Fighting discrimination in the suburbs

by David Taffet, Page 8
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Trans woman murdered in Mississippi

A Navy seaman in training has been arrested and charged with robbing and murdering Dee Whigham, 25, a transgender woman from Shubuta, Miss., who was found dead in a motel room in Ocean Springs, Miss., on July 23.

Whigham is the 16th trans person to be murdered in the U.S. this year.

Whigham was found stabbed to death at the Best Western Plus Cypress Creek hotel off Interstate 10 where she was staying with several people after traveling to Biloxi to attend the Gulf Coast Black Rodeo at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.

Dwanya Hickerson, 20, of New Orleans, was arrested Monday morning, July 25, and charged with capital murder in Whigham’s death. Jackson County Sheriff’s Capt. Chris Stratton said Hickerson was shown on surveillance video leaving the hotel, and investigators there obtained a warrant to search Hickerson’s residence.

Sheriff Mike Ezell has said his department is investigating and “If this turns out to be a hate crime, we will pursue this to the fullest in court.”

13th annual Miss LifeWalk Pageant breaks records

Tiaras, glamorous gowns and house-rocking performances raised $53,412 — 33 percent more than in 2015 — at the 13th annual Miss LifeWalk pageant Sunday, July 24, at the Rose Room in S4. The 2016 Pageant was produced by the Guys and Dolls LifeWalk Team and hosted by Heather Thomas and Mark Marley.

“Guys and Dolls is delighted that the Miss LifeWalk Pageant continues to grow and gets bigger and better every year,” pageant organizer Landon Starnes said.

Vanity Storm was crowned Miss LifeWalk 2016.

Lambda Legal sues nursing facility for elder abuse

Lambda Legal filed suit on Wednesday, July 27, against Glen St. Andrew Living Community in Niles, Ill. for failing to protect Marsha Wetzel, a lesbian senior who is a resident of the facility. In her suit, she claims the facility and its administrators failed to protect her from “harassment, discrimination and violence she has endured at the hands of other residents because of her sex and sexual orientation.”

“Glen St. Andrew calls itself ‘a community of caring,’ but when the staff ignores the harassment and violence directed at Marsha, they are not caring at all,” Lambda Legal attorney Karen Loewy, who specializes in senior issues. “There is a clear pattern of discrimination here. The facility and its staff have ignored our client’s pleas for help after being harassed and attacked because she is a lesbian and because she is a woman who loved and created a family with another woman for 30 years.”

Over the past 13 years, the pageant has raised more than $189,283 for LifeWalk.

LifeWalk 2016 takes place Sunday, Oct. 9, beginning and ending in Lee Park. This year’s walk will benefit AIDS Arms, Inc. and other AIDS services partner agencies: Abounding Prosperity, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope, Dogs Matter, Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Tucker’s Gift, Turtle Creek Chorale, The Women’s Chorus of Dallas and UT Southwestern Community Prevention and Intervention Unit.

Register for the event at LifeWalk.org.
Burlesque with a queer twist

More than 50 performers from across Texas and the U.S. converge on Dallas this weekend for the inaugural Texas Queerlesque Festival. The event includes two main stage shows and two days of workshops, networking events and vendors. Networking and education events take place at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St., and the two showcase events will be held at Viva’s Lounge, a burlesque theater located at 1350 Manufacturing St., Ste. 120.

Producers are Lillith Grey and Milo Cox. Grey has been performing and producing shows in the Dallas area for more than 10 years. She was owner of Gloryhole Productions and a founder of Brain Tease Dallas, Tuesday Tease at Sue Ellen’s and Glitterbomb Denton. Cox is well known as emcee for Glitterbomb Denton and as a Viva’s Lounge bartender. Cox is also a visual artist, printmaker and artistic director of Sundown Collaborate Theatre.

The producers noted that the Texas Queerlesque Festival “aims to be a safer space for our cast, crew, audiences and communities.” And as such, “Performances or presentations which include cultural appropriation, racism, sexism or other themes of oppression and marginalization will not be allowed. However, cultural exchange and reflection, social critique and artistic explorations of difficult topics are encouraged.”

They added that content warnings will be provided at the beginning of each show, and performers exploring potentially controversial topics will be encouraged to release artist statements about their work.

Performers will include Draconis, Chola Magnolia, Queertini Time, J.D. Hancock, Jeez Loueez and Foxy Blue Orchid, and many more.

The festival began Thursday night with the Unicorn Sparkle Party at Sue Ellen’s, and continues Friday with a private networking happy hour, also at Sue Ellen’s, from 4-6 p.m. The party, free to festival attendees with a wristband, includes drink specials and an appetizer buffet.

The Friday night showcase, Sequins and Sass, begins at 8 p.m. at Viva’s Lounge, and will be followed by after-parties at Viva’s and Sue Ellen’s.

Saturday begins with the Unicorn School, featuring seven workshops, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and private networking parties at Sue Ellen’s from 4-6 p.m.

The All That Glitters showcase begins at 8 p.m. at Viva’s lounge and will, again, be followed by after-parties at Viva’s and Sue Ellen’s.

The festival concludes Sunday with a Twerk N Jerk workshop led by Jeez Loueez from 1-2:30 p.m., and the Wind-Down Party with live music from 2-6 p.m., both at Sue Ellen’s.

Networking and after-parties are free to all festival attendees. Tickets to all workshops and showcases range in price, depending on the event, with package deals available. Attendees to all events must be at least 18 years old and will be required to show a valid U.S. ID card or a valid passport.

At all TXQF events, you are required to show a valid US identification card or a valid passport verifying you are over the age of 18.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit TexasQueerlesqueFestival.com.

WHEN
Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 9 p.m. - Sunday, July 31, 2016 at 9 p.m. (CDT)
WHERE
Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St.
Viva’s Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St.
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pet of the week / JENNY

Jenny is a 3-month-old shepherd mix that, already weighing in at 37 pounds, will likely be a pretty big dog when she’s grown. She’s always a happy puppy and rarely barks. She loves walks and is looking for an active family. With a little training, she will be a great companion.

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

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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nasht@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week’s guests are Amanda Robinson and Sharon Herrera; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Teymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Janenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Janenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

JULY
• Through Aug. 11: Back to school donation drive
Real Live Connection, HRC, AIDS Walk South Texas, and Oak Lawn UMC present a
donation drive to collect clothing and school supplies for homeless LGBT youth and allies. Drop box locations are at the UPS Store, 3824 Cedar Springs Road, Alexandre’s, 4026 Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit RLC365.org.

• July 29-31 Texas Queerlesque Festival Queer burlesque takes center stage in the 4-day Texas Queerlesque Festival, where cabaret-style performing arts meets the culturally-rich queer community. The festival aims to unify, celebrate and elevate, and showcases Texas premiere performers in two mainstage shows at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St., and Viva’s Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., Ste. 120. For information visit TexasQueerlesqueFestival.com.

• July 30: DFW Federal Club summer luncheon
U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, the Democrat representing Texas 33rd Congressional District, and Joni Madison, chief operating officer and chief of staff of the Human Rights Campaign, will be featured speakers at the

Jenny is a 3-month-old shepherd mix that, already weighing in at 37 pounds, will likely be a pretty big dog when she’s grown. She’s always a happy puppy and rarely barks. She loves walks and is looking for an active family. With a little training, she will be a great companion.

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DFW Federal Club’s Summer Luncheon. The event is capped at 200 guests. Business casual luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm St. 48th floor. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

**July 30: TAG Game Night**
Tyler Area Gays hosts TAG Game Night in the Genecov room at the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, 6-9 p.m. Refreshments and games will be provided, but you can also bring your own games. Attendees are encouraged to bring back-to-school supplies to be donated to local charitable organizations to be distributed to needy children. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

**July 30: Zika presentation**
A presentation about the Zika virus and what you can do to protect yourself and your family featuring Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zachary Thompson at 3 p.m. at Lochwood Branch Library, 11221 Lochwood Blvd. Refreshments served.

