

Not surprisingly, it was a movie that spurred Escobar to take a stand.

“I was watching To Wong Foo, and there’s a part where this drag queen named Vida Boheme takes on a man who is beating his wife,” Escobar said. “Vida stood up to that bully. At that moment, something clicked, and I thought, ‘I need to stand up for myself.’ And I did. Slowly, but I did.”

Escobar’s gained more strength when he became friends with the drag queens in San Antonio where he attended college.

“The drag queens are incredible,” he said. “I love them. They don’t take crap from anyone, and they taught me to be strong and not take crap, either.”

Escobar is working on a graduate degree with the hope of becoming a counselor and an LGBT advocate.

“Because of my experiences, I have a lot I can offer,” he said. “More than anything, right now, I would tell someone who is being bullied or who is hearing someone throw around anti-gay slurs, I would tell them, ‘Get angry.’ I’m not advocating violence, but you have to get up in their faces and let them know you mean business, that you won’t stand for it. Let them interpret what the consequences are. But get angry. That’s what’s going to keep the bullies off of us.”
Marriage equality comes to Hawaii

Governor signs bill, slating marriages to start Dec. 2; Ill. governor to sign marriage bill next week, bringing marriage-equality state count to 16

BY OSKAR GARCIA | Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed a bill this week legalizing gay marriage, positioning the islands for more newlywed tourists.

Abercrombie signed the bill Wednesday morning at an invitation-only ceremony at the Hawaii Convention Center, near the tourist heart of Waikiki.

The measure will allow thousands of gay couples living in Hawaii and even more tourists to marry in the state starting Dec. 2. Another 14 states and the District of Columbia already allow same-sex marriage, while a bill is awaiting the governor’s signature in Illinois.

Hawaii became the 16th state to pass marriage equality but will become the 15th state where marriages are performed.

Although Illinois passed marriage equality last week, the law doesn’t go into effect until June. When Abercrombie signed his state’s marriage-equality law, his state jumped ahead of Illinois.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn has said he’ll sign his state’s measure during a special ceremony in Chicago on Nov. 20. Same-sex marriages will begin in Illinois in June.

The measure is the culmination of more than two decades of debate in the state, where two women in 1990 famously applied for a marriage license, touching off a court battle and eventual national discussion on same-sex marriage.

President Barack Obama praised the bill’s passage, saying the affirmation of freedom and equality makes the country stronger.

“Hawaii joins a growing number of states that recognize that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters should be treated fairly and equally under the law,” Obama said. “Whenever freedom and equality are affirmed, our country becomes stronger. By giving loving gay and lesbian couples the right to marry if they choose, Hawaii exemplifies the values we hold dear as a nation. I’ve always been proud to have been born in Hawaii, and today’s vote makes me even prouder. And Michelle and I extend our best wishes to all those in Hawaii whose families will now be given the security and respect they deserve.”

Senators passed the bill 19-4 on Tuesday with two lawmakers excused. Cheers erupted inside and outside the gallery when the vote was taken, with a smattering of boos. Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, who voted against the bill, banged her gavel and told members of the public to quiet down.

More than half the chamber’s lawmakers spoke in support of the bill, with many urging the public to come together to heal divisions within the community.

“This is nothing more than the expansion of aloha in Hawaii,” said Sen. J. Kalani English, a Democrat from Maui.

Sen. Sam Slom, the chamber’s only Republican, said the government should stay out of legislating marriage.

“People have differences, and you can’t legislate morality. You can try, but you can’t do it,” Slom said before voting against the bill.

Rep. Bob McDermott, a House lawmaker who filed a lawsuit to try to derail the special session, promised a new challenge once Abercrombie signs the bill. A judge said he would take the case only after the law fully passes.

An estimate from a University of Hawaii researcher says same-sex marriage will boost tourism by $217 million over the next three years, as Hawaii becomes an outlet for couples in other states, bringing ceremonies, receptions and honeymoons to the islands.

The study’s author has said Hawaii would benefit from pent-up demand for gay weddings, with couples spending $166 million over those three years on ceremonies and honeymoons.

The Senate had to take up the bill a second time because of changes made in the House, where the bill was amended and eventually passed.

The House amendments delayed the date ceremonies could begin, slightly expanded an exemption for clergy and religious organizations, and removed regulations determining how children of same-sex couples could qualify for Native Hawaiian benefits.
Sprinkle's hate crime book published in Korean

DFW theologian's work is only the second LGBT-themed book to be translated into Korean

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

It might be correct to say LGBT people in South Korea don't have any problems. You have to exist to have a problem.

The irony is that in a country that doesn't recognize the existence of its gays and lesbians, even legislation criminalizing homosexuality or forbidding same-sex marriage doesn't exist.

Recently, though, a South Korean publisher translated a work written by a Dallas minister that talks about the lives of hate-crime victims. The Rev. Steve Sprinkle spent nine days in South Korea in October after the translation and publication of Unfinished Lives: Remembering LGBTQ Hate Crimes Murder Victims.

The book tells the story of 14 gay and transgender people who were murdered because of who they were. In 2012, it won the silver medal Independent Book Publishers award for excellence in gay/lesbian nonfiction, and it's only the second book with an LGBT theme ever published in Korean.

Sprinkle, an ordained Baptist minister, is director of field education and supervised ministry and professor of practical theology at Brite Divinity School and is theologian in residence at Catherine of Hope.

"In South Korea, they can't imagine same-sex relationships," Sprinkle said. "It doesn't happen in Asian cultures."

He said Koreans think of homosexuality as a western disease.

"You don't make laws against what can't happen," Sprinkle said. "Confucianism lies behind their beliefs."

Most of the Christian churches in South Korea are "solidly based on fundamentalism," he said, although some progressive churches have been established. Sprinkle spoke at Open Doors Community Church in Seoul, which he described as half gay, half straight and at Chungdong First Methodist Church, the oldest Protestant church in South Korea.

"Their pastor stuck his neck out a country mile for LGBT rights, and gays and lesbians are beginning to come out," he said.

He said young people end up living on the street in utter poverty. Comparing the Korean experience to the American one, he said the LGBT community in the U.S. fears attack and murder.

"There is suicide," Sprinkle said. "They see no way out."

Most gay and lesbian South Koreans end up in loveless relationships, trapped and isolated with no one to talk to.

"A prominent psychiatrist came up to me and said he had never even thought about homosexuality before in his life," he said.

But things are beginning to change. In September, the first public same-sex wedding took place in South Korea. The couple, a well-known filmmaker and his partner, a film distributor, married in a ceremony on the Han River. News reports said conservative protestors showed up, some throwing food.

Sprinkle met the filmmaker at a joint book-signing, who related it differently. A church group showed up at the wedding throwing feces at them, and guests acted as human shields. The legal status of their marriage is in limbo because there's no law against same-sex marriage in the country. That puts the government in an uncomfortable position.

"The South Korean government has to recognize it," Sprinkle said. "They can't allow it, but they can't stop it."

He said Korea's LGBT community is moving from the coming-out phase to the beginning of the struggle for its rights and equality.

"Gay people are standing up and demanding their rights at great personal risk," he said.

He met a couple who had been physically attacked, but to report it meant coming out, which could mean losing jobs and family. Also, a couple trying to get help recovering from an attack might find great difficulty finding comfort or help from professionals.

While in South Korea, News N Joy, a Christian news organization, interviewed Sprinkle. He said they held a full board meeting before deciding whether to even interview him.

The book was published by independent Alma Books under the title Who Trampled The Rainbow Flag?: Remembering the Death of Victims of Hate Crime Against the Sexual Minority.

INVISIBLE | The Rev. Steve Sprinkle, left, and gay filmmaker Kim Jho Gwang-Soo spoke at a book signing in South Korea (Photo courtesy of Steve Sprinkle)
What’s wrong with Texas and the other five Southern states who refuse to grant benefits to spouses of National Guard members?

If the state of Texas was a person, let’s say a man just to make it fun, he’d be on Dr. Phil trying to explain why he likes to get kicked in the rear every few decades.

There was that little thing called secession, which didn’t work out too well for Tex and the other 10 Southern states that wanted the feds to leave them alone. The result was the federal government put its boot so far up the Confederacy’s behind, they tasted leather for years, no — decades.

You’d think Tex would have learned from that, but no. He came back for more of the same about 100 years later. The federal government told Tex and his Southern buddies to end segregation, but Tex — too stubborn to remember what happened in 1865 — said he wasn’t taking down the Colored Only and White Only signs over the water fountains and entrances to restaurants, schools, theaters and other businesses.

So, Uncle Sam shoved the boots back on and gave Tex what for. Mississippi and Alabama got the worst of the stomping, but then they were acting the worst. Uncle Sam only had to stomp his foot, and Tex complied. But it still took a threat to end segregation in Texas.

Now, bad-tempered Tex is at it again. This time, he’s refusing to comply with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel’s order that gay spouses of National Guard members be given the same federal marriage benefits as heterosexual spouses.

Hagel’s decree, which applies to all branches of the military, followed the Supreme Court’s ruling in June that struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act that had prohibited the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

So what’s wrong with Tex? Dr. Phil might say he’s masochistic because it’s clear he keeps coming back for more beatings. But what’s wrong with a state that consistently straddles the road leading to social progress and kicks the traffic aside? What’s wrong with a state that cares more about outdated dogma and has to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into an era where people are treated with the respect that is their birthright?