**July 31: Holocaust survivor speaks**
If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

**July 31: Sunday Night Fever**
Cathedral of Hope’s 46th anniversary party with ‘70s costumes and karaoke. From 5-8 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

**AUGUST**

**Aug. 3: Wine Walk**
Cedar Springs Merchants Association’s First Wednesday Wine Walk takes place from 6-9 p.m., featuring Barefoot Wine. Wine glasses will be available for $10 at the tent in front of the Round-Up Saloon, and a gift basket of merchandise from Cedar Springs merchants will be raffled off. For information visit TheStripOnCedarSprings.com.

**Aug 4: LGBT-Friendly West Coast Swing**
Dallas Pride Dance country-western dance group invites couples and singles of all gender identities and skill levels to learn basics and beginning, intermediate, and advanced moves with award-winning dancer and instructor Lori Hayor. 9 p.m. at You Can Dance Studio, 14833 Inwood Road, Suite 600, Addison. $15 suggested donation per person; no one turned away for inability to pay. 817-500-4962; 214-566-1260.

**Aug 4-6: QuakeCon**
QuakeCon, a four-day video game festival featuring North America’s largest “bring your own computer” LAN party, with panels, presentations, workshops, tech company exhibits, tournaments, entertainment and more. Free to general attendees and open to the public. Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Fwy. For information visit QuakeCon.org.

**Aug. 6: Charity Car Wash**
Team ASD LifeWalk’s 2016 car wash fundraiser will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hillcrest House, 834 N. Marsalis Ave. Cost is $7 for cars and $10 for trucks and SUVs. For information visit Facebook.com/TeamASDLifeWalk.

**Aug. 6: Miss Leo Party**
The 29th annual Miss Leo Party and Miss Leo Contest will celebrate the life of Miss Leo 2005 Jack Langan and benefits the Daire Center from 8-11 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St.

**Aug. 6: Bridge Building Network—Ed-U-CARE**
Vivienne Armstrong talks about awareness about the care needs of LGBT older adults. Light dinner provided and Gen Silent will be shown from 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

**Aug. 9: Charity Car Wash**
Team ASD LifeWalk’s 2016 car wash fundraiser will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hillcrest House, 834 N. Marsalis Ave. Cost is $7 for cars and $10 for trucks and SUVs. For information visit Facebook.com/TeamASDLifeWalk.

**Aug. 9: Leo Party**
The 29th annual Leo Party and Miss Leo Contest benefit AIDS Interfaith Network from 8-11 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave.

**Aug. 9: Black Tie Sponsor Appreciation Party**
Black Tie Dinner holds its sponsor appreciation party at Brendan Bass Showroom, 2001 Irving Blvd.

**Aug. 10: Holocaust survivor speaks**
If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

**Aug. 11: U.S. Rep. Veasey’s Dallas August Town Hall**
U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-District 33, hosts a town hall to give residence the chance to share thoughts and concerns on issues affecting their communities, 6 p.m. in the Community Room at El Centro West campus, 3330 N. Hampton Road. For information call 214-741-1387.

**Aug 14: T op Dog Couture**
An evening of high canine fashion benefiting Tucker’s Gift’s LifeWalk team from 6-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Rd. $5.

**Aug. 14: AIN’s 30th anniversary celebration**
Celebrate 30 years of service with champagne, cupcakes and live tunes from Denise Lee from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. RSVP at Facebook.com/AINDallas.

**Aug. 15: Adam Medrano’s Budget Town Hall**
Learn about the fiscal year 2016–17 Dallas city budget and provide your input from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park in Browder Springs Hall (the brick building with the Dr Pepper mural), 1515 S. Harwood St. Free parking.

**Aug 18: LGBT-Friendly West Coast Swing**
Dallas Pride Dance country-western dance group invites couples and singles of all gender identities and skill levels to learn basics and beginning, intermediate, and advanced moves with award-winning dancer and instructor Lori Hayor. 9 p.m. at You Can Dance studio, 14833 Inwood Road, Suite 600, Addison. $15 suggested donation per person; no one turned away for inability to pay. 817-500-4962; 214-566-1260.

**Aug. 19: Cabaret & Cabernet**
Sammons Center for the Performing Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., presents Cabaret & Cabernet, featuring emcees Tracy Fulton along with Denise Lee, Linda Petty, The Larry Petty Combo, Teddy and Lorena Davey, Jay Gardner, WT Greer, Sheran Goodspeed Keyton, Keran Jackson, LaLa Johnson, Carolyn Lee Jones, Shelley Kenneavy, Pam Musgrove and Diana Savage. Wine tasting at 7:30 p.m., performances at 8 p.m. Admission is $40 for a table of eight; $300 for a table of six, available by calling 214-520-7788 and online at Facebook.com/AINDallas.

**Aug. 23:25-Are You Ready to Run?**
Join us for a FREE 5k training session to get you ready for the 2017 Classic for the Cure. Visit RunDFW.com for more information.

**Aug. 27: Miss Leo Contest**
The 29th annual Miss Leo Party and Miss Leo Contest will celebrate the life of Miss Leo 2005 Jack Langan and benefits the Daire Center from 8-11 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St.

**Aug. 27: Dallas Pride Dance Event**
Dallas Pride Dance country-western dance group invites couples and singles of all gender identities and skill levels to learn basics and beginning, intermediate, and advanced moves with award-winning dancer and instructor Lori Hayor. 9 p.m. at You Can Dance studio, 14833 Inwood Road, Suite 600, Addison. $15 suggested donation per person; no one turned away for inability to pay. 817-500-4962; 214-566-1260.

**Aug. 29: Back to School Block Party**
Clothing and school supplies collected for homeless and in need LGBT youth and allies through the summer will be distributed from 4-7 p.m. at Oak Lawn UMC, 214-566-1260.

**Aug. 30: August Town Hall**
U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-District 33, hosts a town hall to give residence the chance to share thoughts and concerns on issues affecting their communities, 6 p.m. in the Community Room at El Centro West campus, 3330 N. Hampton Road. For information call 214-741-1387.
Lesbian moms expected their child to have every educational opportunity available — not the blatant racial discrimination they find themselves fighting.

**Lesbian moms expected their child to have every educational opportunity available — not the blatant racial discrimination they find themselves fighting.**

How does a parent react when her African-American child’s been discriminated against in school?

Do you have “the talk” with your child to learn how to get along in white America? Or do you find other ways to ensure your child gets the best education available and has every opportunity this country has to offer?

Susan Kirschner was horrified when her daughter Aubri came home from Founders Classical Academy of Flower Mound with a drawing of her one of her classmates gave her, with the caption “I am a monkey” written beneath it. She was more horrified when she contacted Aubri’s teacher, who told her she had seen the picture and didn’t see anything wrong with it.

After exchanging emails and phone calls about the situation, school officials told Kirschner if she set foot on the school campus again, they would call police.

As lesbians, Kirschner and her partner, Emily McDonald, understand discrimination. But Kirschner’s father was a Holocaust survivor. From the time she was a child she was taught: “Never again.” Silence was not an acceptable response to injustice.

But that didn’t prepare the couple for what happened to Aubri, who is black.

The family

Eight years ago, Kirschner and McDonald arranged a private adoption.

“The birth mom picked us,” Kirschner said proudly.

They met the birth mom after sending her pictures of their home and bio that included the information that both women were nurses. After meeting, the birth mom handed her baby to them and said, “This is your daughter.”

“I was breathless,” Kirschner said when she first held Aubri. “We were in total awe.”

Kirschner described her daughter as smart, beautiful, funny, creative and insightful. And Aubri’s skin color never crossed her moms’ minds. Not until she went to school.

That’s when the discrimination began. In preschool.