So resistant is Tex to change that in the early 1960s, a crowd, partly of Junior League women, verbally and physically assaulted Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson as they walked across the street to the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas. They hit Lady Bird on the head with a sign and spit on her. Their crime? President Johnson had turned on his own and pushed the Civil Rights Bill through Congress. How dare he elevate blacks to a position only occupied by whites? It was bad enough they were freed from slavery. Now equality?

Segregation in those days was even preached from the pulpits. W.A. Criswell, the pugnacious pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, the largest congregation in the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s, preached God ordained inequality. Harassed to Tex, the churches fought to maintain segregation and used their Bible to defend it. And that didn’t happen just in the back woods churches of East Texas but in the noble religious palaces where Texas’ well-heeled worshipped a Jew.

Today it’s the same song, different singers. Tex, cheered on by the fundamentalists who have pushed him into the ring with Uncle Sam repeatedly and with calamitous results, says he can’t give spouses of National Guard members the benefits the federal government orders them to have because Texas doesn’t recognize same-sex marriage.

With the mindset of the segregation era, Texas officials say the spouses can register at federal military installations, which for many, requires round long-trip drives. The notion is similar to the one that once demanded separate — but what state officials then insisted were “equal” — water fountains and bathrooms.

Poor Tex. He just hasn’t learned. Texas is one of six Southern states that are defying Hagel’s order to extend the benefits to same-sex spouses of National Guard members, but he’d rather take the beating that’s going to come than comply.

And there will be a beating, and he will comply. So let me give you a little lesson in history, Tex. You didn’t win in 1865, and you didn’t win in the 1960s. You won’t win this one, either.

Just grow up, for crying out loud. We’re sick of your embarrassing stupidity.

Steve Ramos is senior editor of Dallas Voice. He can be reached at editor@dallasvoice.com
It’s not the dimensions of the box, but the size of its load that matters. Many of us must economize to get by, but we don’t have to forego enjoyment or utility to get the car of our dreams. Maybe one of these automotive partners will satisfy all your desires.

**Fiat 500L.** The 500L is like a small Italian bus. Interiors can be customized with a myriad of colors and patterns, touchscreen infotainment and glass roof. It feels like a loft, especially with the Nero/Marrone (black/brown) color scheme. Beats audio, Bluetooth, 6.5-inch touchscreen, navigation and voice controls add tech. A 160 horsepower turbo four-cylinder engine, connected to a six-speed manual or automatic, delivers up to 33-MPG hwy. Go for smooth Italian bodies or the ruggedly-American Trekking edition. Prices start around $19,000, but pay up for options.

**Buick Encore.** Buick is the new black — and Encore is its Little Black Dress. Based on the Chevy Sonic, it’s crafting a market for luxurious sub-compact crossovers. Available with Bose audio, heated leather seats, heated steering wheel, lane departure warning, rearview camera, noise cancelling technology and 25/33-MPG city/hwy. from a 138 horsepower 1.4-liter turbo engine, it lures stylish urbanites. Choose front- or all-wheel-drive. Chrome dash trim that turns blue at night is a flick trick. Proving the point, Encore won awards for appeal and quality from J.D. Power. Prices start under $24,500 for a smooth little box that doesn’t look like a box.

**Kia Soul.** Kia’s second-generation Soul debuts with a larger shell, enabling a more cavernous interior. Soft materials and elegant piano finishes accompany a gesture-recognition touchscreen. Kia’s optional UVO infotainment system provides turn-by-turn navigation, Pandora internet radio, weather, sports scores, movie times and local fuel prices. Luxuriate in heated leather seats and 350 watts of Infinity audio. A 164 horsepower engine moves the hamsters. Designed in California, Soul flaunts glamorous colors like Solar Yellow, Kale Green and Infernal Red. Stick- ers begin around $15,000.

**Hyundai Elantra GT.** More a sporty coupe than a tall box, the Elantra GT is nonetheless a roomy ride. Fluidic sculptural styling surrounds a fancy cabin available with a cooled glove box, dual-zone climate control, heated leather seats, Bluetooth and 12v outlet in the cargo area — perfect for deploying that air mattress. A panoramic sunroof serves the moon while the 148 horsepower four-cylinder engine brings 27/37-MPG city/hwy. Drivers choose from Comfort, Normal and Sport steering modes. Staying connected is easy with Blue Link, combining voice-to-text messaging, POI web search and navigation. Pay under $19,000.

**Ford Transit Wagon.** The wrapper may be small, but it contains a mighty big box — perfect for that adoptive family or all your toys. When erect, fold-flat second- and third-row seats load up to seven passengers. Euro-inspired dashboards accompany options like a full-glass roof, rear camera, navigation and SYNC with MyFord Touch voice-controlled infotainment. Luxurious leather, comfortable cloth or heavy-duty vinyl upholsters the seats. Powerful EcoBoost engines deliver up to 30-MPG hwy. Look beyond its plaid mini-van shell to find a refined trendsetter. Expect to pay under $25,000 as a start.
Visit a dealership that will put you at ease, and test-drive a Volvo that will STIR YOUR SPIRIT.

Get into the reimagined 2014 Volvo S60 at Park Place. It’s a dynamic new take on the sophisticated sports sedan, with breathtaking design, a blistering 0–60 time and an elevated sense of luxury. It’s also an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety 2013 Top Safety Pick+. And with Park Place’s exclusive Lifetime Powertrain Warranty and award-winning ownership experience, peace of mind comes standard.

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Fashionable, fast and sexy describes all of these compacts

If you want to play hard with today’s compact autos, you better come packing full pockets. Fashion mall interiors and runway-stunning exteriors complement a pretty package under the hood. If you are looking for a little fancy date, unzip one of these hot rods.

**Mercedes-Benz CLA45.** Mercedes subjected its all-new compact CLA to a round of AMG bench-pressing. The bad boy sparks it with a 335 horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine that clips off 0-60 mph in 4.5s, revs to 155 mph and is hand-built in the “one man, one engine” AMG tradition. A 7-speed transmission with rev-matching, all-wheel drive and curve assist keep wheels on-pavement. Performance exhaust elicits a roar worth marrying. Check LED taillamps, AMG wheels, carbon fiber ground affects and sporty interior. Prices start at $47,450, but the reserved CLA250 begins under $30k.

**VW Beetle GSR.** Only 3,500 of these trouble bugs will be built. Sporting a yellow-and-black color scheme, GSR takes cues from its ’70s namesake. A large rear spoiler, 19-inch alloy wheels and black-painted brake calipers are contemporary. Interiors add sport seats and leather-wrapped steering wheel. Fender audio, navigation, sunroof, Bluetooth and heated seats put luxury in your space. The turbo four-cylinder engine delivers 210 horsepower and 0-60 mph in 6.6s. Expect to deliver $29,995 for a six-speed manual transmission or $31,095 for the DSG dual-clutch automatic.

**Nissan Juke NISMO.** “NISMO” stands for “NIssan MOtorsports,” which almost explains 18-inch charcoal alloys, cherry pop red mirror caps and aerodynamics enhanced with beefy body trim, spoiler, and rear diffuser. It drives like an AWD Star Wars TIE Fighter, despite its 197 horsepower 1.6-liter turbo engine. Fuel economy rates 25/30-MPG. Inside, the painted center console was inspired by a motorcycle’s gas tank, but real ecstasy comes from the Recaro-style seats, suede steering wheel, and thumping Rockford Fosgate audio. Press a button to toggle between three performance modes (if only your boyfriend were that flexible). Those under 30 nearly twerked to get a look. A loan under $28,000 is adequate.

**Acura ILX Hybrid.** Aimed at nearly-rich-under-40s, ILX is the most affordable Acura. One could choose 2.0-liter or 2.4-liter gasoline en-
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Nissan’s Juke, above, drives like a TIE Fighter on wheels; BMW’s X1, above right, flaunts its turbo engine and impressive gas economy; the ILX Hybrid, right, is Acura’s most affordable offering.

engines, but enviro-hotties shall go Hybrid. Count a 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine, electric motor, batteries and continuously-variable transmission. Save big with 39/38-MPG city/hwy. Heated leather seats that grip like a gym bunny’s forearm are swell. Technophiles steam over Pandora Internet radio, SMS text messaging, and available 360-watt audio. Traffic rerouting gets you anywhere without drama. Prices start at $28,900.

BMW X1. With prices starting under $31,000, the X1 is the full-pocketed crossover for those on half-empty budgets. Outerwear resembles the bigger X5; optional M Sport Line flaunts 18-inch alloys and body mods. Heated leather seats, iDrive infotainment control and Panoramic moonroof are delightful. The base 240 horsepower turbo engine shows spirit, but enthusiasts opt for the 300 horsepower six-cylinder. Eight-speed transmissions come standard. Activate engine start-stop technology for 24/34-MPG city/hwy. Start adding options and you’ll quickly have a $45,000 car. Choose carefully and keep loads of money in your tight little jeans.
More than mere Louis Vuitton luggage for the prairie set, trucks are an essential part Texas life. These beefy beasts carry heavy loads, tackle rugged trails, pull pleasure crafts and coddle passengers in frigid cold comfort. Some are burly workers with gruff personalities, but a new generation of luxury trucks loves to cuddle.