Kirschner likes to make memory books for Aubri that include photos and artwork. She made one with pictures from her pre-K class at Faith Lutheran Day School in Flower Mound. The two moms loved one particular picture of Aubri wearing a crown. All they saw was their beautiful daughter looking like a princess.

It took four-year-old Aubri to point out the obvious.

“Why did you include that picture?” she asked her moms. She told them she hated the photo because in it, the teachers and other children are sitting in a circle, but Aubri is outside the circle.

That’s Aubri’s first memory of being excluded.

“Kindergarten was no joy either,” Kirschner said. When the children would line up to make a train, “my daughter was always the caboose.”

So for first grade, Kirschner homeschooled her daughter. But Aubri kept saying, “Mommy, I want to go to school.”

She wanted friends. So they started looking for a school.

They found plenty of religious schools around Flower Mound, all of which told them “our family wasn’t welcome,” Kirschner said. So they enrolled Aubri in Founders Classical Academy, a charter school owned by Lewisville-based ResponsiveEd.

In its two-paragraph “Respect for all” policy, ResponsiveEd notes: “Students must not engage in harassing behaviors motivated by ethnicity, gender, color, religion, national origin, or disability directed toward another student.” But the 61-page Parent/Student Handbook includes no anti-bullying policy.

During the last school year, Kirschner kept in
Students safer at schools with GSAs

According to a new study from Vanderbilt University, LGBT students feel safer at schools with gay-straight alliances. The researchers found that students who attended a school with a GSA were:

- 52 percent less likely to hear homophobic remarks
- 36 percent less likely to be fearful for their personal safety
- 30 percent less likely to experience homophobic victimization.

“Society makes it very hard to be a queer youth,” said researcher Robert Marx.

“I think it’s really important to understand the healing and transformative power of being a part of a supportive community.”

Students who are subjected to homophobic victimization are at risk for substance abuse, depression, poor academic performance and suicidal thoughts or actions. Having a place for students to talk and receive support from straight and LGBTQ peers can go a long way in reducing those risks, the researchers said.

touch with Aubri’s teacher through emails and letters, always trying to keep things positive, despite a less-than-welcoming classroom atmosphere. Even when she was writing to address an incident that might have been motivated by racial bigotry, Kirschner began with a positive comment.

Throughout the first half of the school year, mother and teacher tried working things out amicably — until the incident with the monkey picture.

The two moms have a file about two inches thick holding all their correspondence with the school. It includes a note Kirschner wrote to the teacher in November: “Today, Aubri came home crying trying to express that another classmate… is taunting/mocking and irritating Aubri, when teachers are engaged with other tasks.”

She told the teacher Aubri was rattled and frightened by the other student.

Then in October, Aubri was instructed to stay away from another child after that child made a derogatory comment about her mom. Aubri was disciplined, it seemed, for another child’s bullying.

In December, Kirschner wrote to Aubri’s teacher: “That [a student] made a physical attempt to spit, yes spit, into Aubri’s lunch yesterday.”

In January, Kirschner wrote the teacher about something Aubri picked up during a lesson on slavery. Aubri told her mom that she learned that if the Civil War hadn’t occurred and Lincoln hadn’t ended slavery, she wouldn’t be their daughter, but would be their slave.

“We were shocked,” Kirschner wrote. “What do you say to that?”

Kirschner said she could only kiss her daughter and tell her how much she loved her no matter what had happened.

In that same letter, Kirschner also responded to the teacher’s question in an earlier note, telling the teacher it was fine to send home more challenging math problems for Aubri to work on. Despite her treatment in the school, Aubri was a straight-A student.

Reaction

April Silliman is an educational advocate with the law firm Cirkiel and Associates who’s been working with Kirschner and McDonald. In addition to unaddressed discrimination by the school, Silliman’s concerns include “unwarranted removal of parental rights” and “retaliation for speaking out” about bullying that’s apparently based on skin color.

Silliman said the Flower Mound campus is the charter school company’s crown jewel and she’s learned, in working with another parent of a minority student, they try to “keep certain people away.”

The tactics are subtle. For example, while the uniforms are the same at all of the Founders Classical Academies, it costs more for students on the Flower Mound campus.

The company maintains no counselors at the school and told Silliman teachers can do the counseling. But most teachers have no counseling degrees and are unequipped to do the work that a licensed counselor does, Silliman noted.

When Dallas Voice contacted the school for a response to the allegations and the woman who had cheerily answered the phone heard the name Aubri McDonald, her tone quickly changed. She snapped, “You’ll have to call our corporate office.”

Mike Terry is communication director for ResponsiveEd in the Lewisville main office. He did not return Dallas Voice’s calls seeking comment.

Buster Spiller and his husband are black parents who raise three children. Spiller said black children are disciplined in school at a higher rate and that school officials often ignore bullying against black students. He said Kirschner and McDonald may not have been fully aware of how black children in public education are treated.

But as gay parents, Spiller said, “Our inner pit bull comes out.”

Cd Kirven explained how black parents teach their children early how to handle discrimination and bullying. She recalled the first time she was called the “N” word. She said it happened when she was trying to buy ice cream.

“This is how to handle it in the future,” she said her mother explained. “I’m here to help you get through the pain.”

She described those “talks about how to survive being black in America” as “normal, everyday conversations black parents have with black children.”

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New clinic offers personalized approach to parenthood through IVF, with a special outreach to the LGBTQ community

TAMMIEE NASH  Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

T.J. Farnsworth had just started a company offering community-based cancer services “literally from my kitchen table” when he met “the most wonderful woman you can imagine,” he said. “But because I was a broke entrepreneur, it took me awhile to feel financially stable enough to get married.”

By the time his company was stable and he and Margaret did get married, he said, “we wanted to start a family immediately, just like in the storybook tales. But it didn’t work that way for us.”

His wife got pregnant, but then had a miscarriage and wasn’t able to get pregnant again. So they turned to fertility specialists for help. They tried artificial insemination — now called IUI, or intrauterine insemination — and finally turned to in vitro fertilization. But the difficulties continued.

“We got pregnant, then had another miscar-
riage,” Farnsworth said. “So we tried IVF again. But we had learned more by then, so we had a genetic screening done first. Now, we have a two-year-old son” conceived through the IVF process.

And while they were ultimately successful in getting the child they wanted, Farnsworth said both he and his wife felt the whole process had been an unnecessarily traumatic ordeal. “It was a very frustrating process for us,” he recalled. “As a person in the health care field myself, it was very confusing — why do this certain thing this certain way? It all — not the actual IVF, but the process overall — it all felt very cold.

T.J. Farnsworth and his wife, Margaret, left, conceived their son, Wyatt, now 2½, through IVF. Their friend, Chantell Preston, also conceived her daughter, Adyson, now 5½, through IVF. Their experiences on their fertility journey prompted Farnsworth to start a new kind of IVF clinic, and prompted Preston to join his board.

“I remember so many times my wife would be in tears,” Farnsworth continued. “She told me she often felt like we were just part of some big cattle call. We were treated like a number, not like people. To me, I remember feeling like we were dealing with used car salesmen — there was always some new surprise cost that kept popping up that we had to pay.”

Farnsworth said he thought at first that it was just the clinic they were using that was the problem, that it was unusual for being disorganized and poorly operated. But as he traveled around the country he visited other IVF clinics and “I realized that they were all operated that way. It was just systemic in the industry.”

Farnsworth said and his wife talked often with friends who had also gone through IVF to start their families, I realized that they had even more struggles. Some clinics wouldn’t even help [same-sex couples] at all. They’d tell them they needed to go somewhere else. Hearing that, it makes you feel like a second-class citizen,” he said.

Farnsworth said, “The more I thought about it, the more I talked to people, I just knew that this wasn’t the way it was supposed to be done. I thought about it and about the fact that I work in health care, and I just felt like it could be fixed. It could be done differently, done better.”

So in the middle of 2014, Farnsworth an-
Recognizing the reality of LGBT domestic abuse

Michele May O’Neil | Special Contributor
editor@dallasvoice.com

We don’t generally think of domestic violence in same-sex relationships. Society views the stereotypic domestic violence victim as a passive, small woman being assaulted by a large overbearing man.

But domestic violence occurs in same-sex relationships, too, and LGBT domestic abuse victims are generally more isolated than victims in other walks of life.

What does LGBT domestic abuse look like?

As with heterosexual relationships, a gay couple may start their relationship happy and loving, but over time one partner may become emotionally manipulative. And that leads to physical aggression.

Behaviors like wrist-twisting while holding hands, pinching an arm during a fight, or hitting are all forms of domestic violence.

One victim asked, “How do you tell anyone you are living in fear from your partner if no one knows you’re gay?”

A 2010 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, released again in 2013 with new analysis, discovered that the lifetime prevalence of rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner was 43.8 percent for lesbians and 61.1 percent for bisexual women.

For gay men, the statistics showed 26 percent for gay men and 37.3 percent for bisexual men.

In the same study, the CDC determined that lesbians and gay men experience rates of domestic violence and sexual violence equal to or higher than those in heterosexual relationships.

Hurdles to getting help

The abuse is hard to spot, says May Krukiel, director of residential services for domestic violence shelter Hope’s Door in New York, because with same-sex couples, the partners frequently have the same social network, which can lead to the abuser alienating the victim from the social supports. A gay person may also feel isolation and vulnerability from social support and from mainstream society in general, making it hard for them to seek help.

Also, Krukiel says, many gay and lesbian people feel pressure to have their relationships appear perfect to avoid criticism from outside the community.

Coming out is also a key issue.

“How do you tell anyone you are living in fear from your partner if no one knows you’re gay?” said Jo Harvey Barringer, CEO of Broken Rainbow, a former national LGBT domestic abuse charity that closed recently due to lack of funding.

“About 85 percent of callers to our [domestic abuse] helpline have a partner that will use the threat of outing them to colleagues, family or kids as a form of control,” Barringer said. And, to make it more difficult, the victim must also come out to be able to seek services in the mainstream.

One area of domestic abuse unique to the LGBT...
Earlier this year, Jonathan’s Place received Human Rights Campaign’s All Children All Families Seal of Recognition for its work with LGBT families, the first agency in Texas to achieve that certification. Jonathan’s Place runs an emergency shelter for children that have been removed from their homes and an inclusive foster care and adoption program that looks for the best homes for children in their care. (Photo courtesy of Jonathan’s Place)

community is the trend of gay male partners threatening to reveal their partner’s HIV status or withhold HIV medication, or a transgender person’s partner threatening to withhold hormone treatment.

What can we do to help LGBT domestic abuse victims?

Local police departments need to be trained to handle reports of domestic violence involving same-sex couples, because police are often the first responders that victims meet.

Also, domestic violence awareness campaigns and service providers could expand their reach to be more inclusive of victims that do not match the stereotype by refocusing educational and outreach campaigns away from linking masculinity with violence and acknowledging that violence crosses all gender, sexual orientation and economic lines.

For more information, consider reading Marissa Higgins’ article in the Washington Post, “Why is it so hard to recognize domestic abuse in same-sex relationships?”, Patrick Strudwick’s BuzzFeed News article, “This is what domestic violence is like when you’re LGBT,” JD Glass’s article on Advocate.com, “2 studies that prove domestic violence is an LGBT issue,” and Maya Shwayder’s article on TheAtlantic.com, “A same-sex domestic violence epidemic is silent.”

Michelle May O’Neil is senior partner/owner at O’Neil Wysocki — Family Law, specializing in family law issues for LGBT families.
Although they never had “the talk” with Aubri, Kirschner and McDonald didn’t sit still as the discrimination through the year got worse and worse. They realized conferences, letters and emails to the teacher and principal wouldn’t be enough.

The “monkey” picture was the turning point. In a letter to her mothers, the principal accused Aubri of writing “I am a monkey” on the picture herself, even though it’s clearly not her handwriting. And in one exchange, the assistant principal of the school admitted he was raised in a racist home.

And when the school’s only reaction to the rising animosity was to ban Kirschner from the school, she contacted her state senator and her congressman for help.

State Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, a former teacher and currently the highest ranking Republican in the Texas Senate, was alarmed enough by the correspondence she was sent that she contacted the Texas Education Agency on the family’s behalf. That agency told Nelson that cases like this are handled by the Office of Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Education.

U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Flower Mound, helped the family file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights. This week, they were informed the case had been accepted and the Department of Education will be investigating the school.

This fall, Aubri will be attending a different school. Over the summer, she’s been going to camp and going boating and playing with other children.

But how’s she doing in general? “My daughter is sad,” Kirschner said.

According to a new study by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, LGBT students face an unfair amount of discipline, including detention, suspension and expulsion from school, often after having to endure harassment or bullying.

The report found:
- Two in five LGBT students reported receiving detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension and/or expulsion from school. LGBT black, Hispanic, multiracial, homeless, or disabled students experienced higher rates than others.
- Among LGBT students, the most common reason cited for not planning to graduate high school or being unsure if they would graduate was an unsupportive or hostile school environment.
- Bullying, harassment and absenteeism may contribute to high rates of discipline of LGBT students, potentially because bullying incidents put LGBT students in greater contact with school authorities. Lack of safety resulted in many LGBT students missing school, putting them at risk for disciplinary sanctions for truancy.
- Anti-LGBT discriminatory policies and practices may also contribute to high rates of discipline of LGBT students; 56 percent of LGBT students experienced some form of anti-LGBT discrimination at school, and these students were more likely to have received school discipline than those who did not experience discrimination.
- 9 percent reported being disciplined specifically because they were LGBT.
- Victimization, absenteeism and discrimination may also increase LGBT students’ risk of contact with the justice system. LGBT students who reported high levels of victimization, absenteeism or discrimination were more likely to have been involved with the justice system as a result of school discipline.
- The likelihood of this involvement was five times higher for LGBT students experiencing homelessness than for those who lived with a parent or guardian.

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nounced he would be leaving his cancer services company at the end of that year to start a new company to create new, better IVF clinics. After spending 2015 “designing and managing how patients should experience fertility,” he opened his first Aspire Fertility Clinic in Houston this past January.

Now, seven months later, the second Aspire Fertility Clinic is set to open in Addison.

Farnsworth said there are a number of aspects of doing business that set Aspire apart from other such clinics, starting with training staff to “get to know our clients, to remember them each time they come back.” Aspire also has a licensed marriage and family therapist on staff full time and on duty and on site at all times. And that’s a service that’s “totally free to our patients.”

“Going through IVF is a very emotional journey,” he said. “My wife and I underestimated the stress it would put on our relationship and that caused some problems for us.”

Aspire also offers its patients the services of a financial counselor trained to help them plan that side of their fertility journey, working with insurance companies, setting up payment plans and even helping couples find grants that could help cover the cost. “And,” Farnsworth added, “we provide all the services for one price, and it is 100 percent inclusive. It even includes parking. They don’t pay for anything else, ever.”

While most clinics keep the science side of things closed off and unavailable, Farnsworth said Aspire is just the opposite. “There’s no magic behind what we do, just science. And the embryology lab is where the science happens. One of the walls in our embryology lab is floor-to-ceiling glass, so the couples can walk up and see what happens inside. They can meet the scientists, ask them questions. After all, those scientists are really our patients’ first baby sitters.”

The way that same-sex couples are treated is yet another way in which Aspire stands apart from other such clinics, Farnsworth said. Aspire board member Chantell Preston agreed.

Preston is a lesbian who got pregnant through IVF and gave birth to her daughter Adyson five-and-a-half years ago. Like Farnsworth and his wife, Preston said she found the process to be cold and impersonal.