### 2014 GMC Sierra Denali
GMC has a rep for building tough trucks, but the Denali editions are something more: both rugged and stylish. Based on the redesigned Sierra, Denali boasts a billet grille, LED running lights, projector beams, 20-inch wheels and polished exhaust. Inside are real aluminum trim, Bose audio, heated/cooled leather seats, heated steering wheel and five USB ports. Rear-seat entertainment and crash avoidance systems are optional. Under the slick hood is a standard 355 horsepower 5.3-liter V8 that achieves 23-MPG hwy. — or an optional 420 horsepower 6.2-liter V8 — both equipped with cylinder deactivation that enable up to 23-MPG hwy. Lane departure and park assist systems are available. Prices begin under $50,000.

### 2014 Chevrolet Silverado High Country
If you already have a Stetson, this is the truck to add backcountry style to your garage. Saddle leather, heated/cooled front buckets, Bose audio and heated steering wheel coddle. Body color bumpers, projector headlamps, 20-inch alloys, and corner bumper step dress the exterior. The business end includes a standard 355 horsepower 5.3-liter V8 or optional 420 horsepower 6.2-liter V8 — both equipped with cylinder deactivation that enable up to 23-MPG hwy. Prices begin under $50,000.

### 2014 Toyota Tundra 1794
A tribute to the ranch (founded in 1794) on which the Tundra plant sits in San Antonio, this redesigned truck gets the full Texas treatment with saddle leather, prairie-inspired paint hues and suede interior accents. Heated/cooled front seats, JBL audio, navigation and Entune infotainment delight. A more chiseled front complements LED running lights and 20-inch alloy wheels while a 381 horsepower 5.7-liter V8 moves it all. Safety is enhanced with Blind Spot Monitor and Rear Cross Traffic Alert. Prices will start near $42,000.

### 2014 Ford F-150 Tremor
Tremor brings thumping power to urban streets. It combines the sporty FX Appearance Package with a 365 horsepower 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 and the choice of two- or four-wheel-drive. Passengers enjoy a flow-through console, black leather bucket seats with red piping, brushed metal accents, red-stitched steering wheel, and Alcantara suede trim. Flat-black 20-inch alloys, popping graphics and black badges with red lettering paint the exterior. It’ll get you excited then cuddle all night. Prices rise from less than $35,000.

### 2014 Ram EcoDiesel
This is the only place you can get a wallet-friendly diesel in a light-duty pickup. The 3.0-liter engine, connected to Chrysler’s TorqueFlite 8-speed transmission, delivers 240 horsepower and 420 lb.-ft. of torque. Start-stop technology, advanced aerodynamics, and an air suspension maximize fuel economy. Gas lovers can choose a 25-MPG V6 or 395 horsepower HEMI. The ride that won North American Truck of the Year and Truck of Texas is set to take more prizes. You’ll spend $2,850 over a similar HEMI-powered Ram for deep diesel pleasure.

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**Casey Williams | Auto Reviewer**

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Tremor brings thumping power to urban streets. It combines the sporty FX Appearance Package with a 365 horsepower 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 and the choice of two- or four-wheel-drive. Passengers enjoy a flow-through console, black leather bucket seats with red piping, brushed metal accents, red-stitched steering wheel, and Alcantara suede trim. Flat-black 20-inch alloys, popping graphics and black badges with red lettering paint the exterior. It’ll get you excited then cuddle all night. Prices rise from less than $35,000.

### 2014 Ram EcoDiesel
This is the only place you can get a wallet-friendly diesel in a light-duty pickup. The 3.0-liter engine, connected to Chrysler’s TorqueFlite 8-speed transmission, delivers 240 horsepower and 420 lb.-ft. of torque. Start-stop technology, advanced aerodynamics, and an air suspension maximize fuel economy. Gas lovers can choose a 25-MPG V6 or 395 horsepower HEMI. The ride that won North American Truck of the Year and Truck of Texas is set to take more prizes. You’ll spend $2,850 over a similar HEMI-powered Ram for deep diesel pleasure.
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Watch Project Runway long enough, and you’ll pontificate about construction, textures and contemporary style. I can almost hear Zac Posen snipping about a sloppy bias cut in my head.

But from couture to Target, much of what you learn on runways translates to highways, where vivid colors, slick touchscreens and refined stitching reign. The gay driver has no problem getting touchy-feely with his car’s inner self — and may even find it makes him take more care of his ride.

Vibrant colors. My ’89 Corvette has flaming red leather seats back when green, blue, brown or muted red upholstery was common. More recently, beige, gray and black were all the rage — that’s it. But newer cars are more vibrant.

Red is now the new black. Cadillac, Mercedes and BMW use it ubiquitously to denote sportiness. The new Corvette Stingray has a red-themed interior that’s best viewed with sunglasses, but the most mesmerizing inflammation comes with Lincoln Black Label editions, where pillars, headliner, ambient lighting and lower console trim are all bright scarlet.