So when Farnsworth approached her about being part of Aspire, Preston said she was glad to tell her friend yes.

“We thought we could do it better,” Preston said. “We knew we could reach out to everyone and provide a personalized service. This isn’t just a physical process. It’s a very emotional process, too. And being part of the LGBTQ community myself, I knew that a lot of my friends were looking for somewhere that would understand their lives and their needs. We knew we had a chance to reach out to the community in a very special way. We knew we could do this better and help as many people as possible.”

Farnsworth agreed. “There are a lot of LGBTQ couples that need to feel welcome, to feel that they are accepted and understood within our facility, and we are doing everything we can to accommodate that. We train our staff to accommodate that. We even have some transgender couples we’re treating in Houston, and to our knowledge, there are no other IVF clinics that do that.

Every patient that comes to Aspire is “part of our family. We’re all going through this journey together,” Farnsworth said. And that is especially true of the clinic’s LGBTQ patients.

“From our perspective, and what it is important for the LGBTQ community to understand, we know that every single child they have is intentional. They have to work extra hard. It should be as joyous an experience for them — for all our patients — as possible,” Farnsworth said.

When same-sex couples are turned away from or treated poorly at a clinic, “that’s not fair,” he continued. “It’s not appropriate, and it’s something we want to change. We have a social responsibility to affect that change. Because of what we are doing, other clinics are being forced to be more open with the types of patients they treat, and that’s a win for all of us.”

For information visit AspireFertility.com.
Donald Trump pledged to ‘protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression,’ but don’t make the mistake of thinking he’s pro-gay

Donald Trump made history at the Republican National Convention by daring to utter a string of five letters: LGBTQ. More specifically, he said, “Only weeks ago, in Orlando, Fla., 49 wonderful Americans were savagely murdered by an Islamic terrorist. This time, the terrorist targeted the LGBTQ community. No good, and we’re going to stop it.

“I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression of a hateful foreign ideology. Believe me.” And people applauded, which prompted Trump to say, “I have to say, as a Republican, it is so nice to hear you cheering for what I just said. Thank you.”

The moment was kind of surreal. It was also completely at odds with the Republican Party platform, which even GOP-apologists, the Log Cabin Republicans, said was the most anti-gay in history. So does Trump’s stated support of LGBTQ people negate his party’s platform? Has Trump gone rogue?

Um, no. And also, no.

Let’s take a close look at what he said.

What he’s vowing to protect LGBTQ people from is “a hateful foreign ideology.” In other words, he’s talking about “radical Islam,” and I believe that the applause he received was more anti-Islam rather than pro-gay.

Even if he hadn’t referenced foreign terrorists, giving LGBTQ people a shout out after the horrific Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando is literally the least he could do. It’s hardly a courageous stance.

Don’t forget that Trump isn’t pro-gay. He isn’t
pro-LGBTQ rights. For one thing, he did not ac-
knowledge the hateful anti-gay ideology that ex-
ists right here in America. If anything he pledged
his support to that ideology by selecting Mike
Pence, a man with a long and storied anti-LGBTQ
record, as his vice president.

Trump himself has said that he doesn’t support
marriage equality and that he would seek to ap-
point Supreme Court justices that would undo
that landmark decision.

Granted, he changes his mind about almost
everything on a rotating basis; he’s nothing if not
inconsistent.

But I highly doubt that he’s all of a sudden
gonna be the grand marshal in a Pride parade.

Conservatives are, by and large, supporting
Trump because they want a Republican, even a
bat-shit crazy one, appointing Supreme Court jus-
tices. That’s not to say Trump didn’t anger some
of those conservatives with his LGBTQ reference
in his convention speech.

Alexandra DeSanctis, writing for the National
Review, lamented that Trump threw conservatives
“under the bus.”

“Never has the party or its members questioned
the right to life — or the very humanity — of
LGBT people in the way Trump not-so-subtly im-
plied,” she writes.

LOL. Wut?

I’m not sure how closely DeSanctis has been
following the decades-long assault the GOP has
been waging on LGBT people and their families,
but she apparently has a very different definition
of “humanity” than I do.

The right to love, to share a consensual sexual
relationship with another human being, to marry,
to parent, the right to exist rather than be declared
crazy and dangerous and subjected to humiliat-
ing “therapy” and punitive laws — the GOP is
against all of those things. It’s in their goddamn
platform.

While anti-gay conservatives no doubt bristled
at Trump’s remarks and pro-gay conservatives
cheered, the fact of the matter is Trump is a phony
that will say anything to get elected.

A Trump presidency would put the brakes on
progressive momentum that has shepherded in
so many LGBT civil rights gains over these last
few years. Sadly, Americans have a short histori-
cal memory — one need only look at Trump’s
“Make America Great Again” slogan for proof.

He’s a man looking backwards.

D’Anne Witkowski is a freelance writer and poet and
a writing teacher at the University of Michigan. She
writes the weekly “Creep of the Week” column for Q
Syndicate.
it was “goodbye for now” as the cast and crew of HBO’s modern-queer dramedy *Looking* stood in the rising San Francisco sun tearfully hugging as they concluded production on the story-ending made-for-TV movie. Just like in the film’s final scene, Daniel Franzese, who plays Eddie, reminisces, “We broke night.”

Of course they did. *Looking* was, ultimately, extraordinarily ordinary, a time-capsule of contemporary queerness revolving around a chummy, could-be-your-own friend group navigating love and life in the Mission/Castro district.

That final diner scene — which bowed on July 24 and will be reaired on HBO — wasn’t just our last time with Patrick and Dom and Agustin and the others who became part of our lives during these last few years; for the actors, it was, provisionally, their last time, too. “It was like the last two weeks of high school, like the weekend after everyone graduates from college,” Franzese muses.

Premiering in 2014 to critical praise but a modest following (the series reached a peak of 519,000 viewers its first season), *Looking* was divisive from the get-go, with viewers either drawn to its languid style of storytelling or vehemently against it. Was it too gay? Not gay enough? When Doris, the group’s straight girlfriend, and Agustin and the others who became part of our lives during these last few years; for the actors, it was, provisionally, their last time, too. “It was like the last two weeks of high school, like the weekend after everyone graduates from college,” Franzese muses.

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The Comeback

So the end may not be the end after all. Maybe the sun hasn’t fully set on Looking just yet.

“Who knows — later on down the line I’d love to revisit these characters again,” Franzese says. “Knowing the people I worked with, I can’t even think of a producer who would say they wouldn’t want to be back on that set again. But I think this movie is a beautiful next step in the story, and if we all love each other and we love these characters, and I think if Andrew and Michael are inspired with some story, why not?”

— Chris Azzopardi

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07.29.16 dallasvoice 21
Journalists routinely email subjects, asking them if they’d like to participate in a story. When David Farrier — a reporter based in New Zealand who specializes in human-interest stories about the bizarre — discovered a fetish called “male competitive enduring tickling,” he emailed the company that produces many such videos, Jane O’Brien Media, to ask for an interview.

But rather than receiving a simple “no, thanks,” Farrier was met with a homophobic screed attacking “little gay Kiwis” and using the word “faggot.” The message was signed by Debbie Kuhn.

Big mistake, Debbie.

Instead of scaring him off, Farrier took up the challenge to find out just who was behind this shadowy corporation, and uncovered a trail of exploitation, cyberbullying and, frankly, psychological disorders dating back decades. The result of his investigation — the new documentary Tickled — emerges as part Catfish, part real-life thriller and all-around fascinating.

For much of the time, you’re never quite sure what to make of Tickled — is Farrier being punk’d, or is Farrier punking us? It’s part of the new skepticism bred by documentaries like A Gay Girl in Damascus and Stories We Tell: Stories structured so much like narrative films that reality and fiction seem to intersect. No one would really attack a journalist so aggressively…. would they? (That’s like prodding a sleeping bear — didn’t Debbie see The Revenant?!) Jane O’Brien Media couldn’t be that vindictive to its former models… could it? And, c’mon: competitive tickling? That’s a thing? But it’s all real. And it’s fascinating.

With the balliness of Woodward and Bernstein, but with slightly better haircuts, Farrier and his co-director, Dylan Reeve, track down the lawyers for Jane O’Brien Media and surreptiously film them, learning that their corporate overlord is well-funded and venemous… even though none of them have ever met “Jane” herself. Even her long-standing business associates (one, Hal Karp, lives in Dallas) have done Jane’s bidding, but — when pressed — can’t say for sure that Jane exists at all.

What if she doesn’t? And if not, who is behind these homoerotic tickle parties (and worse, the cyber-stalking that emerges from them)?

Farrier’s investigation is itself compelling, like those “gotcha” news segments that Mike Wallace used to do, but he intersperses the journalism with a campy, almost bewildered curiosity about male tickling, how gay it is and how anti-gay Jane O’Brien Media is. (And we all know the truth about homophobia: The more you protest…)

Farrier himself is a quirky screen presence, with his Hobbit-y accent and calm demeanor... most of the time. He does get rattled occasionally, in moments that screw with you like an intellectual version of The Blair Witch Project (another film that mind-fucked audiences about the boundaries of a documentary). Like him, you spend a lot of time asking yourself, “What the hell — is this really happening?” That’s great storytelling.
Dune: VW’s Buggy

Reeling from a terrible year, Volkswagen packs tons o’ fun in a sporty mini

Not long after the Volkswagen Beetle migrated to America, some enterprising, sand-loving fool ripped off most of the body, jacked it up, installed off-road tires and headed for the beach...and consequently, the sand dunes. It turned out to be one heck of a dune buggy, virtually indestructible with power in the right place to charge up sand—one hill.

Trying to spark slow sales following its disastrous emissions scandal, Volkswagen again pounds sand in an Outback-Meets-Beetle mashup it calls, appropriately, the Dune.

If the Sandstorm Yellow Metallic paint doesn’t grab your attention, perhaps the Dune’s exclusive beefy bumpers, redesigned air intakes, whale-tail spoiler and bruise-rebuffing black lower body cladding will. An increased ride height and 18-in. alloy wheels with all-season tires convey adventure beyond its actual ability. It all looks upscale with LED taillamps and driving lights. All of the hiking gear takes this cutie to the elements and makes it acceptable for granola-munching guys and gals.

The interior looks like Phyllis Nefler (of Troop Beverly Hills fame) took the Bug to Giorgio Beverly Hills for couture reform. Leatherette and canvas seats are ravishing in Dune Gray and Black with Yellow piping. Same for the leather-wrapped steering wheel with contrasting yellow stitching. Exterior paint continues to the dash and doors for a classic metal look. Adjust the ambient interior lighting and rock that runway.

Manual climate control and seat adjustments give the wrong impression that this is an anachronistic car, stuck in another time. While it maintains its long-cultivated appeal, the Beetle Dune is loaded with a 6.3-in. touchscreen, CD player, USB connection and Bluetooth. A rearview camera and around-view monitor for front/rear parking assist enhance safety.

Crank the 8-speaker audio system, flip the rear seats, toss in your favorite gear, and head for fun. A little Beach Boys would be perfect to get your motor revving.

It’s a peppy little puppy, driven by a 1.8-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine that delivers 170 horsepower and 184 lb.-ft. of torque. All-wheel-drive is not available in the Dune, but the front-driven wheels do a good job of managing the power. And our car had a 6-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode to move power smoothly and help achieve 25/34-MPG city/hwy.

CASeY WiLLiAMS | Auto Reviewer
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Dealing from a terrible year, Volkswagen packs tons o’ fun in a sporty mini

SUMMER OF LOVIN’ | Even away from the coast, the Dune is a fun way to explore off-road adventure in the summer months.
Anthem for toilets

Former ‘Letterman’ writer Steve Young celebrates the weird, campy underground art of industrial musicals

Avish, costly, performed only once, industrial musicals were like Broadway shows written for boardrooms. Often starring top talent and written by folks (like the gay composing team Kander and Ebb) who’d later have Broadway hits, they sang of toilets and tractors, dog food and Dodge trucks.

Longtime Late Show with David Letterman and Maya & Marty comedy writer Steve Young has become an expert on and champion of vintage “industrials.” He’s collected more than 200 shows on LP, co-written a book (Everything’s Coming Up Profits, with fellow enthusiast Sport Murphy) and now is on a cross-country show-and-tell tour of stories, plus film and audio clips, titled The Lost World of Industrial Musicals, coming to the Texas Theatre Thursday.

It was in dusty bins of LPs at used record stores and then in listings on eBay that Young came across discarded gems issued as souvenirs for sales meetings and trade shows. Ford-i-fy Your Future was a 1959 Ford tractor musical written by Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock, years before they hit big with Fiddler on the Roof. Go Fly a Kite, a recording of a 1966 GE employee extravaganza, was by John Kander and Fred Ebb, later famous for Cabaret and Chicago. (You can hear some of the tunes online at IndustrialMusicals.com.)

Broadway performers loved doing industrials, says Young, because they paid better than union minimum. Bob Fosse, Chita Rivera, Florence Henderson, Hal Linden, Sarah Jessica Parker and queer Texas legend Tommy Tune all did them, as did Adam Lambert in his pre-American Idol days. Linden has said income from gigs like Diesel Dazzle, done by GM in 1966, kept him from having to drive a cab or wait tables.

Before arriving in Dallas, Young took a break to preview what to expect in his appearance here and just how gay those old industrials were allowed to be. — Elaine Liner

Dallas Voice: Many of the performers in them were gay, but how campy could these industrial musicals be in the gray flannel Mad Men era? Steve Young: The corporations were generally very conservative socially, though occasionally you see them being a bit progressive in casting people of color in the mid ’60s, or trying to portray women as more than wives or scantily-clad dancers. I don’t recall any gay overtones in any show... however, a performer once told me about a car company dress rehearsal in the ’80s attended by all the top company brass. During a demonstration of a truck’s lift gate, one cast member accidentally pinched another’s finger. The man was obviously in great pain, and the other guy, not knowing what else to do, kissed him. There was a sudden silence. Everyone thought, oh, now there’s going to be trouble with the executives. But it was never mentioned. I guess “show people” got a certain amount of leeway.

Mary Kay’s annual convention in Dallas still employs scads of performers for entertaining its sales force. Are any of those shows in your collection? I have a record album that was part...
of a 1972 Mary Kay training kit, which has a batch of popular songs rewritten to be about selling Mary Kay. “Gentle On My Mind,” “Deep in the Heart of Texas,” “When the Saints Go Marching In”... apparently Mary Kay folks were encouraged to sing along. There’s definitely a proud history of the direct sales companies like Mary Kay and Tupperware having fun conventions.

Do you have a favorite industrial show? It’s a tie between Diesel Dazzle, the Detroit Diesel Engine show from 1966, and The Bathrooms Are Coming!, the American-Standard 1969 show about plumbing fixtures. Both have truly impressive, catchy music that juxtaposes wonderfully with the wildly improbable subject matter. The Bathrooms Are Coming!, or TBAC as insiders call it, had songs by the late Sid Siegel, who I got to meet and interview before he passed away last year at 88. Diesel Dazzle was by the great team of Hank Beebe and Bill Heyer. Beebe is 90 and I’ve gotten to know him quite well. There’s no film of Diesel Dazzle that I know of, but I will screen a film of another Beebe/Heyer project, the extremely entertaining 1973 General Electric silicones film. And I am thrilled to say that I will be screening The Bathrooms Are Coming! Quite often the material was very creative, even surreal. Many of the film clips I’ll be showing in Dallas are out-of-this-world strange, intentionally or not.