I recently drove a Hyundai Veloster Turbo with light blue trim on the seats. Cadillac went with purple stitching for the XTS interior; Buick chose turquoise. Mercedes’ new CLA is offered with yellow stripes and stitching. These details show how much designers care.

When stylists aren’t satisfied with fabrics, they draw ambient lighting from every crevice. Buick employs chrome accents that turn ice blue
Luxurious woods and leathers give a tactile beauty to the dash and gear-shift of the Cadillac CTS, above; the interior of the Mercedes-Benz, below, feels more like a cockpit than a driver's seat.

at night. Mini Countryman owners can select a rainbow of lighting colors, or let the system rotate randomly through all of them. Ford Mustang drivers change the color of instrument lighting. The 2014 Mercedes S-Class is a tomb of illuminated ecstasy, replete with the finest timber and hides.

**Threads count.** We’re not just talking about seats — and not just about luxury cars. Martha Stewart may gush over thread count in her bed linens, but auto designers also care about textures and materials. Cadillac lavished stitched dash coverings, suede door-panels and real wood on the all-new CTS sedan and ELR electric car. Upscale trucks like the Ford King Ranch, Chevy Silverado High Country and Toyota Tundra 1794 come with saddle-leather seats that whiff of divine bovine.

Crossing the chasm between clothes and cars, designer John Varvatos chose pewter metallic leather and charcoal hydrographic wood for his signature-edition Chrysler 300. You can also appreciate the cool dash texture and body color trim inside a Chevy Spark. The new Toyota Corolla’s interior looks like it came from a small Lexus. No matter the window sticker, carefully-crafted interiors are essential. Black is so passé — unless it has a slick piano finish.

**Silky screens.** Whether you realize it or not, not all touchscreens are created equal. Good ones are as intuitive as an iPad while not-so-smooth ones remind you of a Commodore 64. My favorites are from Chrysler products, while the worst may be in the Subaru Forester, and the notoriously-deaf SYNC with MyFord/MyLincoln Touch system is somewhere between. You can swipe the screen of a Chevy Impala like an iPad. As automakers improve infotainment systems, using them should be silky smooth.

Designers have learned that finessing colors and textures give owners enhanced delight. A confusing touchscreen can ruin the driving experience the same as smart use of suede enhances it. Catfights will be fought over interiors. Let the sniping begin, Zac.

---

**Two wheelers**

Last weekend, the Progressive International Motorcycle Show returned for its annual expo at the Dallas Convention Center, and hog-lovers and motorcyclists of all kinds got to check out the latest rides from Ducati, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, Yamaha and more. From vintage displays to stunt performances to the new School of Rock, the bike show featured celebrity appearances as well as tips on customizing and maintenance.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Two venerable SUVs are re-designed for 2014, their masters are locking in for a dramatic kick-down. In one corner: The Toyota 4Runner, a serious off-roader with urban manners. From another continent: The Jeep Cherokee, familiar in name, but nothing the same. The only question: “Which is butch and which is femme?” Sve think we can tell — can you?

Candidate for:
Cherokee: Nose Job — have you seen that schnoz? Sometimes a little hook in the crook is endearing, and let’s hope that’s the case with the Cherokee.

4Runner: Liposuction — he’s getting a little rotund around the middle, in the face and across the ass … but I hear he can pack like a mule.

Inspired by:
Cherokee: A Fiat 500L’s off-road ambitions. Much under the skin is shared, but the mission couldn’t be more different.

4Runner: Domesticating the vintage Land Cruiser’s safari skills. A modern guy, he enjoys a little shopping before nights on the prairie.

Interior design:
Cherokee: Elegant like a Chrysler 300, easier to use than an iPad, and durable enough to have Rubicon mud scrubbed out the door.

4Runner: Looks like Optimus Prime transformed, co-habitated with an Abrams tank, and conceived a post-industrial luxury mountain cabin.

True colors:
Cherokee: Flamboyant colors like Mango Tango, True Blue and Granite Crystal sound like drag names. Want black? Try Brilliant Black Crystal Pearl

4Runner: Hues like Salsa Red, Magnetic Gray, Shoreline Blue and Classic Silver were apparently cribbed from grandma’s Camry. Want black? It’s called Black, you poof.

Alter ego:
Cherokee: Tim McGraw — he’s rugged and ripped, and a country boy at heart, but bakes the cake with refined sensitivity.

4Runner: Martha Stewart — that tough broad can saw down trees with her wit, came out of prison knitting and could use this SUV let her topple mountains with her charm.

Travel plans:
Cherokee: A product of Fiat and Chrysler, it was raised in Italy and America, but is off to see the world.

4Runner: A Japanese tough guy that feels at home in the U.S.A. is more likely to be seeing sights in San Antonio than Tokyo.