Your old boss, David Letterman, is executive producing a documentary based on your book. Was that your idea? The film, which is in production, wasn’t my idea. Some talented filmmakers got interested after the book came out. In my show I’ll have a four-minute sample of the documentary. I’m delighted to mention it’s one of four documentaries selected by Sundance Producing Lab to mentor over the coming year.

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Do you miss having a nightly show to write for with a target like Donald Trump to skewer? I have to admit, I was relieved that I didn’t need to think about Trump jokes during the past year. I don’t naturally gravitate toward political humor. I don’t know whether the best possible Trump jokes and bits from Dave would have made any difference in how things have played out. Almost all political humor seems to be preaching to the choir. I do miss being part of a nightly show, though, where a silly idea at 9 a.m. could be a fully-produced bit making an audience laugh later the same day.

On-road, the Dune drives like, well, a Volkswagen. It handles lightly on its four-wheel independent suspension and seems fit to hammer left lanes of America’s autobahns. Increased ride height negligibly affects handling, but it’s made up in better rough-pavement behavior. Sitting up in firm bucket seats, gripping the sport steering wheel, and looking at the large speedometer; you feel ready to kick the Dune down the fast lane.

Beetle styling — while iconic — is not everybody’s shot of espresso. Some see Porsche while others see Legally Blonde. And getting in the back seats will make passengers wish for a stretched 4-door version. Taking a cue from Subaru, Volkswagen bets jacking up the Beetle, adding body cladding and enacting the spirit of American dune buggies will increase sales. Get people behind the wheel and it might.

Prices for base Beetles starts at $19,795, but came to $25,065 as-tested. That puts the Beetle Dune against stylish and capable compacts like the Subaru SV Crosstrek, Honda Civic Coupe, Nissan Juke and Mini Cooper.
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Dallas Cabaret Festival continues with a stellar lineup

Day 1 of the inaugural Dallas Cabaret Festival has ended, but the fun is just beginning. Friday welcomes Linda Petty at 7 p.m., Julie Johnson at 8:30 p.m. and Marisa Diotalevi at 10 p.m.; Saturday is an all-star tribute to the late pianist Buddy Shanahan, hosted by Denise Lee and Gary Lynn Floyd (7:30 p.m.). And best of all? It’s all free! That really is music to our ears.


The circus settles into North Texas for an extended run

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey is probably the most identifiable name in the world when it comes to circuses — and there’s a reason it has long been called The Greatest Show on Earth. If you wanna feel like a kid again, this is the time, as its newest incarnation, Circus XTREME (combining thrills, exotic animals and performers) is the wildest collection of clowns since the GOP convention.


Win a LAS VEGAS WEEKEND

Enter to Win at LGBTWEDDINGS.COM.
**ARTSWEEN**

**THEATER**

**Festival of Independent Theatres.** The 18th annual showcase of smaller local companies returns with six troupes producing unique shows. Final weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. For a complete lineup of performances, visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.com.

**It's Only a Play.** The cast of a new Broadway show awaits the New York Times review to make or break them in this hilarious backstage comedy from Terrence McNally. Final weekend. Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

**The Book of Moron.** That's not a typo! The local debut of the off-Broadway solo show. Final weekend. McDavid Studio, 301 E. 5th St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.


**Querulous, or Missed Fortune.** This play — originally a hit in the 6th century — has been adapted and translated by Dallas impresario Mark-Brian Sonna, who plays the title role in this backstabbing comedy. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 7. MBSPProductions.net.


**CABARET**

**Dallas Cabaret Festival.** Denise Lee presents this free multi-day festival at Fair Park, with Linda Petty, Gary Lynn Floyd, Marisa Diotallevi and others. The Women's Building, 3800 Parry St. Friday starting at 7 p.m., Saturday starting at 7:30 p.m. Free.

**FINE ART**

**Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting.** A lovely original Vermeer is among the seven paintings in this intimate exhibit exploring themes in Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.


FRIDAY 07.29
FILM
To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar. CineWilde, America’s only monthly gay film series, presents this acclaimed drag comedy, written by Douglas Carter Beane and starring Patrick Swayze, John Leguizamo and Wesley Snipes. It opens with a pre-show discussion of love/hate films, and is followed by a cocktail party and chat. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8 p.m. doors, 8:30 p.m. pre-show, 9 p.m. film. $10.50.

COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 07.30
COMMUNITY
United Black Ellument 7 Block Party and Casino Night. United Black Ellument, which provides resources aimed at LGBT urban youth, is hold a casino night at its Deep Ellum headquarters, 3116 Commerce St. 7–11 p.m. Free. RSVP at UBEDallas.org/ube7.

THURSDAY 08.04
CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist’s weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

THEATER

CineWilde hosts a screening of the cult classic ‘To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar’ at its monthly event at the Texas Theatre on Friday.

THEATER
Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

This sweltering month, per usual, we’re once again preoccupied with those dog days’ matters of “size,” narcissism, petty politics and thwarted marriage proposals — oh, the burning dramas of gaydom. Let’s get right to it.

Dear Howard,

One of my regular booty-calls proposed to me the other night. The dude’s, like, only a standby emergency trick. I was, like, speechless. He dropped down on one knee, blabbering the whole spiel — the lock, stock and teardrops romance thing — straight out of a Hollywood movie: a ring, red roses and everything.

Somehow, I turned him down flat without laughing: I was being diplomatic-like about it, but he still looked just as wounded as a three-legged whimpering puppy shot full of BBs. I told him that it was just too soon, you know, and like I just needed more time to process it all — a total, bald-face lie. Howard, bottom-line, he’s hung like a light switch but otherwise is a giant man — kind, generous, chivalrous, even. Hell, he opens my car door for me! Am I, like, a gigantic asshole for turning down a perfectly good marriage proposal with no justifiable reason, at all, other than that Mr. Unhung packs a baby dick?

— Fane

Dear Fane,

Yes, you are, Fantasia, you are a gigantic asshole — and of the elbow-deep-in-the-rosebud sort. In truth, you are even a nastier asshole than that, for you are also stupid and, unfortunately, stupid is forever. Fane, hear me: You’ve forfeited happiness with a man who loves you, sincerely, for a lifetime of ever seeking that bigger-and-better jackpot cock awaiting you ‘round the corner but one more Grindr click away ‘til, inevitably, that day last arrives where you’re still mysteriously single, somehow… and suddenly unfuckable, too.

You’ve seen the queens I’m referring to, Fane — so many Botox injections, their faces look like trampolines, hair plugs resembling a bloomin’ onion from Outback and sphincters so flappily-wide they can accommodatingly smuggle a full kilo, easily, while vogue-ing through TSA undetected. Here’s my advice: You should have never gone out on a second “date” in the first place with your so-called “standby emergency trick,” considering he never rises up high enough in the sack to satisfy your gutter-bottom ethics; moreover, you certainly should not have led him on to believe, via subsequent booty-calls, that a ring from him down on bended-knee could ever make a decent man out of you.

Dear Todd,

Did one ever inform you, dear boy, that religion and politics are the only two topics one never discusses either at the dinner table or among “friends?” That said, I disagree with your “friends” on but one of their accusatory characteritics of The Donald: He’s actually not homophobic … or, to paraphrase Bill Maher, Trump is so dumb he thinks LGBT is a type of deli sandwich. The Donald is so out-of-touch, he has no issues, problems, or even thoughts regarding gays whatsoever; regardless, it’s a totally moot issue, as the tangerine terror ain’t gonna win the presidency anyhow… and Hillary isn’t going to win Texas.

Dear Howard,

My new husband and I got married just a year ago last July. I love him even more now than when we first met; however, he has lately started suggesting us “keep things spicy” by maybe trying out a ménage-a-trois on occasion, or even hiring up a callboy some sultry weekend night to enjoy tag-teaming. Howard, I am a hot, hot man! How do I go about filing for divorce?