Dicker sticker:
Cherokee: $23,000 is a good start; $30,000 is a better end. It’s a mighty-good romp for not much buck.

4Runner: $31,500 gets you in the door, but plan to dicker on stickers over $40,000. It’s burly and butch, but not cheap to reap.
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Friday 11.15

**ilume Gallerie opens new show highlighting Camelot**

As the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Assassination looms, the ilume Gallerie marks the solemn occasion with an art exhibit featuring the colorful paintings of featured artist Kat. Her collection — including portraits of JFK, Jackie and other iconic images of the 1960s — will kick off with an opening night artist’s reception on Friday, and continue through mid-December.


Thursday 11.21

**Jon Robin Baitz’s Tony-winning ‘Other Desert Cities’ gets regional premiere**

A novelist surprises her ultra-conservative parents by announcing her next book will be a tell-all memoir that reveals dark family secrets. Domestic discord softened by an undercurrent of love is the speciality of gay playwright Jon Robin Baitz, best known for creating the TV hit *Brothers and Sisters*. His latest play — *Other Desert Cities*, a Broadway hit that won its star, Judith Light, a Tony Award — gets its Southwestern debut courtesy of Theatre 3. The cast includes John Davies, Lydia Mackay and Connie Coit (pictured), as well as Cindee Mayfield and Jeff Burleson.


Sunday 11.17

**Comedian Bill Maher back at Winspear**

The last time Bill Maher was at the Winspear, he called Sarah Palin the “C” word and the conservative media went ballistic for a week. (We know, because we wrote the review which said he used the “C” word.) We can only hope he does something as provocative again, and he probably will — that’s Maher’s strength as a politiconedian.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

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ARTS WEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER
Avenue Q. The foul-mouthed, gay-ish musical returns to Theatre Too, with most of the original Dallas cast intact. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Nov. 24. Theatre3Dallas.com.
True West. Sam Shepard's comedy-drama about rival brothers. KD Studio Theater at the Trinity River Arts Center, 2800 Stemmons Freeway. Final weekend.

FINE ART

FRIDAY 11.15
FINE ART
JFK/The '60s. Featured artist Kat will have 25 paintings on display in time to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Assassination. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107. Nov. 15–Dec. 14; opening night reception 7–10 p.m. ilumeGallerie.com.

SATURDAY 11.16
FUNDRAISER
Pedal for Paws Mountain Bike Challenge. The second annual fundraiser for Greyhound Adoption League of Texas welcomes all ages and skill levels for this off-roading bike event. Trail begins near the intersection of Northwest Highway and I-35. 1–3 p.m. $15 per registrant. Register at PedalForPaws.org.

SUNDAY 11.17
WORSHIP
Cathedral of Hope. Gay-affirming church of the United Church of Christ congregation has two services. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.
Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. LGBT-friendly...
“meditation and more” event. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality, all faiths welcome. Deaf interpretation provided. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson. 5 p.m. Donations accepted. InterMindful.com.

**The ONE Church**, 5427 Philip Ave. Services 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

**COMEDY**

Bill Maher. The liberal comedian returns to the

**MONDAY 11.18**

**COMMUNITY**

*Are You Smarter Than a Drag Queen?* The sassy

**THEATER**


**TELEVISION**

*American Horror Story: Coven*. Glee creator Ryan Murphy’s third run at the series, featuring, as always, gay content (as well as a lesbian star in Sarah Paulson). FX at 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY 11.21**

**COMMUNITY**

*Meet Me @ the Library*, a new social outlet for those who do not like the bar scene. Each third Thursday will feature a unique outing. Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Free.

**THEATER**


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**QUEER CLIP: ‘Kill Your Darlings’**

You can hear the buzz caused merely by casting Daniel Radcliffe as gay Beat poet Allen Ginsberg in the period drama *Kill Your Darlings*: “Harry Potter kisses a man! Harry Potter gets topped — and not by Dumbledore!” Yeah, yeah. And all that does happen, and in frank and surprising ways. But director John Krokidas’ story about before-they-were-famous literary lions Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac (Jack Huston) and William Burroughs (Ben Foster) — all involved an the orbit of spoiled, troubled rich kid Lucian Carr (Dane DeHaan) and his obsessive lover (Michael C. Hall) — is more than a gimmick looking for a movie. The mid-century portrait of closeted gays in Bohemian New York, and the true-life thriller about lust and murder, is disarming and always keeps your attention. Its drawback is that, as is true of almost all movies that try to capture the feel of the Beat Generation on film, it relies often on frantic editing of drug-and-booze fueled scribbling, crying and hair-pulling. Overlook the clichés, and revel in its thoughtful look at gay men at their creative and emotional peaks.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Now playing at the Angelika Film Centers in Dallas and Plano.