— Adonis Dickright

Dear Dickstick,

Just where do you get off, Dicky, in presuming that your sexual charms are so magically seductive as to prevail over any other testosterone-raging male’s God-given, wanderlust libido, keeping him exclusively glued (throughout married life/lifetime) to only your XXX bedroom-talents/schoolmarm-prowess? Grow the hell up.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.

Am I the only gay Trump supporter in all of Dallas County?

— Todd T.

Dear Todd,

Did one ever inform you, dear boy, that religion and politics are the only two topics one never discusses either at the dinner table or among “friends?” That said, I disagree with your “friends” on but one of their accusatory characteritics of The Donald: He’s actually not homophobic … or, to paraphrase Bill Maher, Trump is so dumb he thinks LGBT is a type of deli sandwich. The Donald is so out-of-touch, he has no issues, problems, or even thoughts regarding gays whatsoever; regardless, it’s a totally moot issue, as the tangerine terror ain’t gonna win the presidency anyhow… and Hillary isn’t going to win Texas.

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Artwork by Mark Stokes
On the SCENE with Rainbow Roundup at Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park in Burleson. For information on Rainbow Roundup email info@rrup.org.
with Family Life

Daley, Meghan, Carmen and Terry

Dad Brian and Papa Francisco with Patrick, Michael and Bishop on adoption day

Rox, Ileana and Noah Garza-Rojas

The Vasquez family, announcing new family members coming soon
On the SCENE with Family Life

The Housden family

The Million-Rorem Family

Lorie, Kimberly and their kids

The Rodriguez family

Steve and Mark Wolston with kids Olivia and Matthew

Rainbow Roundup
Meet · Play · Share

#rainbowroundup
Making the SCENE the week of July 29–Aug. 4:


- Club Changes: Boy Leo’s A Hot Night of Chilling Gothica Show at 8 p.m. on Friday. Wall of Food Show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

- Club Reflection: Imperial Court cookout at 4 p.m. and R&B vs. Country show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Dive-Devo fundraiser at 6 p.m. on Saturday and Match Game Show at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Underwear Night by Cellblock13 on Wednesday.

- Rainbow Lounge: The Illusions of Rainbow Lounge with Patrick Mikyles as Michael Jackson, Ivana Tramp as Tina Turner and Ashauntee DeFoxx as Grace Jones at 9 p.m. on Saturday.

- Round-Up Saloon: Voice of Pride Semifinals at 9 p.m. on Sunday. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2016 featuring the full cast of from Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Preliminaries at 9 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Finals at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

- Sue Ellen’s: Mojo Dolls on Friday. Trash Can Pong tournament on Saturday. Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Marsella at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

- The Rose Room: Cassie, Asia, Layla, Chevelle, Valerie, Jenna and Krystal on Saturday.

- Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.

- Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Titan’s school supply drive benefiting Ben Milam and Sam Houston elementary schools from 3-7 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood & Chad Mantooth

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Responsibilities may include:
–Supervising household staff
–Maintaining household and event calendar
–Party planning
–Grocery shopping, dry cleaning and household errands
Strong candidates will have the following skills:
–Strong communication skills
–Exceptional organizational skills
–Motivated self-starter
–Energetic and FUN!
Please send resume Peacock@PitchfordHome.com

Employment

Full-Time Experienced Cook/Kitchen Position. Experienced in cooking, cleaning, restocking supplies and menu planning. Monday - Friday 6am-2pm. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Send resume to: sdelgado@aidsdallas.org

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Warehouse Data Entry Clerk
employees needed for a warehouse The successful candidates will have excellent warehouse and computer experience. Our client is looking for people who have specific computer experience with receiving, picking,....
Candidates must be available various shifts, Sunday to Friday with day (8:00am – 16:00pm) or afternoon (16:00pm – 24:00) shifts. Interested applicants please send your resumes to: JohnMMtucker@outlook.com

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### The Bishop's Wife

**Solution on page 28**

**Across**
1. What guns shoot off
2. West ___ Story
3. Pub order
4. Be plenty hot
5. Bobb, to a Brit
6. Start of a Sappho title, perhaps
7. He played an angel in *The Bishop’s Wife*
8. With 60-Across, he played the bishop in *The Bishop’s Wife*
9. Virginia Woolf’s maiden name
10. Left the cockpit in a hurry
11. Ellen DeGeneres and others
12. Sex attachment
13. Whitman’s leaves
14. 1903 Gertrude Stein short story
15. Novelist Patricia ___ Warren
16. Should have said
17. Sometime poisonous plant
18. Elbow-bender
19. Denomination that recently elected a female bishop with a wife
20. Denomination that recently elected a female bishop with a wife
21. Elbow-bender
22. Fights for twosomes
23. Circumcision and more
24. “See ya”
25. Old nuclear power org.
26. “Our” for Ulrichs
27. Stimpy’s boyfriend, perhaps
28. German philosopher Georg
29. Got top billing on Broadway
30. Gay rodeo watering holes
31. See 19-Across
32. Became erect
33. Annie, to Daddy Warbucks, in *Annie*
34. Von Trapp family escape route
35. Lavatory door sign
36. “___ we forget”
37. Birds at sea
38. One way to go
39. Eyeball
40. Recruit to sing “Jailhouse Rock”?
41. Kampala’s land
42. Birds at sea
43. B.C. lobby group
44. Like some autobiographies
45. Ben Hur
46. What you do when you sit on it
47. Salami that you stick in your hero’s mouth
48. Like some autobiographies
49. New York state senator Tom
50. German philosopher Georg
51. Noisy clamor
52. The Bishop’s Wife
53. One way to go
54. Shakespeare’s stream
55. One way to go
56. Find a job
57. Like a lover who cheats
58. Foe of Peter Pan
59. Ithaca school
60. New York state senator Tom
61. Like a lover who cheats
62. Foe of Peter Pan
63. Ithaca school
64. New York state senator Tom
65. Shakespeare’s stream
66. Like a lover who cheats
67. Foe of Peter Pan
68. Ithaca school

**Down**
1. Nuts and bolts
2. Ditch in some Flynn flicks
3. Muck’s partner
4. Timothy of *The Broken Hearts Club*
5. Second part of Shakespeare’s lamb
6. “All ___ is a room somewhere...”
7. Noisy clamor
8. Novel conclusion
9. With one’s hands full
10. Prop for “I have a headache tonight...”
11. Poli sci subj.
12. Warhol pal ___ Sedgwick
13. Sanford portrayer Fox
14. 18 Like some autobiographies
15. 22 ___ Ben Hur
16. 24 What you do when you sit on it
17. 26 Salami that you stick in your hero’s mouth
18. 27 Bluesy Bonnie
19. 29 911 respondents
20. 31 Top
21. 32 Hamilton Burger to Perry Mason, usually
22. 33 Where they yell “Cut!”
23. 34 Has to
24. 35 Foe of Peter Pan
25. 36 Ithaca school
26. 37 Eyeball
27. 38 Breaks for Heather’s mommies
28. 39 Pt. of SSS
29. 40 Like a lover who cheats
30. 41 Kampala’s land
31. 42 Fights for twosomes
32. 43 Circumcision and more
33. 44 “See ya”
34. 45 Recruit to sing “Jailhouse Rock”?
35. 46 Like some autobiographies
36. 47 Kampala’s land
37. 48 Like some autobiographies
38. 49 Birds at sea
40. 50 German philosopher Georg
41. 51 Former NFL player Tuapolo
42. 52 Problem for a drag queen’s hosiery
43. 53 Kind of jack
44. 54 Shakespeare’s stream
45. 55 One way to go
46. 56 Find a job
47. 57 Eyeball
48. 58 Breaks for Heather’s mommies
49. 59 Pt. of SSS
50. 60 D.C. lobby group
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