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**this week’s solution**

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Solution on page 33

Across
1 With 56-Across, Today Halloween character of 2004
6 The African Queen author
10 Last year’s frosh
14 Socrates’ market
15 Cold feet
16 Scarlett’s plantation
17 Guitarist Eddie Van ___
18 Turned tail
20 Where to slap a football player on the butt?
22 Frida’s husband
23 With 25-Across, Today Halloween character of 2013
25 See 23-Across
27 Gielgud’s john
28 FabergÈ objet
30 Business mag
31 Hot blood
33 About
36 Bubbly home
40 Brady Bunch prefix
41 Matt, who portrayed the 3 women of this puzzle’s theme
42 Q-Tip, for one
46 Give a chit
48 PBS relative
50 Personal-ad info
51 With 71-Across, Today Halloween character of 2000
56 See 1-Across
58 Uranian, for example
59 Mead studied them on Samoa
61 Kingdom of Alexander the Great
63 Vonda Shepard’s “It’s ___ Kiss”
66 Believe-not connection
67 Milk candy
68 Compensate
69 Some have electric organs
70 Poker chip, e.g.
71 See 51-Across

Down
1 “Poppycock!”
2 Palindromic title
3 Virginia Woolf, to many writers
4 Cara of Fame
5 Adam of I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry
6 Do style
7 Susan’s partner in Thelma and Louise
8 Gone from the platter
9 Pull a boner
10 Where both gays and straights go down
11 One of the “Maneater” singers
12 Rag alternative
13 Wore
19 Adam and Steve’s locale?
21 Go the other way
23 Colorless watery fluid
24 Vital carrier
26 Contemporary Christian
29 Cattlemen’s tool
32 Willa Cather classic
34 Feel sorry for
35 ___ Saves the World
37 Spa?
38 Brando’s last one was in Paris
39 Dramatist Henrik
41 Willingly
45 Of little consequence
47 Air force
49 First letter of the F-word, for Socrates?
51 Billy Elliot portrayer Bell
52 Tickle pink
53 Actor Williamson
54 Cause of “bed death”
55 Police actions at Stonewall
57 Slow, to Saint-Saens
60 Bit of business
62 Ann Bannon’s ___ Girl Out
64 Suffix with Paul
65 Remarks, slangily

A Couple of guys

“IT’S ALL RELATIVE”

“We have a lot to be thankful for this year.”

“Yeah, including April’s new cousin.”

“Peepsh, if he really is my cousin.”

Uncle Andy and his boyfriend Tim both sleep with Maria. Gabriel might not be related to me at all.

Heck, for all we know, the three of them might have a completely open relationship, and the father is some other man altogether.

They grow up so fast.

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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE
Skywies hosts the Timoteo Gear Night fashion show specializing in Timoteo gear and wrestling singlets at Dallas Eagle on Nov. 15. DFW Leather Corps holds a seminar on Nov. 16. That evening friends of Artemus gather to remember their friend at a cigar social. DJ Blaine Sodeau spins on Nov. 17. ... S4 celebrates the release of Lady Gaga’s Artpop featuring Applause and the new single Do What U Want on Nov. 16. ... The Jason Huff Band performs at Sue Ellen’s on Nov. 15. Shotgun Friday appears on Saturday and Bad Habits are in the house on Nov. 17. ... The DFW Federal Club holds a social at The Round-Up Saloon on Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. ... Mi Diva Loca performs at Alexandre’s on Nov. 15. Three Drunk Monkeys performs Nov. 16. ... Layne Anderson, Adrian Anderson and Randy Norman present a show to benefit Toys for Tots, the Resource Center Food Pantry and Home for the Holidays at Randy’s Club Cherries on Nov. 15. Admission is 10 canned goods or $10 or any unopened toy. ... JR’s Bar & Grill presents NetChix with Krystal and Asia on Nov. 18. JR’s Potluck on Nov. 19 features Edna Jean, Onyx, Chanel, Alexis and Kamara. That night they mark the release of the debut album Bad Blood from Britain’s Bastille. ... Cowtown Leathermen have a cookout at Club Reflection on Nov. 17 followed by a show presented by the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington. The Wall of Food Show takes place on Nov. 21. ... Out&Equal presents a panel discussion on life after DOMA at Eden Lounge on Nov. 21. ... Poker Thursday winners at the Brick receive a $100 Visa gift card.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.
Denise Lee performing at the ‘Holidazzle’ CD launch party.

Steve, Kevin and Lane at JR.’s Bar & Grill.

Jeffrey and J.P. at Best Friends Club.

Roger and David at Alexandre’s.

Melissa and Amanda at Sue Ellen’s.

Shawn and Derrick at TMC: The Mining Company.

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